

Spoken and Written Arabic

Egyptian Dialect

About the Book

This book is not your average Arabic textbook. In fact, this is not a textbook at all. We have designed our

book to be used as a supplemental aid to our video lessons, not a substitute. This way, you will continuously hear the correct accent and rhythm from the beginning.

Through our method, instead of deciphering a tedious written grammar explanation as is common practice in the world of Arabic study, we will explain the complexities of Arabic grammar in simple terms and through use of examples.

In combination with our video lessons and this text, you will be absorbing Arabic at a much faster rate and enjoying the journey.

A Note on the Choice of Dialect

In this course, we have chosen to teach Egyptian Arabic in depth, while providing the student with the added knowledge of the Palestinian and Jordanian dialects.

Egypt is not only the most populated Arabic speaking country, but is a cultural center of film, literature and music, making knowledge of this dialect essential to familiarizing oneself with Arab culture.

In the modern age of satellite television, you will be understood by a native Arabic speaker no matter which of these dialects you speak. Furthermore, by learning more than one dialect, you, the student, will be able to better understand those around you. As you study with us, you will see that the differences in dialect are smaller than one would think.

Roots

As a member of the Semitic language family, Arabic is consequently built on a root system, where the main stem contains usually 3 and sometimes 4 or 5 letters.

The meaning and role of the word is altered by affixations to the root letters, which themselves must always remain in the same order.

The root of each word can be found in the 3rd person singular masculine past-tense verb form.

(Examples: كتب, شرب, فعل)

Verb Forms

There are 10 basic Arabic verb forms, where each form possesses its own general attributes which affect the root. For example, by placing the same root in a different form, the verb could become passive, causative, reflective or intensify in meaning. Theoretically, each root can be transformed into all of the 10 verb forms.

Gender and Number

Arabic is a gender and number sensitive language, where verbs, nouns and adjectives are modified accordingly. Each word is defined as masculine or feminine and can be altered to be singular or plural.

درس ١

تفاصيل شخصية

١

مرحبا. اسمي احمد عبد الرحمان

حضرتك (انت) اسمك ايه ؟

٢

انا اتولدت سنة ١٩٧٥

حضرتك تولدت فين ؟

٣

دخلت المدرسة سنة ١٩٨١

حضرتك دخلت المدرسة سنة كم ؟

٤

تخرّجت من الجامعة سنة ١٩٩٦
حضرتك تخرّجت من الجامعة سنة كم ؟

٥

تجوّزت سنة ٢٠٠٠
انت تجوّزت سنة كم ؟

٦

انا وزوجتي وابني ساكنين في شقّة في القاهرة
انت وزوجتك ساكنين فين ؟

٧

انا باشتغل في دليل سياحة
حضرتك بتشتغل ايه ؟

The Arabic Verb

In Arabic, the verb can appear in two tenses:

1. Past (الماضي)
2. Present/Future (المضارع)

The form المضارع can indicate:

Present - الحاضر or Future - المستقبل

The specific tense is specified by additional words.

(I intend to... I want to... Tomorrow... Next month....)

The personal pronoun (I, you m., you f...) affects

how we conjugate the verb, we need to know:

1. The basic form of the verb
2. What we must add on to the beginning or end of the verb.

المضارع

اسافر

انا **اسافر** على مصر

انت **تسافر** على سورية

انتي **تسافري** على القدس

هو **يسافر** على السّعوديّة

هي **تسافر** على العراق

احنا **نسافر** على تونس

انتو **تسافرو** على دبي

هم **يسافرو** على ابو ظبي

Negative

انا ما اشربش

انت ما تشربش

انتی ما تشریبش

هو ما یشربش

هي ما تشریبش

احنا ما نشربش

انتو ما تشریبوش

هم ما یشربوش

Please note: When making a verb negative, adding the letter ش at the end is optional.

ما اشرب = ما اشربش

تمرین

Let's conjugate these verbs together:

اشوف , احكي , افكر

Grammar – قواعد

The Helping Verb - عايز (want, need, going)

It is acceptable to use a helping verb before a regularly conjugated verb in the المضارع tense.

Roles of the helping verb:

1. To suggest the intent (want, need, going to).
2. To make an expression easier to say.
3. It is possible to only add one helping verb to a regularly conjugated verb.

المستقبل - The Future Tense

مش عايز - Negative

انا عايز اسافر على دبي

انت عايز تسافر على قطر ؟

انت عايزة تسافري على السّعوديّة ؟

هو عايز يسافر معنا ؟

هي عايزة تسافر مع محمود ؟

احنا عايزين نساfer مع محمود

انتو عايزين تسافرو معنا ؟

هم عايزين يسافرو معنا ؟

ب The Prefix

انا باشرب شاي

انت بتشرب قهوة

انتني بتشربي ويسكي

هو بيشرب بسّ مية

هي بتشرب مية

احنا بنشرب قهوة

انتو بتشربو شاي

هم بيشربو كولا

Negative:

1. ما + verb + ش

2. verb + ما