

# حكي كل يوم

## Haki Kill Yoom

Situational Levantine Arabic



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- 15 Everyday Situations for Getting By in Lebanon
- Dialogues, Key Vocabulary and Expressions
- Language and Culture Notes
- Free Audio Download

Rita Housseiny  
Alaa Abou El Nour  
Matthew Aldrich

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1

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lingualism

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Written by Rita Housseiny, Alaa Abou El Nour, and Matthew Aldrich

Edited by Nadine-Lama Choucaire and Matthew Aldrich

Illustrated by Heba Khater

Audio by Nadine-Lama Choucaire, Dayana Choucaire, and Mohammed Ellaz

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website: [www.lingualism.com](http://www.lingualism.com)

email: [contact@lingualism.com](mailto:contact@lingualism.com)

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# Introduction

**Haki Kill Yoom: Situational Levantine Arabic** was written to help intermediate learners succeed at critical moments during everyday communicative tasks.

This is the first of two books in a series. Each book has been divided into 15 chapters, which are not meant to be studied in order and do not increase in the level of difficulty. Instead, you should find the chapter to navigate your way through a particular transactional or social situation that is relevant to your needs.

Learning natural, idiomatic phrasing and vocabulary is essential to both listening and speaking, not only for living in Lebanon or another Levantine Arabic speaking country, but also for communicating in Arabic with immigrants in your own country.

Each chapter has several dialogues, vocabulary lists, bonus expressions, footnotes, and cultural information. (See How to Use This Book on page iv to learn more about the organization and features of the chapters.)

Levantine Arabic is the umbrella term for a number of closely related and mutually intelligible dialects in the Levant (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Palestine). Beirut Lebanese, specifically, is the variety featured in Haki Kill Yoom. That said, you should find it easy to communicate with people throughout the region using what you learn from this book. Of course, there may be subtle differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and even grammar, but these you can note, as needed, when dealing with speakers from other parts of the Levant to hone your style to match theirs, if that is your goal.

I would like to thank Rita Housseiny for adapting the original dialogues (written by Alaa Abou El Nour) to reflect authentic, everyday Levantine Arabic and for adding original dialogues and cultural notes to include high-frequency vocabulary and phrases likely to be heard and used in specific situations. I would also like to thank Nadine-Lama Choucaire for her help proofreading and

editing the dialogues and vocabulary lists. Special thanks also to Heba Khater for providing illustrations and to Nadine-Lama Choucaire, Dayana Choucaire, and Mohammed Ellaz for recording the accompanying audio.

Matthew Aldrich

The accompanying audio can be downloaded for free from  
**Lingualism.com**



# How to Use This Book

This is not a coursebook with chapters that build on each other and need to be studied in order. Use the **Table of Contents** at the front of the book (also located on the back cover of the paperback edition, for your convenience) to find the topic that interests you for your immediate or future communicative goals. Of course, you're not going to go out into the real world and have conversations with people that follow the dialogues line by line. The purpose of the dialogues is to teach you different words and phrases that you can use and that you may hear. Synonyms, alternative expressions, and supplementary vocabulary are provided to help you form your own sentences to express yourself and to be prepared for the variety of possible things you may hear people say to you.

## Introductory Paragraph

On the first page of each chapter, you will see an illustration above the chapter's title in English and Levantine Arabic. An introduction to the topic follows and often presents key vocabulary.

## Mini-Dialogues

Next, we have several short dialogues. Each dialogue has a title that shows you the goal of the specific "subtask"—for example, paying the bill, offering your seat to someone, reporting a theft.

## Symbols

Notice that the lines of dialogue are preceded by symbols.

- You—the foreigner, the customer. (Things you might need to say.)
- ◇ A local—merchant, barber, waiter, landlord, friend, etc. etc. (Things you might hear other people say.)

The symbols are there to help you decide whether you need to memorize the phrases so you can actively use them yourself, or if you just need to be able to passively understand them when you hear them.

## Arabic Script

Each dialogue appears three times on the page. The first is written in Arabic script with tashkeel (diacritics). At first glance, it may seem that many letters are missing diacritics. A final consonant is assumed to take sukuun, as Levantine Arabic does not have case endings as MSA does.

We write كُتَاب *ktēb book* (and not كِتَاب). Non-final consonants without diacritics are understood to take the short vowel fatha (◌َ): مَكْتَب *máktab desk* (and not مَكْتَب). This was done intentionally to keep the texts from being cluttered with redundancies and streamline fluent reading. You can find a detailed online guide on Levantine Arabic pronunciation and Lingualism's system of orthography in the Resources section of this book's product page: [www.lingualism.com/hky](http://www.lingualism.com/hky).

## Phonemic Transcription

Each dialogue also appears as phonemic transcription. This can be helpful for learners who are not yet comfortable enough with the Arabic alphabet. Some of the phonemic characters may seem unfamiliar and confusing, but by investing just a short time learning the sounds each character represents, you will find the system intuitive and easy to read. The phonemic transcription shows some pronunciation information, such as word stress, that the Arabic script does not. So even learners who prefer Arabic script can benefit by referring to the phonemic transcription. Words borrowed from English (and pronounced, more or less, as in English) are shown between [square brackets]. French words are, also shown in square brackets and preceded by a superscript <sup>F</sup>. Follow the link above for a guide to Lingualism's phonemic transcription system.

## English Translation

Between the dialogues of Arabic script and phonemic transcription, English translations appear to help you understand the dialogues and quickly find words and phrases you want to learn. Some style was sacrificed in the translations to keep them direct and true to the original Levantine Arabic. This allows you to easily match up phrases and words by comparing the translations to the Arabic.

## Footnotes

Underlined words and phrases are followed by superscript numbers that reference footnotes. When an entire line of dialogue is referenced, it is not underlined.:

- Synonyms are preceded by equal signs (=). These show you words and expressions which can replace those in the dialogue without significantly changing the meaning.



- Alternative expressions show examples of other things you might want to say or might hear instead. These are followed by English translations.

## Culture and Information Notes

The real focus of the book is, of course, the language itself. Other information—on culture and services in Lebanon—is provided as a bonus. Hopefully, you will find some information useful and interesting, but keep in mind that the comments on culture are generalizations—there are always exceptions. Likewise, the information on services (companies, procedures, transportation options, etc.) is subject to change. You should always double-check such information from other sources, especially Lebanese friends and acquaintances.

## The Extended Dialogue

The mini-dialogues in each chapter are followed by a longer dialogue that combines several of the subtasks into a full communicative exchange.

## Vocabulary

Vocabulary lists in three columns (English, phonemic transcription, and Arabic script) follow the dialogues. These are not glossaries containing all of the words from the dialogues, but rather lists of keywords related to the topic and those likely to be needed in various circumstances—that is, they are there to save you time searching in dictionaries for words you might need.

## Expressions

Expressions are divided into two sections, preceded by the same symbols used in the dialogues. First are expressions you may need to use, and second are statements and questions you may hear others say.

## Audio

All of the dialogues have been recorded by native-speaker voice artists. You can download or stream the audio free of charge from our website.



## Taking a Taxi

## بِالتَّكْسِي

There are a number of ways to get a تَكْسِي *táksi taxi* in Lebanon. You can call a taxi company or book a cab on their website. Some well-known taxi companies are Allo Taxi, Elegance, and Byblos Taxi. In larger cities, there are areas where taxis gather, and you can hail one from the side of the street. Taxis in Lebanon don't have عَدَّادَات *ʿaddādēt fare meters*, so always agree on the fare first.

Taxis can also operate as what the Lebanese call سَرْفِيس [ʰservice] **a shared taxi**. This “service” system has been around for decades. When you hail a taxi, say تَكْسِي 3َا *táksi 3a* **Taxi to** \_\_ if you don't want the driver to pick up others and سَرْفِيس [ʰservice] 3َا **Service to** \_\_ if you prefer to pay less but don't mind the trip taking longer as the driver picks up other passengers along the way.

Most taxi drivers are men in Lebanon; and, keeping in mind cultural expectations, it is okay for men to sit in the front next to the driver, but it is not appropriate for women to.

## AGREEING ON THE DESTINATION AND A PRICE IN ADVANCE (1)

○ سَاحَةُ الشُّهَدَا رَيْسٌ؟<sup>2</sup>

◇ أَيُّهُ تَفْضَلُ.

○ بِدُفْعِ عَشْرِ تَلَاثٍ<sup>3</sup> لَيْرَةً أَوْ كَيْ؟<sup>4</sup>

◇ مَا شِي إِسْتَاذْ، مَا رَحِ نَحْتَلِفُ.<sup>4</sup>

○ Martyrs' Square, sir?

◇ Yes. Please, get in.

○ I'll pay 10,000 L.L., all right?

◇ Okay, sir. We won't argue.

○ *sēhjt*<sup>1</sup> *iššúhada*, *ráyvis*<sup>2</sup>?

◇ *ē*, *tfáddal*.

○ *bídfa3 3aširtalēf*<sup>3</sup> *līra*, *okē*?

◇ *mēši*, *istēz*. *ma rah nixtilif*.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> سَاحَةُ *sēhja* **square, plaza**. When the first element in an *idaafa* construction (compound noun), the ending *ة* is pronounced *-it*, and sometimes just *-t* in natural, spoken language. In this book, it is written *ة* (with *sukuun*). سَاحَةُ الشُّهَدَا *sēhjt iššúhada* → سَاحَةُ الشُّهَدَا *sēhjt iššúhada*.

<sup>2</sup> رَيْسٌ *ráyvis* **sir, boss** is a polite but casual form of address for a man. A more formal variant is إِسْتَاذ *istēz*.

<sup>3</sup> Notice in the audio that the *r* is swallowed in this word, which ends up sounding more like *3aštalēf*. Such reduced pronunciations are typical of relaxed, natural-speed speech; they may seem daunting at first, but you are encouraged to train your ear by comparing what you hear on the audio to the Arabic script and phonemic transcriptions.

<sup>4</sup> مَا يَتَوَفَّى مَعِي. *la?*, *ma bitwáfji má3i*. **No, that wouldn't make sense (be profitable) for me.**

## AGREEING ON THE DESTINATION AND A PRICE IN ADVANCE (2)

○ فيك تَقَلِّي<sup>1</sup> قَدِّي بيكلّفني إذا بَدِّي رُوحَ عَ جَبِيل؟  
 ◇ أوكي مدام. خَلّيني جِبْلِكِ<sup>2</sup> تَسْعيرة مِّن الشَّرْكِة.

(The driver speaks into his walkie talkie.)

◇ مركزية مركزية، فيك تعطّيني تَسْعيرة عَ جَبِيل مِّن مطار بَيْرُوت؟

(He turns back to the customer.)

◇ أوكي مدام، خَمْسِين أَلْف ليرة.

○ أوكي عَظِيم.

○ Could you tell me how much it would cost me to get to Jbeil?

◇ Okay, ma'am, let me get a quote for you from the company.

(The driver speaks into his walkie talkie.)

◇ Central Station, Central Station. Can you give me a quote to Jbeil from Beirut Airport?...

(He turns back to the customer.)

◇ Okay, ma'am. It'll be 50,000 L.L.

○ Okay, perfect.

○ *fik tʔilli<sup>1</sup> ʔaddē bikallifni iza baddi rūḥ 3a jbēl?*

◇ *okē, [ʔmadame]. xallīni jīblik<sup>2</sup> tis3īra mn išširki.*

(The driver speaks into his walkie talkie.)

◇ *markaziyyi markaziyyi, fik ta3tīni tis3īra 3a jbēl min maṭār bayrūt?*

(He turns back to the customer.)

◇ *okē, [ʔmadame], xamsīn alf līra.*

○ *okē, 3azīm.*

<sup>1</sup> The long vowel in *قول* *tʔul* **you say/tell** shortens to *i* when an indirect object suffix is added: *قول* *tʔil* + *لي* -*li* **to me** → *تَقَلِّي* *tʔilli* **you tell me**

<sup>2</sup> *جيب* *jīb* **I bring/get** + *لك* -*lik* **to you** → *جِبْلِك* *jīblik* **I get for you**

## PAYING THE FARE

○ نِزْل هُونِ حَدِّ وُودِنِ بِيكِرِي<sup>1</sup> لَو سَمِحْتِ.

◇ تَفْضَلِي مَدَامِ.

○ هَوْدِي خَمْسِيَّة<sup>2</sup> وَخَمْسِينَ أَلْفَ لِيْرَة<sup>3</sup>. خَلِي الْبَاقِي لِإِلِكِ.

◇ مَرْسِي كَثِير مَدَامِ. اللّهُ يُوفِّقُكَ.

○ I'll get out here by Wooden Bakery<sup>1</sup>, please.

◇ There you are, ma'am.

○ Okay, here's 55,000 L.L.<sup>3</sup> Keep the change.

◇ Thank you so much ma'am. God bless you.

○ *bínzal hōn ḥadd [Wooden Bakery]<sup>1</sup>, law samáḥjit.*

◇ *tfaḍḍali, [f'madame].*

○ *háwdi xámsa<sup>2</sup> w xamsīn alf [līra]<sup>3</sup>. xálli -lbē?i la-ilak.*

◇ *[f'merci] ktīr, [f'madame]. álla ywáff?ik.*

<sup>1</sup> Wooden Bakery is a popular Lebanese chain with dozens of locations. [www.woodenbakery.com](http://www.woodenbakery.com)

<sup>2</sup> *xámsi* **five** becomes *xámsa* in compound numbers (25, 35, 45, etc.). The same pronunciation change occurs with the numbers *sítti* **six** and *tamēni* **eight**.

<sup>3</sup> The *līra* **Lebanese pound** is abbreviated L.L. (Livre Libanaise) and is pegged to the U.S. dollar at approximately 1,500 L.L. to the dollar:

It is advisable to book a taxi before landing at the Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport, as opposed to booking one outside the airport. See the note on p. 46 for more details.

A taxi is significantly more expensive than a service (but slightly more expensive than a bus). In this dialogue, the fare is the equivalent of \$36 because the passenger is taking a longer trip, from the airport to Byblos, for example.

## TELLING THE TAXI DRIVER TO TAKE A CERTAIN ROUTE

- عاليونسكو؟  
 ◇ أوكي تفضلي. مناخد البحرية أو الأوتوستراد؟  
 ○ لا خلينا عالأتوستراد أحسن. سمعت إنو في حادث عالبحرية وأنا  
 مستعجلة!  
 ◇ أوكي، ولا يهملك.

## ○ UNESCO?

- ◇ Okay, get in. Shall we go along the seaside road or take the freeway?  
 ○ No, let's stick to the freeway. I heard there was an accident on the seaside road earlier today, and I'm in a hurry.  
 ◇ Okay, don't worry.

## ○ 3a-l[UNESCO]?

- ◇ *okē tfáḏḏali. mnēxud ilbahriyyi aw il? [F autostrade]?*  
 ○ *la?, xallīna 3a-l? [F autostrade] áḥsan. smí3it innu fī ḥjēdis 3a-lbahriyyi w ána mistá3jali<sup>1</sup>.*  
 ◇ *okē, wála yhímmik.*

<sup>1</sup> *mistá3jali* is a feminine adjective. The masculine form doesn't have the ending *مستعجل: mistá3jal*. Keep in mind that the dialogues may have male or female speakers and that you will need to make changes, especially to adjective and verb forms, when speaking, depending on your gender and that of the person you are speaking to or about.

You can find words and expressions for giving directions in the vocabulary section at the end of this chapter and the next chapter (p. 27).

## ASKING YOUR RIDESHARE DRIVER TO MAKE A STOP ON THE WAY

○ مونسيور طوني؟

◇ أَيْهَ مَظْبُوط. إِسْتَاذَ مَايْكَ؟

○ أَيْهَ. عَ بَرْمَانَا پُلِيْز.

◇ تِكْرَمَ عَيْنِكَ إِسْتَاذ.

○ إِذَا فَيْكَ، فَيْنَا نَوْقِفُ حَدَّ پَاتِيْسَرِي عَالِطَرِيْقِ وَنَاخُذُ حِلْو؟

◇ مَا فِي مَشْكَلِ إِسْتَاذ. فِي كَذَا پَاتِيْسَرِي مُنَاحِ عَالِطَرِيْقِ. وَلَا يَهْمُكَ.

○ Mr. Tony?

◇ Yes, correct. Mr. Mike?

○ Yes... to Broumana, please.

◇ Yes, sir.

○ If you could, I'd love to stop by a pastry shop on the way and pick up some sweets.

◇ No problem, sir. There are a few good ones on the way. No worries.

○ [f'monsieur] tōni?

◇ ē, mazbūt. istēz [Mike]?

○ ē. 3a brumāna, [please].

◇ tīkram 3áyinak, istēz.

○ íza fik, fina nūʔaf hadd [f'pâtisserie] 3a-ttariʔ w nēxud hīlu?

◇ ma fī máškal, istēz. fī káza [f'pâtisserie] mnēh 3a-ttariʔ. wála yímmak.

Although rideshares, such as Uber, are available in Lebanon, they are still not as popular as taxis, services, and buses.

When you hail a taxi or a service, always make sure that the license plate is red, which is the designated license plate for taxis, services, and buses. Otherwise, the vehicle is not legally authorized to pick up customers; and, although they often do, it's better to err on the side of caution.

## PAYING YOUR RIDESHARE DRIVER

○ أُوْكِيْ بِنَزَلْ هُونْ حَدَّ الصَّيْدَلِيَّةِ.

◇ أُوْكِيْ مَدَامْ.

○ قَدِّيْ بَدَكْ مِنيْ؟

◇ سَبْعَتَلَفْ مَدَامْ.

○ هَيْدِيْ عَشْرَةَ. فَيْكْ تَرِدِّيْ بَسَّ أَلْفْ؟

◇ أُوْكِيْ مَدَامْ. يَسْلَمُو. حَمْدُ اللهِ عَالِيسَلَامَةٍ.<sup>1</sup> اَنْتَبْهِيْ اِنْتِيْ وَنَازَلَةَ مَنْ

السَّيَّارَةَ، فِي جَوْرَةَ كَثِيْرَ كَبِيْرَةَ هُونْ.

○ Okay, I'll get out next to the pharmacy.

◇ All right, ma'am.

○ How much do I owe you?

◇ It's 7,000 L.L., ma'am.

○ Here's 10,000 L.L. Can you just give me 1,000 L.L. back?

◇ Okay, ma'am. Thank you. Thank God you arrived safely. Be careful when you get out of the car; there's a pothole there.

○ *okē, bīnzal hōn ḥadd iṣṣaydalīyyi.*

◇ *okē, [f'madame].*

○ *?addē bāddak mínni?*

◇ *sabi3talēf, [f'madame].*

○ *háydī 3ášra. fīk triddīllī bass alf?*

◇ *okē, [f'madame]. yíslamu. ḥamdílla 3a-ssalēmi.<sup>1</sup> ntíbhī íntī w nēzli mn issiyyāra, fī jūra ktīr kbīri hōn.*

<sup>1</sup> *ḥamdílla 3a-ssalēmi* is a formulaic wish to someone who has completed a journey (or recovered from an illness). The response is *álla ysállmak*.



## RENTING A TAXI FOR AN EXTENDED TIME

○ مَرَّحْبَا مُعَلِّم. بَدِّي رُوح عَالِجَامَعَةَ الْأَمِيرِكِيَّةِ بَيْرُوت، بَسْ بَدِّي وَقَّفْ  
كَمْ مَطْرَحِ عَالطَّرِيق. فَاضِي؟

◇ أُوْكِي رِيَّس. بَسْ وَيْن بَدِّكَ تُوَقَّفْ؟<sup>1</sup>

○ مَنْرُوح عَالكَسْلِيكِ بِالْأَوَّل، بَدِّي جِيْب كَمْ غَرَضِ بِسْرِعَة، وَمَنْرَجِعِ  
مَنْرُوحِ مَنُوَصِّلُنْ عَالجَامَعَة.

◇ بَسْ رَح تَاخُدْ كَثِيرِ وَقْتِ، خُصُوصِي بِعَجْجَة السَّيْرِ بِهَالْوَقْتِ.

○ كَرَامِيَّتْكَ مَحْفُوظَة رِيَّس. خَمْسِينِ دُولَارِ مَنِيحَة؟

◇ أُوْكِي إِسْتَاذ، مِثْلِ مَا بَتُوْمُر.

○ Hey, sir! I wanted to go to the American University in Beirut but have a few stops on the way. Are you free?

◇ All right, sir, but where are these destinations?

○ We'll first go to Kaslik to pick up a few things quickly, and then head to AUB to drop them off.

◇ But it'll take us so long, especially with the traffic at this time of day.

○ I'll make it worth your while, sir. Don't worry. Is \$50 good?

◇ All right, sir. As you wish.

○ *márhāba, m3állim. báddi rūḥ 3a-ljēm3a -l'amērkiyyi bi-bayrūt, bass báddi wá??if kam mátraḥ 3a-ttari?. fāḍi?*

◇ *okē ráyyis. bass wēn báddak twá??if?*<sup>1</sup>

○ *minrūḥ 3a-lkaslik bi-l'áwwal, báddi jīb kam yāraq bi-sír3a, w minírja3 minrūḥ minwáṣsilun 3a-ljēm3a.*

◇ *bass raḥ tēxud ktīr wá?it, xšūši bi-3áj?it issēr bi-ha-lwá?it.*

○ *kramiytak mahfūza, ráyyis. xamsīn dólar mnīḥa?*

◇ *okē istēz, mitil ma btī?mur.*

<sup>1</sup> *la? wálla. ma má3i illa ribi3 sē3a. No, I swear. I only have fifteen minutes.*

## Extended Dialogue

(stops a taxi)

- سَرُقَيْسَ عَ سَوِّقِ الْعَتِيقِ إِسْتَاذَ؟  
◇ لِأَمِّشِ سَرُقَيْسَ. مَنِّي رَايِحَ صَوْبِ السَّوِّقِ، كُنْتِيرَ فِي عَجَقَةِ سَيْرِ.  
وَبُشْكُ رِكَابِ غَيْرِكُ رِحَ يَطْلَعُوا سَرُقَيْسَ بِهَالَوَقْتِ. فِيي أَخْدِكُ تَاكْسِي.  
○ لِأَمْرِسِي<sup>1</sup>.

(stops another)

- مَرْحَبَا مُعَلِّمَ. سَرُقَيْسَ عَ سَوِّقِ الْعَتِيقِ؟  
◇ سَوْرِي تَسْلَمِيلِي، بَسَّ مَنِّي رَايِحَ صَوْبِ هُونِيكَ أِبْدَاءً.  
(stops a taxi with passengers already in it)

- سَوِّقِ الْعَتِيقِ؟  
◇ أَيَّهِ تَفْضَلِي. سِتْلَافِ.  
○ سِتْلَافَ عَ سَرُقَيْسِ؟ مَعَكَ ثَلَاثَةَ بِالسَّيَّارَةِ، قَاعْدِينِ فَوْقَ بَعْضُنِ مِثْلِ  
السَّرْدِينِ. بَدْفَعِ أَرْبَعْتَلَافِ.  
◇ لِأَمَّا بِتَوَفِّي. بَايِ.

(stops yet another taxi)

- سَرُقَيْسَ عَ سَوِّقِ الْعَتِيقِ إِسْتَاذَ؟ بَصْرَلِي<sup>2</sup> سَاعَةَ عَمِ جَرَّبَ وَقَّفَ  
سَرُقَيْسِ.  
◇ أَيَّهِ أُوْكِي تَفْضَلِي. لِلصَّرَاحَةِ مَنِّي رَايِحَ صَوْبِ السَّوِّقِ، بَسَّ مَا فِيي  
خَلِي بِنْتِ زُعَيْرَةِ صَبِيَّةِ مِثْلِكَ تَوَقَّفَ بِهَالِهَبِّ. بِنْمُوتِي!  
○ مَرْسِي كُنْتِيرَ كَلِّكَ ذَوْقِ.  
◇ وَلَا يَهْمُكَ بِنْتِي. بِنْكُونِي هُونِيكَ بَعْدَ نَبْفِيَّةِ<sup>3</sup>.  
○ مَرْسِي كُنْتِيرِ.

(They approach the souk.)

- قَدِّي لِأَزْمِ إِدْفَعِ إِسْتَاذَ؟

◇ سرّفيس عالسوق أربعتلاف بسّ.

○ شو مذوق! كنت دفت شو ما كان بسّ ع لطفك.

◇ ما في مشكله أبدأ!

○ فيك تنزلني حدّ القدوم عمول معروف؟

◇ اه! أوعي ما تاكلي كوكتيل الفواكه تبعن. كثير مشهورين فيه.

○ مرسي كثير. رح دوقو. إنت من أحسن الناس اللي تعرقت علين هون.

◇ حمدالله عالسلامة دموزيل. انشالله تبسطي عنا بالمدينة.

○ هيدي عشرتلاف. تروك الباقي.

◇ يا بنتي، كثير هالقد. ما فيني إقبلن.

○ لأ پليز. ببسط كثير إذا بتاخذن.

◇ طيب بنتي. مرسي كثير. الله يعوضن عليك اضعاف.

*(stops a taxi)*

○ Service to the old souk, sir?

◇ No, not service. I'm not going that way; there's too much traffic now. And I doubt any other passengers will be going that way at this time of day. I can take you as a taxi.

○ No, thanks.

*(stops another taxi)*

○ Hello, sir. Service to the old souk?

◇ I'm sorry, darling, but it's not on my way at all.

*(stops a taxi with passengers already in it)*

○ Old souk?

◇ Yes, get in. It's 6,000 L.L.

○ 6,000 L.L. for a service?! You have three people in the car already, crammed like sardines. I'll only pay 4,000.

◇ No can do. Goodbye.

(stops yet another taxi)

- Service to the old souk, sir? I've been trying to stop a service for the last hour.
- ◇ Yes, okay, get in. To be honest, I'm not going that way, but I won't leave a pretty young girl like you standing in this heat. You'd die.
- Thank you so much, sir. I really appreciate it.
- ◇ Don't you worry, my child. I'll get you there in a bit.
- Thank you!

(They approach the souk.)

- How much should I pay, sir?
- ◇ Service is only 4,000 L.L. to the old souk.
- That's so kind. I would have paid anything just for your kindness.
- ◇ It's no problem at all!
- Could you drop me off by Al Kaddoum over there?
- ◇ Oh! Be sure to try out their fruit cocktails. They're famous for those.
- Thank you very much. I will do. You're one of the kindest people I have met here.
- ◇ Thank God you arrived safely, miss. I hope you enjoy your stay in our city.
- Here's 10,000 L.L. Keep the change.
- ◇ My child, that's too much. I can't accept it.
- No, please do. It would make me so happy.
- ◇ Okay, my child. Thank you so much. May God make it up to you in doubles!

(stops a taxi)

- [ʔservice] 3a sū? il3atī?, istēz?
- ◇ la?, miš [ʔservice]. mánni rāyih šōb issū?, ktīr fī 3áj?it sēr. w bšikk rikkēb yáyrík raḥ yitla3u [ʔservice] bi-ha-lwá?it. fīyi ēxdik táksi.
- la? [ʔmerci].<sup>1</sup>

(stops another taxi)

- márhāba, m3állim. [ʔservice] 3a sū? il3atī??
- ◇ [sorry] tislamīli, bass mánni rāyih šōb hunīk ábadan.

(stops a taxi with passengers already in it)

○ sū? il3atī??

◇ ē, tfáqqali. sittalēf.

○ sittalēf 3a [f service]? má3ak tlēti bi-ssiyyāra, ʔē3dīn fō? bá3dun mítl -ssardīn. bídfa3 arba3talēf.

◇ la? ma bitwáffi. [bye].

(stops yet another taxi)

○ [f service] 3a sū? il3atī? istēz? ʔárlī<sup>2</sup> sē3a 3am járrib wá??if [f service].

◇ ē, okē tfáqqali. la-ʔsarāḥa mánni ráyih ʔōb issū?, bass ma fíyi xállī bínit zūri ʔabíyyi mítlík tūʔaf bi-ha-lhíbb. bitmūti!

○ [f merci] ktīr kíllak zō?

◇ wála yhímmik bíniti. bitkūni huník ba3d nítfi<sup>3</sup>.

○ [f merci] ktīr.

(They approach the souk.)

○ ʔaddē lēzim ídfa3 istēz?

◇ [f service] 3a-ssū? arba3talēf bass.

○ šū mízwi?! kínt dafá3it šū ma kēn bass 3a lútfak.

◇ ma fī míškli ábadan!

○ fík tnazzílīni ḥadd ilʔaddūm, 3mōl ma3rūf?

◇ āh! ū3i ma tēkli kōktēl lifwēki tába3un. ktīr mašhūrīn fī.

○ [f merci] ktīr. raḥ dūʔu. ínta min áḥsan innēs -lli t3arráft 3láyun hōn.

◇ ḥamdílla 3a-ssalēmi, [f demoiselle]. nšállā tinbúṣṭi 3ínna bi-lmadīni.

○ háydi 3aširtalēf. trōk ilbēʔi.

◇ ya bíniti, ktīr ha-lʔádd. ma fíyi íʔbalun.

○ la? [please]. binbúṣiṭ ktīr íza btēxidun.

◇ táyyib bíniti. [f merci] ktīr. álla y3awwídun 3láyki aq3āf.

<sup>1</sup> ما في مشكل. أوكي، طيب، táyyib, okē. ma fī máškal. **Well, okay. That's fine.**

<sup>2</sup> صار ʔār + لي -li → صرلي ʔárlī

<sup>3</sup> شووي šwayy =

## Vocabulary

taxi	<i>táksi</i>	تاكسي
(rideshare) app	[ <i>application</i> ] <i>taṭbīʔ</i>	أبليكيشن تطبيق
driver	[ <i>chauffeur</i> ]	شوفور
meter	<i>ʕaddēd</i>	عداد
fare	<i>újra</i>	أجرة
change (money back)	<i>-lbēʔi</i>	الباقي
change (small change, change for a larger bill)	<i>frāṭa</i>	فراطة
the next corner	<i>-lmáfraʔ iljēyi</i>	المفرق الجايي
street	<i>šēri3 (šawēri3)</i>	شارع (شوارع)
narrow street, side street, alley	<i>zārūb/zārūbi</i> <i>(zwēri3)</i>	زاروب/زاروبية (زواريب)
license plate number	<i>nímra</i> <i>nimrit siyyāra</i>	نمرة نمرة سيارة
police report	<i>máḥḍar (maḥāḍir)</i>	محضر (محاضير)
police station	<i>máḥfar</i>	مخفر
traffic, congestion	<i>ʕájʔit sēr</i>	عجقة سير
traffic sign	<i>išāra</i>	إشارة
police checkpoint	<i>ḥājiz</i>	حاجز
license	<i>rúḡṣa</i>	رخصة

credit	<i>raṣīd</i>	رصيد
rating, evaluation	<i>taʔyīm</i>	تَقْيِيم
square, plaza	<i>sēḥa</i>	ساحة
bridge	<i>jísir (jsūra)</i>	جِسِير (جِسُورَة)
tunnel	<i>náfaʔ (anfēʔ)</i>	نَفَق (أَنْفَاق)
highway	<i>[<sup>f</sup>autostrade]</i>	أَوْتُوَسْتِرَاد
roundabout, traffic circle	<i>[<sup>f</sup>rond point]</i>	رُونْد پُونَات
corniche, waterfront road	<i>korniš</i>	كُورْنِيش
taxi door	<i>bēb ittáksi</i>	بَاب التَّأَكْسِي
window	<i>šibbēk (šbēbīk)</i>	شِبَّاك (شَبَابِيك)
front seat	<i>-lkírsi -lʔidmēni</i>	الْكِرْسِي الْقِدْمَانِي
back seat	<i>-lkírsi -lwarāni</i>	الْكِرْسِي الْوَرَانِي
trunk (UK: boot)	<i>šandūʔ (siyyāra)</i>	صَنْدُوق (سِيَّارَة)
hood (UK: bonnet)	<i>yáʔa -l[<sup>f</sup>moteur]</i>	غَطَا الْمُوْتُور
tire (UK: tyre)	<i>dūlēb (dwēlīb)</i>	دُولَاب (دُوَالِيْب)
(car) horn	<i>zammūr</i>	زَمُور
seat belt	<i>ḥjizēm ilʔamēn [<sup>f</sup>ceinture]</i>	حِزَام الْأَمَان سِيْنْتُور
windshield wipers	<i>massēḥēt</i>	مَسَّاحَات
mirrors	<i>mrēyēt</i>	مُرَايَات
gas tank (UK: petrol tank)	<i>tánkít benzīn</i>	تَنْكَة بَنْزِين

## Expressions

○

I want to go to __.	<i>báddi rūḥ</i> __.	بَدِّي رُوحَ __.
Do you know where __ is?	<i>3ārīf wēn</i> __?	عَارِفِ وَيْنِ __؟
If you don't mind, I would like to open the window.	<i>iza ma 3índak míškli, ḥābīb iftaḥ iššibbēk.</i>	إِذَا مَا عِنْدَكَ مِشْكَلَةٌ، حَابِبِ إِفْتَحِ الشَّبَّاكَ.
Excuse me, I will stop here for a minute to get something.	<i>law samáḥjit, báddi wá??if hōn šwayy ta-ēxud šī.</i>	لَوْ سَمَحْتِ، بَدِّي وَقَّفِ هُونِ شَوَيِّ تَأْخُذِ شَيْ.
If there is a shortcut, I'd be grateful.	<i>iza fī ṭarī? á?šar, bkūn mamnūnak.</i>	إِذَا فِي طَرِيقِ أَقْصَرِ، بَكُونِ مَمْنُونِكَ.
You're taking us for a long ride when the trip is actually short!	<i>ēxidna 3a ṭarī? ṭawīli, ma 3 innu -lmasēfi mánnā ha-l?ádd b3īdi.</i>	أَخِدْنَا عَ طَرِيقِ طَوِيلَةٍ، مَعَ إِنَّا الْمَسَافَةَ مَنَّا هَالَقْدُ بُعِيدَةٍ.
Can we take the Jal-El-Dib bridge?	<i>fīna nēxud jīsir jal iddīb?</i>	فِينَا نَأْخُذُ جِسْرِ جَلِ الدِّيبِ؟
Please, drive faster because I'm in a hurry.	<i>[please], sū? ásrā3 šwayy li-ánnu mistá3jil. stá3jil šwayy li-ánnu mistá3jil.</i>	پَلِيزِ سَوْقِ أَسْرَعِ شَوَيِّ، لِأَنِّي مِسْتَعْجَلِ. سْتَعْجَلِ شَوَيِّ لِأَنِّي مِسْتَعْجَلِ.
Could you please slow down a bit?	<i>fīk tsū? 3a máhlak?</i>	فِيكَ تَسَوْقِ عَ مَهْلِكِ شَوَيِّ؟
Go straight.	<i>rūḥ díyri.</i>	رُوحِ دِغْرِي.
Turn right.	<i>rūḥ yamīn.</i>	رُوحِ يَمِينِ.



Turn left.	<i>rūḥ šmēl.</i>	روح شمال.
Here is fine. (Stop here.)	<i>hūn mnīḥ.</i>	هون مُنيح.
The next street on the right.	<i>tēni šēri3 3a-lyamīn.</i>	تاني شارعِ عاليمين.
The corner after the next one.	<i>-Imáfra? ittēni. miš háyda -Imáfra?, -Ili bá3du.</i>	المفرق التاني. مِش هَيْدا المفرق، اللي بعدو.
How much is the fare, please?	<i>ʔaddē báddak mínni?</i>	قَدِّي بَدِّك مِنِّي؟
Do you have change?	<i>má3ak frāṭa?</i>	معك فُرَاطة؟
◇		
Do you want me to open the trunk for you?	<i>báddak iftáḥlak iṣṣandū??</i>	بَدِّك إِفْتَحْلك الصَّنْدُوق؟
Is it okay if I stop quickly and fill up the tank?	<i>ma3lē íza waʔʔáfit šwayy ta-3ábbi benzīn?</i>	مَعْلِيه إِذَا وَقَفْتِ شَوَيِّ تَعْبِي بَنْزِين؟
Where will you get out?	<i>wēn nēzil ḥáḍirtak?</i>	وَيْن نَازِلِ حَضْرَتِكَ؟
Wait, I'll pull over in a comfortable spot.	<i>láhza, raḥ waʔʔiflak bi-lwás3a.</i>	لِحُظَة رَح وَقَّفْلك بِالْوَسْعَة.
Listen, I'll drop you off at the end of the bridge, and you will just need to cross the road.	<i>smē3, raḥ názzlak 3a ēxir iljísir, w bass bišir báddak tíʔta3 ittari?.</i>	سَمَاع، رَح نَزِّلْكَ عَ آخِرِ الجِسْرِ، وَبَسَّ بِيصِير بَدِّكَ تَقْطَع الطَّرِيق.
I'm sorry, I really don't have any change.	<i>[sɔrɪy]<sup>1</sup> bass ma má3i frāṭa.</i>	سُورِي <sup>1</sup> بَسَّ مَا مَعِي فُرَاطة.

<sup>1</sup> = *ma twēxízni* ما تَوَاخِذْنِي



## Asking for Directions

## عالطريق

Except for a few sporadic spots, Lebanon does not have an official, unified system for street addresses. As a result, people use landmark names to give directions. When in doubt, just ask. Most people will be helpful when you ask for directions, especially when they hear an accent and realize you're a foreigner. Because direction-giving is such a subjective exercise, it's always best to ask more than one person along the way to you successfully reach your destination.

Because there's no official address system, when you ask someone for directions, people will sometimes ask you *وَيَنْ قَالُوكَ بِالطَّيِّبِ؟ wēn ʔēlūlak bi-zzābiṭ?* **Where did they tell you it was exactly?** This usually means that the person you're asking doesn't exactly know the place you're referring to but is still trying to help by asking for any landmark you've been told about, and they still might be able to guide you. That said, this is another reason that you should be asking more than one person... just in case. For all of the reasons mentioned above, when you're being given an address by someone, it is always best to get detailed instructions and landmarks. That way, you can help those trying to guide you along the way.

## 1

## ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS (1)

- لَوْ سَمَحْتِي، أَقْرَبَ مَوْقِفَ تَاكْسِيَّاتٍ وَهِنَ؟  
 ◇ بِتَضَلُّكَ رَايِحَ دِغْرِي يَتَوَصَّلُ<sup>1</sup> عَالِسَاحَةَ، قُطَاعَ الطَّرِيقِ، وَبِتَلَاقِي  
 سِيَّارَاتِ التَّاكْسِيِّ وَأَقْفِينِ.  
 ○ كَثِيرَ بُعِيدَةٍ مِّنْ هُونِ؟  
 ◇ لَأَ، بَسَّ عَشْرَ دَقَائِقٍ مَشِي.<sup>2</sup>

○ Excuse me, where is the nearest taxi stop?

◇ You'll go straight until you reach the square, cross it and you'll find a bunch of taxis waiting.

○ Is it very far from here?

◇ No, it's just a ten-minute walk.

○ *law samáhti, áḡrab máwḡaf taksiyēt wēn?*

◇ *bitḡállak rāyih dīyri ta-tūṣal<sup>1</sup> 3a-ssēha, ḡṡā3 ittariḡ, w bitlēḡi siyyārāt ittáksi wēḡfin.*

○ *ktīr b3īdi min hōn?*

◇ *laḡ, bass 3ašr dḡāyiḡ máši.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> ta- = لـ la- (+ imperfect verb) in order to, so that; *ta-tūṣal* so that you arrive

<sup>2</sup> *laḡ, ábadan. ktīr ḡarīb.* No, not at all. It's very close.



## Making Small Talk

## دُرْدُشَة

Lebanese pride themselves on their hospitality, and one way to show this is through *مُسايرة* *msēyara* **small talk**—whether or not it's always welcome! But the Lebanese are very curious. Don't be surprised if you are asked questions which may, to you, seem a bit too personal for someone you've just met. *Are you married? Why not? What's your religion? How much do you earn?* They are not trying to pry or be rude. Such questions are perfectly acceptable in Lebanon. Remember that, as a foreigner, you are automatically interesting. But such questions get asked to everyone, including locals, especially by those who have never left Lebanon and don't know about foreign sensitivities. Typically, the further out you are from the main cities, the more personal the questions tend to be. If you ever express your distaste to such questions, you may be told something along the lines of *ما تَوَاحِدُنِي كَيْتِ بَسَّ* *ma twēxízni, kīnit bass 3am sēyir* **My apologies, I was just making small talk.**

1

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

◇ كَتِير بْتَحْكِي عَرَبِي مَنِيح. مِّن وِين حَضْرَتِكَ<sup>1</sup>!  
 ○ مَرْسِي! كَلِّكَ ذَوْق. أَنَا مِّن الصِّين، بَسَّ عَم بَدْرُس<sup>3</sup> عَرَبِي هَوْن.

◇ You know Arabic very well. Where are you from?

○ Thank you! So kind of you to say. I'm from China, but I'm studying Arabic here.

◇ *ktīr btīḥki 3árabi mnīḥ. min wēn ḥáḍirtik<sup>1</sup>?*

○ [<sup>f</sup>mercj]<sup>2</sup>! kíllak zō?. ána mn iṣṣīn, bass 3am bídrus<sup>3</sup> 3árabi hōn.

<sup>1</sup> = إِنْتِي *ínti*. حَضْرَتِكَ *ḥáḍirtak* / حَضْرَتِكَ *ḥáḍirtak* are the more formal variants of إِنْتَ *ínta* / إِنْتِي *ínti* and are used to convey respect for superiors and for strangers.

<sup>2</sup> = شُكْرًا *šúkrā*

<sup>3</sup> = بَتَعَلَّم *bit3állam*

## WHY ARE YOU IN LEBANON?

◇ شو جايك عَ لِبْنَان؟<sup>1</sup>

○ عم بَعَلِّمُ انْجَلِيزِي بِمَعْهَدِ لُغَاتٍ.<sup>2</sup>

◇ واوُ جِلو كَثِير. وَرَح تَبْقِي بِلْبْنَان مِّن بَعْد. هَيْك؟<sup>3</sup>

○ لَأ، بَسْ لِفْتَرَةُ الْعَقْدِ، وَرَاجِعَةُ عَ امِيرْكَا.<sup>4</sup>

◇ And what brought you here to Lebanon?

○ I'm working here as an English teacher at a language institute.

◇ Oh wow, and will you stay in Lebanon long term?

○ No, just for the duration of the contract, and then I'm going back home again.

◇ *šū jēbik 3a libnēn?*<sup>1</sup>

○ *3am b3állim inglīzi bi-má3had luyāt.*<sup>2</sup>

◇ *wāw hjilu ktīr. w rah tīb?i bi-libnēn min ba3d hēk?*<sup>3</sup>

○ *la?, bass la-fátrit il3á?id, w rēj3a 3a amērka.*<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> = شو عم تَعْمَلُ/تَسَاوِي عِنَّا بِلْبْنَان؟

<sup>2</sup> = شو عم بِسْتَعْمَلُ هُون مَعْلَمَةً. *3am bištíyil hōn m3állmi. I'm working here as a teacher.*

<sup>3</sup> = عن عَ طَوَل *3an 3a tūl*

<sup>4</sup> = أَيَّه مَبْدِيًّا، بَسْ أَكِيدُ بِرْجَع زِيَارَاتِ عَ امِيرْكَا. *ē, mabda?íyyan, bass akīd bīrja3 zyarāt 3a amērka. Yes, most likely, but I'll definite be going back to the U.S. to visit.*

## WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

◇ ساكنة وحدك هون؟<sup>1</sup>

○ آيه، ساكنة بستوديو وحدي.

◇ وين ساكنة بالظبط؟<sup>2</sup>

○ بداونتاون بيروت.

◇ جلو كتير هونيك!<sup>3</sup> زرتي المتحف الوطني شي؟ مرممينو جديد!

○ لا بعد ما رجيت، بس أكيد رج روج.<sup>4</sup>

◇ And are you living here by yourself?

○ Yes, I'm in a studio apartment.

◇ Where in the city are you staying?

○ In downtown Beirut.

◇ It's beautiful there! Have you visited the National Museum yet? It's been renovated recently!

○ I haven't yet, but I'll definitely check it out.

◇ *sēkni wāḥḍik hōn?*<sup>1</sup>

○ *ē, sēkni bi-[studio] wāḥḍi.*

◇ *wēn sēkni bi-zzāḅit?*<sup>2</sup>

○ *bi-[downtown]bayrūt.*

◇ *ḥīlu ktīr hunīk!*<sup>3</sup> *zīrti -lmáḥaf ilwátani šī? mrammimīnu jdīd!*

○ *la?, ba3d ma rīḥit, bass akīd raḥ rūḥ.*<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> = 3āyṣī/muʔīmi la-ḥālik hōn? عايشة/مقيمة لخالك هون؟

<sup>2</sup> = bi-ttaḥḍīd بالتّحديد

<sup>3</sup> = bass ktīr yāli hunīk. But it's really expensive there. بس كتير غالي هونيك. But it's really expensive there.

<sup>4</sup> = ē, rīḥit mbērīḥ! ráw3a! Yes, I went yesterday. It's amazing! آيه رجيت مبارح! روعة! amazing!



## At a Barbershop

## عند الحلاق

Finding a barbershop is arguably as important as finding your nearest pharmacy, because you'll need it at least once, depending on how long you're staying in Lebanon. Luckily, Lebanese men share that appreciation of barbershops, so you won't have a difficulty to locate one, wherever you find yourself in Lebanon. Of course, these, like most things in life, will range from mediocre to very fancy. Fortunately, getting a haircut in Lebanon is relatively inexpensive—in expat areas it costs around \$10, though it could be even cheaper in non-expat areas. As it becomes more and more acceptable for men to get services such as manicures, pedicures, and waxing, barbershops, especially in more upscale neighborhoods have been offering them. When your barber is done cutting your hair, he may tell you نعيماً *na3īman*, which roughly translates as  **blessings**, but is essentially a formulaic greeting said to someone who has just gotten a haircut. If others notice that have a new hair cut, they'll also say this to you. You can respond with a simple thanks or say ينعم عليك *yin3am 3lĕk*, which means **May God bless you**.



## ASKING ABOUT AVAILABILITY

○ لَيْشْ<sup>1</sup> هَالْقَدِّ فِي عَجْقَةٍ<sup>2</sup>؟

◇ مُنْعَتِدِّرِ إِسْتَاذْ، بَسَّ لَانُو نَهَارِ جِمْعَةٍ وَالْكِلِّ بَدُو يُقْصِّ قَبْلَ الْوَيْكِ  
أَنْد.

○ طَيِّبْ. أَيَا سَاعَةٍ لَازِمِ إِرْجِعْ تَتَكُونِ فَاضِلِي. وَتُقْصِّلِي<sup>3</sup>؟

◇ أَحْسَنُ تِرْجِعِ الْعَصِرِ، الْعَجْقَةُ بَتَكُونِ خَفَّتْ.

○ Why is it so crowded?

◇ Sorry about that, but it's Friday, and everyone is trying to get a haircut before the weekend!

○ So, when should I come to you for a haircut and you're free?

◇ You'd better come later in the afternoon. It'll be less crowded.

○ *lēš<sup>1</sup> ha-lʔádd fī 3ájʔa<sup>2</sup>?*

◇ *mni3tízir istēz, bass li-ánnu nhār jím3a w ilkill báddu yʔuṣṣ ʔabl il[weekend].*

○ *táyhib. áyya sē3a lēzim írja3 ta-tkūn fādili w tʔuṣṣili<sup>3</sup>?*

◇ *áhšan tírja3 il3áṣir, -l3ájʔa bitkūn xáffit.*

<sup>1</sup> = لَيْه *lē*

<sup>2</sup> = زَحْمَةٌ *záḥmi*

<sup>3</sup> تَبْلُشْلِي *ta-tballišli* so that you can start on me

<sup>4</sup> وَلَا يَهْمُكَ إِسْتَاذْ مُنْمَرْقُكَ هَلْطُ، عِنَّا حَلَّاقِينَ كَفَايَةً. *wála yhímmak istēz mnímruʔak hállaʔ, 3ínna ḥallēʔin kifēyi.* **Don't worry, sir. We can cut your hair now. We have enough barbers.**

## Extended Dialogue

- ◇ أهلاً وسهلاً مادام سارة.
- ◇ مرسي حبيبتني، أهلاً فيكي.
- ◇ اليوم منّا كثير مشغولين، بقي كلني تحت تصرفك!<sup>1</sup>
- ◇ عظيم.<sup>2</sup> من هيك أنا قلت بجلي بكي.
- ◇ تحت أمرك. شرفتي.
- ◇ مرسي حبيبتني تسلمي. ليكي حابه غير اللوك وأعمل كم شغلة.
- ◇ أوكي! بدنا نقص؟
- ◇ لا بس نصف شوي الطرف. بس ع بالي كمان أعمل بيرم  
وهيايلايتيس.<sup>3</sup>
- ◇ في كذا درجة للفريزيه.<sup>4</sup> حاطة شي معين براسك؟
- ◇ آيه، شوفي هيدي الصورة. شفتنا وجبتنا<sup>5</sup> كثير.
- ◇ أوكي، يمكن ما تطلع ذات الشئ مثل الصورة لآنو شعرك أعبى من شعرا.
- ◇ معلية، منجرب ومنشوف.
- ◇ شو كمان؟
- ◇ بدّي كمان أعمل فاشيال.
- ◇ بدك تعملي شي واكسينغ<sup>6</sup> أو خيط؟
- ◇ لا مرسي، بس بدّي مانيكير.
- ◇ بدك بيديكير كمان؟
- ◇ لا مرسي. خلينا نعمل هودي هلق، ومنرجع منشوف.
- ◇ تكرم عينك.

(after the hairdresser has finished)

○ رَوْعَةٌ! بُتَعَرَّفِي، لَوْنُ الْهَائِلَايْتِس يَلِّي نَصَحْتِينِي فِي كَثِيرٍ أَحْلَى مِنْ  
اللَّوْنِ الَّلِي أَنَا كُنْتُ مُنْقَايْتُو.

◇ قَلْبِيَّكَ، هَيْدَا أَحْلَى مَعَ لَوْنِ شَعْرِكَ وَبِشْرِيَّكَ.

○ مَرْسِي كَثِيرٍ حَبِيْبِي. قَدِّي بِدِّكَ مِيَّي؟<sup>7</sup>

◇ كِلْنِ سَوَا<sup>8</sup> مِيَّةٍ وَعِشْرِينَ أَلْف.

○ نَفْضَلِي حَبِيْبِي.

◇ Welcome, Mrs. Sarah.

○ Thank you, dear.

◇ Today, we aren't that busy, so I will be all yours and do what you want.

○ Wonderful! That's why I thought of coming early today.

◇ I'm at your service. We're thrilled that you're here.

○ Thank you, dear. Look, I'd like to have a new look, and get a few things done.

◇ Okay, are we cutting your hair?

○ No, we'll just trim the tips, but I want to get a curly perm and apply some highlights.

◇ There are so many levels of curly. Do you have a particular thing in mind?

○ Yes, look at this picture. I saw it, and I really like it.

◇ Okay, we will try to get as close to the picture as possible, but it might not come out exactly the same because your hair is thicker than her hair.

○ It's okay. Let's see!

◇ And what else?

○ I also want to get a facial.

◇ Would you like a threading or a wax?

○ No thanks, but I also want to get a manicure.

◇ Would you like a pedicure, too?

○ No, let's get these done first and then we'll see.

◇ With pleasure.

*(after the hairdresser has finished)*

○ Very nice! You know what? The shade of highlights that you suggested is really much better than the color I'd chosen.

◇ I told you this one would match your hair and skin tones better.

○ Thanks a lot, dear! How much is the total then?

◇ All together it's 120,000 L.L.

○ Here you are, dear.

◇ *áhla w sáhla, [f'madame] [Sarah].*

○ *[f'merci] h̄abībti, áhla fiki.*

◇ *-lyōm máanna ktīr mašyūlīn, báʔa kíllni táhjit tašárrufik!<sup>1</sup>*

○ *ʒaẓīm.<sup>2</sup> min hēk ána ʔilit bíji bakkīr.*

◇ *táhjit ámrik. šarráfti.*

○ *[f'merci] h̄abībti, tislámi. láyki h̄abbi yáyyir il[look] w á3mil kam šáyli.*

◇ *okē! báddna nʔuṣṣ?*

○ *laʔ, bass náqđif šwayy liṭraf. bass 3a bēli kamēn á3mil [perm] w [highlights]<sup>3</sup>.*

◇ *fī káza dáraji la-l[f'frisé]<sup>4</sup>. h̄ātta šī m3áyyan bi-rāsik?*

○ *ē, šūfi háydi -ṣṣūra. šífta w h̄abbáyta<sup>5</sup> ktīr.*

◇ *okē, yímkīn ma tíṭla3 zēt iššī mítil išṣūra li-ánnu šá3rik á3ba min šá3ra.*

○ *ma3lē, minjárrib w minšūf.*

◇ *šū kamēn?*

○ *báddi kamēn á3mil [facial].*

◇ *báddik tá3mli šī [waxing]<sup>6</sup> aw xēt?*

○ *laʔ [f'merci], bass báddi manikúr.*

◇ *báddik [f'pédicure] kamēn?*

○ *laʔ [f'merci]. xallīna ná3mil háwdi hállaʔ, w mnírja3 minšūf.*

◇ *tíkram 3áynik.*

*(after the hairdresser has finished)*

○ *ráw3a! btá3rfi, lōn il[highlights] yálli naṣaḥṭīni fī ktīr áhla mn illōn -lli ána kínit mneʔʔēyitu.*

◇ *ʔiltíllik, háyda áhla ma3 lōn šá3rik w báširtik.*

○ [ʔmɛrci] ktīr ḥabībti. ʔaddē bāddik mínni?ʔ

◇ killun šáwa<sup>8</sup> míyyi w 3išrīn alf.

○ tfáqdali ḥabībti.

<sup>1</sup> lyōm ktīr 3ājʔa - اليوم كُتِير عَاجِقَة عَلَيْنَا، و ما عِنْدِكَ مَوْعِد. في نَطْرَة. عِنْدِكَ مِشْكَلَة؟  
3láyna, w ma 3índik máw3ad. fī náʔra. 3índik míškli? **We are super busy today, and you don't have an appointment. Do you mind waiting?** (lit. There's a wait. Is that a problem?)

<sup>2</sup> = تمام tamēm

<sup>3</sup> = خِصَل xíṣal (lit. strands/locks of hair)

<sup>4</sup> = مُجَعَّد mjá33ad

<sup>5</sup> = عَجِبْتِنِي 3ajabítni

<sup>6</sup> = شَمَع šámi3

<sup>7</sup> = قَدِّي يَتْرِيدِي؟ ʔaddē bitrīdi?

<sup>8</sup> = يُبْطَلَعُوا byítla3u

## Vocabulary

beauty salon	[ʔsalon]	صَالُون
hairdresser	[ʔcoiffeur]	كُوفُور
to cut	ʔáʔta3 (yʔáʔti3)	قَطَّعَ (يَقْطَعُ)
haircut	ʔáṣṣa	قِصَّة
bob cut	[ʔcarré]	كَارِيَه
pixie cut	[ʔgarçon]	جَارْسُون
highlights	[highlights] xíṣal	هَائِلَايْتِس خِصَل
hair	šá3ir	شَعِير

type of hair (thickness, etc.)	nō3 šá3ir	نوع شعر
curly	[ <sup>f</sup> frisé] [curly] mjá33ad	فَرِيْزِيْه كِيْرَلِي مُجْعَد
perm	[perm] [ <sup>f</sup> frisé]	پِيْرْم فَرِيْزِيْه
straight	[ <sup>f</sup> lisse]	لِيْس
straightening iron	[baby] [ <sup>f</sup> lisse] [ <sup>f</sup> fer]	بِيْنِي لِيْس فِيْر
hair dryer	[ <sup>f</sup> séchoir]	سِشْوَار
layered	[ <sup>f</sup> dégradé]	دِيْجْرَادِيْه
bangs	yúrra	عُرَّة
bun	ká3ki	كَعْكَة
ponytail	[ <sup>f</sup> queue de cheval]	كُو دُو شُوْقَال
part	fíri?	فِرِيْق
face	wijj (wjūh)	وَجِّ (وُجُوْه)
steam facial	[facial] buxār	فَايشَال بُخَار
cleansing	tandīf	تَنْضِيْف
threading	xēt	خِيْط
pedicure	[ <sup>f</sup> pédicure]	پِيْدِيْكِيْر
manicure	manikūr	مَانِيْكِيْر

## Expressions

○

I want to have the tips trimmed.	<i>báddi ʔiʃʃ ittrāf.</i> <i>báddi á3mil</i> [trimming] <i>la-ttrāf.</i>	بَدِّي قِصِّ الطَّرَافِ. بَدِّي أَعْمَلْ تَرِيمِينْغ لِلطَّرَافِ .
I want to have bangs.	<i>báddi ʔiʃʃ yúrra.</i>	بَدِّي قِصِّ غُرَّة.
I want to use the straightening iron.	<i>báddi á3mil [ʔfer].</i> <i>báddi á3mil [baby]</i> [lisse].	بَدِّي أَعْمَلْ فَيْرِ. بَدِّي أَعْمَلْ بِنِّي لَيْسِ.
(showing a photo) Can you do this haircut?	<i>fīk ta3milli</i> <i>háydi -lʔáʃʃaʔ?</i>	فِيكَ تَعْمَلِي هَيْدِي الْقِصَّة؟
I want to do threading for my whole face.	<i>báddi á3mil xēt</i> <i>la-wījji killu.</i>	بَدِّي أَعْمَلْ خَيْطَ لَوَجِّي كِلْو.
I want to have my face waxed.	<i>báddi á3mil</i> <i>šámi3 la-wījji.</i>	بَدِّي أَعْمَلْ شِمِعْ لَوَجِّي.
I'd like my hair washed and blow-dried.	<i>báddi hámim šá3ri</i> <i>w á3mil [ʔséchoir].</i>	بَدِّي حَمِّ شَعْرِي وَأَعْمَلْ سِشُوَارِ.
Do you have dye in this color?	<i>3īndak šábya</i> <i>háya -llōnʔ?</i>	عِنْدَكَ صَبْغَةَ هَيْدَا اللُّونْ؟
What colors of highlights do you have?	<i>áyya lōn [highlights]</i> <i>3īndakʔ?</i>	أَيَّا لُونْ هَايْلَايْتِسْ عِنْدَكَ؟