

Greetings & meeting people

Hello, how are you, thank you and your first introduction in the Arabic of Jerusalem and Ramallah. A café dialogue and five exercises. Read every Arabic line out loud.

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. VOCABULARY _____ (M) TO A MAN · (F) TO A WOMAN · (PL) TO A GROUP

Tick the box once you can say the phrase from the English alone. Learn the (m) form first; usually only the ending changes for a woman or a group.

GREETINGS & GOODBYES

ENGLISH	ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION
☐ Hello	مرحبا	marhaba reply: marhabtein (two hellos back)
☐ Hi / welcome	أهلا	ahlan reply: ahlein · ahlan w-sahlan = welcome
☐ Peace be upon you (formal hello)	السلام عليكم	es-salamu 'aleikum reply: w-'aleikum es-salam
☐ Good morning	صباح الخير	sabah el-kheir reply: sabah en-nur
☐ Good evening	مساء الخير	masa el-kheir reply: masa en-nur
☐ How are you?	كيفك؟	kifak? (m) · kifik? (f) · kifkum? (pl)
☐ Good, thank God. And you?	منيح الحمد لله، وإنت؟	mnih el-hamdu lillah, w-inta? (f) mniha ... w-inti? · (pl) w-intu?
☐ What's new?	شو أخبارك؟	shu akhbarak? (f) akhbarik
☐ Goodbye	مع السلامة	ma' es-salame reply: allah ma'ak (m) · ma'ik (f)
☐ Good night	تصبح على خير	tisbah 'ala kheir (f) tisbahi · (pl) tisbahu

MEETING SOMEONE

ENGLISH	ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION
☐ What's your name?	شو اسمك؟	shu ismak? (m) · shu ismik? (f)
☐ My name is ...	أنا اسمي ...	ana ismi ...

☐ Nice to meet you	تشرفنا	tsharrafna reply: esh-sharaf ili
☐ Where are you from?	إنت من وين؟	inta min wein? (m) · inti min wein? (f)
☐ I'm from Germany	أنا من ألمانيا	ana min almanya
☐ I'm learning Arabic	أنا بتعلم عربي	ana bat'allam 'arabi
☐ Do you speak English?	بتعرف إنجليزي؟	bti'rif inglizi? (f) bti'rifi
☐ I don't understand	مش فاهم	mish fahem (m) · mish fahme (f)
☐ Slowly, please	على مهلك لو سمحت	'ala mahlak law samaht (f) 'ala mahlik law samahti

B. PRONUNCIATION

Four things that make it sound Palestinian

- ق is a glottal stop in Jerusalem and Ramallah, the catch in "uh-oh", written ' : coffee is 'ahwe, Jerusalem is el-'uds. In villages you will hear a k (kahwe), in Hebron and among Bedouin a g (gahwe).
- ج is an English j as in "jam": **jamil** (beautiful). In Beirut and Damascus it is softer, like the s in "pleasure".
- Many words end in -e where other dialects have -a: **ma' es-salame, mushkile, 'ahwe**. After h, ' , kh, r and a few other sounds it stays -a: **mnih, marhaba**.
- In village speech ك often becomes **ch**: **chifak?** for kifak. Understand it, but say kifak.

A. VOCABULARY (CONTINUED)

SMALL WORDS YOU WILL USE EVERY HOUR

ENGLISH	ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION
☐ Yes / no	آه / لأ	ah / la' also aywa = yes
☐ Okay, fine	ماشي / تمام	mashi / tamam
☐ Let's go, come on	يلا	yalla
☐ Very	كتير	ktir mnih ktir = very good
☐ Really?	عنجد؟	'anjad?
☐ Sorry	آسف	asif (m) · asfe (f)

☐ No problem	ما فيش مشكلة ma fish mushkile Beirut and Damascus: ma fi
☐ Thank you / you're welcome	شكرا / عفوا shukran / 'afwan
☐ Thanks (warm, lit. bless your hands)	يسلمو إيديك yislamu ideik reply: tikram (m) · tikrami (f)

C. EXERCISES

Ex. 1 Match the situation to the phrase

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Write the letter next to each situation.

1. Morning: you enter a bakery. _____	A	tsharrafna	تشرفنا
2. Someone asks how you are. _____	B	ma' es-salame	مع السلامة
3. You have just been introduced. _____	C	sabah el-kheir	صباح الخير
4. Someone speaks too fast. _____	D	'ala mahlak law samaht	على مهلك لو سمحت
5. Someone bumps into you and says sorry. _____	E	mnih el-hamdu lillah	منيح الحمد لله
6. You leave the café. _____	F	ma fish mushkile	ما فيش مشكلة

Ex. 2 Fill the gaps

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Use each word from the box once.

wein	ismak	mnih	kifik	ah	ana
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A marhaba, _____ ? B _____ el-hamdu lillah, w-inta?

A inta min _____ ? B ana min Ramallah.

A shu _____ ? B _____ ismi Karim.

A inta min el-'uds? B _____ , min el-'uds.

Ex. 3 Man or woman?

— / 5

Each line is said to a man. Rewrite it so it is said to a woman. The first one is done for you.

0 kifak? → kifik?

1 shu ismak? → _____

2 inta min wein? → _____

3 bti'rif inglizi? → _____

4 'ala mahlak → _____

5 tisbah 'ala kheir → _____

D. DIALOGUE: AT A CAFÉ IN RAMALLAH

Sara is learning Arabic. Yousef runs the café. Read the dialogue twice out loud with a partner, once as Sara and once as Yousef. Then answer the questions below.

Yousef أهلا وسهلا! تفضللي. **ahlan w-sahlan! tfaddali.**
Welcome! Have a seat.

Sara أهلين. لو سمحت، بدي كاسة شاي بميرمية. **ahlein. law samaht, biddi kasit shai b-maramiyye.**
Hi. A glass of sage tea, please.

Yousef تكرمي. إنتي من وين؟ **tikrami. inti min wein?**
Of course. Where are you from?

Sara أنا من ألمانيا. أنا بتعلم عربي. **ana min almanya. ana bat'allam 'arabi.**
I'm from Germany. I'm learning Arabic.

Yousef عنجد؟ بتحكي منيح كتير! **'anjad? btihki mnih ktir!**
Really? You speak very well!

Sara لا، لسا. على مهلك لو سمحت. **la', lissa. 'ala mahlak law samaht.**
No, not yet. Slowly, please.

Yousef ماشي، ماشي. شو اسمك؟ **mashi, mashi. shu ismik?**
Okay, okay. What's your name?

Sara أنا اسمي سارة. وإنت؟ **ana ismi Sara. w-inta?**
My name is Sara. And you?

Yousef

يوسف. تشرفنا يا سارة.

Yousef. tsharrafna ya Sara.

Yousef. Nice to meet you, Sara.

Sara

الشرف إلي. الحساب لو سمحت.

esh-sharaf ili. el-hsab law samaht.

The pleasure is mine. The bill, please.

Yousef

ما فيش مشكلة. مع السلامة!

ma fish mushkile. ma' es-salame!

No problem. Goodbye!

Sara

الله معك!

allah ma'ak!

Bye! (lit. God be with you)

Ex. 4 Understanding the dialogue

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Answer in English or in Arabic.

1. What does Sara order?

2. Where is Sara from?

3. Why does Sara say "'ala mahlak law samaht"?

4. Find the word Yousef uses for "really?".

Ex. 5 Your turn: introduce yourself

Write four lines about yourself, using the phrases from section A. Then say them to a partner (or out loud three times) without reading. Your partner answers with the replies from section A.

1 · GREETING AND "HOW ARE YOU?"

2 · YOUR NAME

3 · WHERE YOU ARE FROM, AND THAT YOU ARE LEARNING ARABIC

4 · "NICE TO MEET YOU", THANKS AND A GOODBYE

Done? Speaking check

- ☐ I said every phrase in section A out loud at least three times, with its reply.
- ☐ I read the dialogue as Sara and as Yousef.
- ☐ I said my introduction from Ex. 5 without reading it.

Answer key

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

Ex. 1 1 C · 2 E · 3 A · 4 D · 5 F · 6 B

Ex. 2 kifik (or kifak) · mnih · wein · ismak · ana · ah (or aywa)

Ex. 3 1 shu ismik? · 2 inti min wein? · 3 bti'rfi inglizi? · 4 'ala mahlik · 5 tisbahi 'ala kheir

Ex. 4 1 A glass of sage tea (kasit shai b-maramiyye). · 2 Germany (almanya). · 3 Yousef speaks too fast; she asks him to slow down. · 4 'anjad?

Ex. 5 Open answer. A model answer: marhaba! kifak? · ana ismi Lina. · ana min almanya w-ana bat'allam 'arabi. · tsharrafna! shukran, ma' es-salame.

TEACHER'S NOTES

- Timing: about 45 minutes for the full sheet, or section A plus the dialogue as a 20-minute warm-up.
- The dialogue works well in pairs. Swap roles after the first read, then let students replace Sara's name and country with their own. Sage tea (shai b-maramiyye) is the classic Palestinian order; mint (na'na') works too.
- Ex. 3 is the key exercise: the (m)/(f) ending (-ak / -ik, inta / inti) runs through every sentence. Mention the group forms early: kifkum?, w-intu?, tfaddalu.
- Every greeting has a fixed reply (marhaba → marhabtein, sabah el-kheir → sabah en-nur, yislamu → tikram). Drill them as pairs: one student greets, the next replies.
- Regional variants students will hear: village k for ق and ch for ك (kahwe, chifak), Hebron g (gahwe), and ma fi instead of ma fish from Lebanese and Syrian speakers. All are understood; the sheet teaches the urban forms.

NEXT WORKSHEET

Worksheet 2: Numbers, prices & time. Count to 1000, read a price tag, haggle at the market and say what time it is. Free at yallahspeak.com/worksheets/palestinian-arabic.

To practise this dialogue with an AI partner who answers in Palestinian Arabic and corrects your pronunciation word by word, try the Yallah Speak app (free to start, iOS and Android).