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Introduction

This document is a concise reference to grammar for people who are learning the spoken arabic of Egypt. It is intended to be used alongside other study aids available free of charge at www.lisaanmasry.com.

If you want to see a wider range of examples of Egyptian Arabic, check out the Lonely Planet publication "Egyptian Arabic Phrasebook" by Siona Jenkins. It is a very useful pocket guide.

Getting started

This document is made up of three main sections:

- essentials - an introduction to grammatical terms and to Egyptian arabic, pointing out the

similarities and differences between Egyptian and English

- grammar - a description of how to build sentences using the standard language elements
- usage - commonly used words, phrases and expressions

A word about arabic writing

It is not difficult to learn to read and write in arabic, but it is an additional barrier to learning. Realistically, you are unlikely ever to see Egyptian Arabic in print: notices, packaging, adverts, web sites etc are written in Modern Standard Arabic. And if you want to read Arabic handwriting, that's a different ballgame altogether. An understanding of the Arabic alphabet can sometimes be useful, but it is by no means essential.

The examples in this document are therefore written in both arabic and roman letters. There are two ways of writing arabic using roman letters: the transliterated form tells you exactly how it would be written in arabic, and the pronounced form gives you an indication of how to pronounce it in european letters. For the pronounced form, I have chosen to write things how an english person would. My apologies to people whose first language is not english.

The pronunciation rules, the arabic alphabet and the transliterated and pronounced spelling are explained in the section on [arabic writing and pronunciation](#)

The examples in the PDF version of this document are written in arabic and in pronounced form.

The essentials- Same same but different

In many cases, Egyptian uses the same structure as English: let's first look at some simple examples where the structure is similar, then move on to the differences.

Nouns and verbs

Here is a simple sentence in both english and Egyptian:

Ahmed loves sarah
aacHmad biyiHibb saarao

Element	English	Egyptian
subject noun	Ahmed	'ahmad أحمد
verb	loves	biyihibb بيحب
object noun	Sarah	saara سارَة

In both the English and Egyptian examples, there are three words: two words are nouns (people, things or ideas) and the middle word is a verb, which explains what is happening. In both cases, the noun before the verb (Ahmed) is the subject (the person or thing that is doing something) and the noun after the verb (Sarah) is the object- is the person or thing that is having something done to it.

We can change the meaning by turning the words around, like this:

Sarah loves Ahmed
saarao bitHibb aacHmad

Element	English	Egyptian
subject noun	Sarah	saara سَارَة
verb	loves	bitihibb بِتِحِبُّ
object noun	Ahmed	'ahmad أَحْمَد

The nouns do not change, they have just moved: we know from the order of the words that Sarah is now the subject- the one who is loving, and Ahmed is now the object, the one who is loved. In English, the verb does not change at all, but in Egyptian it changes a little because the subject is now female, not male. We will look in more detail at how exactly verbs change to match the subject later, in the section on [verbs](#).

Subject and Object

The subject and object can be a name, for example Sarah and Ahmed, but there are some other possibilities as well. Here are some examples:

Element	English	Egyptian
name	Sarah	saara سَارَة
		irraaail

noun (specific)	the man	iraagin الرَّاجِل
	the woman	issitt السِّت
	the cat	il'utta الْقُطَّة
	the idea	ilfikra الفِكرَة
noun(general)	a man	raagil رَاجِل
	a woman	sitt سِيت
	a cat	'utta قُطَّة
	an idea	fikra فِكرَة
noun(quantity)	some men	shwyit rigalae شوية رِجالَة
	five men	chamas rigala خَمَس رِجالَة

	any man	'ay raagil أَي رَاغِيل
pronoun(subject)	he	huwwa هُوَ
	she	hiya هِيَ
pronoun(object)	him	-uh هُ
	her	-ha هَا

The word il- اِلْ is corresponds to 'the' in english, but there is no equivalent to 'a'. The noun just appears on its own.

Note that adding il- اِلْ to a word affects the pronunciation if it begins with a [sun letter](#).

Pronouns

Pronouns are the short words like **I** and **they** that often replace nouns in spoken English and Egyptian, to make our speech clearer and more concise. Here is a simple example:

I love her
aacnaa baHibbahaa

Element	English	Egyptian
subject pronoun	I	'ana أنا
verb	love	bahibb بَحِبُّ
object pronoun	her	-aha هَآ

We can see that the subject is still at the start of the sentence and the object is still at the end of the sentence, but in Egyptian the object pronoun is attached to the end of the verb. Let's turn that round and see what happens:

she loves me
hiya bitihibb-ny

Element	English	Egyptian
subject pronoun	she	hiya هِيَ
verb	loves	bitihibb بِتَحِبُّ
object pronoun	me	-ny نِي

Woa, what happened there? Everything changed, in both English and Egyptian! The reason is that, in both languages, there are different forms of the pronoun for subject and object. There is a third form of the pronoun that indicates ownership (my/his/your/their/its) but we will save that until we cover **pronouns** in more detail. For now, let's just look at the subject and object pronouns. Remember that object pronouns are attached to the end of the verb.

Subject		Object	
English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
I	'ana أنا	me	-ny ني
we	'ihna إحنا	us	-na نا
you(m)	'inta إنتَ	you(m)	-ak ك
you(f)	'inti إنتِ	you(f)	-ik كِ
you(pl)	'intu إنتوا	you(pl)	-ukw كوا
he/it(m)	huwwa هو	him/it(m)	-uh ه
	hiva		ha

she/it(f)	hiya هِيَ	her/it(f)	ha هَا
they	humma هُمْ	them	-uhum هُمْ

Here are a few more examples:

English	Egyptian
I know him	'ana Aaarifuh أَنَا عَارِفُهُ
Ahmed knows him	'ahmad Aaarifuh أَحْمَدَ عَارِفُهُ
Sarah knows him	saara Aaarifah سَارَةَ عَارِفُهُ
I smoke cigarettes	'ana bashrab sagaeyar أَنَا بِأَشْرَبَ سَجَائِرَ
I write books	'ana baktib kutub أَنَا بِأَكْتِيبُ كُتُوبَ
Ahmed writes books	'ahmad biyiktib kutub أَحْمَدَ بِيكْتِيبُ كُتُوبَ
he writes books	huwwa biyiktib kutub

Note that the subject pronoun can be omitted if the meaning is still clear

There is no 'is'

The word is/am/are is one of the most commonly use verbs in english.... but, if you are talking about something now (not the past or future), there is no word in Egyptian for 'is'. That's quite a big difference, but it's not too difficult. Let's take a look at some examples:

English	Egyptian
I am tired	'ana taAbaen أَنَا تَعْبَان
Ahmed is Egyptian	'ahmad masry أَحْمَدَ مَصْرِي
the cats are in the garden	il'utat fy ilginyna الْقُطَطُ فِي الْجَنِينَةِ
Sarah is available	saara mawguda سَارَةَ مَوْجُودَةَ
today is friday	innahaarda ilgumAa الِنَهَارَدَةَ الْجُمُعَةَ
	dy miraatv

this is my wife	dy miraaty دي مِراتي
my husband is at home	guzy fy ilbiyt جوزي في البيت

When you are talking about a past or future situation, then the Egyptian words kaen كَان - **was** and haykun هَيكون - **will be** are used. This will be covered in more detail later under [verbs](#). Here are some simple examples:

English	Egyptian
I am tired	'ana taAbaen أَنَا تَعْبَان
Ahmed is tired	'ahmad taAbaen أَحْمَد تَعْبَان
I was tired	'ana kunt taAbaen أَنَا كُنْتُ تَعْبَان
Ahmed was tired	'ahmad kaen taAbaen أَحْمَد كَانَ تَعْبَان
I will be tired	'ana hakun taAbaen أَنَا هَكُون تَعْبَان
Ahmed will be tired	'ahmad hayikun taAbaen

There is no 'have'

The verb **have** is widely used in English, but there is no equivalent verb in Egyptian. **Have** is used in many ways in English, and in Egyptian a different word is used for each meaning.

Meaning	English	Egyptian
have with me	I have matches	maAaya kabryt مَعِيَا كَبْرِيْت
own	I have a house	Aandy biyt عَنْدِي بِيْت
must	I have to go	laezim 'aruwh لَا زِمِ أَرْوَح
eat, etc	I will have dinner (I will dine)	hatAashsha هَتَعَشَّا
take	I will have a nap (I will take a nap)	haechuz taAsyla هَآخُذْ تَعْسِيْلَة

Masculine, feminine, plural

Like many european languages, all Egyptian nouns are either masculine or feminine. Here are

some examples:

Gender	English	Arabic
masculine	book	kitaeb كِتَاب
masculine	dog	kalb كَلْب
masculine	man	raagil رَاغِل
masculine	biyt	biyt بَيْت
masculine	milk	laban لَبَن
masculine	peace	salaem سَلَام
masculine	teacher	mudarris مُدَرِّس
feminine	teacher	mudarrisa مُدَرِّسَة
		fikra

feminine	idea	فِكْرَة fikiṛa
feminine	table	تَرَابِيْزَة tarabyza
feminine	workshop	وَرَشَة warsha
feminine	woman	سَيْتَة sitt
feminine	daughter girl	بِنْت bint
feminine	fire	نَار naar
feminine	head	رَأْس raas

As you can see, the majority of feminine nouns end in -ة. There are a few exceptions though: some are obvious, like woman and daughter, but others, you just need to learn them. We will cover this in more detail in the section on [nouns](#).

In both English and Egyptian, there are two forms of a noun: singular and plural. Here are some examples of plurals:

English		Arabic	
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
book	books	kitaeb كِتَاب	kutub كُتُب
dog	dogs	kalb كَلْب	kilaeb كِلَاب
man	men	raagil رَاغِل	riggala رِجَالًا
child	children	tifl طِفْل	'atfael أَطْفَال
house	house	biyt بَيْت	buyut بُيُوت
milk		laban لَبَن	
peace		salaem سَلَام	
teacher(m)	teachers	mudarris مُدَرِّس	mudarrisyn مُدَرِّسِينَ
teacher(f)	teachers	mudarrisa	mudarrisaet

teacher(t)	teachers	مُدْرِسَة	مُدْرِسَات
idea	ideas	fikra فِكْرَة	'afkaar أَفْكَار
table	tables	tarabyza تَرَابِيزَة	tarabyzaet تَرَابِيزَات
workshop	workshops	warsha وَرَشَة	wirash وِرَش
woman	women	sitt سِتّ	sattaet سَتَّات
daughter girl	daughters girls	bint بِنْت	banaet بَنَات
fire	fires	naar نَار	nyraan نِيرَان
head	heads	raas رَاس	ru'wus رُؤُوس

In english, the majority of plural nouns are the same as the singular, with a suffix of **-s** for example book/books, but there are a small number of words with unusual plurals, for example man/men and child/children. In Egyptian, feminine nouns that end in **-a** َة have a very straightforward plural- or -at َات: plurals of masculine nouns vary quite a lot- the vowels move about a bit but the consonants

remain the same. You will need to learn them.

Note that, both in english and Egyptian, some words do not have a plural- for example **milk** and **peace**.

Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe something- for example, good or small. In english, adjectives do not change, but in Egyptian there are different forms of an adjective for masculine, feminine and plural. Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
he is tired	huwwa taAbaen هُوَ تَعْبَان
she is tired	hiya taAbaena هِيَ تَعْبَانَة
they are tired	humma taAbany هُمْ تَعْبَانِين
he is good	huwwa kuwayis هُوَ كُوَيْس
she is good	hiya kuwayisa هِيَ كُوَيْسَة

they are good humma kuwayisyn
 هُمَّ كُوَيْسِينَ

The good news is that the majority of adjectives require just a different ending for feminine- -aة and plural -yn ين forms. We will cover this in more detail in the section on [adjectives](#)

Adverbs

Just as adjectives describe a noun, [adverbs](#) say something about a verb - where, when, how often, how much etc. They can also be used to describe the extent of an adjective (**very** good) or even another adverb (**very** slowly). Many English adverbs end with **-ly**. Usage of adverbs is very similar in English and Egyptian: here are some examples

describing	English	Egyptian
verb	I will come back soon	'ana hargaA baAd shuwaya أَنَا هَرَجَعُ بَعْدَ شُوَيْةٍ
verb	Ahmed walks quickly	'ahmad biyimshy bisuraAa أَحْمَدُ بِيْمَشِي بِسُرْعَةٍ
adjective	Ahmed is extremely clever	'ahmad shaatir giddaen أَحْمَدُ شَاطِرٌ جِدًّا
adverb	Ahmed drives reasonably fast	'ahmad biyisu' bisuraAa maA'ula أَحْمَدُ بِيْسُوقُ بِسُرْعَةٍ مَعْقُولَةٍ

Prepositions

In English, [prepositions](#) link to a noun. This is possible in Egyptian, but prepositions are also commonly used in place of verbs.

In Egyptian, prepositions are widely used in place of verbs, for example **have** is usually expressed using the prepositions Aand **عند** (own) and maAa **مع** (have with you): see [ownership](#) for more information. Here are some examples of prepositions:

English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
after	baAd بَعْدَ	she came after dinner	hiya gaet baAd ilAashaa' هِيَ جَاءَتْ بَعْدَ الْعِشَاءِ
behind	wara وَرَاءَ	the garden is behind the house	ilginyna wara ilbiyt الْجَنِينَةَ وَرَاءَ الْبَيْتِ
have	Aand عِنْدَ	I have a house in Cairo	Aandy biyt fy il'aehira عِنْدِي بَيْتٌ فِي الْقَاهِرَةِ
there is	fy فِي	there is water	fy mayae فِي مِيَاةٍ

Conjunctions

A [conjunction](#) joins two clauses to make a much more complex sentence. Here is an example:

I want to make bread **but** I don't have enough flour

Aaayiz aacAamil Aiysh **lakin** maAandysh diqyq kifaayao

Part	English	Egyptian
Main clause	I want to make bread	Aaeyiz 'aAamil Aiysh عَايِزْ أَعْمَلْ عَيْشْ
Conjunction	but	lakin لَكِنْ
Second clause	I don't have enough flour	maAandysh di'y' kifaeya مَعْنَدِيشْ دَقِيقْ كِفَايَةَ

In English, the same word is often used for a preposition and a conjunction, but in Egyptian it may be different. Sometimes it is only necessary to add the word *ma* مَا to convert a preposition to a conjunction.

Element	English	Egyptian
preposition (dinner is a noun)	wash your hands before dinner	'iGsil iydyk 'abl ilAashaa' إِغْسِلْ اِيْدِيْكَ قَبْلَ الْعِشَاءِ
conjunction (you eat is a clause- it contains a verb)	wash your hands before you eat	'iGsil iydyk 'abl ma taekul إِغْسِلْ اِيْدِيْكَ قَبْلَ مَا تَأْكُلْ

Nouns

A noun represents a person, thing or concept. Here are some examples:

Type	English	Arabic
person	Ahmed	'ahmad أحمد
person	man	raagil رَاجِل
person	player	laeAib لَاعِب
thing	leather	gild جِلْد
concept	wisdom	hikma حِكْمَة
concept	appointment	myAaed مِيعَاد

Masculine and feminine

In arabic, nouns can be masculine or feminine. This does not necessarily mean that they belong to male and female persons. Most words that end with -aة are feminine. In addition, there are a small number of words that do not end in -aة that are also feminine. Some of these words are obvious: others less so. Here are some examples of feminine nouns:

English	Arabic
idea	fikra فِكْرَة
woman	sitt سِتّ
daughter	bint بِنْت
fire	naar نَار
head	raas رَأْس

Plurals

If there is more than one of something, the noun becomes a plural. For many nouns, only the ending changes.

Gender	Ending	Singular	Plural
masculine	-yn يْن	muhaesib مُحَا سِب	muhaesibyn مُحَا سِبِيْن

feminine	-at آت	muhasba مُحَاسِبَة	muhaesibat مُحَاسِبَات
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Occupations

Generally speaking, the plural for trades ends with either -yn ين or -aya -يَة, but for professions there are different endings for men -yn ين and women -at آت.

English	Singular	Plural
carpenter	naggaar نَجَّار	naggaaryn نَجَّارِين
greengrocer	chudary خُضْرِي	chudariyya خُضْرِيَّة
male teacher	mudarris مُدَرِّس	mudarrisyn مُدَرِّسِين
female teacher	mudarrisa مُدَرِّسَة	mudarrisat مُدَرِّسَات

Collective nouns

In english, **fish** can mean **pieces** of fish or **one** fish or **several**: the former is described as a collective noun. In Egyptian, many foods- and some other things- have a collective noun. You can

talk about one item, for example **one fish**, by adding -a ة ending

English	Collective	one
eggs	biyd بيض	biyda بيضة
fish	samak سمك	samaka سمكة
flies	dibbaen دبان	dibbaena دبانة

Many materials- things that can be used to make something from, like leather or cloth, are treated in the same way: you add -a ة to give the meaning **a piece of...**

English	Collective	a piece
wood	chashab خشب	chashaba خشبة
soap	sabun صابون	sabuna صابونة

Pairs

The egyptian word for shoes (gazma جَزْمَة) relates to a pair. For a single shoe, it is necessary to say **fardit gazma** فَرْدَة جَزْمَة.

English	Egyptian
shoes	gazma جَزْمَة
socks	sharaab شَرَاب
gloves	guwanty جُوَانْتِي

Duals

If you want to talk about two people, or specify a quantity of two, see the section on [two](#) in numbers.

If you want to talk about two things (not people or quantities), you should use the dual suffix -yn يِن. This is equivalent to **a couple** which can mean exactly two, or approximately two. There are slightly different forms for feminine nouns and words ending in -y ي. Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian	Suffix	English	Egyptian
book (m)	kitaeb كِتَاب	-yn ين	two books	kitaabyn
chair (ends with y)	kursy كُرْسِي	-tyn تين	two chairs	kursiyyin
minute (f)	di'y'a دَقِيقَة	-iyyin يَيْن	a couple of minutes	diiqqtyn

Ownership

One way to express belonging is to add a possessive pronoun to the end of a noun. See [ownership](#) for information about other methods. Here are some examples:

English	on its own	with pronoun
his book	kitaeb كِتَاب	kitaeb uh كِتَابُهُ
my wife	does not exist on its own	miraaty مِرَاتِي
your(m) idea	fikra فِكْرَة	fikrit ak فِكْرَتِكَ

Compound nouns

You can describe a noun using another noun, for example to say what material it is made from. The qualifying noun is always singular. If the main noun is preceded by il- الـ the qualifying noun is also preceded by il- الـ . Note that adding il- الـ to a word affects the pronunciation if it begins with a **sun letter**.

English	Arabic
a plastic bag	kys blastik كيس بلاستيك
the plastic bag	ilkys ilblastik الكيس البلاستيك
plastic bags	'akyaes blastik أكياس بلاستيك
the plastic bags	il'akyaes ilblastik الأكياس البلاستيك

Pronouns

Pronouns are short words that are used to replace nouns in spoken English and Arabic, to make our speech clearer and more concise. In this example, **Ahmed** is the noun and **He** is the pronoun:

Ahmed has a dog. **He** walks with it every day
aachMad Aand-uh kalb wa **huwwa** biyitmashshY maAa-uh kul ywm

There are four main groups of pronoun:

- personal pronouns - I, you, he, etc
- demonstrative pronouns - this, that
- indefinite pronouns - somebody, anywhere
- relative pronouns - who, which, that

Personal pronouns

In English, there are four versions of the personal pronoun (he, him, his, himself): in Egyptian, there is an additional version (to him).

English	Egyptian	Form
he	huwwa هو	subject
him	-uh هـ	object
to him	-luh له	indirect object
	-uh	

his	هُ -uh	possessive
himself	nafsuh نَفْسُهُ	reflexive

In Egyptian, there are separate forms of **you** for masculine, feminine and plural, but there is no neuter (**it**): instead, it is necessary to use the **he** or **she** form, depending on the gender of the noun

Subject pronouns

A subject is the noun that appears before the verb- the person or thing that is doing something.

I like to read
aacnaa baaHib aacktib

The subject pronouns are:

English	Egyptian
I	'ana أنا
we	'ihna إحنا
you(m)	'inta إنتَ

you(f)	'inti إنتِ
you(pl)	'intu إنتوا
he/it(m)	huwwa هُوَ
she/it(f)	hiya هِيَ
they	humma هُمْ

Personal pronouns are not needed with verbs, as it is clear from the verb, but it is common to use them, especially for emphasis. They are often used with participles.

Object pronoun suffixes

You can attach an object pronoun (for example me or him) as a suffix to an imperative, verb or participle. to refer to the object.

give **me** the knife

iicdd**ny** iil-sikkynao

The object suffixes are similar to possessive suffixes on nouns:

English	Suffix
me	-ni نِ
us	-na نَا
You(m)	-ak كَ
You(f)	-ik كِ
You(pl)	-kum كُمْ
Him/it(m)	-u هُ
Her/it(f)	-ha هَا
Them	-hum هُم

If there is an l before the last consonant and the suffix starts with a vowel, the -i- is dropped, so...

possessive pronoun suffix

Things that would be expressed using a possessive pronoun (my, your... etc) in English can be handled using a possessive suffix attached to the noun, or using bitaA **بتع**. The latter is used for most imported words.

what (is) **your** name?

iicsm-**ak** iicyh?

The possessive pronouns themselves are pretty easy to learn, but when the pronouns are attached to nouns, the vowels do a little dance to make sure that you don't get three consonants in a row. Here are examples for nouns that end with one or two consonants:

Nouns ending in two consonants				
English	after -C		after -CC	
		saahib صَاحِب		kalb كَلْب
my	-y ي	saahiby صَاحِبِي	-y ي	kalby كَلْبِي

our	-na نَا	saahibna صَاحِبِنَا	-ina إِنَا	kalbina كَالِبِنَا
your(m)	-ak كَ	saahibak صَاحِبِكَ	-ak كَ	kalbak كَالِبِكَ
your(f)	-ik كِ	saahibik صَاحِبِيكِ	-ik كِ	kalbik كَالِبِيكِ
your(pl)	-kum كُمْ	saahibkum صَاحِبِكُمْ	-ukum كُكُمْ	kalbukum كَالِبِكُمْ
his/its(m)	-uh هُ	saahibuh صَاحِبِيهِ	-uh هُ	kalbuh كَالِبِيهِ
her/its(f)	-ha هَا	saahibha صَاحِبِيهَا	-aha هَآ	kalbaha كَالِبِيهَا
their	-hum هُم	saahibhum صَاحِبِيهِمْ	-uhum هُم	kalbuhum كَالِبِيهِمْ

For nouns ending in -a ة, the -a ة is replaced by -t ت or -it يت and then the ending is added.

Nouns ending in -a ة			
English	after -C		after -CC
		kura	shanta

		كورة		شَنطَة
my	-ty تي	kurty كورتِي	-ity يْتِي	shantity شَنطِيْتِي
our	-itna يْتِنَا	kuritna كورتِنَا	-itna يْتِنَا	shantitna شَنطِيْتِنَا
your(m)	-tak تَك	kurtak كورتَك	-itak يْتَك	shantitak شَنطِيْتَك
your(f)	-tik تِك	kurtik كورتِك	-itik يْتِك	shantitik شَنطِيْتِك
your(pl)	-itkum يْتَكُم	kuritkum كورتِكُم	-itkum يْتَكُم	shantitkum شَنطِيْتِكُم
his/its(m)	-tuh تُهُ	kurtuh كورتُهُ	-ituh يْتُهُ	shantituh شَنطِيْتُهُ
her/its(f)	-itha يْتَهَا	kuritha كورتِهَا	-itha يْتَهَا	shantitha شَنطِيْتِهَا
their	-ithum يْتَهُم	kurithum كورتِهُم	-ithum يْتَهُم	shantithum شَنطِيْتَهُم

Nouns that end in alif -a ا are treated almost like feminine nouns, ie the alif is replaced by -it يْت and then the ending is added.

Nouns ending in -y ي or -w و are listed below.

Note that for most words ending in -w و, for example baltw بلتو, one would normally use bitaA يتع rather than a possessive suffix.

Nouns ending in a vowel				
English		-a ا	-y ي	-w و
		vyla يلا	kursy كورسي	Aadw عدو
my	-ya ي	vylity يلا تي	kursya كورسيا	Aadwy عدوي
our	-na نا	vylitna يلا تنا	kursyna كورسينا	Aadwna عدونا
your(m)	-k ك	vylitak يلا تك	kursyk كورسيك	Aadwk عدوك
your(f)	-ki ك	vylitik يلا تيك	kursyky كورسيكي	Aadwik عدوك
your(pl)	-kum كم	vylitkum يلا تكم	kursykum كورسيكم	Aadwkum عدوكم
	-h ه	vylituh يلا توه	kursyh كورسيه	Aadwh عدوه

his/its(m)	-hi هـ	vylithi يِلَاتِهْ □	kursyhi كُورْسِيَهْ	Aadwhi عَدْوَهْ
her/its(f)	-ha هَآ	vylitha يِلَاتِهَآ □	kursyha كُورْسِيَهَآ	Aadwha عَدْوَهَآ
their	-hum هَمْ	vylithum يِلَاتِهَمْ □	kursyhum كُورْسِيَهَمْ	Aadwhum عَدْوَهَمْ

Father and brother 'abb أَبّ and brother 'achch أَخّ become 'abw- أبو- and brother 'achw- أخو- when a possessive pronoun is added.

English	father aacbb	brother aacKK
my	'abwya أبُويَا	'achwya أخُويَا
our	'abuna أبُونَا	'achuna أخُونَا
your(m)	'abuk أبُوكْ	'achuk أخُوكْ
your(f)	'abuky أبُوكِي	'achuky أخُوكِي
your(pl)	'abukum	'achukum

your(pl)	أَبوكُمْ	أَخوكُمْ
his/its(m)	'abuh أَبوه	'achuh أَخوه
her/its(f)	'abuha أَبوها	'achuha أَخوها
their	'abuhum أَبوهُم	'achuhum أَخُوهُم

reflexive pronouns (myself, yourself, himself)

Reflexive pronouns can be used after a noun or a verb.

English	Egyptian
I can look after myself	haechud baly min nafsy هَأَخْدُ بِأَلِي مِّنْ نَّفْسِي
The man himself	irraagil nafsuh الرَّاجِلِ نَفْسُهُ
He did it by himself	huwwa Aaemalha binafsuh هُوَ عَامَلَهُ بِنَفْسِهِ

Demonstrative pronouns

These are the words that you use when you want to point at something.

English	Egyptian
this (man)	dah دَه
this (woman, thing)	dy دي
those (men)	dul دول
those (women, things)	dyh ديه

If you want to use one of these with a noun, to indicate which one, (for example, this book), you should use a **Demonstrative adjective**. Fortunately, in both English and Egyptian, the demonstrative pronouns are the same as the demonstrative adjectives. Note that, when using demonstrative adjectives in Egyptian, the noun retains its il- ال- prefix.

demonstrative	English	Egyptian
pronoun	how much is this	bikaem dah بِكَامَ دَه
pronoun	how much is this book	bikaem ilkitaeb dah بِكَامَ الْكِتَابِ دَه

Indefinite pronouns

These are words like anybody, something etc. In Egyptian, these are made up of two words, but they are used in exactly the same way as in English.

English	Egyptian
somebody	hadd حَدّ
anybody	'ay hadd أَي حَدّ
nobody	wala hadd وَلَا حَدّ
something	haega حَاغَة
anything	'ay haega أَي حَاغَة
nothing	wala haega وَلَا حَاغَة
somewhere	makaen مَكَان

anywhere	'ay makaen أي مكان
nowhere	wala makaen وَلَا مَكَان

Relative pronoun

The relative pronoun *illy* الـي is used to represent that, who and which

the left turn **that** is coming (ie the next left)

iil-yimyn **illy** gayy

the man **who** lives here

iil-raagil **illy** saakin hinaa

Adjectives

Adjectives can be used in two ways: to describe something, or to specify which one of several you are talking about.

	English	Egyptian
describe	a cherry is red	kiryza hamra كِرِيْزَة حَمْرًا
describe	the ball is red	ilkura hamra الِكُوْرَة حَمْرًا

describe	I want a red ball	Aaeyiz kura hamra عايز كورة حمراً
specify	I want the red ball	Aaeyiz il kura il hamra عايز الكورة الحمراء
describe	the book is big	ilkitaeb kibyr الكتاب كبير
describe	I have read a big book	'araa't kitaeb kibyr قرأت كتاب كبير
specify	I have read the big book	'araa't il kitaeb il kibyr قرأت الكتاب الكبير
describe	the man is blind	irraagil 'aAma الرجل أعمى
describe	a blind man is outside	raagil 'aAma barra رجل أعمى برّاً
specify	the blind man is outside	irraagil il'a Ama barra الرجل الأعمى برّاً

In English, when you use an adjective to specify which one of several you are talking about, you put the word **the** in front of the adjective. It is almost the same in Egyptian, but you put il- ال before both the adjective **and** the noun: the il- ال before the adjective is the one that means that the

adjective is specifying which one you mean. Note that adding il- إلى to a word affects the pronunciation if it begins with a **sun letter**.

Masculine, feminine, plural

In English, there is only one form of an adjective, but in Egyptian, most adjectives must agree in gender and number with the noun that they relate to. Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
the man is clever	irraagil shaatir الِرَاَجِلِ شَاَطِرِ
the woman is clever	issitt shaatrah الِسِتِّ شَاَطِرَه
the children are clever	il'atfael shaatiryn الِأَطْفَالِ شَاَطِرِينَ

The following table shows some typical feminine and plural forms:

English	Egyptian		
	masculine	feminine	plural
		-ah	-yn

		هَ	ين
big	kibyr كَبِير	kibyr ah كَبِيرَه	kubaar كُبَار
good	kuwayis كُوَيْس	kuwayis ah كُوَيْسَه	kuwayis yn كُوَيْسِين
red	'ahmar أَحْمَر	hamr ah حَمْرَه	humr حُمْر
easy	sahl سَهْل	sahl ah سَهْلَه	sahl yn سَهْلِين
nice	latyf لَطِيف	latyf ah لَطِيفَه	lutaaf لُطَاف
free	faady فَاضِي	faady ah فَاضِيَه	faady yn فَاضِيِين
brown	bunny بُنِّي	bunny بُنِّي	bunny بُنِّي

The feminine form of most adjectives is made by adding the suffix -ah هَ, and the plural is formed by adding the suffix -yn ين. Note that adding a suffix may affect the [pronunciation](#).

We will look at some of the common exceptions later. Note that some words, for example brown bunny بُنِّي are invariable- you use the same form for masculine, feminine and plural.

Countries

A country name is usually converted to an adjective by adding -y ي. This can be used to refer to a person, a language or something from a country.

English	Country	m	f	pl
		-y ي	-iya يَة	iiyin يِين
Egypt	masr مَصْر	masry مَصْرِي	masriya مَصْرِيَّة	masriyyin مَصْرِيِين
Greece	ilyunaen الْيُونَان	yunany يُونَانِي	yunaeniya يُونَانِيَّة	yunaeniyyin يُونَانِيِين
Italy	'iytalya إِيْطَالِيَا	'iytaly إِيْطَالِي	'iytalya إِيْطَالِيَّة	'iytalyyyin إِيْطَالِيِين
Sweden	issiwyd السُّوَيْد	siwydy سُوَيْدِي	siwydya سُوَيْدِيَّة	siwydiyyin سُوَيْدِيِين
the North	ishshimael الشِّمَال	shimaly شِمَالِي	shimaeliya شِمَالِيَّة	shimaeliyyin شِمَالِيِين
Europe	'uurubba أُوْرُبَّا	'uurubby أُوْرُوْبِّي	'uurubbiya أُوْرُوْبِّيَّة	'uurubbiyyin أُوْرُوْبِّيِين

Irregular ones...				
India	ilhind الهند	hindy هندي	hindya هنديّة	hunud هُنود
America	'amryka أمريكا	'amryky أمريكي (people) 'amrikany أمريكيّ (things)	amrikiya أمريكيّة	amrykaen أمريكان

For some countries eg England, the adjective is made from the collective noun. Here are some examples:

English	Country	m	f	collective noun
		-y ي	-iya -يّة	
England	'ingiltira إنجلترا	'ingilyzy إنجليزي	'ingilyziyah إنجليزيّة	'ingilyz إنجليز
Arabia	Aaraby عربي	Aaraby عربي	Aarabiyah عربيّة	Aarab عرب
Russia	rusya روسيا	rusy روسي	rusyah روسيّة	rus روس
Germany	'almanya ألمانيا	'almany ألماني	'almanyah ألمانيّة	'almaen ألمان

Spain	'asbanya أَسْبَانِيَا	'asbany أَسْبَانِي	'asbanyah أَسْبَانِيَه	'asbaen أَسْبَانَ
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For countries ending in two consonants and alif, the ending is -awy **أَوِي**.

English	Country	m	f	pl
		-awy أَوِي	-awiya أَوِيَّة	-awiyyin أَوِيَّان
Austria	innimsa النِمْسَا	nimsaewy نِمْسَاوِي	nimsawiyyah نِمْسَوِيَّة	nimsawiyyin نِمْسَوِيَّان
France	faransa فَرَنْسَا	faransaewy فَرَنْسَاوِي	faransawiyah فَرَنْسَوِيَّة	faransawiyyin فَرَنْسَوِيَّان

One common usage of the country adjective is to talk about a person from that country. Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
an Egyptian man	waehid masry وَاحِدٍ مِصْرِي
an Egyptian woman	wahda masrya وَاحِدَةٌ مِصْرِيَّة
	waehid 'ingilizy

an englishman	waahid 'ingilizy وَاحِدٌ إِنجِلِيزِي
an englishwoman	wahda 'ingilyzya وَاحِدَةٌ إِنجِلِيزِيَّة
a frenchman	waehid faransawy وَاحِدٌ فَرَنْسَوِي
a frenchwoman	wahda faransawiya وَاحِدَةٌ فَرَنْسَوِيَّة

The feminine and plural are used only for people. For inanimate objects, the masculine form only is used. Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
a greek boat	markib yunany مَرَكِبٌ يُونَانِي
French cheese	gibna faransaewy جِبْنَةٌ فَرَنْسَاوِي
american cars	ilAarabiyaet 'amrikany الْعَرَبِيَّاتُ أَمْرِكَا نِي

Colours

The main colours follow a pattern. Here are some examples:

English	m	f	pl
C=consonant	aCCaC	CaCCah	CuCC
white	'abyad أَبْيَض	biyda بَيْضاً	biyd بَيْض
black	'iswid إِسْوِد	suda سُوداً	suwd سُود
yellow	'asfar أَصْفَر	safra صَفْراً	sufr صُفْر
blue	'azra' أَزْرَق	zar'ah زَرْقَه	zur' زُرُق
green	'achdar أَخْضَر	chadra خَضْراً	chudr خُضْر
red	'ahmar أَحْمَر	hamra حَمْراً	humr حُمْر

Colours derived from a material or thing just have a -y ي added. They are invariable: the feminine and plural form is the same as the masculine form.

English	m/f/pl
brown coffee	bunny بُنِّي
golden	zahaby ذَهَبِي
silver	faddy فَضِّي
copper	nahasy نَحَاسِي
light grey	rumady رُمَادِي
dark grey lead	rusaasy رُصَاصِي
dark green olive	zyty زَيْتِي
dark blue	kuhly كُحْلِي
pale blue	labany لَبَنِي

dark red wine	nibyty نَبِيْتِي
chestnut	kastanae'yy كَسْتَنَائِي
light brown honey	Aasaly عَسَلِي
purple violet	banafsigy بَنَفْسَجِي
orange	burtu'aly بُرْتُقَالِي
deep purple aubergine	bitangany بِتَنَجَانِي

Personal attributes

Personal attributes or disabilities follow the same pattern as the basic colours:

English	m	f	pl
C=consonant	aCCaC	CaCCah	CuCC
foolish	'ahbal أَهْبَل	habla هَبَلَة	hubl هُبُل

squinting	'ahwal أحوال	hulaa' حولاء	huwl حَوْل
bald	'a'raA أقرع	'arAa قرعة	'urA قُرْع
bald	'aslaA أصلع	salAaa' صلعاء	sulA صُلْع
fair skin blonde	'ash'ar أشقر	sha'ara شقرة	shu'r شُقْر
dark skin brunette	'asmar أسمر	samra سمرة	sumr سُمْر
frizzy haired	'akrat أكرت	karta كرتة	kurt كُرْت
left handed	'ashwal أشول	shula شولة	shul شول
right handed	'ayman أيمن	yimna يمينة	yumn يُمن
lame	'aArag أعرج	Aarga عرجة	Aurg عُرْج
blind	'aAma أعمى	AamyA عمية	Aumy عُمِي

deaf	'atras أَطْرَشْ	turshaa' طُرْشَاءْ	tursh طُرْشْ
deaf	'asam أَصَمَّ	samaa' صَمَاءْ	summ صُمَّ
mute	'achras أَخْرَسْ	charsa خَرْسَة	churs خُرْسْ

Slightly, Very... Extremely...

The following adverbs can be placed after the adjective:

English	Egyptian
slightly	shwaya شَوِيَّة
moderately	bi'iAtidael بِإِعْتِدَال
very	'awy قَوِي
extremely	chaalis خَالِص
	giddaen

	جِدًّا
	Aail'achir عَا لَأخِر
too	'awy قَوِي

Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
the car is slightly damaged	ilAarabiya 'itdarrarit shwaya الْعَرَبِيَّةُ إِتَضَرَّرَتْ شَوِيَّةً
the carpet was very expensive	issigaeda kaenit Galya 'awy السِّجَادَةُ كَانَتْ غَالِيَةً قَوِي
he is extremely rich	huwwa Gany giddeen هُوَ غَنِيٌ جِدًّا
this house is too big	ilbiyt dih kibyr 'awy الْبَيْتُ دِهْ كَبِيرٌ قَوِي

You may have noticed that the word **qawy** has two meanings: **very** and **too**. This sometimes causes confusion when Egyptians speak english: they say, for example, **too much** when they

mean **very much**.

Comparatives

In English we take an adjective like **big** and add suffixes **-er** to make comparative **bigger** and **-est** to make the superlative **biggest**. In Egyptian there is one word, a comparative, that is used for both. The context indicates the meaning.

We can compare two things using min من:

English	Egyptian
Ahmad is taller than me	'ahmad 'atwal minny أحمد أطول مِنِّي
he is more stupid than I thought	huwwa 'aGba min makunt faekir هُوَ أَغْبَى مِن مَكُنْتُ فَكِرَ

We can also make comparison without specifying the second thing like this:

English	Egyptian
Ahmad is a lot taller	'ahmad 'atwal bikityr أحمد أطول بِكِيْتِير
the weather will be a little better tomorrow	ilgaww haykun 'ahsan shuwaya bukra الْجَوَّ حَيَكُون أَحْسَن شُوِيَّة بُكْرَةَ

For the superlative (best, biggest) the comparative is used immediately before a noun:

English	Egyptian
mohammed is the tallest student	muhammad 'atwal taalib مُحَمَّدَ أَطْوَلَ طَالِبِ
he is the youngest boy	huwwa 'asGar walad هُوَ أَصْغَرَ وَاوَدَ
the tallest student is 1m90	ittaalib il'atwal tuluh mitr 1 wa 90 santy الطَّالِبِ الْأَطْوَلَ طُولُهُ مِتر ١ وَ ٩٠ سَنَتِي
the most expensive drink is 20 pounds	ilmashrub il'aGla 20 ginyh الْمَشْرُوبِ الْأَعْلَى ٢٠ جِنِيهِ
this is the prettiest dress in the shop	dih 'ahla fustaen fy ilmahal دِهْ أَحْلَى فُسْتَانِ فِي الْمَحَلِّ
it was the best day in my life	kaen 'ahsan yum fy hayaty كَانَ أَحْسَنَ يَوْمِ فِي حَيَاتِي

Making comparatives

As you may have noticed from the previous examples, the comparative is often derived from the adjective as follows:

English	adjective	comparative
big	kibyr كَبِير	'akbar أَكْبَر
easy	sahl سَهْل	'ashal أَسْهَل
tall	tawyl طَوِيل	'atwal أَطْوَل
classy	raqy رَاقِي	'arqa أَرْقَى
exceptions		
good	kuwayyis كُوَيِّس	'ahsan أَحْسَن

For adjectives with two consonants and ending in -y ي or -w و, the final letter changes to alif-layena اى.

English	adjective	comparative
pretty	hilw حِلْو	'ahla أَحْلَى
superior	Galy	'aGla

expensive	غالي	أغلى
loud/high	Aaly عالي	'aAla أعلى
rich	Gany غني	'aGna أغنى
healthy	sahy صحي	no comp
stupid	Gaby غبى	'aGba أغبى
clever	zaky ذكي	'azka أذكى

For adjectives with three consonants where the last two consonants are the same, the middle vowel is replaced with a fatha -a َ.

English	adjective	comparative
serious	gadd جَدَّ	no comp
new	gidyd جَدِيد	'agdad أَجْدَد

important	muhimm مُهَيِّمٌ	'ahamm أَهَمَّ
numerous	Aadyd عَدِيدٌ	no comp
lucky	mahzuz مَحْظُوظٌ	no comp
popular	mahbub مَحْبُوبٌ	'ahabb أَحَبَّ
light	chafyf خَفِيفٌ	'achaff أَخَفَّ
delicious	lazyz لَذِيذٌ	'alazz أَلَذَّ
few	'alayil قَلِيْلٌ	'a'ael أَقَال

In English, it is not possible to make a comparative in the usual way from some adjectives, for example **interesting**: instead, we say **more interesting**. The same is true in Egyptian: the words 'aktar أكثر - **more** and 'a'ael أقال - **less** are used with the adjective. Here are examples of adjectives that are handled this way

Group	English	Egyptian
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participles beginning with m- م	the contract is more acceptable like this	ilAa'd ma'bul 'aktar kidah الْعَقْدَ مَقْبُولَ أَكْثَرَ كِدَاهِ
participles beginning with ta- تَ	I am less traditional than you	'ana ta'lidy 'a'ael minnak أَنَا تَقْلِيدِي أَقَالَ مِنْكَ
adjectives beginning with 'a- أ-	he gets more selfish every day	huwwa biyib'a 'anany 'aktar kul yum هُوَ بِيِبِقَا أَنَانِي أَكْثَرَ كُلِّ يَوْمٍ
adjectives ending with -an أَ	Sarah is more tired than Ahmed	saara taAbaena 'aktar min 'ahmad سَارَةَ تَعْبَانَةَ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ أَحْمَدَ

Verbs

A verb tells you what is happening- for example, reading, walking etc. In Egyptian, the general meaning of a word is defined by the consonants, and several related words may contain this set of letters. For example, the letters ktb are used to make the words write, type, book, writer, written, writing, office and desk. The exact meaning is affected by the vowels, prefixes and suffixes (extra bits at the beginning and the end). Here are some of the ways the exact meaning can change for verbs:

- **tense** - when something happens (past, present, future)
- **case** - who is doing it (I, you, he, etc)
- **mode** - must, could etc

- **pronouns** - who is doing it, who is having it done to them
- **negation** - say something is NOT happening

The examples that follow use the verb katab **كَتَبَ**, which means **write**: about 30% of verbs follow this pattern, and there are probably about three or four other patterns.

The web site www.lisaanmasry.com and the windows and Android apps that you can download from the web site all provides full details for the majority of verbs.

Pronouns

There are three main types of pronouns that can be used with verbs:

- **subject** - I, we, you, he, she, it, they
- **object** - me, us, you, him, her, it, them
- **indirect object** - to me, to us, to you, to him, to her, to it, to them

In Egyptian, the subject pronoun is a separate word before the verb: the object and indirect object pronouns are attached to the end of the verb. Here are a some examples:

Pronoun	English	Arabic
Subject	I know Ahmed	'ana Aaarif 'ahmad أَنَا عَارِفَ أَحْمَدَ
Subject, object	I know him	'ana Aaarifuh أَنَا عَارِفُهُ

Object	Ahmed saw her yesterday	'ahmad shaefha 'imbaarih أحمد شافها إمبراح
Object	Sarah knows him	saara Aarif ah سارة عارفه
Object, Indirect	give it to me!	iddy hwly اديهولي

Subject pronoun

The subject pronoun appears before the verb or participle.

English	Arabic
I	'ana أنا
we	'ihna إحنا
you(m)	'inta إنتَ
you(f)	'inti إنتِ
you(pl)	'intu

you(pl)	إنتوا
he/it(m)	huwwa هُوَ
she/it(f)	hiya هِيَ
they	humma هُمْ

Object pronoun

You can attach an object pronoun (for example me or him) to the end of an imperative, verb or participle. See [pronouns](#) for more information.

Ahmed envies **me**

aachHmad biyiHsad-**ny**

English	Suffix
me	-ny ني
us	-na نَا

you(m)	-ak أَكْ
you(f)	-ik إِكْ
you(pl)	-kum كُمْ
him/it(m)	-uh هُ
her/it(f)	-ha هَا
them	-hum هُمْ

If there is an -i- before the last consonant and the suffix starts with a vowel, the -i- is dropped. If the verb requires a preposition (to, from etc) the object goes on the preposition.

Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
show me!	warryny وَرَّيْنِي

nobody helped us	mahaddish saeAid na مَحَدِّشْ سَاعِدِنَا
I saw you(m)	'ana shuft ak أَنَا شُفْتُكَ
I love you(f)	'ana bahib ik أَنَا بِحِبِّكَ
I know him	'ana Aaarif uh أَنَا عَارِفُهُ
I told them	'ana 'ultil hum أَنَا قُلْتُهِمْ

Indirect object

Some verbs require two objects- for example:

give it(f) **to me**

iiddy-haa-**ly**

It is the direct object and **to me** is the indirect object. The indirect object suffixes are as follows:

English	Suffix
---------	--------

to me	-ly لي
to us	-lina لِنا
to you(m)	-lak لك
to you(f)	-lik لكِ
to you(pl)	-luku لكُمْ
to him/it(m)	-lu لِ
to her/it(f)	-laha لِها
to them	-luhum لِهم

Tenses

In both english and Egyptian, a verb has different tenses to indicate when something happens- in the past, now or in the future. The usage of each tense will be explained in more details later. Here

are some examples using katab كَتَبَ:

Form	Example	Meaning	No of cases
perfect	katab كَتَبَ	he wrote	8 (i/we/you, etc)
simple imperfect	yiktib يَكْتِبُ	used with modals - eg he must write and kaen كَان - he used to write	8 (i/we/you, etc)
bi-imperfect	biyiktib بِيَكْتِبُ	he is writing he writes he knows how to write used with kaen كَان	8 (i/we/you, etc)
ha-imperfect	hayiktib هَيَكْتِبُ	he will write used with kaen كَان	8 (i/we/you, etc)
active participle	kaetab كَاتِبٌ	(he is) writing	3 (m/f/pl)
passive participle	maktub مَكْتُوبٌ	(it is) written	3 (m/f/pl)
imperative	iktib اِكْتِبْ	write!	3 (m/f/pl)
verbal noun	kitaeba كِتَابَةٌ	(the box is covered with) writing	2 (s/pl)

place	maktab مَكْتَب	writing place (desk or office)	2 (s/pl)
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Case

The two main tenses of a verb are the perfect and the simple imperfect: the bi- and ha- imperfect just have prefixes added to the simple imperfect. The usage of these tenses will be explained in more detail the section on [time](#). Here is the **he** case of each tense:

Tense	English	Egyptian
perfect	he wrote	huwwa katab هُوَ كَتَبَ
simple imperfect	he must write	huwwa laezim yiktib هُوَ لَازِمٌ يَكْتِيبُ
bi-imperfect	he writes	huwwa biyiktib هُوَ بِيَكْتِيبُ
ha-imperfect	he will write	huwwa hayiktib هُوَ هَيَكْتِيبُ

There are eight possible cases for each tense, corresponding to the eight pronoun forms (I/we/you/he, etc). Remember that the three imperfect forms are very similar.

Perfect

Here is an example of the perfect, which is used for things that occurred in the past.

Perfect		
English	Pronoun	Verb
I wrote	'ana أنا	katab t كَتَبْتُ
we wrote	'ihna إِحنَا	katab na كَتَبْنَا
you(m) wrote	'inta إِنْتَ	katab t كَتَبْتَ
you(f) wrote	'inti إِنْتِ	katab ty كَتَبْتِي
you(pl) wrote	'intu إِنْتُوا	katab tu كَتَبْتُوا
he/it(m) wrote	huwwa هُوَ	katab كَتَبَ
she/it(f) wrote	hiya هِيَ	katab it كَتَبَتْ
they wrote	humma	katab u

they wrote

هُمَّا

كَتَبُوا

Simple imperfect

The imperfect has no meaning on its own: it is used in four ways:

- with kaen كَان for things that happened in the past
- with modals like must, could, should etc.
- with bi-prefix for things happening now
- with ha-prefix for things that will happen

Here is an example with laazim, which means **must**.

Simple Imperfect			
English	Pronoun	modal	Verb
I must write	'ana أنا	laezim لازِم	'aktib أَكْتِيب
we must write	'ihna إِحْنَا	laezim لازِم	niktib نِكْتِيب
you(m) must write	'inta إِنْتِ	laezim لازِم	tiktib تِكْتِيب
you(f) must write	'inti إِنْتِ	laezim لازِم	tiktiby تِكْتِيبِي

you(pl)must write	'intu إنتوا	laezim لازم	tiktibu تكتبوا
he/it(m)must write	huwwa هو	laezim لازم	yiktib يكتب
she/it(f)must write	hiya هي	laezim لازم	tiktib تكتب
they must write	humma هم	laezim لازم	yiktibu يكتبوا

The english word **must** is a proper modal, it is the same for all cases. The Egyptian word

laezim لازم is a proper modal. Later on, you will learn how to use participles and verbs as modals, and you will see how they will change to match the case.

bi-imperfect

For the majority of verbs, the bi-imperfect is used to describe things happening now, and for habitual actions. See [active participles](#) for the exceptions

It is the same as the simple imperfect, with a bi- ب in front. Note that there are some small changes to the beginning of the imperfect when the prefix is added.

bi-imperfect

English

Pronoun

verb

I write	'ana أنا	b aktib بَكْتِب
we write	'ihna إِحْنَا	bin iktib بِنِكْتِب
you(m) write	'inta إِنْتَ	bit iktib بِتِكْتِب
you(f) write	'inti إِنْتِي	bitiktiby بِتِكْتِبِي
you(pl) write	'intu إِنْتُوا	bitiktibu بِتِكْتِبُوا
he/it(m) writes	huwwa هُوَ	biy iktib بِيَكْتِب
she/it(f) writes	hiya هِيَ	bit iktib بِتِكْتِب
they write	humma هُمَّا	biyiktibu بِيَكْتِبُوا

ha-imperfect

The ha-imperfect is used for things that will happen at some time in the future.

It is the same as the simple imperfect, with ha- هـ in front. Note that there are some small changes to the beginning of the imperfect when the prefix is added.

ha-imperfect		
English	Pronoun	Verb
I will write	'ana أنا	h aktib هَكْتِيب
we will write	'ihna إِحنَا	han iktib هَنِكْتِيب
you(m) will write	'inta إِنْتَ	hat iktib هَتِكْتِيب
you(f) will write	'inti إِنْتِ	hat iktiby هَتِكْتِيبِي
you(pl) will write	'intu إِنْتُوا	hat iktibu هَتِكْتِيبُوا
he/it(m) will write	huwwa هُوَ	hay iktib هَيَكْتِيب
she/it(f) will write	hiya هِيَ	hat iktib هَتِكْتِيب
	humma	hav iktibu

they will write

ihayku
هُمَا

ihayku
هَيَكْتَبُوا

is/was/will be

As mentioned earlier, there is no word for **is** in Egyptian. There are, however, words for **was** - kaen كَان and **will be** - haykun هَيَكُون.

kaan

kaan كَان can be used on its own to talk about some situation in the past, or it can be used with the imperfect and bi-imperfect to move the meaning of the verb into the past, and with the ha-imperfect to indicate something that almost or nearly happened.

kaan		
English	Pronoun	Verb
I was	ana أَنَا	kunt كُنْتُ
we were	ihna إِحْنَا	kunna كُنَّا
you(m) were	'inta إِنْتَ	kunt كُنْتُ
you(f) were	'inti	kunty

you(1) were	إنتِ 'intu	كُنْتِي kuntu
you(pl) were	إنتوا 'intu	كُنْتُوا kuntu
he/it(m) was	huwa هُوَ	kaen كَانَ
she/it(f) was	hiya هِيَ	kaenit كَانَتْ
they were	humma هُمَّا	kanu كَانُوا

Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
he was here	kaen hina كَانَ هِنَا
I was too tired	kunt taAbaen 'awy كُنْتُ تَعْبَان قَوِي
the party was good	ilhafla kaenit kuwayisa الْحَفْلَةَ كَانَتْ كُو يِسَّة

preposition	there was water, but it's finished	kaen fy mayaeh wa chilsit كَانَ فِي مِيَاهٍ وَ خَلِصَتْ
preposition	we had a house	kaen Aandina biyt كَانَ عِنْدَنَا بَيْتٌ
bi-imperfect	he was smoking a cigarette	kaen biyishrab sygaara كَانَ بِيْشْرَبُ سِيْجَارَةَ
bi-imperfect	he used to smoke cigarettes	kaen biyishrab sigaeyar كَانَ بِيْشْرَبُ سِيْجَايِرَ
ha-imperfect	I almost ran him over	kunt hadusuh كُنْتُ هَدَّوْسُهُ

Note that, for prepositional sentences, kaen كَانَ does not change with the subject of the sentence - it is always kaen كَانَ - **it was**.

haykwn

haykun هَيكون simply means **will be**. Here are some examples:

haykwn		
English	Pronoun	verb
I will be	ana أَنَا	hakun هَكُون

we will be	ihna اِحْنَا	hankun هَتَكُون
you(m) will be	'inta اِنْتَا	hatkun هَتَكُون
you(f) will be	'inti اِنْتِي	hatkuny هَتَكُونِي
you(pl) will be	'intu اِنْتُوا	hatkunu هَتَكُونُوا
he/it(m) will be	huwa هُوَ	haykun هَيَكُون
she/it will be(f)	hiya هِيَ	hatkun هَتَكُون
they will be	humma هُمَّا	haykunu هَيَكُونُوا

Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
the party will be good	ilhafla hatkun kuwayisa اِلْحَفْلَة هَتَكُون كُوَيْسَة

there will be a lot of wind tomorrow	haykun fy hawaa' kityr bukra هَيكون في هَوَاء كِثير بُكْرَة
I will be free at five	'ana hakun faady issaeAa chamsa أنا هَكُون فَاصِي السَّاعَة خَمْسَة

Note that, for prepositional sentences, haykun هَيكون does not change with the subject of the sentence - it is always haykun هَيكون - **it will be**.

Time

Here is a summary of ways to express when something happens:

Construction	Example	Meaning
perfect	katab كَتَب	he wrote
kaen كَانَ + imperfect	kaen yiktib كَان يَكْتِب	he was writing
kaen كَانَ + bi-imperfect	kaen biyiktib كَان بِيكْتِب	he used to write
bi-imperfect	biyiktib بِيكْتِب	he is writing he writes he can write

ha-imperfect	hayiktib هَيَكْتِب	he will write
kaen كَان + ha-imperfect	kaen hayiktib كَانَ هَيَكْتِب	he intended to write
	kaen haymut كَانَ هَيَمُوت	he almost died
raayih رَائِح + imperfect	raayih yiktib رَائِح يَكْتِب	he is going to write
hayruh حَيْرُوح + imperfect	hayruh yiktib هَيْرُوح يَكْتِب	

Participles

In both English and Egyptian, a participle is derived from a verb, but is used like an adjective. There are two types of participle- active and passive. As they are adjectives, in Egyptian, there are three forms- masculine, feminine and plural.

Participle	English	Masculine	Feminine	Plural
			-a ة	-yn ين
Active	wanting	Aaeyiz عَائِز	Aaeyiza عَائِزَة	Aaeyizyn عَائِزِينَ

Active	knowing	Aaarif عَارِف	Aaarifa عَارِفَة	Aaarifyn عَارِفِين
Active	understanding	faehim فَاهِم	faehima فَاهِمَة	faehimyn فَاهِمِين
Active	boiling	Galayaen غَلِيَان	Galayaen غَلِيَان	Galayaen غَلِيَان
Active	daydreaming	sarhaen سَرْحَان	sarhaena سَرْحَانَة	sarhanyn سَرْحَانِين
Passive	bound	mitgalid مِتْجَلِد	mitgalida مِتْجَلِدَة	mitgalidyn مِتْجَلِدِين
Passive	blessed	mubaarak مُبَارَك	mubaaraka مُبَارَكَة	mubaarakyn مُبَارَكِين
Passive	born	mawlud مَوْلُود	mawluda مَوْلُودَة	mawludyn مَوْلُودِين
Passive	understood	mafhum مَفْهُوم	mafhuma مَفْهُومَة	mafhumyn مَفْهُومِين

Active Participles

In English, we can describe something happening now by using the present tense or the active participle:

present	I look	a single event or habitual action
present	I am looking	a continuous action

In Egyptian, for some verbs, the active participle is the normal way of expressing what somebody is doing right now. For other verbs, the bi-imperfect is used. Generally, participles are used for verbs that relate to a state or continuous actions, but there is no flexibility: you have to use a participle for a particular verb whether the action is continuous or not. The four groups of verbs where the participle is used are:

- movement: going, coming etc
- senses: seeing, hearing
- states of mind: knowing, understanding, angry
- states of body: sleeping

English	Verb	Active Participle
put	hatt حَطَّ	haatyt حَاطَيْت
travel	saefir سَافِر	misaeфир مِيسَافِر
know	Airif عَرِف	Aaarif عَارِف

understand	fihim فِهِم	faehim فَاهِيم
sleep	naem نَام	naeyim نَايِم
angry	ziAil زِعِل	zaAlaen زَعَلَان

Active participles are like adjectives, and have masculine, feminine and plural forms. Here are some examples showing how the participle agrees with the subject

English	Verb
I(m) know Ahmed	'ana Aaarif 'ahmad أَنَا عَارِفَ أَحْمَدَ
I(f) know Ahmed	'ana Aaarifa 'ahmad أَنَا عَارِفَةَ أَحْمَدَ
we know Ahmed	ihna Aaarifyn 'ahmad إِحْنَا عَارِفِينَ أَحْمَدَ
you(m) know Ahmed	'inta Aaarif 'ahmad إِنَّتَ عَارِفَ أَحْمَدَ
you(f) know Ahmed	'inti Aaarifa 'ahmad إِنَّتِ عَارِفَةَ أَحْمَدَ

you(pl) know Ahmed	'intu Aaarifyn 'ahmad إنتوا عارفين أحمد
he knows Ahmed	huwwa Aaarif 'ahmad هو عارف أحمد
she knows Ahmed	hiya Aaarifa 'ahmad هي عارفة أحمد
they know Ahmed	humma Aaarifyn 'ahmad همّا عارفين أحمد

The participle is also used for an action that took place in the past but whose effect is still in force, for example reserving a room:

Element	English	Arabic
perfect	tabacht ilAasha طَبَخْتُ الْعِشَاءَ	I cooked dinner (a long time ago)
participle	'ana taabach Aasha أَنَا طَابَخَ عِشَاءً	I cooked dinner (it is ready now)

Passive Participles

A passive participle describes something that has had something done to it. In English it often ends with -ed, and in Egyptian, it often begins with ma- مَ-. Passive participles are like adjectives, and

have masculine, feminine and plural forms.

English	Arabic	Verb
the food is cooked	il'akl matbuch الْأَكْل مَطْبُوح	tabach طَبَخَ
the bowl is broken	issultaniya maksura السُّلْطَانِيَّة مَكْسُورَةٌ	kasar كَسَرَ
the floors are washed	il'ardiyaet maGsulyn الْأَرْضِيَّات مَغْسُولِيْنَ	Gasal غَسَلَ
I was married	kunt mitgawwiz كُنْتُ مِتْجَوِّز	'itgawwiz إِتْجَوِّز
smoked salami	salamy mudachan سَلَامِي مُدَّخَن	dachchan دَخَّن

modals: possibility, preference etc

You can use a modal together with the simple imperfect to indicate whether something must, may, could happen. Most proper modals are invariable- there is no I/you/he form. Here are some examples:

Modal	Example	Meaning
laezim	laezim viktih	

iaezim	لاَزِم	iaezim yiktib لاَزِم يَكْتِب	he must write
mumkin	مُمْكِن	mumkin yiktib مُمْكِن يَكْتِب	he could write
mihtaeg	مِحْتَاَج	mihtaeg yiktib مِحْتَاَج يَكْتِب	he needs to write
yimkin	يِمْكِن	yimkin yiktib يِمْكِن يَكْتِب	he might write
ilmafrud	اَلْمَفْرُوض	ilmafrud yiktib اَلْمَفْرُوض يَكْتِب	he should > write
darury	ضَرُورِي	darury yiktib ضَرُورِي يَكْتِب	it is essential that he should write
Aalashaen	عَلْشَانَ	Aalashaen yiktib عَلْشَانَ يَكْتِب	in order to write
pronounced Aashaen	عَشَانَ		

There are also some verbs or participles that can be used as modals. Here are some examples:

Type	Modal	Example	Meaning
	Aaewiz	Aaewiz yiktib	

participle	naewiz عَاوِز	naewiz yiktib عَاوِز يَكْتِيب	he wants to write
participle	naewy نَاوِي	naewy yiktib نَاوِي يَكْتِيب	he intends to write
noun	nifs نِيفْس	nifsuh yiktib نِيفْسُهُ يَكْتِيب	he wishes he could write
verb	'idir, yi'dar قَدِرَ، يَقْدَر	yi'dar yiktib يَقْدَرُ يَكْتِيب	he is able to write
verb	Airif, yiAraf عَرِفَ، يَعْرِف	yiAraf yiktib يَعْرِفُ يَكْتِيب	he knows how to write
verb	habb, yhibb حَبَّ، يَحِبُّ	yhibb yiktib يَحِبُّ يَكْتِيب	he likes to write
verb	lihi', yihla' لِحِقَ، يَحْلِقُ	lihi' yiktib لِحِقَ يَكْتِيب	he managed to write
verb	raah, yiruh رَاحَ، يَرُوح	raah yiktib رَاحَ يَكْتِيب	he went to write
verb	nisy, yinsa نَسِيَ، يَنْسِي	nisi yiktib نَسِيَ يَكْتِيب	he forgot to write

Participles must agree with the gender and number, and verbs must be the appropriate case. True modals like laezim لازم do not change. Here are some examples.

Type	English	Arabic
modal	I must write	'ana laezim 'aktib أَنَا لَأَزِمُ أَكْتُبُ
modal	you(m) must write	'inta laezim tiktib إِنَّتَ لَأَزِمُ تَكْتُبُ
modal	he must write	huwwa laezim yiktib هُوَ لَأَزِمُ يَكْتُبُ
modal	they must write	humma laezim tiktibu هُمَّ لَأَزِمُ تَكْتُبُوا
participle	I want to write	'ana Aaeyiz 'aktib أَنَا عَائِزُ أَكْتُبُ
participle	she wants to write	hiya Aaeyiza tiktib هِيَ عَائِزَةٌ تَكْتُبُ
participle	they want to write	humma Aaeyizyn yiktibu هُمَّ عَائِزِينَ يَكْتُبُوا
verb	I like to write	ana bae hibb 'aktib أَنَا بِأَحِبُّ أَكْتُبُ
verb	he likes to write	huwwa biy ihibb yiktib هُوَ بِأَحِبُّ يَكْتُبُ

verb	she likes to write	hiya bitihibb tiktib هِيَ بِتَحِبُّ تَكْتِبُ
verb	they like to write	humma biyihibbu yiktibu هُمْ بِيَحِبُّوْا يَكْتِبُوْا

If the subject of the verb is not the same as the subject of the modal

I want to go (same)
I want **him** to go (different)

in both english and egyptian you add an object pronoun to the modal: in Egyptian it is attached to the modal, or to any preposition associated with it.

English	Arabic
she wants me to write	hiya Aaeyizany 'aktib هِيَ عَائِزَةٌ نِي أَكْتِبُ
she wants to write	hiya Aaeyiza tiktib هِيَ عَائِزَةٌ تَكْتِبُ
she wants him to write	hiya Aaeyizah yiktib هِيَ عَائِزَةٌ يَكْتِبُ
he wants her to write	huwwa Aaeyizha tiktib هُوَ عَائِزَهَا تَكْتِبُ

she likes him to write	bitihbb uh yiktib بِتِحِبُّهُ يَكْتِب
he likes her to write	biyihbb ha tiktib بِيحِبُّهَا تَكْتِب
I let him write	chalit w yiktib خَلِّتُو يَكْتِب
I asked him to write	talabt minn uh yiktib طَلَبْت مِنْهُ يَكْتِب

Imperatives

When you want to tell somebody to do something, you use an imperative. In Egyptian, there are three forms- masculine, feminine and plural. Here are some examples.

English	Verb	Masculine	Feminine	Plural
	Imperfect		-y ي	-u وا
look!	yibuss يَبُصّ	buss بُصّ	bussy بُصِّي	bussu بُصُّوا
go!	yiruh يَرُوح	ruwh رُوح	ruwhy رُوحِي	ruwhu رُوحُوا

come!	yiigy ييجي irregular	taAaela تَعَال	taAaly تَعَالِي	taAalu تَعَالُوا
eat!	yaekul يَاكُلْ	kul كُلْ	kuly كُلِّي	kulu كُلُوا
shut up!	yuskut يُسْكُتْ	'iskut إِسْكُتْ	'iskuty إِسْكُتِي	'iskutu إِسْكُتُوا
calm down!	yihda يَهْدِي	'ihda إِهْدِي	'ihdy إِهْدِي	'ihdu إِهْدُوا
walk! (go away)	yimshy يِمْشِي	'imshy إِمْشِي	'imshy إِمْشِي	'imshu إِمْشُوا

verbal nouns

It is sometimes useful to make a noun from a verb. Here are some examples:

English	Arabic	Verb
wash your hands before eating	iGsil iydyk 'abl il'akl اِغْسِلْ اَيْدِيكَ قَبْلَ الْاَكْلِ	kal كَل
I have a reservation	Aandy hagz عَنْدِي حَجَزْ	haegiz حَا جِزْ

This game is for four players	illiaAba dih li'arbAa laAyba الْعَبَّةُ دِه لِأَرْبَعٍ لَا عَيْبَا	liAib لِعَيْبٍ
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Negation of verbs

You can say that something is **not** happening using the word mish مِش. It can appear before a verb, or wrapped around it. Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
he is not here	huwwa mish hina هُوَ مِش هِنَا
he was not here	huwwa makansh hina هُوَ مَكَانَش هِنَا
I have not travelled outside egypt	masafirtish barra masr مَسْفِرْتِش بَرَّا مَصْر
I do not know	'ana mish Aarif أَنَا مِش عَارِف
he was not able to come	ma'dirsh yigy مَقْدِرَش يَجِي
he will not come	mish hayigy

he will not come	مِش هَيَجِي
don't go!	matimshysh مَتَمَشِيش

See [Negation](#) for more details.

Adverbs

A verb explains what is being done: adverbs can be used to specify how, when, where and in what manner it is being done. There can be more than one adverb- they are placed after the verb. Here are some examples.

	English	Egyptian
direction	Ahmed is going up (stairs)	'ahmad taalaA fu' أحمد طالع فوق
position	Ahmed is coming here	'ahmad gayy hina أحمد جَي هِنَا
time	Ahmed will come tomorrow evening	'ahmad hayigy bukra biillyl أحمد حَيَجِي بكرة بِأَيَل
frequency	Ahmed always walks	'ahmad biyimshy daymaen أحمد بِيَمَشِي دَيماً
quality	Ahmed walks quickly	'ahmad biyimshy bisuraAa

quality	Ahmed walks quickly	أحمد بيمشي بسرعة
extent	Ahmed walks extremely quickly	'ahmad biyimshy bisuraAa giddeen أحمد بيمشي بسرعة جداً
	Ahmed always walks slowly upstairs in the evening	'ahmad biyitaalaA issalaelim daymaen bishwysy fy illyl أحمد بيطلع السلالم ديماً بشويش في الليل

direction

Direction adverbs can be used with verbs like **go**

English	Egyptian	English example	Egyptian example
up	fu' فوق	I am going upstairs	'ana taalaA fu' أنا طالع فوق
down	taht تحت	he dived down	Gitis taht غطس تحت
left	shamael شمال	turn left!	chushsh shamael خش شمال
right	yimyn يمين	look right!	buss yimyn بص يمين

straight ahead	Aala tul على طول	go(walk) straight ahead	'imshy Aala tul إمشي على طول
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location

Location adverbs can be used with verbs like **go**

English	Egyptian	English example	Egyptian example
here	hina هنا	come here !	taAala hina تعالى هنا
there	hinaek هناك	I have to go there tomorrow	laezim 'aruwh hinaek bukrah لازم أروح هناك بكره

time

Time adverbs are used to specify when you do something: they can be used with almost any verb. Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian	English example	Egyptian example
immediately	halaen حالا	I will open it immediately	haftahuh halaen هفتحه حالا
	dilwa'tv		'ihna gaehizv dilwa'tv

now	unwa ty دِلْوَقْتِي	we are ready now	inna gaenizyh unwa ty إِحْنَا جَاهِزِينَ دِلْوَقْتِي
already	no equivalent	he (is) already here	huwwa mawgwd
today	innahaarda الِنَهَارْدَة	the party is this evening	ilhafla innahaarda biillyl الِحَفْلَة الِنَهَارْدَة بِا لَّيْلِ
tomorrow	bukrah بُكْرَه	I will go to Alexandria tomorrow	haruw h il'iskandiraaya bukrah هَرُوح الِإِسْكَانْدِرَايَة بُكْرَه
the day after tomorrow	baAd bukra h بَعْد بُكْرَه	I will come back the day after tomorrow	'ana hargaA baAd bukra h أَنَا هَرَجَع بَعْد بُكْرَه
yesterday	'imbaarih إِمْبَارِح	she arrived yesterday	wasalt 'imbaarih وَصَلْت إِمْبَارِح
day before yesterday	'awil 'imbaarih أَوَّل إِمْبَارِح	I bought it the day before yesterday	'ashtarytuh 'awil 'imbaarih أَشْتَرَيْتُهُ أَوَّل إِمْبَارِح
next week	il'usbwaA illigaey الْأُسْبُوْع	we will go home next week	hanrawwah il'usbwaA illigaey هَنَرَوَّح الْأُسْبُوْع الْجَا

	الْجَاي		ي
this week	il'usbwaA dih الْأُسْبُوْع دِه	we are on holiday this week	ihna fy 'agaeza il'usbwaA dih اِحْنَا فِي اَجَا زَة الْاُسْبُو ع دِه
last week	il'usbwaA 'illy faet الْاُسْبُوْع إِلِّي فَات	I saw her last week	shuftaha il'usbwaA 'illy faet شَفْتَهَا الْاُسْبُوْع إِلِّي فَات
early	badry بَدْرِي	we must get up early tomorrow	laezim ni'um badry bukra لَا زِم نِقَوْم بَدْرِي بُكْرَه
evening	biillyl بِإِلِيل	there is a party this evening	fy hafla biillyl فِي حَفْلَة بِإِلِيل
later	baAdyn بَعْدِين	see you later	hashufak baAdyn حَشُوْفَاك بَعْدِين
again	kamaen marrah كَمَان مَرَّه	play that song again	Ganny il'aGniya dih kamaen marrah غَنِّي الْاَغْنِيَة دِه كَمَان مَرَّه
	baAd kida	we will eat and afterwards we will	hanaekul wa baAd kida hani'Aad fyilginyna

afterwards	بَعْدَ كِدَّةَ	sit in the garden	هَنَاكُلْ وَ بَعْدَ كِدَّةَ هَنَقَعَدَ فِيَا لَجِنِينَةَ
ago	min مِن	I have lived here for a long time (lit. since a long time ago)	sikint hina min zamaen سِكِنْتَ هِنَا مِن زَمَانَ

frequency

This group of adverbs specifies how frequently you do something. Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian	English example	Egyptian example
usually	Aadataen عَادَتَا	I usually take a nap after lunch	baechud Aadataen taAsylla baAd ilGadaa' بَاخُدْ عَدَاتَا تَعْسِيْلَةَ بَعْدَ الْغَدَاءِ
always	daymaen دَيْمًا	his office is always neat	maktabuh mitsattif daymaen مَكْتَبُهُ مِتْسَاتْفِ دَيْمًا
rarely	naediraan نَادِرًا	I rarely see Ahmed	'ana bashuf ahmad naediraan أَنَا بَاشُوفَ أَحْمَدَ نَادِرًا
regularly	bi'intizaem بِإِنْتِظَامٍ	I go to the gym regularly	baruh ilgym bi'intizaem بَرُوحَ الْجِيمِ بِإِنْتِظَامٍ
recently	min 'urayib مِنْ أُرَيْبٍ	somebody asked me about that recently	hadd s'aalny Aanuh dih min 'urayib

	مِنْ قَرِيبٍ	recently	حَدَّ سَأَلَنِي عَنْهُ دِهْ مِنْ قَرِيبٍ
at all	'abadaen أَبَدًا	I don't know him at all	mish Aaarifuh 'abadaen مِشْ عَارِفُهُ أَبَدًا
again	thany ثَانِي	I would like to go there again	Aaeyiz 'aruh hinaek thany عَايِزْ أَرْوَحْ هِنَاكَ ثَانِي
often	Galibaen غَلِبًا	she is often tired	hiya taAbaena Galibaen هِيَ تَعْبَانَةٌ غَلِبًا
forever	lil'abad لِلْأَبَدِ	nobody lives for ever	mahaddish biyiAish lil'abad مَحَدِّشْ بِيْعِشْ لِلْأَبَدِ
all day	tul ilyum طُولِ الْيَوْمِ	it rained all day	mattar tul ilyum مَطَّرَ طُولِ الْيَوْمِ
all (my/his/her) life	tul ilAumr طُولِ الْعُمْرِ	he smoked cigarettes all his life	kaen biyishrib sagaeyar tul Aumruh كَانَ بِيْشْرِبْ سَجَايِرَ طُولِ عُمْرِهِ
firstly	'awilaen أَوَّلًا		
finally	'achyraan أَخِيرًا	he finally visited london	zaar lundun 'achyraan زَارَ لُنْدُنَ أَخِيرًا
	min wa't لِلثَانِي		baruh ilginyna min wa't lilthany

occasionally	miḥānī مِنْ وَقْتٍ لِلثَانِي	I go to the park occasionally	بَرُوحِ الْجَنِينَةِ مِنْ وَقْتٍ لِلثَانِي
hourly	biissaeAa بِالسَّاعَةِ	you must check hourly	laezim titammim biissaeAa لَا زِمَ تَتَمَّمْ بِالسَّاعَةِ
sometimes	'ahyanaen أَحْيَانًا	we sometimes see sharks here	binishuf samak 'irsh 'ahyanaen hina بِنِشُوفِ سَمَكٍ قِرْشٍ أَحْيَانًا هِنَا
sometimes	'aw'aet أَوْقَاتٍ	it sometimes rains in Egypt	'aw'aet bitmattar fy masr أَوْقَاتٍ بِيَتَمَطَّرُ فِي مَصْرٍ <i>Note: always goes at beginning of sentence</i>

Extent

The following adverbs can be placed after an adjective or another adverb to indicate the extent:

English	Egyptian
slightly	shwaya شَوِيَّةَ
reasonably	maA'ula مَعْقُولَةَ

very	'awy قَوِي
extremely	chaalis خَالِص
	giddaen جِدًّا
	Aail'achir عَا لَأخِر
too	'awy قَوِي

Derived adverbs

Most adjectives in English can be converted to an adverb by adding the letters **-ly**, for example **nice** becomes **nicely**. In Egyptian, the adjective can be converted to an adverb by adding the ending -an

أ

English	adjective	adverb
officially	rasmy رَسْمِي	rasmyaen رَسْمِيًّا
theoretically	nazary	nazariyaen

theoretically	نَظَرِي	نَظَرِيَا
naturally	tabyAy طَبِيعِي	tabyAyaen طَبِيعِيَا
literally	harfy حَرَفِي	harfyaen حَرَفِيَا
generally	Aumumy عُمُومِي	Aumumaen عُمُومَا
normally	Aady عَادِي	Aadataen عَادَتَا
slightly	'ulayil قَلِيلِي	'alayaen قَلِيلَا

Similarly, a noun can be converted to an adverbial phrase by adding the word **with**, for example **with care**. In Egyptian, the same can be achieved by adding bi- بِ at the start of the word.

English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
with care	bihazar بِحَذَر	he opened the box carefully	fatah ilAalba bihazar فَتَحَ الْعَلْبَةَ بِحَذَر
with speed	bisurAa بِسُرْعَة	Ahmed drives very fast	'ahmad biyisu' bisurAa 'awy أَحْمَدُ بِيَسُوقَ بِسُرْعَة قَوِي
	hiirraaha		'ilaAbu hiirraaha

with calm	biitaaana بِإِلْتِمَاحَةٍ	play (pl) quietly!	il'igtimaeA 'achad saeAa بِإِلْتِمَاحَةٍ
with precision	biizzabt بِإِلْتِظَابٍ	the meeting took exactly one hour	il'igtimaeA 'achad saeAa biizzabt الْإِجْتِمَاعَ أَخَذَ سَاعَةً بِإِلْتِظَابٍ
with moderation	bi'iAatidael بِإِعْتِدَالٍ	eat moderately	'akul bi'iAatidael أَكُلْ بِإِعْتِدَالٍ
in the evening	biillyl بِإِيلٍ	there is a party this evening	fy hafla biillyl فِي حَفْلَةٍ بِإِيلٍ

Miscellaneous

English	Egyptian	English example	Egyptian example
together (people)	sawa سَوَا	we will travel together	'ihna misaefiryn sawa إِحْنَا مِسَافِرِينَ سَوَا
together (people and things)	maAa baAd مَعَ بَعْضٍ	we will travel together	'ihna misaefiryn maAa baAd إِحْنَا مِسَافِرِينَ مَعَ بَعْضٍ
separately	kul wahid liwahduh كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ لِيَوْحَدُهُ	we will travel separately	'ihna misaefiryn kul wahid liwahduh إِحْنَا مِسَافِرِينَ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ لِيَوْحَدُهُ
well	kuwayis	be since very well	huwwa biyiGanny kuwayis 'awy

well

كُوَيْس

he sings very **well**

هُوَ بِيغْتِي كُوَيْس قَوِي

Prepositions

Prepositions define a relationship (in time, space, etc) between a noun and something else. In both English and Egyptian, the preposition goes before the noun that it defines the relationship to. Here are some examples:

Domain	English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
time	after	baAd بَعْد	she came after dinner	hiya gaet baAd ilAashaa' هِيَ جَات بَعْد الْعِشَاء
space	behind	wara وَرَأ	the garden is behind the house	ilginyna wara ilbiyt الْجَنِينَةَ وَرَأ الْبَيْت
quality	like	zayy زَيِّي	I need another pen like this	mihtaeg 'alam thany zayy dah مِحْتَاَج قَلَم ثَانِي زَيِّي دَه
reference	according to	hasab حَسَب	according to the police, the riot started at 2am	hasab kalaem ilbulys, ishshaGab 'ibtada issaeAa ithnyn حَسَب كَلَام الْبُولِيْس، ا لش-غَب اِبْتَدَى اِلْسَاعَةَ اِثْنَيْن
ownership	have	Aand عِنْد	I have a house in Cairo	Aandy biyt fy il'aehira عِنْدِي بَيْت فِي اِلْقَاهِرَة

The noun can be one of the following:

Element	Preposition	English	Egyptian
name	Ahmed	she is with Ahmed	hiya maAa 'ahmad هِيَ مَعَ أَحْمَدَ
simple noun	the house	the cat is inside the house	il'utta guwwa ilbiyt الْقُطَّةُ جُورًا الْبَيْتِ
complex noun	the man who...	I arrived after the man who delivered the carpet	wasalt baAd irraagil illy wasal issigaeda وَصَلْتُ بَعْدَ الرَّاجِلِ الَّتِي وَصَلَ السُّجَادَةَ
object pronoun	her	I arrived after her	wasalt baAd aha وَصَلْتُ بَعْدَهَا
qualifying pronoun	this	I need another pen like this	mihtaeg 'alam thany zayy dah مِحْتَاجَ قَلَمٍ تَانِي زَيْي دَه

Be careful! If it's not a noun, but a complete clause (ie it has a verb), you have to use a conjunction. In english, it's confusing because the preposition and conjunction are often the same word: in Egyptian it is necessary to insert the word maa to convert a preposition or a conjunction. See more about this [below](#).

Prepositions of time

English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
after	baAd بَعْدَ	we will start after the feast	hanibtidy baAd ilAiyd هَنَيْبَتِي بَعْدَ الْعِيدِ
before	'abl قَبْلَ	I must paint the house before summer	laezim 'adhin ilbiyt ' abl issyf لَا زِمَ أَدِهِنَ الْبَيْتَ قَبْلَ الصَّيْفِ
during	athnaa' أَثْنَاءَ	smoking is forbidden during dinner	ittadchyn mamnuA ' athnaa' ilAashaa' الْتَدَخِين مَمْنُوعَ أَثْنَاءَ الْعِشَاءِ
till	lihadd لِحَدِّ	I will be here till dinner	'ana mawgud lihadd ilAashaa' أَنَا مَوْجُودٌ لِحَدِّ الْعِشَاءِ
till	liGaeyit لِغَايَةِ	they are busy until 8pm	humma mawgudyn liGaeyit saeAa tamanya هُمَّ مَوْجُودِينَ لِغَايَةِ سَاعَةِ تَمَانِيَةِ

Prepositions of space

English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
from	min مِنْ	he is from Cairo	huwwa min ilqaahira هُوَ مِنْ الْقَاهِرَةِ
away from	Aan عَنْ	the dog ran away from me	ilkalb garry minny الْكَلْبُ جَرِّي مَنِّي

at/toward	Aala على	that man is looking at us	irraagil dah bass Aaly na الِرَاغِل دَه بَصَّ عَلَيْنَا
at	fy في	my husband is at home	guzy fy ilbiyt جوزي في البيت
above	fu' فوق	my apartment is above the laundry	sha"aty fu' ilmaGsala شَقَّتِي فُوقِ الْمَغْسَلَةِ
below	taht تَحْت	there are many many fish under the water	fy samak kityr taht ilmayaeh في سَمَك كِتِير تَحْتِ الْمِيَاه
opposite	'usaad قُصَاد	the restaurant is opposite the railway station	ilmataAm 'usaad mahattit il'ataar الِمَطْعَم قُصَاد مَحَطَّةِ الْقَطَارِ
opposite	'ubael قُبَال		
facing	fy wishsh في وِشْ	the house is facing the desert	ilbiyt fy wishsh issaharaa' الْبَيْتِ فِي وِشِّ الصَّحْرَاءِ
at	Aand عِنْد	the customs office is at the airport	maktab ilgamaarik Aand ilmataar مَكْتَبِ الْجَمَارِكِ عِنْدَ الْمَطَارِ

at	Aand عِنْدَ	turn right at the pharmacy	chushsh yimyn Aand issayidaliya خُشَّ يَمِينٍ عِنْدَ الصِّيدِ لِيَّةَ
behind	wara وَرَاءَ	the cat is behind you (f)	il'utta waraaky الْقُطَّةُ وَرَاءِ كِي
beside	gamb جَمَبَ	there was an accident beside the mosque	kaen fy hadtha ganb ilgamAa كَانَ فِي حَادِثَةِ جَنْبِ الْجَامِعِ
in	fy فِي	the dog is in the garden	ilkalb fy ilginyna الِكَلْبِ فِي الْجَنِينَةِ
inside	guwa جُوَا	we must stay inside the house	laezim ni'Aud guwa ilbiyt لَا زِم نِقَعْدُ جُوَا الْبَيْتِ
outside	bara بَرَا	do you want anything from outside ?	Aaeyiz haga min baraa ? عَايِز حَجَّةَ مِّنْ بَرَا؟
on	Aala عَلَى	the bread is on the table	ilAysh Aala ittarabyza الْعَيْشِ عَلَى التَّرْبِيذَةِ
between	byn بَيْنَ	Hurghada is between the desert and the sea	ilGarda'a byn issaharaa' wa ilbahr الْغَرْدَقَةُ بَيْنَ الصَّحْرَاءِ وَ الْبَحْرِ
	hiittul		fy Aawamyd nur biittul ishshaariA

along	بِإِلْتِطَالٍ بِإِلْطُولٍ	there are lamp posts all along the street	فِي عَوَامِدِ نَوْرٍ بِإِلْطُولِ الشَّارِعِ
surrounding	hawalyn حَوَالَيْنِ	The view surrounding the house is very beautiful	ilmanzar hawalyn ilbiyt gamyl 'awy الْمَنْظَرُ حَوَالَيْنِ الْبَيْتِ جَمِيلٌ قَوِيٌّ

Note that you don't need a prepositional **to** after words like raah راح - go.

I am going **to** Cairo
aacnaa raayiH il-Qaahirao

Miscellaneous Prepositions

English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
concerning	'amae... fa... أَمَّا... فَ...		
like	zayy زَيِّي	do you have something like this?	Aandak haega zayy dih? عِنْدَكَ حَاجَةٌ زَيِّي دِه؟
there is	fy	there is a stain on this shirt	fy bu'Aa Aala il'amys dih

there is	في	there is a stain on this shirt	في بقعة على القميص ده
about	Aan عن	I am reading a book about the revolution	ba'ra kitaeb Aan iththura بقراً كتاب عن الثورة
according to	hasab حسب	according to Ahmed, it will be windy tomorrow	hasab kalaem 'ahmad, haykun fy hawaa' kityr bukrah حسب كلام أحمد، سيكون في هواء كثير بكره
contrary	Aaks عكس	my opinion is contrary to yours	r'ayy Aaks r'ayak رأيي عكس رأيك
except	'ila إلا	there is no food except this bread	mafish akl 'ila ilAayshsh dah مفیش اكل إلا العیش ده
except	maAada معداً		
instead of	baddal بدّل	give us chicken instead of beef	'idyna firaach baddal illahma إدينا فراخ بدّل اللحمه
despite	biirraGm min بإلرغم من	he succeeded despite his injuries	nigh biirraGm min ziraaAuh ilmaksur نجح بإلرغم من ذراعته المكسور
			fy Aashara duyuf zae'yid 'ithnyn

plus	zae'yid زائد	there are ten guests plus two staff	muwazafyn فِي عَشْرَةِ ضُيُوفٍ زَائِدٍ إِثْنَيْنِ مُوظَّفَيْنِ
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Prepositions of ownership

This important group is discussed in more detail in the section on [ownership](#).

English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
own	Aand عند	I own a car	Aandy Aarabiya عندي عَرَبِيَّة
have with you	maAa مع	I have a cigarette lighter	maAayah walaeeAa معيه و لآعة
have got	ly لي	I have two legs	ly riglyn لي رجلين
for	Aalashaen علشان	there was a phone call for you	kaen fy mukalma Aalashaen ak كان في مكالمة علشانك

Subordinate clauses: maa

A preposition connects a noun to a sentence. If you want to connect a clause (something with a verb) to a sentence, you need to use a [conjunction](#).

In English, many conjunctions are the same as prepositions: In Egyptian, some prepositions can be converted to a conjunction by adding the word *ma* ما. Here are some examples:

Element	English	Egyptian
preposition	wash your hands before dinner	'iGsil iydyk 'abl ilAashaa' إِغْسِلْ أَيْدِيكَ قَبْلَ الْعِشَاءِ
conjunction	wash your hands before you eat	'iGsil iydyk 'abl ma taekul إِغْسِلْ أَيْدِيكَ قَبْلَ مَا تَأْكُلُ
preposition	she arrived after the bus	hiya wasalit baAd ilmasarahiya هِيَ وَصَلَتْ بَعْدَ الْمَسْرَحِيَّةِ
conjunction	she arrived after the bus had gone	hiya wasalit baAd ma ilmasarahiya 'ibtadit هِيَ وَصَلَتْ بَعْدَ مَا الْمَسْرَحِيَّةِ ابْتَدَتْ
preposition	he acts like the owner	biyitsarraaf zayy ilmaelik بِيْتَصَرَّفَ زَيْي الْمَالِكِ
conjunction	he acts as if he owns the place	biyitsarraaf zayy ma yikun ilmakaen bitaeAuh بِيْتَصَرَّفَ زَيْي مَا يَكُونُ الْمَكَانَ بِيْتَاَعُهُ

yikun يكون is added in the last example because it is something that is unlikely to happen. See [kaan](#) for more details.

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are the useful little words that join clauses together to make more complex sentences.

I want to make bread **but** I don't have enough flour
Aaayiz aacAamil Aiysh **lakin** maAandysh diqyq kifaayao

Part	English	Egyptian
Main clause	I want to make bread	Aaeyiz 'aAamil Aiysh عَايِزْ أَعْمَلْ عَيْشْ
Conjunction	but	lakin لَكِنْ
Second clause	I don't have enough flour	maAandysh di'y' kifaeya مَعْنَدِيشْ دَقِيقْ كِفَايَا

If you just want to attach a noun, you should use a preposition, but if you want to attach a clause (ie, there is a verb on both sides), then a conjunction is required. In English, the same word is often used for both preposition and conjunction, but there are differences in Egyptian: see [prepositions and conjunctions](#) for more details.

If there is a subject pronoun in the second clause, it becomes an object pronoun attached to the conjunction. For example:

I feared that **she** was lost
aanaa Kuft iinn**ahaa** tikwn taahit

The following table lists most of the common conjunctions, and gives examples how they can be

used.

English	Egyptian	English Example	Egyptian Example
that	'inn إِنَّ	I feared that she was lost	ana chuft 'inn aha tikun taehit أَنَا خُفْتُ إِنَّهَا تَكُون تَاهِت
as long as	tul ma طُول مَا	as long as you water the garden, the plants will grow	tul ma bitis'y ilginyna, izzaraA hayikbar طُول مَا بِيْتِسْقِي الْجِنِينَةَ، الْزَّرَ عَ حَيِّكَبَر
because	Aalashaen عَلَّشَانَ pronounced Aashaen	I don't have a car because there is not enough money	maAndysh Aarabiya Aalashaen mafiysh filus kifaeya مَعْنَدِيش عَرَبِيَّةَ عَلَّشَانَ مَفِيش فِلُوس كِفَايَةَ
in order to	Aalashaen عَلَّشَانَ	I need money in order to buy food	mihtaeg filus Aalashaen 'ashtiry 'akl مِحْتَاَج فِلُوس عَلَّشَانَ أَشْتِرِي أَكْل
after	baAd ma بَعْدَ مَا	we will leave after the movie has finished	hanimshy baAd ma ilfylv yichlas حَنِمَشِي بَعْدَ مَا الْفِيلْم يَخْلَص
and	wi و	I went to the bank and it was closed	raht ilbank wi kaen ma'ful رَحْت الْبَنْك وَ كَانَ مَقْفُول

as if	Aala 'inn على إنَّ		
as if	kae'inn كَأَنَّ	he spends money as if he is rich	biyusrif filus kae'in nuh Gany بِيُصْرِفِ فِلُوسٍ كَأَنَّهُ غَنِيٌّ
as if	zayy ma زَيْي مَا	he spends money as if he is rich	biyusrif filus zayy ma yikun Gany بِيُصْرِفِ فِلُوسٍ زَيْي مَا يَكُونُ غَنِيٌّ
before	'abl ma قَبْلَ مَا		
but	bass بَسَّ	I would like to go but I don't have time	nifsy aaruh bass maAandysh wa't نِيفْسِي أَرْوَحُ بَسَّ مَعَنْدِيشِ وَقْتِ
but	lakin لَكِنِ	ditto	
if	'in إِنِ	If you go, you will get into a fight	'inn ruht hinaek, haetit chaani' إِنِ رُوْحَتِ هِنَاكَ، حَاتِتِ خَانِقِ
if	'iza إِذَا	if you have some money, lend me fifty pounds	'iza kaen maAaek filus, salifny chamsyn ginya إِذَا كَانَ مَعَاكَ فِلُوسِ، سَلِفْنِي خَمْسِينَ جِنِيَّةَ
instead	badal ma	instead of going call them	badal ma matruh, kalimhum

of	بَدَل مَا	instead of going, call them	بَدَل مَا مَتْرُوح، كَلِمَهُمْ
like	zay ma زَي مَا	as you did for him, he will do for you	zayy ma Aamalt fyh hayitAamil fyk زَي مَا عَمَلت فِيه هَيْتَعْمَل فِيك
neither.. nor..	lae... walaeh... لَا،،، وَاَلَا،،،	neither this is working nor is this working	la dah naefaA walaeh dah biyinfA لَا دَه نَافِع وَاَلَا دَه بَيِنْفَع
or	'aw أَوْ	we can eat fish or chicken	mumkin naekul samak 'aw firaach مُمْكِن نَاكُل سَمَك أَوْ فِرَاخ
or (in question)	wala وَاَلَا	would you like fish or chicken?	Aaewiz taekul samak wala firaach? عَاوِز تَاكُل سَمَك وَاَلَا فِرَاخ؟
rather than	'ahsan أَحْسَن	I would prefer to eat fish rather than chicken	'akul issamak 'ahsan min ilfiraach أَكُل اِلْسَمَك أَحْسَن مِّن اِلْفِرَاخ
otherwise	wa 'illa وَاِلَّا	shut up otherwise we go home!	'ichrassy wa 'illa haarawahik إِحْرَاسِي وَاِلَّا هَارَ وَحِك
unless	'ila 'iza إِلَّا إِذَا	don't give him any money unless I allow you to	matidyhush filus 'ila 'iza 'ana samahtylak مَتْدِيهوش فِيلُوس إِذَا أَنَا سَمَحْتِيْلَكَ

conditional clauses (if.. then...)

There are two words meaning **if**: they are 'iza إذا and law لَو. 'iza إذا can be used under all circumstances: law لَو cannot be used with the imperfect form of a verb or a preposition.

In English, the word **then** is occasionally used to complement **if** In Egyptian, there is no equivalent word.

If I were rich...

If an event or situation is improbable or impossible, in English we use modals like 'would' and 'were'. In Egyptian, the word kaen كَانَ is used after law لَو. Compare these two sentences:

if **I have** time, **I will read** the book
iicdhaa **Aandy** waqt, **haagraac** iil-kitaab

if **I had** time, **I would read** the book
law **kaan Aandy** waqt, **kunt qaryt** iil-kitaab

When	conditional clause
past	'iza kaen إِذَا كَانَ + perfect
present	'iza kaen إِذَا كَانَ + imperfect
future	'iza kaen إِذَا كَانَ + imperfect

Courtesies

This section summarises the expressions that are used daily to greet and say goodbye to people, ask for things and thank people on a day to day basis.

Religion

Religion is very important in Egypt. There are several phrases that you will hear regularly in any conversation.

	Egyptian	English
	ilhamdu lillah الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ	thanks to Allah
	'allah yisalaemak أَلله يَسَلَامَكَ	may god protect you <i>m</i>
	'allah yisalaemik أَلله يَسَلَامِكِ	may god protect you <i>f</i>
	'inn shaa' 'allah إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ	god willing
	ya rab يَا رَبَّ	Oh god!
	rabbina	

	rabbina رَبَّنَا	our god!
greeting	issalaem Aalykum السَّلَامَ عَلَيْكُمْ	peace be with you <i>m/f</i>
response	Aalykum issalaem عَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامَ	

Addressing somebody

ya يا is often used before somebody's name or title as a greeting

Egyptian	English
ya 'ahmad يَا أَحْمَدَ	hey, Ahmad!
ya rayis يَا رَيْسَ	hey, boss!
ya 'ustah يَا أُسْطَه	driver!
ya 'ustaez يَا أُسْتَاذَ	hey mister(teacher)! to a respectable person
ya 'ustaeza	

يا أستاذة	hey madam!
basha باشا	pasha <i>m/f</i>

In addition to the standard pronouns for **you**, there are some more formal versions:

	Egyptian	English
informal	'inta إنتَ	you <i>m</i>
	'inti إنتِ	you <i>f</i>
	'intu إنتوا	you <i>pl</i>
formal	hadritak حَضْر تَكَ	sir
	hadritik حَضْر تِكْ	madam
	sivadtak	

	siyadlan سَيِّدَتَكَ	sir
	siyadtik سَيِّدَتِكَ	madam
	'afandim أَفَنْدِم	Sir/Madam

Greetings

To welcome somebody, you can use one of these phrases...

	Egyptian	English
greeting	'ahlaen wa sahlaen أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا	welcome and ease
response	'ahlaen wa sahlaen أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا	welcome and ease
response	'ahlaen byk أَهْلًا بِيكَ	welcome to you <i>m</i>
response	'ahlaen byky أَهْلًا بِيكِي	welcome to you <i>f</i>
greeting	hamd illah Aala salamtak	thank god for protecting you <i>m</i>

greeting	حَمْدِ لَّهِ عَلَى سَلَامَتِكَ	thank god for protecting you <i>m</i>
greeting	hamd illah Aala salamtik حَمْدِ لَّهِ عَلَى سَلَامَتِكَ	thank god for protecting you <i>f</i>

Whenever you meet somebody that you already know, you should shake hands (very gently) and use one of the following greetings.

Before sunset, the following informal greetings are used:

	Egyptian	English
greeting	sabaeh ilchyr صَبَّاحَ الْخَيْرِ	a day of wellbeing
response	sabaeh innur صَبَّاحَ النُّورِ	a day of light
response	sabaeh il'ishta صَبَّاحَ الْقِشْطَةِ	a day of cream
response	sabaeh ilful صَبَّاحَ الْفُلِّ	a day of daisies

After sunset, the following informal greetings may be used: I have heard them very rarely, though.

	Egyptian	English
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greeting	misaa' ilchyr مِيسَاءَ الْخَيْرِ	an evening of wellbeing
response	misaa' ilchyr مِيسَاءَ الْخَيْرِ	an evening of wellbeing
response	misaa' ilful مِيسَاءَ الْفُلِّ	an evening of daisies

Next, you should ask how they are:

	Egyptian	English
question	Aaemil 'iyh? عَامِلِ إِيه؟	what are you <i>m</i> doing?
question	Aaemila 'iyh? عَامِلَةَ إِيه؟	what are you <i>f</i> doing?
question	'izayak? إِزَيْكَ؟	how are you <i>m</i>
question	'izayik? إِزَيْكِ؟	how are you <i>f</i>
question	il'achbaar 'iyh? الْأَخْبَارَ إِيه؟	what's new?

response	kuluh tamaem, ilhamdu lillah كُلُّهُ تَمَامٌ، اِلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ	all ok, thank god
response	miya miya, ilhamdu lillah مِیَّة مِیَّة، اِلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ	100% thank god
response	kuwayis, ilhamdu lillah كُوَيِّس، اِلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ	I <i>m</i> am good, thank god
response	kuwayisa, ilhamdu lillah كُوَيِّسَة، اِلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ	I <i>f</i> good, thank god
response	nus nus نُصُّ نُصُّ	half and half
response	mish battaal مِش بَطَّال	not bad
question	wa 'inta? وَ اِنْتَ؟	and you <i>m</i> ?
question	wa 'inti? وَ اِنْتِ؟	and you <i>f</i> ?

If you know them well, you should ask how their wives, children, etc...

Introductions

Egyptian	English
'ismak 'iyh? إِسْمَكِ إِيه؟	what is your <i>m</i> name?
'ismik 'iyh? إِسْمِكِ إِيه؟	what is your <i>f</i> name?
'ismy ... إِسْمِي ...	my name is ...
tisharrafna تَشَرَّفْنَا	pleased to meet you

Making you comfortable

Egyptian	English
'istirayah إِسْتِرِيح	make yourself <i>m</i> comfortable
'istirayahy إِسْتِرِيحِي	make yourself <i>f</i> comfortable
tishrab 'iyh? تَشْرَبُ إِيه؟	what will you <i>m</i> drink?
tishraby 'iyh?	what will you <i>f</i> drink?

Meal time

Egyptians normally have two big meals a day, plus a snack before bedtime.

English	Time	Types of food	Egyptian
breakfast	11-12am	bread with salads, dips, luncheon meats, omelette with bastirma, tamiyya	fitaar فِطَار
breakfast (Ramadan)	sunset	cooked meat, rice and vegetables, juice, sweet things	'iftaar إِفْطَار
lunch	5-8pm	cooked meat or fish, rice and vegetables	Gada غَدَا
dinner	before sleeping	yogurt, fruit	Aasha عَشَا

Here are some expressions that are often used around meal times

	Egyptian	When to say it
remark	biilhanna wa ishshiffa بِإِلْهَانًا وَ إِشْشِيفًا	before or after eating

remark	sufrah daeymaen سُفْرَه دَائِمًا	say to host before leaving table like "thanks for the meal"
response	biilhanna wa ishshiffa بِإِلْهَاتِنَا وَ الشِّقَا	

Please

	Egyptian	English
to m	Aan 'iznak عَنْ إِذْنِكَ	excuse me to get past someone
to f	Aan 'iznik عَنْ إِذْنِكِ	
to m	law samaht لَوْ سَمَحْتَ	please
to f	law samahty لَوْ سَمَحْتِي	
to m	min fadlak مِنْ فَضْلِكَ	please
to f	min fadlik مِنْ فَضْلِكِ	

request	mumkin... مُمْكِنٌ...	Please could you/I.....
response	mumkin مُمْكِنٌ	Yes (it's possible)

Thank you

	Egyptian	English
remark	shukraan شُكْرًا	
remark	'alf shukr ألف شكر	
remark	mutshakir a'wy مُتَشَكِّرًا وَي	
reply	Aafwaen عَفْوًا	don't mention it you are welcome
reply	ilAafw الْعَفْوِ	you are welcome

Goodbyes

	Egyptian	English
remark	maAa issalaema مَعَ الْإِسْلَامَةِ	with safety
reply	maAa issalaema مَعَ الْإِسْلَامَةِ	with safety
	hashufak 'imtae? هَشُوفَكَ إِمْتَا؟	When will I see you <i>f</i> ?
	hashufik 'imtae? هَشُوفِكَ إِمْتَا؟	When will I see you <i>f</i> ?
	hashufak baAdyn هَشُوفَكَ بَعْدِينَ	See you <i>m</i> later
	hashufik baAdyn هَشُوفِكَ بَعْدِينَ	See you <i>f</i> later

Achievement

	Egyptian	English
	hazz saAyd حَظٌّ سَعِيدٌ	good luck!
remark	mabruk	congratulations

remark	مَبْرُوك	congratulations
response	'allah yibaarak fyk أَلله يَبَارِك فِيكَ	god bless you <i>m</i>
response	'allah yibaarik fyky أَلله يَبَارِك فِيكِ	god bless you <i>f</i>

Occasions

	Egyptian	English
	kul sana wa 'inta tayib كُل سَنَة وَ أَنْتَ طَيِّب	every year and you are happy birthdays, new year, feasts
remark	ramadaan karym رَمَضَانُ كَرِيم	during ramadan
response	'allah 'akram أَلله أَكْرَم	during ramadan

Opinions

	Egyptian	English
question	'iyh r'ayak? إِيه رَأْيُكَ؟	what do you <i>m</i> think?

question	'iyh r'ayik? إيه رأيك؟	what do you <i>f</i> think?
question	tamaem? تَمَام؟	OK?
question	tamaem kidah? تَمَام كِدَه؟	Ok like this?
response	'aywa أيوأ	yes
response	mashy مَا شِي	It goes ok
response	tamaem تَمَام	good
response	tayib طَيِّب	fine
response	haadir حَاضِر	right away
response	mayinfaAsh مَيِّنْفَعَش	it's no use
response	mish mumkin مِش مُمَكِن	not possible

response	laa' لاَءْ	no
response	laa' 'abadaen لاَءْ أَبَدًا	never!
response	'aha أَحَا	offensive way of disagreeing
response	Aafwaen? عَفْوًا؟	Pardon? if you didn't hear
response	'ana mish 'akyd أَنَا مِشْ أَكِيدْ	I <i>m/f</i> am not sure
response	'ana mish Aaarif أَنَا مِشْ عَارِفْ	I <i>m</i> don't know
response	'ana mish Aaarifa أَنَا مِشْ عَارِفَة	I <i>f</i> don't know
response	'ana mish faehim أَنَا مِشْ فَاهِمْ	I <i>m</i> don't understand
response	'ana mish faehima أَنَا مِشْ فَاهِمَة	I <i>f</i> don't understand

Hassle

'imshy إمشي	go away!
chalaas kidah خَلَاص كِدَاه	stop this
haraam Aalyk حَرَام عَلَيكَ	shame on you <i>m!</i>
haraam Aalyky حَرَام عَلَيكِ	shame on you <i>f!</i>
chalyk muhtaram خَلَيْكَ مُحْتَرَم	be respectful!
'ihtirim nafsak إِحْتِرِم نَفْسَاكَ	if a man gets over-friendly to a woman

Insults

remark	humaar حُمَار	donkey offensive
remark	'ibn marah إِبْن مَرَاه	your father is a woman very offensive
remark	'ibn sharmuta	son of a whore/bitch

remark	إبن شَرْموطة	very offensive
response	'ifandim??? إفندِم؟؟؟	pardon????

Negation

The word **mish** مِش is used to negate a phrase. It is either placed in front of the verb or preposition, or wrapped around it.

Structure	English	Arabic
Preposition	I have cigarettes	Aandy sagaeyar عَنْدِي سَجَايِر
	I don't have any cigarettes	ma Aandy sh sagaeyar مَعَنْدِيْش سَجَايِر
	There is water	fy mayaeh فِي مِيَاَه
	There is no water	mafysh mayaeh مَفِيْش مِيَاَه
kaan	I was there	'ana kunt hinaek أَنَا كُنْتُ هِنَاك
		'ana makuntish hinaek

	I was not there	ana ma ku ntish hinaak أَنَا مَكُنْتُش هِنَاكَ
perfect	I saw Ahmed	'ana shuft 'ahmad أَنَا شَفْتُ أَحْمَدَ
	I did not see Ahmed	'ana mashuftish 'ahmad أَنَا مَشْفُتِش أَحْمَدَ
participle	I know	'ana Aaarif أَنَا عَارِفَ
	I do not know	'ana mish Aaarif أَنَا مِش عَارِفَ aacnaa maAaarifsh
imperfect	He wants to eat	Aaeyiz yaekul عَايِز يَأْكُلُ
	He does not want to eat	mish Aaeyiz yaekul مِش عَايِز يَأْكُلُ
	he must not eat	mayaekulsh مَيَاكُلْش
	I like this book	bahibb ilkitaeb dah بَحِبُّ الْكِتَابِ دَه

bi-imperfect	I do not like this book	ma bahibb sh ilkitaeb dah مَبْحَبِّشَ الْكِتَابَ دَه less common... mish bahibb ilkitaeb dah مِشَّ بَحِبِّ الْكِتَابَ دَه]
	I will buy the book	hashtiry ilkitaeb هَا شْتِرِي الْكِتَابَ
Ha-imperfect	I will not buy the book	mish hashtiry ilkitaeb مِشَّ هَا شْتِرِي الْكِتَابَ
	go away!	iimshy!
imperative	don't go!	use mish+you-imperfect matimshysh مَتَمِشِيشَ

Sometimes ma- is used on it own- the -sh does not appear after the word. There are no rules about when this can happen.

Numbers

Arabic digits are not the same as Roman digits:

Digit	English	Egyptian
0 ٠	zero	sifr صِفْر
1 ١	one	waehid وَاحِد
2 ٢	two	'itnyn إِثْنَيْن
3 ٣	three	talaeta ثَلَاثَة
4 ٤	four	'arbaAa أَرْبَعَة
5 ٥	five	chamsa خَمْسَة
6 ٦	six	sitta سِتَّة
7 ٧	seven	sabAa سَبْعَة
8 ٨	eight	tamanya تَمَانِيَة

9 ٩	nine	tisAa تِسْعَة
10 ١٠	ten	Aashara عَشْرَة

Cardinals and Ordinals

In both English and egyptian, there are two forms of number- cardinals and ordinals. Cardinals are used to count things (one, two, three), Ordinals are used to describe sequence (first, second, etc).

	Example	Function
Cardinal	five	used to count things
Ordinal	fifth	used to describe the order, or position in sequence, of something

Cardinals

Cardinals are used for counting and specifying how many of something. Usage of the first few numbers is complicated, but it gets easier after that :-). There are special rules for:

- People of a particular nationality (eg one englishman)
- Quantities- weight, money, and when you are ordering something (eg teas)
- People in general (men, women etc)
- Things - everything else

The following table gives an overview of the situation:

Number	Form	Nationals Egyptians	Quantities weight money tea	People men women	Things books chairs minutes
zero	sifr صِفْر				
	mafysh مَقْيِش +plural noun	masriyyin مَصْرِيّين	wazn وَزْن filus فِلُوس shaey شَاي	rigala رِجَالَا sittaet سِتَات	kutub كُتُوب karasy كَرَاسِي da'aeyi' دَقَائِق
	waehid وَاحِد +sing noun	masry مَصْرِي	kylw كَيْلُو ginyh جِنِيه shaey		

			شَاي		
one	wahda وَاحِدَة +sing noun	masriya مَصْرِيَّة			
	ns on its own			raagil رَاغِل sitt سِتَّة	kitaeb كِتَاب kursy كُرْسِي di'y'a دَقِيقَة
	'itnyn إِثْنَيْنِ +plural noun	masriyyin مَصْرِيَّيْنِ		rigala رِجَالًا sittaet سِتَّات	
	'itnyn إِثْنَيْنِ		kylw كِيلُو gynyh		

two	+sing noun		جينييه shaey شَاي		
	noun-yn				kitabyn كِتَابَيْن kursiyyin كُرْسِيِّين di'i'tyn د قِيقَتَيْن
three	talaeta تَلَاةَة +sing noun	masry مَصْرِي masrya مَصْرِيَّة	kylw كيلو gynyh جينييه shaey شَاي		
	talat			rigala	kutub كُتُوب

	talat تَلَّتْ		rigala رِجَالًا	karasy كَرَاسِي
	+plural noun		sittaet سِتَّات	da'aeyi' دَقَائِق
four thru nine, same as 3				

Zero

For zero, there is no equivalent of **no** as in **no books**. Instead, the verb or preposition is negated with mish **مِش**. As in english, the noun is a plural. Alternatively, you can use or without- min Gyr **مِنْ غَيْر**.

English	Egyptian
zero	sifr صِفْر
no egyptians (m/f)	mafysh masriyyin مَفِيش مَصْرِيَّين
no weight	wazn وَزْن
no money	filus

no money	فِلُوس
no tea	shaey شَاي
no men	ragala رَا جَالَا
no women	sittaet سِتَات
no books	kutub كُتُوب
no chairs	karasy كَرَاسِي
no seconds	da'aeyi' دَقَائِق

One

The number one has a masculine and feminine form. Both forms are used for people of a particular nationality eg an englishman.

For weights, money and when ordering things, the masculine form only is used.

In English, we would usually say **a book** rather than **one book**: the same is true in Egyptian, but

there is no word for **a** - the noun is simply used on its own.

English	Egyptian
one	waehid واحد
one egyptian (m)	waehid masry واحد مصري
one egyptian (f)	waHdao maSriyao
a kilo	waaHid kylw
a guinea	waaHid ginyh
one tea	waaHid shaay
a man	raagil
a woman	sitt
a book	kitaab
a chair	kursy
a minute	diqyqao

Two

For people of a particular nationality, eg two englishmen or two egyptians, use the number 'itnyn إثنين

followed by a plural noun.

For weights, money and orders, use the number 'itnyn إثنين followed by a singular noun.

For things, you should use the suffix -yn ين for masculine nouns and -tyn تين for feminine nouns. Nouns ending in -y ي take the ending -iyyin -ييين. This is equivalent to **a couple** which can mean exactly two, or approximately two.

English	Egyptian
two	'itnyn إثنين
two egyptians (m/f)	'itnyn masryyin إثنين مَصْرِيَّين
two kilos	iictnyn kylw
two guineas	iictnyn ginyh
two teas	iictnyn shaay
two men	iictnyn ragaalaa
two women	iictnyn sittaaat
two books	kitaabyn
two chair	kursiyyin
two minutes	diiqqtyn

Three to Ten

For People of nationalities, use the number followed by a plural noun.

For weights, money and when ordering things, use the number followed by a singular noun.

For people and things, use the short form listed below followed by a plural noun:

Digit	English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
3 ٣	three	talaeta ثَلَاثَة	three books	talat kutub ثَلَّتْ كُتُب
4 ٤	four	'arbaAa أَرْبَعَة	four books	'arbaAa kutub أَرْبَع كُتُب
5 ٥	five	chamsa خَمْسَة	five books	chamas kutub خَمَس كُتُب
6 ٦	six	sitta سِتَّة	six books	sitt kutub سِت كُتُب
7 ٧	seven	sabAa سَبْعَة	seven books	sabaA kutub سَبْع كُتُب
8 ٨	eight	tamanya تَمَانِيَة	eight books	taman kutub تَمَن كُتُب

9 ٩	nine	tisAa تِسْعَة	nine books	tisAa kutub تِسْعَ كُتُب
10 ١٠	ten	Aashara عَشْرَة	ten books	Aashara kutub عَشْرَةَ كُتُب

Eleven to Ninety Nine

From 11 onwards, if the number is followed by a noun, the noun must be singular:

English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
eleven	hidaeshar حِدَاشَر	eleven books	hidaeshar kitaeb حِدَاشَرَ كِتَاب
twelve	'itnaeshar إِتْنَاشَر	twelve books	'itnaeshar kitaeb إِتْنَاشَرَ كِتَاب
thirteen	talatshar تَلَاتَشَر	thirteen books	talatshar kitaeb تَلَاتَشَرَ كِتَاب
fourteen	'arbaAtashar أَرْبَعَتَشَر	fourteen books	'arbatAshar kitaeb أَرْبَعَتَشَرَ كِتَاب
fifteen	chamastashar خَمَسَتَشَر	fifteen books	chamastashar kitaeb خَمَسَتَشَرَ كِتَاب
sixteen	sittashar	sixteen books	sittashar kitaeb

sixteen	سِتِّشَر	sixteen books	سِتِّشَر كِتَاب
seventeen	sabaAtashar سَبَعَتَشَر	seventeen books	sabaAtashar kitaeb سَبَعَتَشَر كِتَاب
eighteen	tamantashar تَمَتَشَر	eighteen books	tamantashar kitaeb تَمَتَشَر كِتَاب
nineteen	tisAatashar تِسْعَتَشَر	nineteen books	tisAatashar kitaeb تِسْعَتَشَر كِتَاب

The digits in Egyptian numbers are written in the same order as in European numbers. When expressed as words, however, the two digits are stated as units and tens, as in German not English, with wa وَ in between:

35
٣٥
thirty five
Kamsao wa talatyn

Here are the numbers from 20 to 90:

English	Egyptian
twenty	Aasharyn عَشْرِينَ
	talatyn

thirty	talatyn ثَلَاثِينَ
forty	'arbaAyn أَرْبَعِينَ
fifty	chamsyn خَمْسِينَ
sixty	sittyn سِتِّينَ
seventy	sabaAyn سَبْعِينَ
eighty	tamanyn تَمَانِينَ
ninety	tisAyn تِسْعِينَ

Hundreds

Here are the numbers from one to nine hundred. Note that the short form myt مِيت is used when hundreds are followed by a noun (which must be singular):

English	Egyptian	short form + singular noun
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one hundred	miya مِیة	myt kitaeb میت کِتَاب
two hundred	mityn مِتین	mityn kitaeb مِتین کِتَاب
three hundred	tultumiya تُلْتُمِیة	tultumyt kitaeb تُلْتُمِیت کِتَاب
four hundred	rubAumiya رُبُعْمِیة	rubAumyt kitaeb رُبُعْمِیت کِتَاب
five hundred	chamsumiya خَمْسُمِیة	chamsamyt kitaeb خَمْسَمِیت کِتَاب
six hundred	suttumiya سُتْمِیة	suttumyt kitaeb سُتْمِیت کِتَاب
seven hundred	subuAmiya سُبُعْمِیة	subuAamyt kitaeb سُبُعْمِیت کِتَاب
eight hundred	tumunumiya تُمُنُمِیة	tumunumyt kitaeb تُمُنُمِیت کِتَاب
nine hundred	tusAumiya تُسْعُمِیة	tusAumyt kitaeb تُسْعُمِیت کِتَاب

Thousands

Here are the numbers from one to nine thousand. Five thousand should really be chamsaet 'alf **خَمْسَاةَ أَلْفٍ**, but it is pronounced as below.

English	Egyptian
one thousand	alf أَلْف
two thousand	alfyn أَلْفَيْن
three thousand	talat talaef ثَلَاثَ تَلَاةٍ
four thousand	'arbaA talaef أَرْبَعَةَ تَلَاةٍ
five thousand	chamas talaef خَمْسَةَ تَلَاةٍ
six thousand	sit talaef سِتَّةَ تَلَاةٍ
seven thousand	sabaA talaef سَبْعَةَ تَلَاةٍ
eight thousand	taman talaef تَمَنَةَ تَلَاةٍ

nine thousand	tisaA talaef تِسْعَ تَلَاَف
ten thousand	Aashar talaef عَشَرَ تَلَاَف

Ordinals

To explain the sequence of things (first, second, third), you use the ordinal. It can be either as an adjective or as a noun in the genitive form: As an adjective, the ordinal be preceded by il ال and, for 1 to 9, must agree with the gender of the noun. From 11 onwards, the cardinal numbers are the same as ordinals, and are used as adjectives only.

English	Egyptian
the third day	ilyum ittaelit الْيَوْمِ التَّالِيَةِ
third day	taelit yum تَالِيَةِ يَوْمٍ
the third time	ilmarra ittalta الْمَرَّةِ التَّالِيَةِ
third time	taelit marra تَالِيَةِ مَرَّةٍ
the tenth day	ilyum ilAaeshir

the tenth day	اليوم العاشر
tenth day	Aaeshir yum عاشر يوم
the tenth time	ilmarra ilAaeshira المرة العاشرة
tenth time	Aaeshir marra عاشر مرّة
the eleventh day	ilyum ilhidaeshar اليوم الحداشر
eleventh time	ilmarra ilhidaeshar المرة الحداشر
the twentieth day	ilyum ilAasharyn اليوم العشرين
twentieth time	ilmarra ilAasharyn المرة العشرين

Here are the first ten ordinals:

English	Egyptian	English	Egyptian
first	awwil	the first book	ilkitaeb il'awwil

first	اَوَّل 'uula	the first book	اَلْكِتَابُ الْاَوَّل
	اَوَّلَا	the first cat	اَلْقُطَّةُ الْاَوَّلَا il'utta il'uula
second	tany تَانِي	the second book	اَلْكِتَابُ التَّانِي ilkitaeb ittany
	tanya تَانِيَّة	the second cat	اَلْقُطَّةُ التَّانِيَّة il'utta ittanya
third	taelit تَالِيَت	the third book	اَلْكِتَابُ التَّالِيَت ilkitaeb ittaelit
	talta تَالِيَّة	the third cat	اَلْقُطَّةُ التَّالِيَّة il'utta ittalta
fourth	rabAa رَابِع	the fourth book	اَلْكِتَابُ الرَّابِع ilkitaeb irrabAa
	rabAa رَبْعَة	the fourth cat	اَلْقُطَّةُ الرَّبْعَة il'utta irrabAa
fifth	chams خَامِس	the fifth book	اَلْكِتَابُ الْخَامِس ilkitaeb ilchaamis
	chamsa خَمْسَة	the fifth cat	اَلْقُطَّةُ الْخَمْسَة il'utta ilchamsa

sixth	saedis سَادِس	the sixth book	ilkitaeb issaedis الْكِتَابُ السَّادِسُ
	saitit سَاتِيَة	the sixth cat	il'utta issaitit الْقُطَّةُ السَّاتِيَة
seventh	saebiA سَابِع	the seventh book	ilkitaeb issaebiA الْكِتَابُ السَّابِعُ
seventh	saebiAa سَابِعَة	the seventh cat	il'utta issaebiAa الْقُطَّةُ السَّابِعَة
eighth	taemin تَامِن	the eighth book	ilkitaeb ittaemin الْكِتَابُ التَّامِنُ
eighth	tamna تَمَنَة	the eighth cat	il'utta ittamna الْقُطَّةُ التَّمَنَة
ninth	taesiA تَاسِع	the ninth book	ilkitaeb ittaesiA الْكِتَابُ التَّاسِعُ س=ع
ninth	tasAa تَاسِعَة	the ninth cat	il'utta ittaesiAa الْقُطَّةُ التَّاسِعَة
tenth	Aaeshir عَاشِر	the tenth book	ilkitaeb ilAaeshir الْكِتَابُ الْعَاشِرُ
tenth	Aaeshira	the tenth cat	il'utta ilAaeshira

tenth

عَاشِرَة

the tenth cat

الْقُطَّةُ الْعَاشِرَة

From the eleventh onwards, the cardinal and ordinal are the same. Here are some examples:

Number	Ordinal	English	Egyptian
eleven	hidaeshar حِدَاشَر	the eleventh book	ilkitaeb ilhidaeshar الْكِتَابُ الْحِدَاشَر
twelve	'itnaeshar إِتْنَاشَر	the twelfth book	ilkitaeb il'itnashar الْكِتَابُ الْإِتْنَاشَر
thirteen	talaetashar تَلَاتَشَر	the thirteenth book	ilkitaeb ittalaetashar الْكِتَابُ الْتَلَاتَشَر
twenty	Aasharyn عَشْرِينَ	the twentieth book	ilkitaeb ilAasharyn الْكِتَابُ الْعَشْرِينَ
thirty	thalatyn ثَلَاثِينَ	the thirtieth book	ilkitaeb ittalatyn الْكِتَابُ الْثَلَاثِينَ
forty	'arbaAyn أَرْبَعِينَ	the fortieth book	ilkitaeb il'arbaAyn الْكِتَابُ الْأَرْبَعِينَ
one hundred	miya مِئَة	the hundredth book	ilkitaeb ilmiya الْكِتَابُ الْمِئَة
two hundred	mityn	the two hundredth book	ilkitaeb ilmityn

two hundred	مِئَتَيْنِ	the two hundredth book	الْكِتَابُ الْمِئَتَيْنِ
three hundred	tultumiya تَلْتُمِيَّة	the three hundredth book	ilkitaeb ittultumiya الْكِتَابُ التَّلْتُمِيَّة
one thousand	'alf أَلْف	the thousandth book	ilkitaeb il'alf الْكِتَابُ الْأَلْف

Fractions

The following fractions are widely used:

English	Egyptian
half	nus نُوص
a third	tilt تِلْت
a quarter	rubaa رُبْع
three quarters	talaet 'arbaa تَلَاتِ أَرْبَع

Questions

To ask **how many** people or things, you should use kam كَم **before** the noun. To ask for a sequence or reference number (**what** or **which**, you put the kam كَم **after** the noun. In all of these cases, the noun is singular.

Type	English	Egyptian
count	How many children do you have?	Aandak kam walad? عندك كم ولد؟
count	How many days will you stay?	kam yum hatinizil? كم يوم هتinzil؟
count	How many guests tomorrow?	kam zibun bukrah? كم زبون بكره؟
what	What is your telephone number?	nimritak kaem? نمرتك كام؟
what	What time is it?	issaeAa kaem? الساعة كام؟
what	What time is the meeting?	il'igtimaeA issaeAa kaem? الاجتماع الساعة كام؟
what	What is your apartment number?	sha"ytak raqam kaem? شقتك رقم كام؟
which	Which floor do you want?	Aaeyiz dur kaem?

Ownership

There are several different ways to indicate ownership and belonging. These are:

Egyptian	Meaning	Egyptian	English
possessive pronoun	my/your/his	'ismuh إِسْمُهُ	his name
simple genitive	of	ism ilwalad إِسْمِ الْوَالِدِ	the name of the boy
bitaeA بِتَاعَ	belonging	ilbasbur bitaeAy الْبَسْبُورِ بِيْتَا عِي	my passport
Aand عِنْدَ	ownership	Aandy biyt عِنْدِي بَيْت	I have a house
maAa مَعَ	have with you	maAaek kabryt? مَعَاكَ كَبْرَيْت؟	Do you have matches (on you)?
ly لِي	having for a purpose intended for attached	fy busta lyk فِي بَوْسَطَةِ لِيكَ	there is some post for you

milk

ملك

(my/your/his) property

ilbiyt dah **milkuh**

الْبَيْت دَه مِلْكُه

that house is **his property**

possessive pronoun

In both english and arabic, the most common way of expressing ownership is with a possessive pronoun (my, your... etc). In egyptian, this is a suffix attached to the noun. Here are some examples:

English	Arabic
my name	'is my إِسْمِي
your(m) name	'is mak إِسْمَاكَ
your(f) name	'is mik إِسْمِكِ
my house	biy ty بَيْتِي
his house	biy tuh بَيْتُهُ
my father	'abw ya أَبُوِيَا

your(f) father	'abu ha أبوها
his father	'abu h أبوه
our god	rabb ina رَبَّنَا

The possessive pronouns themselves are pretty easy to learn, but when the pronouns are attached to nouns, the vowels do a little dance to make sure that you don't get three consonants in a row. See [pronouns](#) for more information.

simple genitive

In english, the simple genitive can take two forms: both are expressed in the same way in arabic.

English	Egyptian
the man's name	'ism irraagil إِسْمِ الرَّا جِيلِ
the name of the man	'ism irraagil إِسْمِ الرَّا جِيلِ

il-إِلْ can be attached to the second noun if required, but must never be attached to the first noun. If the first noun is feminine, the -aة ending changes to -itِيت. Nothing must be placed between the two nouns. Adjectives go after the second noun, but must agree in gender and number with the first noun. If a possessive suffix is required, it must go on the second word (or use bitaeأبتاع). Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
the boy's name is strange	'ism ilwalad Garyb إِسْمِ الْوَالِدِ غَرِيبٍ
I have her telephone number	Aandy nimrit tilyfunha عِنْدِي نِمْرَةَ تَلِيفُونَهَا
Where is the railway station?	mahatit il'atr fyn? مَحَطَّةِ الْقَطْرِ فَيْنَ؟
Do you know my cousin? (uncle's son)	'inta Aarif 'ibn Aammy? إِنْتَ عَارِفِ ابْنِ عَمِّي؟
Do you know my cousin? (uncle's son)	tiAarif 'ibn Aammy? تَعْرِفِ ابْنِ عَمِّي؟
Have you seen the boss's new car?	'inta shuft Aarabiyit ilmudyr ilgidyda? إِنْتَ شَوَفْتَ عَرَبِيَّةَ الْمُدِيرِ الْجَدِيدَةَ؟
Have you seen the new boss's car?	'inta shuft ilAarabiya 'illy maAa ilmudyr ilgidyd? إِنْتَ شَوَفْتَ الْعَرَبِيَّةَ إِلَيَّ مَعَ الْمُدِيرِ

لجديدي؟

I want a bottle **of** water

Aaeyiz 'izzeazit mayaeh

عايز إزازه مياَه

give me this bottle **of** water

iddyny 'izzeazit ilmayaeh

اديني إزازه المياَه

dyh

Belonging- bitaA **بتع**

bitaA **بتع** is used in several ways:

- noun + bitaA + possessive suffix, to indicate ownership
- noun + bitaA + possessive suffix, as an alternative to a genitive
- bitaA + product (milk, onions, tyres etc), to indicate somebody who sells the product
- bitaA + possessive suffix, to refer to a man's or woman's private parts

bitaA **بتع** is always used for ownership when the noun ends in -yn **ين** and for imported words (my villa). It is not used for parts of the body (my leg).

English

Egyptian

I have lost **my** passport

'ana daayAt ilbasbur **bitaAy**

أنا ضايعت البسبور **بتاعي**

Aandak kam 'uuda fy ilvyla **bitaAtak?**

how many rooms does your villa have?	عندك كم أوضة في الـ بيتا بيتك؟
Where are your teachers?	fyn ilmudarrisyn bitwaAak ? فين المدّرّسين بتو عك ؟
He is a vegetable seller	huwwa bitaeA chudaar هو بتاع خضار
He is a milk seller means he's a ladies' man	huwwa bitaeA laban هو بتاع لبن
Stop scratching yourself!	battal tuhrush fy bitaeAak بطل تهرش في بيتا عك

bitaeA **بتاع** is like a participle, so it has to agree in gender and number with the noun. Here are all of the possible endings:

English	m	f	pl
	the book	the bag	the books
	ilkitaeb bitaeA- الكتاب بتاع	ishshanta bitaAt- الشنطة بتا عت	ilkutub bituA- الكتب بتوع
belonging to me	bitaAy بتاعي	bitaAty بتا عتي	bituAy بتوعي
	bitaAna	bitaeAitna	bituAna

belonging to us	bitaAana بِتَا عَنَا	bitaeAana بِتَا عِنَّا	bituAana بِتُو عَنَا
belonging to you(m)	bitaeAak بِتَا عَاكَ	bitaAtak بِتَا عَتَاكَ	bituAak بِتُو عَاكَ
belonging to you(f)	bitaeAik بِتَا عَاكِ	bitaAtik بِتَا عَتَاكِ	bituAik بِتُو عَاكِ
belonging to you(pl)	bitaAkum بِتَا عَاكُمْ	bitaeAitkum بِتَا عَتَاكُمْ	bituAkum بِتُو عَاكُمْ
belonging to him	bitaeAuh بِتَا عَاهُ	bitaAtuh بِتَا عَتَاهُ	bituAuh بِتُو عَاهُ
belonging to her	bitaAha بِتَا عَاهَا	bitaeAitha بِتَا عَتَاهَا	bituAha بِتُو عَاهَا
belonging to them	bitaAhum بِتَا عَاهُمْ	bitaeAithum بِتَا عَتَاهُمْ	bituAhum بِتُو عَاهُمْ

Ownership - Aand عند

Aand عند means that you **own** something but don't necessarily have with you. It can also be used about members of your family. An object pronoun can be added to indicate who owns something. Here are some examples:

English

Egyptian

I have a car	Aandy Aarabiya عَنْدِي عَرَبِيَّة
he has two children	Aanduh waladyn عَنْدُهُ وَوَلَدَيْن
do you have any books?	Aandak kutub? عَنْدَكَ كُتُبٌ؟

Here are all of the possible forms.

English	Arabic
I have	Aandy عَنْدِي
we have	Aandina عَنْدِنَا
you(m) have	Aandak عَنْدَكَ
you(f) have	Aandik عَنْدِكِ
you(pl) have	Aandukum عَنْدُكُمْ
	Aanduh

he has	Aanduh عَنْدُهُ
she has	Aandaha عَنْدَهَا
they have	Aanduhum عَنْدُهُمْ

Having with you maAa مَعَ

maAa means that you have something or somebody **with** you. It takes an object suffix to say who it is with.

English	Egyptian
Do you have the keys?	maAak ilmafatyh? مَعَكَ الْمَفَاتِيحُ؟
I will go with you	'ana haaruh maAaak أَنَا هَارُوح مَعَكَ
Do you have any change?	maAak fakka? مَعَكَ فَكَّة؟

Here are all of the possible forms:

English	Egyptian
---------	----------

I have	maAaeya مَعَايَا
we have	maAana مَعَانَا
you(m) have	maAaek مَعَاكَ
you(f) have	maAaky مَعَاكِ
you(pl) have	maAaekum مَعَاكُمْ
he has	maAaeh مَعَاهَ
she has	maAaha مَعَاهَا
they have	maAaehum مَعَاهُمْ

intended for - لي - ly

ly لي can be used for parts of the body, members of your family, for something that is attached, and

for something that is intended for somebody or something. It is also used when an inanimate object has something. Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
he has only one leg	lyh rigl wahda bas ليه رِجْل وَاَحَدَة بَس
she has two children	lyha waladyn ليهاَ وَ لَدَيْن
there is mail for you (f)	fy busta lyky في بوسطَة ليكي
I owe you five pounds Lit: I have five pounds for you(m)	Aandy chamsa giny lyk عَنْدي خَمْسَة جِنِيَة ليك
this present is for (all of) you(pl)	ilhidaya dy lykum الِهْدِيَة دي ليكُمْ
I want a garden seat A seat intended for the garden	Aaeyiz kursy ilginiyna عايز كُرسي لِالجَنِينَة
the flat has a garage	ishsha"a lyha garaaj الشَقَّة ليهاَ جَرَاچ
the flat has two bedrooms use fy في because rooms are inside	ishsha"a fyhae' uudtyn الشَقَّة فيهاَ أُوضَتَيْن

Here are all of the possible forms:

English	m
I have	liya لي
we have	lyna لينا
you(m) have	lyk ليك
you(f) have	lyky ليكي
you(pl) have	lykum ليكم
he has	lyh ليه
she has	lyha ليها
they have	lyhum ليهم

Possession property milk **مِلْك**

Ownership of real estate - houses, land etc, can be expressed with milk- **مِلْك** plus a suffix.

English	Egyptian
He has his own house	Aanduh biyt milkuh عَنْدُهُ بَيْت مِلْكُهُ
I own land in Hurghada	Aandy 'ard milk fy ilGarda'a عَنْدِي أَرْض مِلْك فِي الْغَرْد قَة

Quantities

You can specify a quantity in several ways:

- measures - metres, kilos etc
- numbers
- containers - packs, bottles etc
- approximate amounts - a little, a lot etc

Measures

For weights, lengths and other measurements, you use a number followed by a singular noun.

'ahmad tuluh **mitr 1 wa 90 santv**

Ahmed is 1m90 tall	ahmādu tulūh imrā 1 wa 90 santiy أحمد طوله متر ١ و ٩٠ سنتي
this bag is 20 pounds	ishshanta dih bi Aishryn ginyh الشنتة ده ب عشرين جنيه
2 kilos of potatoes, please	' itnyn kylw bataatis, law samaht إتتين كيلو بطاطيس، لو سمحت
I want a hundred grams of salami	Aaeyiz myt garam salamy عايز ميت جرم سلامي
I need a quarter kilo of butter	mihtaeg rubAA kylw zibda محتاج ربع كيلو زبدة
the truck brought eight tonnes of water	ilAarabiya gaebit tamanya tun mayae العربية جابت ثمانية طن ميا ة

Numbers

See the section in [numbers](#) for more information about this.

Containers

If you want something in a container of some sort: carton, bottle, etc, you use the [genitive](#) of the container. The main effect of this is that words ending in tee-marbuta -a ة are pronounced -it يت. Here are some examples:

you must take one spoonful of medicine	laezim tachuz maAla'it dawaa' لَا زِم تَخْذُ مَعْلَقَةَ دَوَاءَ
I want a pack of cigarettes	Aaeyiz Aalbit sagaeyar عَايِز عَلْبَةَ سَجَايِرَ
a bottle of water, please	'izzaezit maeya, law samaht إِزَا زَةَ مَائَةَ، لَو سَمَحْت

Approximate measures

tea without sugar	shaey myn Gyr sukkar شَاي مِين غَيْر سُكَّر
normal tea (with three sugar)	shaey mazbut شَاي مَزْبُوط
weak tea	shaey chafyf شَاي خَفِيف
strong tea	shaey ti'yl شَاي تَقِيل
a little milk	shuwayit laban شُوَيَّة لَبَن
I don't have enough money	maAandysh filus kifaeya

I don't have enough money	مَعْنَدِشْ فِلُوسْ كِفَايَةَ
he has a lot of money	Aanduh filus kityr عَنْدُهُ فِلُوسْ كِتِير
you have a lot of friends informal	Aandak 'ashaeb yama عَنْدَاكَ أَصْحَابَ يَا مَآ

Questions

There are four main groups of questions.

- Direct- what, when, why
- Indirect- courteous question and whether
- Confirmation - isn't it so?
- Rhetorical- you are making a point and don't expect an answer

English quirks

In English, it is possible to ask a question in many different ways. Some of these translate easily into Egyptian; others require a little thought. The ones you need to watch out for are:

- sentences with 'do' where you are not doing anything
- sentences with 'got' where you are not getting anything
- sentences with **how** followed by an adverb or adjective (see [adverbial question](#))

For all English verbs except **is** and **have**, you can turn a statement into a question by putting **do** in

front of it.

you know John
do you know John?

In Egyptian, you can either add huwwa هوَّ at the start of the sentence or use inflection **you know John?**

The word **have** is somewhat overused in English, and English speakers often reduce the risk of confusion by saying **have you got** rather than the older form, still used by most Americans, **do you have...?**. There is no equivalent in Egyptian, so inflection is used

Direct questions

It is possible to frame a direct question in several ways:

- using a query word at the end of the sentence
- preceding a sentence with huwwa هوَّ
- by inflection

Query words

In English, a query word normally starts the sentence: in Egyptian it is normally at the end of the sentence. For example

where are you going?
raayiH **fyn?**

The following query words can be used:

English	Egyptian
what	'iyh إيه
when	'imta إمتى
where	fyn فين
where from	minyn منين
how	'izzay إزّي
which	'anhw أنهو
how many	kaem كام followed by singular noun
	kaem

what (number)	kaem	كَم
how much (of something)	'add iyh	قَدَّ اِيه
how much (money)	bikaem	بِكَم
why	lyh	ليه

The simple imperfect ('aAamil, tiAuz, yiruh يروه، تعوز، اعمَل is often used in questions. Here are some examples:

English	Egyptian
how are you?	'izzayak? إِزَّيَك؟
how are you? lit. what are you doing?	'aAamil 'iyh? أَعْمَلِ اِيه؟
what are you doing?	bitaAamil 'iyh? بِتَعْمَلِ اِيه؟
	'ashufak 'imta?

when will I see you?	ashsharak intta : أشوفك إمتى؟
where is the station?	ilmahatta fyn ? المحطة فين؟
where can I buy flowers from?	mumkin 'ashtiry ward min fyn ? ممكن أشتري ورد من فين؟
where can I buy flowers from?	minyn mumkin 'ashtiry ward? مينن ممكن أشتري ورد؟
where are you from?	'inta minyn ? إنت مينين؟
how do I charge this phone?	'ashhan ittilyfun dah 'izzay ? أشحن التليفون ده إزّي؟
which book (m) do you(m) want?	Aewiz ilkitaeb 'anhw ? عاوز الكتاب أنهو؟
which glass (f) is yours(m)?	'anhw ilkubaeya bitaAitak? أنهو الكباية بتعتك؟
how much milk would you like?	Aewiz laban 'add iyh ? عاوز لبن قدّ ايه؟
how much is this bag?	ishshanta dy bikaem ? الشنطة دي بكام؟

why is he going?

huwwa raayih **lyh**?

هُوَ رَايِح لِيهِ؟

Here are some common answers to questions

English	Egyptian
How much? This much	'add iyh? 'add kidah قَدَّ اِيهِ؟ قَدَّ كِدَه
Why? Because.	lyh? Aalashaen لِيهِ؟ عَلَّشَان
Why? It's like that	lyh? kidah لِيهِ؟ كِدَه
Why? Better like this	lyh? 'ahsan kidah لِيهِ؟ اَحْسَن كِدَه
Why? Why not?	lyh? lyh laa'? لِيهِ؟ لِيهِ لَاءْ؟

To ask **how many** people or things, you should use kaem كَام **before** the noun. To ask for a sequence or reference number (**what** or **which**, you put the kaem كَام **after** the noun. In all of these

cases, the noun is singular.

English	Egyptian
How many children do you have?	Aandak kaem walad? عِنْدَكَ كَامَ وَوَلَدٍ؟
How many days will you stay?	hatinizil kaem yum? هَتَنِزِلِ كَامَ يَوْمٍ؟
How many guests tomorrow?	kaem zibun bukrah? كَامَ زَبُونِ بُكْرَهَ؟
What is your telephone number?	nimritak kaem ? نِمْرِتَكَ كَامَ؟
What time is it?	issaeAa kaem ? السَّاعَةَ كَامَ؟
What time is the meeting?	il'igtimaeA issaeAa kaem ? الْإِجْتِمَاعَ السَّاعَةَ كَامَ؟
What is your apartment number?	sha"itak ra'am kaem ? شَقَّتَكَ رَقَمَ كَامَ؟
Which is your apartment?	sha"itak 'anhw ? شَقَّتَكَ أَنَهُو؟
	Aaeviz dur kaem ?

Which floor do you want?

عَايِز دُور كَا مَ؟

عَايِز دُور كَا مَ؟

Pronoun questions

In English, it is possible to make a question by swapping the subject and verb. For example,

he is english
is he english?

The equivalent in Egyptian Arabic is to put the query pronoun *huwwa* هُوَ at the start of the sentence. You should think of this as "Is it so that..."

huwwa iicnta gaay maAa-naa?
Is it so that you are coming with us?

Inflection

In English, you can make a statement by saying **she is coming**. or turn it into a question, **she is coming?** just by the tone of your voice: the pitch rises a little at the end of the sentence to indicate a question. You can do exactly the same thing in Arabic. *hiya gayya* هِيَ جَيِّة is a statement and *hiya gayya?* هِيَ جَيِّة؟ is a question.

Indirect questions (whether)

An indirect question is made up of two clauses: the first clause is often a courtesy clause "Could you possibly..." and the second clause is the real question. Here are some examples of direct and indirect questions.

Direct	Indirect
where is the station?	Can you tell me where the station is?
what is the time?	Do you know what the time is?
is he coming?	Do you know whether he is coming?

The query-word **whether** is used only in indirect questions: in egyptian, 'iza إذا is used for this.

English	Egyptian
Can you tell me where the station is?	mumkin ti'uly fyn ilmahatta? مُمْكِن تِقْلِي فِين الْمَحَطَّة؟
Do you know what the time is?	'inta Aarif issaeAa kaem ? إِنْتَ عَارِفِ السَّاعَةَ كَام؟
Do you know whether he is coming?	'inta Aarif 'iza huwwa gayy? إِنْتَ عَارِفِ إِذَا هُوَ جَيِّي؟

Confirmation questions

If you are pretty sure about something but want to check, you can use one of the following methods:

English	Arabic
he's coming, isn't he?	huwwa mish gaey? هُوَ مِش جَائِي؟
he's coming, isn't that so?	huwwa gaey, mish kidah? هُوَ جَائِي، مِش كِدَه؟
he's coming, right?	huwwa gaey, sahh? هُوَ جَائِي، صَحَّ؟

Rhetorical questions

A rhetorical question is used to make a point: you don't expect an answer. Any of the above methods can be used to ask rhetorical questions.

English	Arabic
wouldn't it be better if you(m) shut up?	mish tiskut 'ahsan? مِش تِسْكُتْ أَحْسَنَ؟
you(m) must be kidding!	bithazzar, mish kidah? بِتَهَزَّرْ، مِش كِدَه؟
you(m) are an idiot, right?	'inta 'ahbal, sahh? إِنْتَ أَهْبَلْ، صَحَّ؟

Adverbial and adjectival questions

In English, it is possible to ask a question using **how** followed by an adjective or adverb. There is no similar construction in Egyptian, so it is necessary to re-phrase the question, usually so that you are asking for a number. Here are some examples:

English	re-phrased	Egyptian
How fast were you driving?	how many kilometers an hour..	kaem kylumitr fy issaeAa كَاَم كَيْلُومَيْتْر فِي السَّاعَة
How often do you go to the gym?	how many times a week...	kaem marra fy il'usbwaA... كَاَم مَرَّة فِي الْأُسْبُوعِ،،،
How hot is the oven?	what is the temperature?	ilharraara kaem الْحَرَّارَة كَاَم
How difficult was the exam?	was the exam difficult	huwwa il'imtihaen kaen saAb? هُوَ الْإِمْتِحَان كَانَ صَعْبًا؟

Time

Time can be expressed in several different ways:

- units of time - days, weeks etc
- parts of the day - morning/afternoon

- time of day - 6.30
- relative time (before/after) - today/yesterday etc
- days of the week
- dates

Units of time

English	Egyptian	Plural
moment	lahza لَحْظَة	lahzaet لَحْظَات
second	thanya ثَانِيَة	thawany ثَوَانِي
minute	di'y'a دَقِيقَة	da'aeyi' دَقَائِق
hour	saeAa سَاعَة	saAaet سَاعَات
day	yum يَوْم	'ayaem أَيَّام
week	'usbuA أُسْبُوع	'asaebiyA أَسَابِيع
month	shahr	shuhur

month	شَهْر	شهُور
year	sana سَنَة	sinyn سِنِينَ
lifetime	Aumr عُمُر	'aAmaar أَعْمَار

Parts of the day

The main events in the day are sunrise and sunset. Midnight, noon and the six prayer times can also be used to specify an approximate time.

English	Arabic
last prayers till dawn	illyl الْإِيل
dawn until sunset	issubh الصُّبْح
after sunset	masaa' مَسَاء
dawn	fagr فَجْر
	iddubr

noon	idduhr الضُّهْر
after noon	baAd idduhr بَعْدَ الضُّهْرِ
sunset	ilmaGrib الْمَغْرِب
midnight	nus illyl نُصُّ اللَّيْلِ

Time of day

In English, it is normal to use half and quarter hours to describe time. In addition, in Egyptian, thirds are used. Here is a list of the words that can be used:

English	Arabic
half	nus نُصُّ
a third	tilt تِلْت
a quarter	rubA رُبْع

and	wa وَ
less	'ila إِلَّا

Here are all the times at five minute intervals:

English	Arabic
seven o'clock	sabAa سَبْعَة
five past seven past	sabAa wa chamsa سَبْعَة وَ خَمْسَة
ten past seven	sabAa wa Aashara سَبْعَة وَ عَشْرَة
quarter past seven	sabAa wa rubA سَبْعَة وَ رُبْع
twenty past seven	sabAa wa tilt سَبْعَة وَ ثَلَاث
twenty five past seven	sabAa wa nus 'ila chamsa سَبْعَة وَ نِصْ إِيْلَا خَمْسَة

half past seven	sabAa wa nus سَبْعَةٌ وَ نَصُّ
twenty-five to eight	sabAa wa nus wa chamsa سَبْعَةٌ وَ نَصُّ وَ خَمْسَةٌ
twenty to eight	tamanya 'ila tilt تَمَانِيَةٌ إِلَّا تَلْت
quarter to eight	tamaanyao iiclaa rubaA
ten to eight	tamanya 'ila Aashara تَمَانِيَةٌ إِلَّا عَشْرَةٌ
five to eight	tamanya 'ila chamsa تَمَانِيَةٌ إِلَّا خَمْسَةٌ

Relative time

English	Arabic
the day before yesterday	'awil 'imbaarih أَوَّلُ إِمْبَارِح
yesterday	'imbaarih إِمْبَارِح
today	innahaarda

today	الْيَوْمَ
tomorrow	bukrah بُكْرَه
the day after tomorrow	baAd bukrah بَعْدَ بُكْرَه

English	Arabic
last week	ilusbwaA 'ily faet الْأُسْبُوعَ إِلَى فَاتَ
this week	ilusbwaA dih الْأُسْبُوعَ دِه
next week	ilusbwaA 'ily gaey الْأُسْبُوعَ إِلَى جَائِي

English	Arabic
now	dilwa'ty دِلْوَقْتِي
soon	baAd shuwayao
later	baAdyn بَعْدِين

not yet	lissah لِسَّه
early	badry بَدْرِي
late (at night)	wachry وَاخْرِي

Days of week

English	Arabic
Sunday	yum ilaahad يَوْمَ الْاِحَاد
Monday	yum il'ithnyn يَوْمَ الْاِثْنَيْن
Tuesday	yum ittalaet يَوْمَ الْاِثْلَاث
Wednesday	yum il'arbaAa يَوْمَ الْارْبَع
Thursday	yum ilchamys يَوْمَ الْاِحْمِيس

Friday	yum ilgumaAa يوم الجمعة
Saturday	yum issabt يوم السبت

Dates

Which one?

This section explains how to specify which of several things we are interested in, or talking about.

Definite article

To talk about a particular man, we say 'the man' in english. In arabic, we attach il- اَلْ to the front of the noun.

the man is reading his book
il-raagil biyiqraac kitaab-uh

Note that adding il- اَلْ to a word affects the pronunciation if it begins with a **sun letter**.

Indefinite article

If we don't want to refer to any man in particular, we say 'a man' in english. There is no equivalent of

a in arabic, you just use the noun on its own.

I want **a dog**
aacnaa Aaayiz **kalb**

If you want to make it clear that you are talking about just one, you can use the word waaHid- one. When used for emphasis like this, you place it *after* the noun.

I want (just) **one** dog
aacnaa Aaayiz kalb **waaHid**

You also use it with nationalities to indicate that you are talking about a person, rather than (for example) the language.

an English man (or woman)
waaHid iingilyzy
waaHdao iingilyziyao

Adjectives

In both English an Egyptian, you can use an adjective to specify which one you are interested in: you simply put **the** - il- ال in front of the adjective. Note that, in Egyptian, the noun still retains its il- ال prefix.

	English	Egyptian
describe	I want a red ball	Aaeyiz kura hamra عَايِز كورَة حَمْرَة
specify	I want the red ball	Aaeyiz il kura il hamra عَايِز الْكُورَة الْحَمْرَة
specify	I have read the big book	'araa't il kitab il kibyr قَرَأْت الْكِتَابَ الْكَبِيرَ

Demonstrative adjectives

One particular type of adjective is a demonstrative adjective. These are almost the same as the demonstrative pronouns.

this man
iil-raagil **dah**

The demonstrative adjectives are:

English	Arabic
this (man)	irraagil dah الِرَّأَجِل دَه
	ilkitaab dah

this (thing, m)	ilkitab dah الْكِتَابُ دَاه
this (thing, f)	ilhaga dah الِهَجَاةُ دَاه
this (woman)	issitt dy الِسِيَّتْ دِي
these (men)	irragala dul الرَّجَالَا دُول
these (men) nearer	irragala dy الرَّجَالَا دِي
these (women)	issittaet dul الِسِيَّاتْ دُول
these (things,m)	ilkutub dy الِكُتُوبْ دِي
these (things,f)	ilhagaet dy الِهَجَاتْ دِي
over there (m)	'ahw أَهْو
over there [f]	'ahy أَهْي

over there (pl)

'ahum

أهوم

Comparatives

You can use a comparative in the same way as an adjective to specify which one you mean:

English	Egyptian
mohammed is the tallest student	muhammad 'atwal taalib مُحَمَّدَ أَطْوَلَ طَالِبٍ
he is the youngest boy	huwwa 'asGar walad هُوَ أَصْغَرَ وَاوَدَ
the tallest student is 1m90	ittaalib il'atwal tuluh mitr 1 wa 90 santy الطَّالِبِ الْأَطْوَلِ طُولُهُ مِتر ١ وَ ٩٠ سَنْتِي
the most expensive drink is 20 pounds	ilmashrab il'aGla 20 ginyh الْمَشْرَبِ الْأَعْلَى ٢٠ جِنِيهِ
this is the prettiest dress in the shop	dih 'ahla fustaen fy ilmahal دِهْ أَحْلَى فُسْتَانِ فِي الْمَحَلِّ
it was the best day in my life	kaen 'ahsan yum fy hayaty كَانَ أَحْسَنَ يَوْمٍ فِي حَيَاتِي

Arabic Writing and pronunciation

This chapter describes the arabic alphabet, and how it can be written using roman letters, then goes on to explain the general pronunciation rules of the language.

Please remember that Egyptian Arabic is an oral language. When people are asked to write it, some write in Modern Standard Arabic and then pronounce it the Egyptian way, others write it as an Egyptian would say it. As a result, there may some variation in the way things are spelt.

Arabic script

There are 28 basic letters in Egyptian arabic, and about a dozen modifiers.

Writing goes from right to left, and the majority of arabic letters join onto the following letter and so there are therefore four forms of each letter: solitary, initial, middle and final. For the six letters that do not join, there are just two forms- solitary and final.

position	normal letter	non-joining letter
solitary	ج	د
initial	جـ	
middle	جـ	
final	ج	د

The three short vowels a , i and u and shadda , which doubles the length of a consonant, are

collectively called tashkyl **تشكيل** or vowelization. Tashkyl is not normally used in written arabic apart from in the Quran. If they are used, they are written above a consonant but pronounced after it: for the convenience of non-arabic readers, I have included the tashkyl, but written it after the consonant.

Transliterated arabic

The transliterated form is an exact representation of the arabic script in roman letters: this is not always straightforward, as there are a lot more letters and modifiers in arabic than there are in the roman alphabet.

If you want to be able to say words accurately, you need to be able to read either arabic or the transliterated form- for example, so that you can see the difference between **syn** and **saad**.

Here is a summary of the less obvious features of the system:

Letter	Transliterated	Pronounced/arabic
short vowel	a [e] i u	a e i u
long vowel (alif)	aa ee ii uu	a 'e i uu
alif with hamza	aac iic uuc	'a 'i 'u
		v w

other long vowels	y w	y w ي و
other long vowels with hamza	yc wc	'y 'w ء □
gluttal stop qaf	q	' ق
voiced qaf	Q	q ق
soft consonant	d h s t z	d h s t z د ه س ت ز
hard consonant	D H S T Z	d h s t z ض ح ص ط ظ
double-letter consonants	dh sh th	z sh th ذ ش ث
t-marbuta	o	-a ة
alif-layena	Y	-a ى

It is readable if you ignore hamza ' ء and tee-marbuta - ة, and read atif-layena a ى as a.

Pronounced arabic

The pronounced form is supposed to be how an english person would write a word or phrase. For ease of reading, the pronounced arabic in this document does not follow the rules that join words together, for example [sun letters](#) and [consonant clusters](#).

the alphabet

This table shows how to read and pronounce the arabic letters, and how they are written in roman letters throughout the dictionary.

name	arabic	trans literated	pronounced	examples	Notes
alif hamza above	أ آ	aac	'a	'aywa أيوا mas'ala مَسْأَلَة bad'a بَدَأ	
			ae as in aeroplane	'intaeg إِنْتَاَج luGaet لُغَات makaen مَكَاِن	after soft consonant

alif fatha	أ ا	aa		مَحَان	
			aa as in hard	hamraa' حَمْرَاءَ faar فَار Gata غَطَا	after hard consonant before r
alif kasra	إ ا	ii	i	ilwalad الْوَالِدَ	
alif hamza below	اِ	iic	'i	'ism إِسْم 'istanna إِسْتَنْتَى 'itfaehim إِتْفَاهِم	
alif damma	أُ	uuc	'u	'umm أُمُّ 'ustaez أُسْتَاذَ	
alif	آ	oo	oo	'esif أَسِيف mut'ekil	

madda	ا	ع	ع	مُتَاكِل 'echir آخِر	
by	ب	b	b	baAd بَعْد kibyr كَبِير gawaeb جَوَاب	
ty	ت	t	t	taht تَهْت 'aktar أَكْتَر kursaet كُرْسَات	
thy	ث	th	th	thabbit ثَبَّت mathal مَثَل bahth بَحْث	
				gaeb	

gyn	ج جا جاء جج	g	g	جَاب magmuAa مَجْمُوعَ churraag خُورَاج	
jyn	چ چا چاء چچ	j	j	jaekit چَاكِتِ 'ajinda أَجِنْدَا byj بِيچ	not arabic borrowed from farsi
ha	ح حا حاء حح	H	h	haedith حَا دِث 'ihna إِحْنَا yiruh يِرُوح	
kha	خ خا خاء خخ	K	ch as in loch	chaaf خَاَف achaz أَخَذَ taarych تَاَرِيخ	

dal	د د	d	d	daem دَام nady نَادِي zaed زَاد
thal	ذ ذ	dh	z th as in there	zaekar ذَاكَر kizb كِذْب 'ustaez أُسْتَاذ
ray	ر ر	r	r	raah رَاح tary' طَرِيق 'iftakar إِفْتَكَّر
zyn	ز ز	z	z	zayy زَيِي gazar جَزَر

				gahhiz جَهَّز	
syn	س سا ساس سس	s	s	sitt سِيتَّ masaa' مَسَاءَ dars دَرس	
shyn	ش شا شاش شش	sh	sh	shaef شَاف rashwa رَشْوَة mish مِش	
saad	ص صا صاا صص	S	s	sanf صَنَف 'asad قَصَدَ chaalis خَالِص	
	ض			dahr ضَهْر hadritak	

daad	<p>د</p> <p>ض</p> <p>ض</p>	D	d	<p>حَضْرَتِكَ</p> <p>'abyad</p> <p>أَبْيَض</p>	
taa	<p>ط</p> <p>ط</p> <p>ط</p> <p>ط</p>	T	t	<p>taba'a</p> <p>طَبَقَة</p> <p>batal</p> <p>بَطَّل</p> <p>Galat</p> <p>غَلَط</p>	
zaa	<p>ظ</p> <p>ظ</p> <p>ظ</p> <p>ظ</p>	Z	z	<p>zarf</p> <p>ظَرْف</p> <p>yizhar</p> <p>يُظْهِر</p> <p>hazz</p> <p>حَظٌّ</p>	
ain	<p>ع</p> <p>ع</p> <p>ع</p> <p>ع</p>	A	A - nasal a	<p>Aala</p> <p>عَلَى</p> <p>baAd</p> <p>بَعْد</p> <p>taebiA</p> <p>تَابِع</p>	
				Galab	

	ق	q	k sounds swallowed	qana قَنَا raqam رَقَم sadyq صَدِيق	upper egyptians say g
kef	ك كَ كُ كِي	k	k	kaen كَانَ 'aktar أَكْتَر hadritak حَضْرَتِكَ	
lem	ل لَا لِ لِل	l	l	lakin لَكِن Aala عَلَى ful فول	
mym	م مَا مِ مِل	m	m	mumkin مُمْكِن Aaemil عَامِل naem	

				نَام	
nwn	ن نا نا ن	n	n	nashaat نَشَاط 'ihna إِحْنَا sinyn سِنِين	
hey	ه ها هـ هـ	h	h	hina هِنَا zahar زَهْر	
tee-marbuta	ة	_ah	a	sura صُورَة	
	ة	_it	it	'izaezit zyt إِزَاة زَيْت	genitive bottle of oil
wow	و و	w	w	wishsh وِشَّ yum يَوْم Audw عُدُو	

wow-hamza	◻ ◻—	wc	'w	s'wael س◻ال mas'wliya مَسَد◻لِيَّة	
wow-alif	وا وا—	oo	u	'intu إنتوا	unusual pronunciation for verb endings
yeh	ي يا يا— اي	y	y	yizhar يظَهَر taarych تَارِيح zayy زَيِّي	
yeh-hamza	ئ ئ— ئ	yc	'y	ra'yys رئيس daf'y دافئ	
alif-layena	ى اى	Y	a	Aala على nada نادى	used at end of words
alif-layena madda	◻ى—◻ى	Ye	e	muthannae مثنئى◻	

short vowels

fatha		a	a	dawla دَوْلَة basal بَصَل 'inta إِنْتِ 'arbaAa أَرْبَع	
madda	◻	e	e	short e	rarely used
kasra		i	i	min مِنْ kibyr كَبِير 'inti إِنْتِ	
damma		u	u	sufrah سُفْرَه tulaeb طُلَاب 'anhuh	

				أنهوه	
sukun			silent		means that there is no vowel
other symbols					
shadda				sadda' صَدَّقْ hadd حَدَّ	doubles the letter it is above
fathatan tanwyn		N	n	daeymaen دَائِمًا	used on alif at end of word
tatwyl	-				used for spacing
hamza	أ ئ إ-	aac yc wc	, as in cockney bottle (bo'le)	'ana أَنَا r'ya رِيَّة s'wael سِدَال	small above alif, yeh, wow
	ء	C		hawaa' هَوَاء laa' لَاء	full size, on its own

You can print out this table and keep it handy for reference.

Stress

In most words, the second to last syllable is usually stressed.

'iftakar إفتكر
kitaeb كِتَاب
mudachan مُدَخَن

The stress moves to the last syllable if it contains a long vowel (alif, wow, yeh) or ends with a double consonant. Remember that the letter AIN is treated as a consonant.

taAbaeen تَعْبَان
maftuh مَفْتُوح
yidu" يَدُوق

This means that the stress will move if suffixes are added to a word.

Feminine endings

When a word ends in _aaCiC (where C is any consonant) has a feminine ending attached, the i disappears and the aa is pronounced as an a.

waehid واحد -> wahda واحدة

Elision

If a word ends with a vowel and the first vowel of the next word is either an i or a u, the words are run together (elided) and the i or u omitted.

'inta minyn? إنتَ مِينِن؟ -> 'intamnyn? إِنْتَمِينِن؟

This also happens if you attach an object suffix that begins with an i.

consonant clusters

If putting two words next to each other makes more than two consonants in a row, a shwa (which sounds like a short a) is inserted between the words.

baAd kidah بَعْدَ كِدَاه -> baAdakidah بَعْدَ كِدَاهَ

Sun letters

If the definite article, il- الـ , is attached to a word that begins with a sun-letter (ت ط ث د ذ ر ن س ص ز ظ) the l is dropped and the sun-letter is doubled:

il- shams اِلْ شَمْس -> ishshams اِشْشَمْس

Pronunciation exceptions

The pronunciation of some pronoun and verb endings is a little unusual. For the **you(pl)** 'intu إنتوا subject pronoun and for **you(pl)** and **they** in the verb perfect, the ending is written -w a و ا but pronounced -uh هـ.

The word **because** is written Aalashaen عَاشَان but pronounced Aashaen عَشَان.

The word **orange** is written burtu'ael بُرْتُقَال but pronounced burtu'aen بُرْتُقَان.

Irregular verbs

There are very few irregular verbs in Egyptian: here are all the ones that I know of:

- be/was - kaen كَان
- eat - kul كَل
- take - chud خُد
- come - gih جِه
- give - idda دَّ
- fall - wi'iA وِقِع
- stop - wi'if وِقِف

Be - kaen كَان

The verb 'to be' does not exist in the present tense. It is used only in the perfect and Ha-imperfect forms.

English	Pronoun	Perfect	Ha-Imperfect
---------	---------	---------	--------------

I	'ana أَنَا	kunt كُنْتُ	hakun هَكُون
we	'ihna إِحْنًا	kunna كُنَّا	hankun هَنَكُون
you (m)	'inta إِنْتَ	kunt كُنْتُ	hatkun هَتَكُون
you (f)	'inti إِنْتِ	kunty كُنْتِي	hatkuny هَتَكُونِي
you (pl)	'intu إِنْتُوا	kuntuh كُنْتُهُ	hatkunuh هَتَكُونُهُ
he	huwwa هُوَ	kaen كَانَ	haykun هَيَكُون
she	hiya هِيَ	kaenit كَانَتْ	hatkun هَتَكُون
they	humma هُمَّا	kanuh كَانُوا	haykunuh هَيَكُونُهُ

Eat- kul كُل

kul has irregular imperfect forms

Pronoun	Perfect	Imperfect	Imperative	Active Participle
'ana أنا	kalt كَلَّتْ	akul أَكُلْ		
ihna إِحْنًا	kalna كَلْنَا	naekul نَاكُلْ		
'inta إِنْتَ	kalt كَلَّتْ	taekul تَاكُلْ	kul كُلْ	
'inty إِنْتِي	kalty كَلْتِي	takly تَكْلِي	kuly كُولِي	
'intu إِنْتُوا	kaltu كَلْتُوا	kalu كَلُوا	kulw كُلُوا	
huwa هُوَ	kal كَلْ	yaekul يَاكُلْ		
hiya هِيَ	kalit كَلَّتْ	taekul تَاكُلْ		
humma هُمَّا	kalw كَلُوا	yakluh يَكْلُوهُ		

Take- chud خُدْ

Kud has irregular imperfect forms

Pronoun	Perfect	Imperfect	Imperative	Active Participle
'ana أَنَا	chudt خُدْتُ	achud أَخُدُّ		
ihna إِحْنَا	chadna خَدْنَا	naechud نَاخُدُّ		
'inta إِنْتَا	chudt خُدْتُ	taechud تَاخُدُّ	chud خُدْ	
'inty إِنْتِي	chady خَدِي	tachdy تَخْدِي	chudty خُدْتِي	
'intu إِنْتُوا	chadtw خَدْتُوا	chadtw خَدْتُوا	chudw خُدُوا	
huwa هُوَ	achad أَخَدَ	yaechud يَاخُدُّ		
hiya هِيَ	chadit خَدِتْ	taechud تَاخُدُّ		
humma هُمَا	achadu أَخَدُوا	yachduh يَخْدُهُ		

Come- جه

Pronoun	Perfect	Imperfect	Imperative	Active Participle
'ana أنا	gyt جيت	'egy آجي		
ihna إِحْنَا	gyna جِينَا	nygy نيجي		
'inta إِنْتَ	gyt جيت	tygy تيجي	taAaela تَعَال	gaey جَاي
'inty إِنْتِي	gyty جيتي	tygy تيجي	taAaly تَعَالِي	gaeya جَايَا
'intu إِنْتُوا	gytu جيتوا	tygu تيجوا	taAalu تَعَالُوا	gayyin جَايِين
huwa هُوَ	gih جِه	yigy يجي		
hiya هِيَ	gaet جَات	tigy تجي		
humma هُمَّا	gum جوم	yigu يجوا		

Give- idda دى

Pronoun	Perfect	Imperfect	Imperative	Active Participle
'ana أنا	'idyt إِدَيْت	addy اَدِّي		
ihna اِحْنَا	'iddyna إِدَيْنَا	niddy نِدِّي		
'inta إِنْتَ	'idyt إِدَيْت	tiddy تِدِّي	'iddy إِدِّي	
'inty إِنْتِي	'iddyty إِدَيْتِي	tiddy تِدِّي	'iddit إِدِّت	
'intu إِنْتُوا	'iddytu إِدَيْتُوا	tiddu تِدُّوا	'iddu إِدُّوا	
huwa هُوَ	'idda إِدِّي	yiddy يِدِّي		
hiya هِيَ	'idyt إِدَيْت	tiddy تِدِّي		
humma هُمَا	'iddu إِدُّوا	yiddu يِدُّوا		

وقِعَ wi'iA - fall-

Pronoun	Perfect	Imperfect	Imperative	Active Participle
'ana أنا	wi'iAt وَقِعْتُ	a'aA اَقَع		
ihna إِحنًا	wi'iAna وَقِعْنَا	nu'aA نُقَع		
'inta إِنْتَ	wi'iAt وَقِعْتَ	tu'aA تُقَع		wae'iA وَأَقَع
'inty إِنْتِي	wi'iAty وَقِعْتِي	tu'aAy تُقَعِي		wa'Ait وَأَقَعْتِ
'intu إِنْتُوا	wi'iAtu وَقِعْتُوا	tu'aAu تُقَعُوا		wa'Ayn وَأَقَعِين
huwa هُوَ	wi'iA وَقِعَ	yu'aA يُقَع		
hiya هِيَ	wi'Ait وَقِعَتْ	tu'aA تُقَع		
humma	wi'Au	yu'aAu		

هُمَا

وَقِعُوا

يُقْعُوا

stand- wi'if وَقِفْ

Pronoun	Perfect	Imperfect	Imperative	Active Participle
'ana أَنَا	wi'ift وَقِفْتَ	a'af اَقَفَ		
ihna إِحْنَا	wi'ifna وَقِفْنَا	nu'af نُقِفَ		
'inta إِنْتَ	wi'ift وَقِفْتَ	tu'af تُقَفَ	uu'af اُقَفْ	wae'if وَأَقِفْ
'inty إِنْتِي	wi'ifty وَقِفْتِي	tu'afy تُقَفِي	uu'afy اُقَفِي	wae'ifty وَأَقِفْتِي
'intu إِنْتُوا	wi'iftu وَقِفْتُوا	tu'afu تُقَفُوا	uu'afu اُقَفُوا	wae'ifyn وَأَقِفِينَ
huwa هُوَ	wi'if وَقِفْ	yu'af يُقَفْ		
hiya	wi'fit	tu'af		

هِيَ	وَقِفْتِ	تُقَفِّ		
humma	wi'fu	yu'afu		
هُمَا	وَقِفُوا	يُقَفُّوا		

Verbs: Root and Stem

A verb is made up of a root (a set of consonants) and a stem (a prefix and the vowels between). There may be more than one verb derived from the same root- for example, starting with fhm, you can make fihim (to understand) and fahhim (to make somebody understand).

Most roots have three consonants: it is conventional to describe this type of verb using the letters K, T and B, as in kitab كِتَاب, write. For words with four consonants, the letter L is used as well. A small number of roots have two or four consonants. There are five main roots, and each of these can make three main stem types, as per the following table. Note that, in arabic, AIN is treated a consonant, so Airif is of the form KiTiB.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	KVT	KvTv	KvTT	KvTvB	KvTBvL
2	KvVvT	KvTTv	KvTTvT	KvTTvB	
3	KaaViT	KaaTi	KvTT	KaaTiB	KvTBvL
KTBL=root consonants v=aiu V=wy					

From any of these main stems, it is possible to derive more stems by adding prefixes. Here are

some examples:

Prefix	Main stem	Derived stem	Meaning
iit-	KvTvB	iitKvTvB yitKvTvB	passive (be *-ed) reflexive (* oneself)
iit-	KvTTvB	iitKaTTaB yitKvTTvB	passive (be *-ed) reflexive (* oneself)
iit-	KaaTiB yiKTvB	iitKaaTiB yitKaaTiB	each other
iiKt-	KvTvB	iiKtvTvB yiKtvTvB	as iit-
iin-	KvTvB	iinKvTvB yinKvTvB	as iit-
iista-	KvTvB	iistaKvTvB yistaKvTvB	consider or seek

There are also some verbs that are derived from classical arabic- the perfect generally begins with aa-, and the imperfect with yu-.

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This document is a work in progress. It was developed and revised over several years as a study aid for my own use: It has been extensively checked, but I am sure that there are still mistakes and omissions.

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