

Pronouns, questions & "I have"

The grammar you need to build your own sentences in Palestinian Arabic: I and you, my and your, I have, and the question words. Say every Arabic line out loud.

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. PERSONAL PRONOUNS, AND "I HAVE" _____ (M) TO A MAN · (F) TO A WOMAN

Two words for "you" in the singular: inta to a man, inti to a woman, and intu for a group. "I have" is not a verb: 'ind (at) plus the endings from section B.

ENGLISH	ARABIC	SAY IT
☐ I	أنا	ana
☐ you (m)	إنت	inta
☐ you (f)	إنتي	inti
☐ he	هو	huwwe
☐ she	هي	hiyye
☐ we	إحنا	ihna
☐ you (plural)	إنتو	intu
☐ they	هم	humme

ENGLISH	ARABIC	SAY IT
☐ I have	عندي	'indi
☐ you (m) have	عندك	'indak
☐ you (f) have	عندك	'indik
☐ he has	عنده	'indo
☐ she has	عندها	'indha
☐ we have	عنا	'inna
☐ you (pl) have	عندكم	'indkum
☐ they have	عندهم	'indhum

In a sentence: ana min almanya (I'm from Germany) · inta min hon? (are you from here?) · hiyye mu'allme (she is a teacher) · 'indi ikhwe (I have siblings) · 'indak wa't? (do you have time?)

B. MY, YOUR, HIS: POSSESSIVE ENDINGS _____

No separate word for "my" or "your": you attach an ending to the noun. A feminine noun ending in -a or -e changes to -t or -it first. Same on names: ismi, ismak, ismik, ismo, isimha.

BEIT = HOUSE (MASCULINE)		
my house	بيتي	beiti
your (m) house	بيتك	beitak
your (f) house	بيتك	beitik
his house	بيته	beito
her house	بيتها	beitha
our house	بيتنا	beitna

SAYYARA = CAR (FEMININE, ENDS IN -A)		
my car	سيارتي	sayyarti
your (m) car	سيارتك	sayyartak
your (f) car	سيارتك	sayyartik
his car	سيارته	sayyarto
her car	سيارتها	sayyaritha
our car	سيارتنا	sayyaritna

your (pl) house	بيتكم beitkum	your (pl) car	سيارتكم sayyaritkum
their house	بيتهم beithum	their car	سيارتهم sayyarithum

C. "I DON'T HAVE" AND "THERE IS"

Put **ma** in front of 'ind to say "don't have"; in Jerusalem many people add **-sh** at the end (ma 'indish). "There is" is fi, "there isn't" is ma fish (Lebanese and Syrians say ma fi).

MA ... (SH) = NOT		FI = THERE IS · MA FISH = THERE ISN'T	
I don't have	ma 'indi(sh)	Is there water?	fi mayy? في مي؟
you (m) don't have	ma 'indak(sh)	Is there a problem?	fi mushkile?
you (f) don't have	ma 'indik(ish)	No problem	ma fish mushkile
he doesn't have	ma 'indo(sh)	There's no sugar	ma fish sukkar
I have no money	ma 'indi masari	Is there wifi?	fi wifi?

D. THE QUESTION WORDS

In Palestinian Arabic the question word usually comes **first**, as in English: shu ismak? (what your name?), wein el-hammam? (where the toilet?). With min wein both orders are common: min wein inta? / inta min wein?

ENGLISH	ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION AND EXAMPLE
☐ what?	شو؟	shu? shu ismak? = what's your name? · shu hada? = what is this?
☐ where?	وين؟	wein? wein el-hammam? = where is the toilet? · min wein = from where
☐ when?	إمتى؟	emta? emta el-bas? = when is the bus?
☐ why?	ليش؟	leish? leish la? = why not?
☐ who?	مين؟	min? min hada? = who is this?
☐ how?	كيف؟	kif? kif el-hal? = how are things? · kif bit'ul ... bil-'arabi? = how do you say ... in Arabic?
☐ how many? / how much?	كم؟ / قديش؟	kam? / 'addeish? kam akh 'indak? = how many brothers do you have? · 'addeish hada? = how much is this?

Pronunciation

- ع (‘) starts ‘indi: a sound from deep in the throat. Say a deep "a" and keep going; skip it and ‘indi becomes "indi", which sounds foreign.
- ‘addeish starts with the glottal stop of the cities (ق); in villages you will hear **kaddeish**, and some people say **eish?** instead of shu. Question words carry the stress: **SHU** ismak? **WEIN** saken?

E. EXERCISES**Ex. 1 Pick the pronoun** — / 8

One pronoun per gap, each used once.

ana	inta	inti	huwwe	hiyye
ihna	intu	humme		

- _____ ismi Karim. (I)
- _____ min el-‘uds? (you, m)
- _____ mu‘allme. (she)
- _____ ashabi. (they)
- _____ fil-‘ahwe. (we)
- _____ mniha? (you, f)
- _____ min Nablus. (he)
- min wein _____ ? (you, plural)

Ex. 3 Ask the question — / 6

Here is the answer. Write the question (to a man).

- ana min almanya. → _____
- ana ismi Omar. → _____
- ana fil-beit. → _____
- hada b-‘ashara shekel. → _____
- el-film bukra. → _____
- hada akhuy. → _____

Ex. 2 Make it mine — / 8

Attach the right ending. ktab book · beit house · sayyara car · ism name · shanta bag

- your (f) book → _____
- our house → _____
- their car → _____
- his name → _____
- my bag → _____
- her house → _____
- your (m) car → _____
- your (pl) name → _____

Ex. 4 Negate it — / 5

Make each sentence negative with ma or ma fish.

- ‘indi wa’t. → _____
- fi sukkar. → _____
- ‘indak sayyara. → _____
- ‘indhha ikhwe. → _____
- fi mushkile. → _____

F. PARTNER INTERVIEW

PAIRS · 10 MINUTES

Ask your partner the eight questions below and note the answers in transliteration, then switch roles. Questions are written to a man; to a woman, use the (f) form in brackets. Working alone? Answer each question about yourself out loud, then about a friend.

شو اسمك؟	إنت من وين؟
shu ismak? (f) shu ismik?	inta min wein? (f) inti min wein?
What's your name?	Where are you from?
A _____ B _____	A _____ B _____

كيفك؟	كم أخ وأخت عندك؟
kifak? (f) kifik?	kam akh w-ukht 'indak? (f) 'indik
How are you?	How many brothers and sisters do you have?
A _____ B _____	A _____ B _____

عندك سيارة؟	وين ساكن؟
'indak sayyara? (f) 'indik	wein saken? (f) wein sakne?
Do you have a car?	Where do you live?
A _____ B _____	A _____ B _____

بتعرف إنجليزي؟	شو بتحب تشرب؟
bti 'rif inglizi? (f) bti 'rfi	shu bithibb tishrab? (f) shu bithibbi tishrabi?
Do you speak English?	What do you like to drink?
A _____ B _____	A _____ B _____

Useful answers: 'indi akh wahad w-ukht wahde (one brother and one sister) · ana saken fi Berlin (f: sakne) (I live in Berlin) · ah, shwayy (yes, a little) · bahibb shai / 'ahwe / mayy (I like tea / coffee / water).

Ex. 5 Write about your partner

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Four sentences about your partner, in the third person. Use huwwe / hiyye and the endings -o / -ha. Then read them to the class or say them out loud three times.

1 · HIS / HER NAME: HUWWE ISMO ... / HIYYE ISIMHA ...

2 · WHERE FROM: HUWWE MIN ... / HIYYE MIN ...

3 · SIBLINGS OR CAR: 'INDO ... / 'INDHA ... (OR MA 'INDO / MA 'INDHA)

4 · WHERE HE / SHE LIVES: HUWWE SAKEN FI ... / HIYYE SAKNE FI ...

Bonus Ask about things in the room

Point at things and ask your partner: shu hada? (what is this?) · la-min hada? (whose is this?) · fi ... hon? (is there ... here?). Three questions each, answers in full sentences: hada ktab. · hada ktabi. · ah, fi. / la, ma fish. For feminine things use hadi: hadi shanti.

QUESTION I ASKED

ANSWER I GOT

Done? Speaking check

- ☐ I said all eight pronouns and the 'indi forms out loud three times.
- ☐ I asked all eight interview questions without reading the Arabic.
- ☐ I read my four sentences from Ex. 5 to someone.

Answer key

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

Ex. 1 1 ana · 2 inta · 3 hiyye · 4 humme · 5 ihna · 6 inti · 7 huwwe · 8 intu

Ex. 2 1 ktabik · 2 beitna · 3 sayyarithum · 4 ismo · 5 shanti · 6 beitha · 7 sayyartak · 8 isimkum

Ex. 3 1 min wein inta? (or inta min wein?) · 2 shu ismak? · 3 wein inta? · 4 'addeish hada? (or bikam hada?) · 5 emta el-film? · 6 min hada?

Ex. 4 1 ma 'indi wa't. · 2 ma fish sukkar. · 3 ma 'indak sayyara. · 4 ma 'indha ikhwe. · 5 ma fish mushkile. Also correct: ma 'indish wa't, ma 'indaksh sayyara, ma fi sukkar.

Ex. 5 Open answer. Model: hiyye isimha Lina. · hiyye min almanya. · 'indha akh wahad w-ma 'indha sayyara. · hiyye sakne fi Berlin.

Interview Open answers. Accept any understandable transliteration; what matters is that the question was asked and answered in Arabic.

TEACHER'S NOTES

- Timing: about 45 minutes. Sections A to C with Ex. 1 and 2 (20 min), section D with Ex. 3 and 4 (10 min), interview plus Ex. 5 (15 min). The interview also works alone as a 15-minute warm-up in a later lesson.
- The interview is the centrepiece. Let pairs report back to the class in the third person ("hiyye isimha ..., 'indha ..."). That forces huwwe / hiyye and the -o / -ha endings, which is the whole point of the sheet.
- Ex. 4 is the key exercise: ma 'indi and ma fish are the patterns students use most. Accept the forms with and without -sh; both are heard in Jerusalem and Ramallah.
- Common mistakes from textbooks: Fusha forms like ayna, mata, limadha, ma huwa, laysa 'indi. Correct gently to wein, emta, leish, shu, ma 'indi. Egyptian learners need to move the question word to the front (shu ismak?, not ismak shu?).
- Variants: villages say eish for shu and k for ق (kaddeish); some speakers say hum for humme. "your (m)" - ak and "your (f)" -ik look the same in Arabic script.

NEXT WORKSHEET

Worksheet 4: Palestinian Arabic verbs. The everyday verbs in past, present and future, so you can say what you do, did and will do. Free at yallahspeak.com/worksheets/palestinian-arabic.

To run this interview 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).