

100 Lebanese words + 20 expressions

The core vocabulary of spoken Lebanese Arabic in six groups, plus the expressions and slang you hear every day in Beirut, with a 7-day plan. Say every word out loud. Tick a box only when you can produce the word from the English alone.

NAME _____

DATE _____

THE 7-DAY PLAN ABOUT 20 MINUTES A DAY · TICK EACH DAY

Day 1 ☐ Words 1 to 20	Day 2 ☐ Words 21 to 40	Day 3 ☐ Words 41 to 60 + review Day 1	Day 4 ☐ Words 61 to 80	Day 5 ☐ Words 81 to 100 + review Day 3	Day 6 ☐ Expressions 101 to 120	Day 7 ☐ All 120 + the sentence page
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Each word has three boxes: **D1** for the day you learn it, **D3** and **D7** for the two reviews. Cover the Say-it and English columns, look at the Arabic or the English, say the word, then tick. A word with three ticks is yours.

GROUP 1. PRONOUNS & LITTLE WORDS WORDS 1 TO 20

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7	#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
1	أنا	ana	I	☐ ☐ ☐	11	هون	hon	here	☐ ☐ ☐
2	إنت	enta	you (m)	☐ ☐ ☐	12	إيه	eh	yes	☐ ☐ ☐
3	إنتي	enti	you (f)	☐ ☐ ☐	13	لا	la'	no	☐ ☐ ☐
4	هوَي	huwwe	he, it	☐ ☐ ☐	14	مش	mish	not (non-verbs)	☐ ☐ ☐
5	هيي	hiyye	she, it	☐ ☐ ☐	15	ما	ma	not (verbs)	☐ ☐ ☐
6	نحنَا	nehna	we	☐ ☐ ☐	16	و	w	and	☐ ☐ ☐
7	إنتو	entu	you (pl.)	☐ ☐ ☐	17	بس	bass	only, but	☐ ☐ ☐
8	هَي	hinne	they	☐ ☐ ☐	18	كمان	kamen	also, more	☐ ☐ ☐
9	هيدا	hayda	this, that (m)	☐ ☐ ☐	19	في	fi	there is	☐ ☐ ☐
10	هيدي	hayde	this, that (f)	☐ ☐ ☐	20	عند	'and	at; have	☐ ☐ ☐

Note on 14, 15 and 19: *ma* goes in front of verbs (*ma ba' ref*, I don't know), *mish* in front of everything else (*mish hon*, not here). *fi* means "there is" (*fi mayy?* is there water?), and *ma fi* means "there isn't". "In" is a little *b-* on the next word: *b-Beirut*, in Beirut; *bel-beit*, at home. 'and' + ending is how you say "have": 'andi I have, 'andak you have.

GROUP 2. QUESTIONS & TIME

WORDS 21 TO 40

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
21	شو shu		what	☐ ☐ ☐
22	وين wein		where	☐ ☐ ☐
23	إيمتي emta		when	☐ ☐ ☐
24	ليش lesh		why	☐ ☐ ☐
25	مين min		who	☐ ☐ ☐
26	كيف kif		how	☐ ☐ ☐
27	قديش 'addesh		how much/many	☐ ☐ ☐
28	أيا ayya		which	☐ ☐ ☐
29	اليوم lyom		today	☐ ☐ ☐
30	بكرة bukra		tomorrow	☐ ☐ ☐

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
31	مبارح mbareh		yesterday	☐ ☐ ☐
32	هلق halla'		now	☐ ☐ ☐
33	بعدين ba'dein		later	☐ ☐ ☐
34	قبل 'abel		before	☐ ☐ ☐
35	بعد ba'd		after	☐ ☐ ☐
36	دائماً dayman		always	☐ ☐ ☐
37	مرّات marrat		sometimes	☐ ☐ ☐
38	الصباح es-sobh		morning	☐ ☐ ☐
39	بالليل bel-lail		at night	☐ ☐ ☐
40	جمعة jem'a		week	☐ ☐ ☐

GROUP 3. PEOPLE & PLACES

WORDS 41 TO 60

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
41	رجال rejjal		man	☐ ☐ ☐
42	مرا mara		woman	☐ ☐ ☐
43	ولد walad		child, boy	☐ ☐ ☐
44	بنت bint		girl, daughter	☐ ☐ ☐
45	بيّي bayyi		my dad	☐ ☐ ☐
46	إمي emmi		my mum	☐ ☐ ☐
47	خيّي khayyi		my brother	☐ ☐ ☐
48	إختي ekhti		my sister	☐ ☐ ☐
49	صاحبي sahbi		my friend (m)	☐ ☐ ☐
50	صاحبتي sahbti		my friend (f)	☐ ☐ ☐

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
51	عيلة 'ayle		family	☐ ☐ ☐
52	ناس nas		people	☐ ☐ ☐
53	بيت beit		house, home	☐ ☐ ☐
54	أوضة ouda		room	☐ ☐ ☐
55	شارع share'		street	☐ ☐ ☐
56	محلّ mahall		shop	☐ ☐ ☐
57	مطعم mat'am		restaurant	☐ ☐ ☐
58	شغل shighl		work, job	☐ ☐ ☐
59	سيارة sayyara		car	☐ ☐ ☐
60	بلد balad		country; town	☐ ☐ ☐

Note on 45 to 50: Lebanese builds "my" into the word: bayyi (my dad), khayyi (my brother).

Without "my" you say *el-bayy*, *el-khayy*, or more often *abu* and *akh* in fixed phrases. On a family visit you will hear these within minutes.

GROUP 4. FOOD & CAFÉ

WORDS 61 TO 72

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7	#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
61	مي	mayy	water	□□□	67	حليب	halib	milk	□□□
62	قهوة	'ahwe	coffee; café	□□□	68	سكر	sukkar	sugar	□□□
63	شاي	shay	tea	□□□	69	لحمة	lahme	meat	□□□
64	خبز	khebez	bread	□□□	70	دجاج	djez	chicken	□□□
65	أكل	akel	food	□□□	71	خضرا	khodra	vegetables	□□□
66	لبن	laban	yogurt (!)	□□□	72	منقوشة	man'ushe	manoushe	□□□

GROUP 5. VERBS & VERB-LIKE WORDS

WORDS 73 TO 87

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7	#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
73	يروح	byruh	he goes	□□□	81	بيشتغل	byeshteghel	he works	□□□
74	بيجي	byeji	he comes	□□□	82	بينام	bynam	he sleeps	□□□
75	يعمل	bya'mel	he does	□□□	83	بيشتري	byeshtri	he buys	□□□
76	يياكل	byekol	he eats	□□□	84	يحب	byhebb	he loves, likes	□□□
77	يشرب	byeshrab	he drinks	□□□	85	بدي	baddi	I want	□□□
78	يعرف	bya'ref	he knows	□□□	86	فيي	fiyyi	I can	□□□
79	يبحكي	byehki	he talks	□□□	87	لازم	lazem	must, have to	□□□
80	يفهم	byefham	he understands	□□□					

Why "he"? The *by-* form (he does) is the dictionary form of spoken Lebanese. Swap the prefix for the other persons: *b-* I (beshrab), *bt-* you (m) and she (bteshrab), *mn-* we (mneshrab), *by-* he and they (byeshrabu). *baddi* and *fiyyi* are given in the I-form because that is how you will use them first. Worksheet 4 drills all of this.

GROUP 6. ADJECTIVES

WORDS 88 TO 100

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7	#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
88	منيح	mnih	good, well	□□□	95	رخيص	rkhis	cheap	□□□
89	عاطل	'atel	bad	□□□	96	قريب	'arib	near	□□□
90	كبير	kbir	big; old	□□□	97	بعيد	ba'id	far	□□□
91	زغير	zghir	small; young	□□□	98	تعبان	ta'ban	tired	□□□

92	جديد jdid	new	□□□	99	مبسوط mabsut	happy	□□□
93	قديم 'adim	old (thing)	□□□	100	كتير ktir	very, a lot	□□□
94	غالي ghali	expensive	□□□				

B. HOW BEIRUT SOUNDS

- **ق is a glottal stop**, the catch in "uh-oh": **'ahwe** (coffee), **'arib** (near), **'addesh** (how much). In the mountains and villages you will also hear a real q.
- **j is soft**, like the s in "pleasure": **jdid**, **jem'a**, **djej**. Not the English j of "jam".
- **a often turns into e**, especially at the end of a word: **'ayle**, **lahme**, **man'ushe**, **kamen**. This "Beirut e" is the sound that makes Lebanese recognisable.
- **Words start with two consonants**: **kbir**, **zghir**, **jdid**, **mnih**, **ktir**. Do not add a vowel in front (not *kabir*, *katir*).

GROUP 7. LEBANESE EXPRESSIONS & SLANG

101 TO 120

The phrases that make you sound Lebanese, not like a textbook. Learn when to say each one: the situation matters more than the translation.

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	MEANING, AND WHEN YOU SAY IT	D1 D3 D7
101	يَّا yalla		come on, let's go, hurry up	□□□
102	تفضل tfaddal		here you are; come in; go ahead (f: tfaddali, pl: tfaddalu)	□□□
103	يعطيك العافية ya'tik el-'afye		said to anyone working, even a cashier (reply: allah y'afik)	□□□
104	يا عيني ya 'eini		aww, my dear (lit. my eye)	□□□
105	كيفك؟ kifak?		how are you? (f: kifik, pl: kifkon)	□□□
106	شو الأخبار؟ shu l-akhbar?		what's new?	□□□
107	ميرسي merci		thanks (French loan, used everywhere)	□□□
108	هاي، كيفك، سافا؟ hi, kifak, ça va?		the famous three-language Beirut hello	□□□
109	أهلا وسهلا ahla w sahla		welcome (reply: ahla fik)	□□□
110	صحتين sahtein		enjoy your meal (reply: 'a 'albak)	□□□
111	معلش ma'leish		never mind; sorry	□□□
112	خلص khalas		enough; done; okay, deal	□□□
113	يعني ya'ni		I mean; so-so	□□□
114	والله walla		really? / I swear	□□□

115	habibi, habibti حبيبي، حبيبتي	my dear (to friends, kids, even strangers)	□□□
116	tikram تكرم	with pleasure, of course (answer to a request; f: tikrami)	□□□
117	'a rasi على راسي	gladly (lit. on my head)	□□□
118	'anjad? عنجد؟	seriously? really?	□□□
119	inshallah إن شاء الله	God willing; hopefully	□□□
120	bkhattrak بخاطرك	bye, said by the one leaving (f: bkhatrik; reply: ma' s-salame)	□□□

C. EXERCISES

Ex. 1 15 sentences built only from the list

-- / 8

Every word below is in your list (plus the usual bits: *el-* = the, *b-* = in, *baddna* = *baddi* with the "we" ending, *btruh* = the "you" form of *byruh*). Read all 15 out loud, then translate sentences 1 to 8 into English on the line. This is the Day-7 page.

1 أنا بدّي قهوة.
ana baddi 'ahwe.

2 في مي؟
fi mayy?

3 الأكل هون كتير منيح.
el-akel hon ktir mnih.

4 هوي مش هون هلق.
huwwe mish hon halla'.

5 البيت قريب، بس المطعم بعيد.
el-beit 'arib, bass el-mat'am ba'id.

6 إنت تعبان؟ إيه، كتير.
enta ta'ban? eh, ktir.

7 هيّي بتشتغل بمحلّ.
hiyye bteshtghel b-mahall.

8 نحنا بدّنا منقوشة وشاي.
nehna baddna man'ushe w shay.

9 اليوم أنا مبسوط كتير.
lyom ana mabsut ktir.

10 هيدي السيارة كتير غالية.
hayde s-sayyara ktir ghalye.

11 بيّي بيشرب قهوة الصبح.
bayyi byeshrab 'ahwe es-sobh.

12 خيّي بيحكي كتير.
khayyi byehki ktir.

13 ما في خبز بالبيت.
ma fi khebez bel-beit.

14 وين بتروح؟
wein btruh?

15 يّا، لازم روح هلق. بخاطرك!
yalla, lazem ruh halla'. bkhattrak!

Ex. 2 Opposites

— / 10

Write the opposite from the box next to each word.

zghir	rkhis	bukra	'atel	ba'd	la'	ba'id	mara	'adim	bel-lail
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1 kbir _____

2 jdid _____

3 ghali _____

4 'arib _____

5 mnih _____

6 eh _____

7 mbareh _____

8 es-sobh _____

9 'abel _____

10 rejjal _____

Ex. 3 Odd one out

— / 6

Circle the word that does not belong, then say why in one word (food, family, time ...).

1	'ahwe	shay	halib	ouda
2	bayyi	emmi	khayyi	sayyara
3	kbir	bukra	mbareh	lyom
4	byekol	byeshrab	beit	bynam
5	shu	wein	kif	mnih
6	khebez	lahme	djej	share'

Ex. 4 What do you say?

-- / 6

Pick the right expression from the box for each situation.

tfaddal

ya'tik el-'afye

bkhatrak

'a rasi

'anjad?

sahtein

1 A mechanic is fixing your car. You walk past and say ...

2 You hold the door open for a guest and say ...

3 You are leaving a friend's flat. You say ...

4 A friend asks you for a favour, and you are happy to help ...

5 Your friend says she is moving to Beirut next week. You say ...

6 You put a plate of food in front of a friend and say ...

D. AT A CAFÉ IN BEIRUT

PAIR WORK

Read the dialogue with a partner, then swap roles. Second round: change the order (B wants tea, the friend wants coffee) and say it without reading.

A ahla w sahla! tfaddalu.

Welcome! Come in, please.

أهلاً وسهلاً! تفضلوا.

B merci. fi man'ushe lyom?

Thanks. Is there manoushe today?

ميرسي. في منقوشة اليوم؟

A eh, fi. shu baddkon?

Yes, there is. What would you like?

إيه، في. شو بدّكن؟

B baddi man'ushe w 'ahwe, w sahbt
badda shay.I'd like a manoushe and a coffee, and my
friend would like tea.

بدّي منقوشة وقهوة، وصاحبتي بدّها شاي.

A tikram. ... tfaddalu, sahtein!

Of course. ... Here you are, enjoy!

تكرم. ... تفضلوا، صحتين!

B ya'tik el-'afye!

Thank you for your work!

يعطيك العافية!

A allah y'afik.

(standard reply)

الله يعافيك.

Ex. 5 Build your own

— / 5

Write five sentences about your day. Each one uses at least three words from the list, and two of them use an expression from Group 7. Then say them out loud without reading.

1

2

3

4

5

Day-7 self-test

Cover the Say-it column. Let someone (or your finger) pick 40 random English words and expressions. Say each one in Lebanese Arabic. Count your hits. 32 or more: you are ready to talk. Fewer: repeat Day 3 and Day 5.

— / 40

Done? Speaking check

- ☐ I said every word out loud on the day I learned it, not just read it.
- ☐ I read all 15 sentences out loud at normal speed.
- ☐ I played the café dialogue with a partner in both roles, the second time without reading.

Answer key

For teachers and self-learners. Remove this page before handing the sheet out in class.

Ex. 1 1 I want coffee. · 2 Is there water? · 3 The food here is very good. · 4 He isn't here now. · 5 The house is near, but the restaurant is far. · 6 Are you tired? Yes, very. · 7 She works in a shop. · 8 We want a manoushe and tea. (9 to 15, for reference: *Today I'm very happy. · This car is very expensive. · My dad drinks coffee in the morning. · My brother talks a lot. · There's no bread at home. · Where are you going? · Come on, I have to go now. Bye!*)

Ex. 2 1 kbir / zghir · 2 jdid / 'adim · 3 ghali / rkhis · 4 'arib / ba'id · 5 mnih / 'atel · 6 eh / la' · 7 mbareh / bukra · 8 es-sobh / bel-lail · 9 'abel / ba'd · 10 rejjal / mara

Ex. 3 1 ouda (the others are drinks) · 2 sayyara (family) · 3 kbir (time words) · 4 beit (verbs) · 5 mnih (question words) · 6 share' (food)

Ex. 4 1 ya'tik el-'afye · 2 tfaddal · 3 bkhatrak · 4 'a rasi · 5 'anjad? · 6 sahtein

Ex. 5 Open answer. A model: ana beshrab 'ahwe es-sobh. · bayyi byeshteghel b-mat'am. · yalla, lazem ruh 'ash-shighl. · lyom ana ta'ban ktir, walla. · bukra inshallah mnruh 'al-beit.

TEACHER'S NOTES

- Use the sheet as a running vocabulary programme over seven lessons: one group as a 10-minute warm-up, choral repetition from the Arabic, then pairs quiz each other from the English column.
- Teach Group 7 through situations, not translations: act out the mechanic, the guest at the door, the friend leaving, and let the class shout the expression. Ex. 4 checks exactly this.
- The Day 1 / Day 3 / Day 7 boxes are spaced repetition. Insist that students tick only when they can produce the word, not when they recognise it.
- Typical mix-ups: *laban* is yogurt in Lebanon (milk is *halib*); *mish* versus *ma* (*mish* hon, but *ma* ba'ref); and learners who know Egyptian keep saying *dilwa'ti* and 'ayiz instead of *halla'* and *baddi*.
- Code-switching is normal in Beirut: merci, bonjour, ça va and English words sit inside Arabic sentences. Teach the Arabic first, but do not mark merci as wrong.
- The list is curated for usefulness in Beirut conversation, not taken from a strict frequency count. Transliteration: ' = glottal stop, ʿ = 'ayn, j as the s in "pleasure", kh as in Scottish "loch".

WHAT NEXT

This is the last sheet of the Lebanese Arabic Starter Pack. Go back to Worksheet 1 (hello, how are you, thank you) and you will now understand every word on it, or find all five sheets at yallahspeak.com/worksheets/lebanese-arabic.

To hear these 120 words in a real Lebanese voice and use them in conversation with an AI partner who corrects your pronunciation, try the Yallah Speak app (free to start, iOS and Android).