

Numbers, prices & time

Count to 1000 and beyond, ask "how much?" at a Damascus souq, haggle and say what time it is. Say every number out loud; numbers only stick when your mouth knows them.

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. NUMBERS 0 TO 10 _____ LEARN THESE COLD. EVERYTHING ELSE IS BUILT FROM THEM.

٠ صفر sefr 0	١ واحد wahed 1	٢ تنين tnein 2	٣ ثلاثة tlate 3	٤ أربعة arba'a 4	٥ خمسة khamse 5	٦ ستة sette 6	٧ سبعة sab'a 7	٨ ثمانية tmanye 8	٩ تسعة tes'a 9	١٠ عشرة 'ashra 10
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B. 11 TO 19, TENS, HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS _____

11 TO 19 · ALL END IN -A'SH

١١ حدعش hda'sh	١٢ تنعش tna'sh	١٣ تلتعش tletta'sh	١٤ أربعتعش arba'-ta'sh	١٥ خمستعش khamsta'sh	١٦ ستعش setta'sh	١٧ سبعتعش saba'-ta'sh	١٨ تمنتعش tman-ta'sh	١٩ تسعتعش tesa'-ta'sh
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TENS · ALL END IN -IN

٢٠ عشرين 'eshrin	٣٠ ثلاثين tlatin	٤٠ أربعين arb'in	٥٠ خمسين khamsin	٦٠ ستين settin	٧٠ سبعين sab'in	٨٠ ثمانين tmanin	٩٠ تسعين tes'in
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HUNDREDS · MIYYE BECOMES -MIYYE

١٠٠ مية miyye	٢٠٠ ميتين mitein	٣٠٠ تلتمية tletmiyye	٤٠٠ أربعمية arba'-miyye	٥٠٠ خمسمية khamsmiyye	٦٠٠ ستمية settmiiyye	٧٠٠ سبعمية saba'-miyye	٨٠٠ تمنمية tman-miyye	٩٠٠ تسعمية tesa'-miyye
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THOUSANDS · 3 TO 10 THOUSAND TAKE T-ALAF

١٠٠٠ ألف alf	٢٠٠٠ ألفين alfein	٣٠٠٠ ثلاث تلاف tlat t-alaf	١٠٠٠٠ عشر تلاف 'ashr t-alaf
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PUTTING NUMBERS TOGETHER	RULE	EXAMPLES
Units come first	21 is "one and twenty": unit + w (and) + ten.	wahed w 'eshrin (21) · khamse w tlatin (35) · tes'a w tes'in (99)
Then hundreds and thousands	Biggest part first, then the rest, each joined with w .	miyye w khamse (105) · mitein w arba'a w 'eshrin (224) · alfein w sette w 'eshrin (2026)
Before a noun	miyye shortens to mit ; 11 to 19 add - ar .	mit lira (100 pounds) · khamsta'shar lira (15 pounds) · tna'shar alf (12,000)

Read the digits the Syrian way

- Syria uses these digits on price tags, buses and banknotes: • ١ ٢ ٣ ٤ ٥ ٦ ٧ ٨ ٩. They are written **left to right**, exactly like ours: ٢٥ is 25. Two traps: ٦ looks like a 7 but is 6, • is a dot and ٥ a small circle.
- Damascus drops the th sounds of Standard Arabic: **tlate** not thalatha, **tnein** not ithnan, **tmanye** not thamaniya. And the final -a often sounds like -e: **khamse**, **sette**, **miyye**.

C. THE COUNTING RULE THE ONE GRAMMAR POINT EVERYONE GETS WRONG

The noun after a number changes its form. Four cases, and you need all four at the souq.

NUMBER	WHAT HAPPENS	EXAMPLES
1	Singular noun, then wahed (f: wahde) after it.	كتاب واحد ktab wahed · ساعة وحدة sa'a wahde
2	No "tnein". Add the dual ending - ein to the noun.	كتابين ktabein · يومين yomein · ساعتين sa'tein
3 to 10	Short number + plural . Short forms: tlat, arba', khams, sett, saba', tman, tesa', 'ashr. Before a vowel you hear a t: tlat t-iyam.	ثلاث كتب tlat kotob · خمس تيام khams t-iyam · عشر ساعات 'ashr sa'at
11 and up	Full number + singular again (11 to 19 with - ar).	حده عشر كتاب hda'shar ktab · عشرين يوم 'eshrin yom · مئة ساعة mit sa'a
Ordering	In a café, drinks keep the full number + singular, even for 2 to 10.	ثلاثة شاي tlate shai (three teas) · ثنين قهوة tnein 'ahwe (two coffees)

Ex. 1 How many? Apply the counting rule

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Write the Arabic in Latin letters. Think first: singular, dual, plural, or ordering?

1 3 books _____

2 2 days _____

3 12 hours _____

4 1 book _____

5 15 pounds _____

6 2 coffees (café) _____

D. PRICES & MONEY

ENGLISH	ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION
How much is this?	قديش هاد؟	'addeish hada? (f) 'addeish hayy?
How much does it cost?	قديش حقه؟	'addeish ha''o? (f) ha''a
How much is a kilo?	قديش الكيلو؟	'addeish el-kilo?
Syrian pound	ليرة	lira written ل.س on price tags
Too expensive!	غالي كتير!	ghali ktir!
Cheap	رخيص	rkhis
Is there a discount?	في حسم؟	fi hasm?
Last price?	آخر سعر؟	akher se'r?
Make it ... (lower the price)	خليه ب...	khallih be ...
I only have ...	معي بس ...	ma'i bass ...
The change	الباقى	el-ba'i small change: frata
I want a kilo of oranges	بدي كيلو بردقان	baddi kilo bord'an baddi is the same for men and women

Prices the way you will hear them

- **be** means "for": **el-kilo be-alfein** (the kilo is two thousand), **el-wahde be-khams t-alaf** (five thousand each). "lira" is often dropped when the context is clear.
- Prices in Syria are usually in thousands, so **alf**, **alfein** and **t-alaf** come up all the time. Halves and quarters too: **nos kilo** (half a kilo), **reb' kilo**, **kilo w nos** (1.5 kilos).

AT THE FRUIT STALL

READ IT TWICE WITH A PARTNER, ONCE AS EACH SPEAKER

Nour صباح الخير. قديش كيلو البردقان؟ **sabah el-kheir. 'addeish kilo el-bord'an?**
Good morning. How much is a kilo of oranges?

Seller صباح النور. الكيلو بخمس تلاف. **sabah en-nur. el-kilo be-khams t-alaf.**
Good morning. Five thousand a kilo.

Nour خمس تلاف؟ غالي كتير! **khams t-alaf? ghali ktir!**
Five thousand? That's too expensive!

Seller هاد بردقان بلدي يا مدام. **hada bord'an baladi ya madame.**
These are local oranges, madam.

Nour خليه بأربع تلاف وبدي كيلوين. **khallih be-arba' t-alaf w baddi kilowein.**
Make it four thousand and I'll take two kilos.

Seller ماشي، كرمال خاطرك. تمن تلاف. **mashi, karmal khatrek. tman t-alaf.**
Fine, just for you. Eight thousand.

Nour تفضل، عشر تلاف. **tfaddal, 'ashr t-alaf.**
Here you are, ten thousand.

Seller وهي الباقي، ألفين. يسلمو! **w hayy el-ba'i, alfein. yeslamu!**
And here's your change, two thousand. Thanks!

E. TIME & DAYS

MINUTES PAST WITH W, MINUTES TO WITH ILLA

قديش الساعة؟ 'addeish es-sa'a? what time is it?	الساعة ثلاثة es-sa'a tlate 3:00	الساعة وحدة es-sa'a wahde 1:00 (feminine!)	ثلاثة وخمسة tlate w khamse 3:05	ثلاثة وعشرة tlate w 'ashra 3:10
ثلاثة وربع tlate w reb' 3:15 (quarter)	ثلاثة وتلت tlate w telt 3:20 (third)	ثلاثة ونص tlate w nos 3:30 (half)	أربعة إلا تلت arba'a illa telt 3:40 (four minus a third)	أربعة إلا ربع arba'a illa reb' 3:45
الصبح es-subeh in the morning	الظهر ed-dohr at noon	بعد الظهر ba'd ed-dohr in the afternoon	بالليل bel-leil at night	هلق halla' now

DAYS AND TIME WORDS · THE WORKING WEEK STARTS ON SUNDAY

السبت es-sabt Saturday	الأحد el-ahad Sunday	الاثنين et-tanein Monday	الثلاثاء et-talata Tuesday	الأربعاء el-arba'a Wednesday
الخميس el-khamis Thursday	الجمعة ej-jem'a Friday	مبارح mbareh yesterday	اليوم el-yom today	بكرة bukra tomorrow

Ex. 2 Three ways to write a number

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Fill in the two missing forms in each row: our digits, Arabic digits, and the word.

DIGITS	ARABIC	WORD	DIGITS	ARABIC	WORD
1 7		٧	2		١٥
3		٢٣	4 40		
5		٩٨	6 100		
7		mitein w khamsin	8 2026		

Ex. 3 Read the price tags

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Six tags from a Damascus street. Write what the item is in English, say the price in Arabic, then write it in words. ل.س. is short for Syrian pound (lira).

شاورما ١٢٠٠٠ ل.س. PRICE IN WORDS	ENGLISH _____
شاي ٢٠٠٠ ل.س. PRICE IN WORDS	ENGLISH _____
فلافل ٥٠٠٠ ل.س. PRICE IN WORDS	ENGLISH _____
مي ٣٠٠٠ ل.س. PRICE IN WORDS	ENGLISH _____
عصير ٧٠٠٠ ل.س. PRICE IN WORDS	ENGLISH _____
بوظة ١٥٠٠ ل.س. PRICE IN WORDS	ENGLISH _____

Ex. 4 What time is it?

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Write the time in Syrian Arabic under each clock. Start every answer with **es-sa'a**.



Ex. 5 Hagggle! A role-play for two

PAIR WORK

One of you is the seller, one the buyer. Only Arabic numbers allowed. Buy everything on the list without going over budget, then swap roles and play it again. The seller keeps the last column secret.

Seller card · البياع				Buyer card · الزبون	
Start at the asking price. Never go below your minimum. Useful lines: hada baladi! · akher se'r ... · karmal khatrak ...				Your budget: 18,000 lira . Ask the price of each item, complain, make an offer, agree, pay and check your change.	
ITEM	UNIT	ASKING	MINIMUM (SECRET)	SHOPPING LIST	PRICE AGREED
بردقان bord'an	kilo	6000	4000	2 kilos of oranges (kilowein bord'an)	_____
بندورة banadora	kilo	3000	2000	1 kilo of tomatoes (kilo banadora)	_____
تفاح teffah	kilo	5000	3000	1 kilo of apples (kilo teffah)	_____
بطاطا batata	kilo	4000	2000	1 kilo of potatoes (kilo batata)	_____
				Total (18,000 or less)	_____

Ex. 6 Maths out loud

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Solve each sum, write the answer in Arabic digits, then say the whole sum in Arabic: **zayed** (+), **na'es** (-), **darb** (×), **bisawi** (=). Example: tlata zayed arba'a bisawi sab'a.

$3 + 4 =$ _____	$10 - 2 =$ _____	$0 \times 3 =$ _____
$20 + 30 =$ _____	$100 - 20 =$ _____	$12 + 9 =$ _____

Done? Speaking check

- ☐ I counted from 0 to 20 and in tens to 100 out loud, without looking.
- ☐ I read the fruit-stall dialogue as both speakers.
- ☐ I haggled once as the buyer and once as the seller, in Arabic numbers only.

Answer key

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

Ex. 1 1 tlat kotob · 2 yomein · 3 tna'shar sa'a · 4 ktab wahed · 5 khamsta'shar lira · 6 tnein 'ahwe

Ex. 2 1 sab'a · 2 15, khamsta'sh · 3 23, tlate w 'eshrin · 4 ٤٠, arb'in · 5 98, tmanye w tes'in · 6 ١٠٠, miyye · 7 250, ٢٥٠ · 8 ٢٠٢٦, alfein w sette w 'eshrin

Ex. 3 shawarma, tna'shar alf lira · tea, alfein lira · falafel, khams t-alaf lira · water, tlat t-alaf lira · juice, saba' t-alaf lira · ice cream, alf w khamsmiyye lira

Ex. 4 1 es-sa'a tlate · 2 es-sa'a sab'a w nos · 3 es-sa'a 'ashra w reb' · 4 es-sa'a khamse illa reb' · 5 es-sa'a wahde · 6 es-sa'a tes'a w telt

Ex. 5 Open. The seller may not go below the minimum column (4000 · 2000 · 3000 · 2000). At minimum prices the list costs 15,000, at asking prices 24,000, so the buyer has to haggle to stay under 18,000.

Ex. 6 ٧ tlate zayed arba'a bisawi sab'a · ٨ 'ashra na'es tnein bisawi tmanye · ١٥ khamse darb tlate bisawi khamsta'sh · ٥٠ 'eshrin zayed tlatin bisawi khamsin · ٧٥ miyye na'es khamse w 'eshrin bisawi khamse w sab'in · ٢١ tna'sh zayed tes'a bisawi wahed w 'eshrin

TEACHER'S NOTES

- Timing: 45 to 60 minutes for the full sheet. Short version: section A, the counting rule and the haggling role-play (30 minutes).
- Section C is the grammar point of this sheet. Drill it with real objects in the room: one pen, two pens, three pens, eleven pens ('alam wahed, 'alamein, tlat t-e'lam, hda'shar 'alam). Students only believe the rule once they have said it.
- Two Levantine details to point out: 11 to 19 end in -a'sh on their own but take -ar before a noun (khamsta'sh, khamsta'shar lira), and 3 to 10 thousand are tlat t-alaf, khams t-alaf. Egyptian learners will know -tashar and talat talaf instead.
- Ex. 5 is the centrepiece. Insist on Arabic numbers only and let the pairs run it twice so both roles are played. The buyer who finishes under budget wins.
- Prices in Syria change quickly; the amounts on this sheet are for practice. What matters is reading and saying thousands with confidence.

NEXT WORKSHEET

Worksheet 3: Pronouns, questions & "I have". I and you, my and your, 'andi, fi and the question words shu, wein, eimta, laish, min, kif and kam. Free at yallahspeak.com/worksheets/syrian-arabic.

To practise prices and times with an AI shopkeeper who answers in Syrian Arabic and corrects your numbers word by word, try the Yallah Speak app (free to start, iOS and Android).