

100 words and 20 expressions

The core vocabulary of spoken Damascus Arabic in six groups, plus the 20 expressions you hear every day in Syria, 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

Day 1 ☐	Day 2 ☐	Day 3 ☐	Day 4 ☐	Day 5 ☐	Day 6 ☐	Day 7 ☐
Words 1 to 21	Words 22 to 40	Words 41 to 52 + review Day 1	Words 53 to 71	Words 72 to 100 + review Day 3	Expressions 101 to 120	All 120 + the sentence page

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.

B. SOUNDS OF DAMASCUS

Four things you will hear in these words

- ق is a glottal stop, the catch in "uh-oh", written ' : 'ahwe (coffee), sou' (market), halla' (now).
- ج sounds like the s in "pleasure": jaj (chicken) is "zhazh", jdid (new) is "zhdid".
- Many words end in a soft -e where Standard Arabic has -a: 'ahwe, 'eile, lahme, ya'tik el-'afye.
- ث and ذ become t and d: ktir (a lot, from kathir), hada (this, from hadha).

GROUP 1. PRONOUNS & LITTLE WORDS

WORDS 1 TO 21

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7	#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
1	أنا	ana	I	☐ ☐ ☐	12	هون	hon	here	☐ ☐ ☐
2	إنت	enta	you (m)	☐ ☐ ☐	13	هنيك	hnik	there	☐ ☐ ☐
3	إنتي	enti	you (f)	☐ ☐ ☐	14	إي	eh	yes	☐ ☐ ☐
4	هو	huwwe	he, it	☐ ☐ ☐	15	لا	la	no	☐ ☐ ☐
5	هي	hiyye	she, it	☐ ☐ ☐	16	ما	ma	not (before verbs)	☐ ☐ ☐
6	نحن	nehna	we	☐ ☐ ☐	17	مو	mu	not (other words)	☐ ☐ ☐
7	إنتو	ento	you (pl.)	☐ ☐ ☐	18	و	w	and	☐ ☐ ☐
8	هني	henne	they	☐ ☐ ☐	19	بس	bas	only, but, enough	☐ ☐ ☐
9	هاد	hada	this (m)	☐ ☐ ☐	20	كمان	kaman	also, more	☐ ☐ ☐
10	هادي	hadi	this (f)	☐ ☐ ☐	21	لأنو	la'anno	because	☐ ☐ ☐
11	هدول	hadol	these	☐ ☐ ☐					

GROUP 2. QUESTIONS & TIME

WORDS 22 TO 40

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
22	شو	shu	what	□□□
23	وين	wein	where	□□□
24	إيمتى	emta	when	□□□
25	ليش	leish	why	□□□
26	مين	min	who	□□□
27	كيف	kif	how	□□□
28	أديش	addeish	how much, how many	□□□
29	اليوم	el-yom	today	□□□
30	بكرا	bokra	tomorrow	□□□
31	مبارح	mbareh	yesterday	□□□

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
32	هلق	halla'	now	□□□
33	بعدين	ba'dein	later	□□□
34	قبل	'abel	before	□□□
35	بعد	ba'd	after	□□□
36	دائماً	dayman	always	□□□
37	مرات	marrat	sometimes	□□□
38	أبداً	abadan	never, not at all	□□□
39	الصبح	es-sobh	in the morning	□□□
40	بكير	bakkir	early	□□□

GROUP 3. PEOPLE & FAMILY

WORDS 41 TO 52

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
41	رجال	rejjal	man	□□□
42	مرا	mara	woman	□□□
43	ولد	walad	boy, child	□□□
44	بنت	bent	girl, daughter	□□□
45	بابا	baba	dad	□□□
46	ماما	mama	mum	□□□

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
47	أخ	akh	brother	□□□
48	أخت	ekht	sister	□□□
49	صاحبي	sahbi	my friend (m)	□□□
50	صاحبتي	sahebti	my friend (f)	□□□
51	عيلة	'eile	family	□□□
52	ناس	nas	people	□□□

GROUP 4. VERBS & VERB-LIKE WORDS

WORDS 53 TO 71

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
53	بيروح	biruh	he goes	□□□
54	بيجي	biji	he comes	□□□
55	بيعمل	bya'mel	he does, makes	□□□
56	بياكل	byakol	he eats	□□□
57	بيشرب	byeshrab	he drinks	□□□
58	بيعرف	bya'ref	he knows	□□□
59	بيقول	bi'ul	he says	□□□
60	بيشوف	bishuf	he sees	□□□
61	بيحكي	byehki	he speaks, talks	□□□
62	بيفهم	byefham	he understands	□□□

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
63	بيشتغل	byeshteghel	he works	□□□
64	بينام	binam	he sleeps	□□□
65	بيشتري	byeshtri	he buys	□□□
66	بيحب	bihebb	he loves, likes	□□□
67	بيستنى	byestanna	he waits	□□□
68	بدي	baddi	I want	□□□
69	لازم	lazem	must, have to	□□□
70	في	fi	there is; in	□□□
71	عندي	'andi	I have	□□□

Why "he"? The b- form for "he" is the dictionary form of spoken Syrian. Change the start for the other persons: b(e)- I (beshrab), bt- you (m) / she (bteshrab), mn- we (mneshrab). **fi** means "there is" (fi mayy? is there water?), and **ma fi** means "there isn't". **baddi** and **'andi** take endings: baddak, 'andak (you, m), baddek, 'andek (you, f). Worksheet 4 drills all of this.

GROUP 5. FOOD, HOME & TOWN

WORDS 72 TO 86

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
72	أكل	akl	food	□□□
73	مي	mayy	water	□□□
74	شاي	shay	tea	□□□
75	قهوة	'ahwe	coffee	□□□
76	خبز	khebez	bread	□□□
77	حليب	halib	milk	□□□
78	لحمة	lahme	meat	□□□
79	جاج	jaj	chicken	□□□

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
80	خضرة	khodra	vegetables	□□□
81	فواكه	fawake	fruit	□□□
82	بيت	beit	house, home	□□□
83	أوضة	uda	room	□□□
84	سيارة	sayyara	car	□□□
85	شارع	share'	street	□□□
86	سوق	sou'	market, souq	□□□

GROUP 6. DESCRIBING THINGS

WORDS 87 TO 100

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
87	منيح	mnih	good, fine	□□□
88	عاطل	'atel	bad	□□□
89	كبير	kbir	big; old (person)	□□□
90	زغير	zghir	small; young	□□□
91	جديد	jdidd	new	□□□
92	قديم	'adim	old (thing)	□□□
93	حلو	helo	nice, sweet, pretty	□□□

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	ENGLISH	D1 D3 D7
94	غالي	ghali	expensive	□□□
95	رخيص	rkhis	cheap	□□□
96	قريب	'arib	near	□□□
97	بعيد	b'id	far	□□□
98	كتير	ktir	a lot; very	□□□
99	شوي	shway	a little	□□□
100	تعبان	ta'ban	tired	□□□

20 EVERYDAY SYRIAN EXPRESSIONS

101 TO 120

#	ARABIC	SAY IT	MEANING, WHEN TO USE IT	D1 D3 D7
101	يلا	yalla	come on, let's go	□□□
102	تفضل / تفضلي	tfaddal / tfaddali	here you are; please come in (m / f)	□□□
103	أهلاً وسهلاً	ahlan w sahan	welcome	□□□
104	كيفك؟	kifak? / kifek?	how are you? (m / f)	□□□
105	الحمد لله	el-hamdella	thank God; I'm fine	□□□
106	شكراً	shukran	thank you	□□□
107	عفواً	'afwan	you're welcome; sorry?	□□□
108	يعطيك العافية	ya'tik el-'afye	thanks for your work (to someone working)	□□□
109	الله يعافيك	allah y'afik	the reply to ya'tik el-'afye	□□□
110	تكرم عينك	tekram 'einak / 'einek	gladly, of course (to a request)	□□□
111	على راسي	'ala raasi	with pleasure (lit. on my head)	□□□
112	معلش	ma'lish	never mind; sorry	□□□
113	إن شاء الله	inshallah	hopefully, God willing	□□□

114	ما شاء الله mashallah	wonderful! (praise for good news, kids, a home)	□ □ □
115	عنجد؟ 'anjad?	really? seriously?	□ □ □
116	والله wallah	I swear; honestly	□ □ □
117	دخلك dakhlak / dakhlek	please, I beg you (m / f)	□ □ □
118	صحتين sahtein	enjoy your meal	□ □ □
119	خلص khalas	done; that's enough	□ □ □
120	مع السلامة ma' es-salame	goodbye	□ □ □

Pairs that belong together: ya'tik el-'afye → allah y'afik. tfaddal → shukran. shukran → 'afwan or tekram. kifak? → mnih, el-hamdella. Say both halves with a partner until the reply comes without thinking.

C. EXERCISES

Ex. 1 15 sentences built only from the list

-- / 8

Every word below is in your list (plus the usual endings: 'andak = 'and + ak, bteshteghel = the "she" form of byeshteghel). Read all 15 out loud, then translate sentences 1 to 8 into English on the line. This is the Day-7 page.

1 أنا بدي قهوة.
ana baddi 'ahwe.

2 عندك مي؟
'andak mayy?

3 الأكل كثير حلو.
el-akl ktir helo.

4 هو مو هون هلق.
huwwe mu hon halla'.

5 شو بدك؟
shu baddek?

6 وين السوق؟ قريب؟
wein es-sou'? 'arib?

7 هي بتشتغل كثير.
hiyye bteshteghel ktir.

8 نحنا بدنا شاي، شكرأ.
nehna baddna shay, shukran.

9 أنا تعبان شوي اليوم.
ana ta'ban shway el-yom.

10 السيارة هادي غالية كثير.
es-sayyara hadi ghalye ktir.

11 بابا بينام بكير.
baba binam bakkir.

12 صاحبي بيحكي كثير.
sahbi byehki ktir.

13 ما في خبز اليوم.
ma fi khebez el-yom.

14 كيفك؟ منيح، الحمد لله.
kifak? mnih, el-hamdella.

15 معليش، ما فهمت.
ma'lish, ma fhemt.

Ex. 2 Opposites

-- / 8

Write the opposite from the box next to each word.

ba'd	rkhis	hnik	zghir	shway	'atel	b'id	'adim
------	-------	------	-------	-------	-------	------	-------

1 kbir _____

2 jdid _____

3 ghali _____

4 'arib _____

5 mnih _____

6 hon _____

7 ktir _____

8 'abel _____

Ex. 3 Odd one out

-- / 5

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

1	shay	'ahwe	mayy	sayyara
2	baba	mama	ekht	share'
3	kbir	bokra	mbareh	el-yom
4	byakol	byeshrab	beit	binam
5	shu	wein	kif	khebez

Ex. 4 What do you say?

-- / 6

Write the expression from 101 to 120 that fits each situation.

1 Your neighbour is carrying heavy shopping bags up the stairs.

2 Someone has just said ya'tik el-'afye to you.

3 You put a plate of food in front of a guest.

4 You hold the door open for someone and wave them in.

5 A friend asks you to bring bread, and you are happy to.

6 A friend tells you surprising news. You can't believe it.

D. PAIR WORK: AT THE SOUQ

One of you sells fruit and vegetables, the other buys. Read the model, then play the scene twice with your own words from the list. Swap roles.

Seller	أهلاً وسهلاً! تفضلي.	ahlan w sahan! tfaddali. Welcome! Go ahead.
Buyer	يعطيك العافية. أديش الخضرة؟	ya 'tik el-'afye. addeish el-khodra? Hello (lit. God give you strength). How much are the vegetables?
Seller	الله يعافيك. رخيصة كثير اليوم!	allah y'afik. rkhisa ktir el-yom! Thank you. Very cheap today!
Buyer	عند؟ طيب، بدي فواكه كمان.	'anjad? tayyeb, baddi fawake kaman. Really? Okay, I want fruit too.
Seller	تكرم عينك. تفضلي. مع السلامة!	tekram 'einek. tfaddali. ma' es-salame! Of course. Here you are. Goodbye!

Ex. 5 Build your own

__ / 5

Write five sentences about your day. Each one uses at least three words from the list. Then say them to your partner without reading.

1	2
3	4
5	YOUR PARTNER'S BEST SENTENCE

Day-7 self-test

Cover the Say-it column. Let someone (or your finger) pick 50 random English words and expressions. Say each one in Syrian Arabic. Count your hits. 40 or more: you have finished the starter pack. Fewer: repeat Day 3 and Day 5.

____ / 50

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 souq scene with a partner, once in each role, using at least four expressions.

Answer key

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

Ex. 1 1 I want coffee. · 2 Do you have water? · 3 The food is very good. · 4 He isn't here now. · 5 What do you want? (to a woman) · 6 Where is the market? Is it near? · 7 She works a lot. · 8 We want tea, thank you. (9 to 15, for reference: I'm a bit tired today. · This car is very expensive. · Dad goes to bed early. · My friend talks a lot. · There's no bread today. · How are you? Fine, thank God. · Sorry, I didn't understand.)

Ex. 2 1 kbir / zghir · 2 jdid / 'adim · 3 ghali / rkhis · 4 'arib / b'id · 5 mnih / 'atel · 6 hon / hnik · 7 ktir / shway · 8 'abel / ba'd

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

Ex. 4 1 ya'tik el-'afye · 2 allah y'afik · 3 sahtein · 4 tfaddal / tfaddali · 5 tekram 'einak / 'einek (or 'ala raasi) · 6 'anjad? (or wallah?)

Ex. 5 Open answer. A model: ana beshrab 'ahwe es-sobh. · baba byeshteghel ktir. · el-akl bel-beit helo ktir. · bokra ana ta'ban shway. · ekhti saknet 'arib men es-sou'.

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. The expressions (101 to 120) work best acted out, never translated word for word.
- Drill the expression pairs as call and response: you say ya'tik el-'afye, the class answers allah y'afik; you say tfaddal, they say shukran. These replies are what make a learner sound Syrian.
- Common mistakes: using ma with adjectives (ma mnih instead of mu mnih), the Egyptian 'ayiz or the MSA uridu instead of baddi, and a hard q in 'ahwe and sou'. In the souq scene, check that buyers switch to tfaddali, 'einek and dakhlek when talking to a woman.
- Learners will meet variants: Lebanese says hayda / hayde for this and often merci for thank you; Palestinians say hada too but bnehki for "we speak". Accept them, model the Damascus form.
- The list is curated for usefulness in everyday Damascus conversation, not a strict frequency count. The Ex. 5 model uses two small extras (bel- "in the", men "from") to show how the words combine.

WHAT NEXT

This is the last sheet of the Syrian Arabic Starter Pack. Go back to Worksheet 1 (greetings) and see how much more you understand now, or find all five sheets at yallahspeak.com/worksheets/syrian-arabic.

To hear all 120 words and expressions in a real Syrian 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).