

كلام كل يوم

Kalaam Kull Yoom Situational Egyptian Arabic

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

Alaa Abou El Nour
Matthew Aldrich

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Kalaam

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Situational Egyptian Arabic

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lingualism

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Introduction

This is the book I wish I had when I first went to live in Egypt. I had a pretty good grasp on colloquial Arabic grammar. I could conjugate verbs and form basic sentences. I knew “lots of words”... or so I thought. But I would so often find myself in situations unable to express my thoughts and needs and struggling to understand what people were saying to me. I was always worried that my awkward exchanges with locals made me come across as rude because I didn’t know the right things to say at the right times. Understandably, I wanted to prepare before I tried to tackle specific communicative challenges—such as getting my hair cut. But how? I found myself flipping through various course books and pocket dictionaries looking for words and phrases to use with the barber. I would bring lists to my teacher. How do you say “not too short”? What’s the word for “sideburns”? How do I make small talk with my barber? (I knew that Egyptian barbers were chatty!) It was a lot of research to accomplish a simple task I’d taken for granted back home.

Kalaam Kull Yoom: Situational Egyptian 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. I have divided each book into 16 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.

Time for a haircut? Gentlemen, check out the chapter At a Barbershop on page 207. Ladies, try At a Beauty Salon on page 222. Each chapter has several dialogues, vocabulary lists, bonus expressions, footnotes, and cultural information. (See How to Use This Book on the next page to learn more about the organization and features of the chapters.)

I am deeply grateful to Alaa Abou El Nour, who carefully wrote the dialogues with an eye to reflect authentic, everyday Egyptian

Arabic as well as to include high-frequency vocabulary and phrases likely to be heard and used in specific situations. I wrote the texts on cultural tips and information based on my own experiences living in Egypt and information from several Egyptian and expat friends alike who were kind and patient enough to share their advice and feedback. I would also like to thank Heba Salah Ali for her help proofreading the dialogues and vocabulary lists (ensuring the tashkeel and phonemic transcriptions are accurate). Special thanks also to Heba Khater for providing illustrations and to Mohamed Ibrahim and Heba Salah Ali for producing the audio of the dialogues.

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 Egyptians 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 Egyptian Arabic. An introduction to the topic follows and presents some 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.)
- ◇ An Egyptian person—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 Egyptian Arabic does not have case endings as MSA does.

We write كتاب *kitāb* **book** (and not كِتَاب). Non-final consonants without diacritics are understood to take the short vowel fatha (◌َ): شمس *šams* **sun** (and not شَمْسٌ). This was done intentionally to keep the texts from being cluttered with redundancies and streamline fluent reading. Also, note that final ي and ة are written without dots: تاكسى *táksi*, مدينة *madīna* **city**, reflecting the spelling habits of Egyptians. You can find a detailed online guide with printable PDFs on Egyptian Arabic pronunciation and Lingualism's system of orthography in the Resources section of this book's product page: www.lingualism.com/kky.

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 Arabic script does not adequately show all of the sound changes (vowel lengthening, shortening, and elision) and shifts in word stress that occur in Egyptian Arabic. So even learners who prefer Arabic script can benefit by referring to the phonemic transcription. 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 Egyptian 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:

- 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 Egypt—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 Egyptian 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 the words you 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 professional voice artists from Cairo, Egypt. You can download or stream the audio free of charge from our website.



Taking a Taxi

في التاكسي

Cairo is one of the easiest cities in the world in which to hail a taxi, with tens of thousands of them flooding its streets. Simply signal an approaching taxi with your arm stretched out, the palm of your hand facing toward the ground, and optionally calling out *تاكسي* *tākṣi* or *تاكس* *taks taxi*! But hailing a taxi is the easy part. Not only do you need the driver to agree to your destination (he may not want to go to an area that has a lot of traffic congestion or is too remote), but you also need a strategy regarding the fare. *سواقين* *sawwaʿīn* **drivers** are reluctant to use *عدادات* *ʿaddādāt* **fare meters** (if they have working meters in their taxis at all!), which results in arguments between passengers, who feel they are being taken advantage of, and drivers, who are aggrieved (sincerely or theatrically) by what they see as underpayment. While Egyptians are not immune to this headache, foreigners tend to be especially subject to this frequent source of unpleasantness. Most taxi drivers are polite and satisfied to receive a fair fare, but many view foreigners as unsuspecting targets for gouging. **Acting confident and knowing the language to show that you are no newbie to Egypt can go a long way to being treated more fairly and avoiding confrontations.**

AGREEING ON THE DESTINATION AND A PRICE IN ADVANCE

○ ميدان التَّحْرِيرِ يَأْسَطِي¹؟

◇ ماشي اِتْفَضِّل.

○ هَدْفَع ٢٠ جِنِيَه تَمَام؟

◇ ماشي يا باشا، اِرْكَب. مِش هِنِخْتَلِف.

○ Tahrir Square, sir?

◇ Okay, get in.

○ I'll pay 20 LE, all right?

◇ Okay, sir. Just get in. We won't argue.

○ *midān ittahrīr yāsṭa*¹?

◇ *māši, itfāḍḍal.*

○ *hādfa3 3iṣrīn ginēh, tamām?*

◇ *māši ya bāša, írkab. miš hanixtílif.*

¹ *yāsṭa* is the polite form of address for a taxi driver. It is a contraction of the words *ya úṣṭa*.

Taxi drivers have a big say in the destinations they prefer to take and which to avoid. You might have to ask several taxis to go to a particular destination before you have any success. Be patient. The norm is to tell the driver your destination through the window before you get in. If he agrees, you might hear an *إِتْفَضِّل* *itfāḍḍal* / *إِتْفَضَّلِي* *itfāḍḍali* or just get a nod or grunt. Otherwise, he will mutter something (it doesn't matter what) and/or simply drive off.

Ask a local shopkeeper or passerby how much the fare should be before you hail a taxi, especially if your destination is common, like *وَسْطَ الْبَلَدِ* *wiṣṭ ilbálad* **downtown**. *لَو رَكِبْت مِن (هِنَا) لِي، اَدْفَع لِّلْتَاكْسِي كَام؟* *law rikíbt⁹ min (hína) li-... ádfa3 li-ttáksi kām?* **If I take a taxi from (here), how much should I pay?** or *...إِتْتَاكْسِي يَأْخُد مِنِّي حَوَالِي كَام؟* *...ittáksi yāxud mínni ḥawāli kām?* **... how much will the taxi [driver] charge?**

TURNING ON THE FARE METER

○ اسْتَأْذِنِكَ¹ تَشْغَلُ العَدَّادَ؟

◇ تمام يا أستاذَه و لو أَنَّهُ مِش جايِب هَمُّه².

○ Could you turn on the meter, please?

◇ Okay, ma'am, although it won't be worth it for me.

○ *astaʔzínak¹, tišáyyal il3addād?*

◇ *tamām, ya ustāza wi law innu miš ǧāyib hámmu².*

¹You can replace اسْتَأْذِنِكَ *astaʔzínak* (lit. I ask you permission) with مُمْكِن *múmkin* (lit. possible) in making requests.

²ها تَحْصِرُ مَعَايَا. *hatxássar ma3āya*. **It'll be a loss for me.; I'll lose money on it..**

Although you might spot a fare meter on the dashboard of a تَاكْسِي إِسْوَدِ *táksi íswid* **black taxi**, you will notice that it is as antiquated as the vehicle itself. It has not worked for decades. Asking the driver of a black taxi to turn on the meter would give him a good laugh... but also expose how wet behind the ears you are. The newer تَاكْسِي أَيْبِض *táksi ábyaḍ* **white taxi** should have a working meter. If it does not, you may opt to pass and wait for one that does. But even when a taxi has a fare meter, the driver may tell you that it مِش شَغَّال *miš šayyāl* **doesn't work / is broken**. Or he may turn it on with some reluctance while giving you a guilt trip, as in this dialogue. In fact, a common complaint among drivers of white taxis is that the metered fare is too low. Keep in mind that, after fuel and other expenses, your taxi driver takes home less than half of what you give him. Be sure to give him a few pounds' بَقْشِيش *baʔšiš* **tip**.

When the meter is turned on, it is best to specify the route you prefer; otherwise, the driver may take you on a “scenic route.” Of course, when you negotiate a flat fare ahead of time, it is in the driver's best interest to take the most efficient route.

PAYING THE FARE

○ ماشى، هنزل هنا على جنب¹.

◇ إتفضللى. الحساب ٣٧.

○ ماشى، خذ الـ ٤٠ دول² ياسطى. متشكره.

◇ خلى³ يا أستاذة!

○ Okay, I'll get out here on the side [of the road].

◇ There you go. The fare is 37 LE.

○ Okay, take this 40 LE, sir. Thank you!

◇ Keep it³, ma'am!

○ *māši, hānzil hīna 3āla gamb¹.*

◇ *itfaḏḏālī. ilḥisāb sáḅ3a w talatīn.*

○ *māši, xud ilʔarbi3īn dōl² yásṭa. mutšakkīra.*

◇ *xállī³ ya ustāza!*

¹ = *3āla gamb² law samáft!* (lit. On the side [of the road], please!)

² If you don't expect change, you can also say *xállī -lbāʔi 3ašānak* **Keep the change!** Or, to make it clear that you do want your change back, say something like *ilbāʔi, law samáft. The change, please.* or *ma3āk fákkī xamsīn?* **Do you have change for a fifty?**

³ When you go to pay your taxi driver, and he tells you *xállī* **keep it!**, he is not offering you a free ride. This is merely a figure of speech embedded in the language and reflects the importance of hospitality in Egyptian culture. Think of it simply as a humble thank-you.

TELLING THE TAXI DRIVER TO TAKE A CERTAIN ROUTE

○ مَكْتَبَةِ إِسْكَنْدَرِيَّةِ؟

◇ ماشى، اتفضل. نمشى بحر ولا ابو قير؟

○ إلا خَلِينَا بَحْرٍ أَحْسَنَ عِشَانِ مِسْتَعْجِلٍ جِدًّا وَ لَازِمٍ أَكُونُ هِنَاكَ خِلَالَ نَصِّ سَاعِهِ.

◇ تمام، سيبها على الله.

○ Alexandria Library?

◇ Okay, get in. Shall we go along the sea[side] road or Abou Eer Road?

○ Let's stick to the sea[side road], as I'm in a hurry, and I need to be there in 30 minutes.

◇ Okay, don't worry [lit. leave it to God].

○ *maktábt iskindiriyya?*

◇ *māši, itfáḍḍal. nímši bahr^o wálla ábu ʔir?*

○ *lā¹, xallīna bahr áhṣan 3ašān mistá3gil gíddan wi lāzim akūn hināk xilāl nuṣṣ^o sā3a.*

◇ *tamām, síbha 3ála -llāh.*

¹ You may notice لā/lā? in responses where the English translation 'no' would not make much sense, as in response to the 'either-or' question in this dialogue. Realizing this usage of the word will help you avoid confusion when speaking with Egyptians.

You can find words and expressions for giving directions in the vocabulary section at the end of this chapter and the next chapter (p. 28).

Notice that the passenger in this dialogue tells the driver his destination but doesn't negotiate the fare ahead of time. This is always a judgment call on the passenger's part, but as a general rule of thumb, if you have taken the same route several times and know the normal, expected fare, you can just hand the driver the amount on arrival. In this case, have the exact change on you, hand... [continued on p. 12]

ASKING YOUR RIDESHARE DRIVER TO MAKE A STOP ON THE WAY

○ كَابْتِنِ¹ حُسام؟

◇ آه تمام. أُستاذ انور؟

○ أَيوَه، محطة القطر في سیدی جابر إن شاء الله.

◇ تحت امرک یافندیم.

○ استأذینک بس هنفق دقیقه فی رُشدی آخذ شُنته سفر معایا؟

◇ مفیش مشاكل یافندیم. قولی قبلها بس.

○ Mr. Hossam?

◇ Yes, that's right... Mr. Anwar?

○ Yes... [we're going to] the train station in Sidi Gaber, God willing.

◇ Yes, sir.

○ Could we just stop by Roshdy for a minute so I can pick up my suitcase?

◇ No problem, sir. Just tell me again ahead of time.

○ *kábtin¹ ḥusām?*

◇ *āh, tamām. ustāz ánwar?*

○ *áywa, maháttit ilḡátr^o f sīdi gābir in šā? allāh.*

◇ *taḥt^o ámrak yafándim.*

○ *astaʔzínak bass^o hánuʔaf diʔiʔa f rúšdi, āxud šántit sáfar ma3āya?*

◇ *ma-fiš mašākil yafándim. ʔúlli ʔabláha bass.*

¹ While it is polite to address a taxi driver as *ياسطى yásṭa* (see p. 2), you should address your rideshare driver as *يا كابتين ya kábtin*.

Rideshare services, such as Uber and Careem, are growing in popularity in Egypt, as many find them to be safer, have better customer service, and even lower fares.

Pink Taxi (www.pinktaxi.net) is a rideshare option for women only and has only female drivers.

PAYING YOUR RIDESHARE DRIVER

○ ماشى، انا هنزل بعد الترام على طول.

◇ تمام حضرتك تحبى أنهى الرحله؟

○ آه عشان يلحق يجمع!

◇ الحساب ٣٦ يافندم.

○ طيب، خد الاربعين دى و حط الباقي رصيد.

◇ تمام يافندم، حمدالله على السلامة² و متنسش التقييم³.

○ Okay, I'll get out right after the tram tracks.

◇ All right, ma'am. Would you like me to end the trip [on the app]?

○ Yes, so that there's time to calculate the fare.

◇ It's 36 [LE], ma'am.

○ Okay, take this 40 LE, and add the change into my credit.

◇ Okay, ma'am. Thank God you arrived safely... and don't forget [to leave] a rating.

○ *māši, ana hanzil ba3d ittirām 3ála tūl.*

◇ *tamām, ḥadrītik tiḥībī ánhi -rrīḥla?*

○ *āh, 3ašān yīlḥa? yigámma³!*

◇ *ilḥisāb sitta w talatīn yafāndim.*

○ *ṭāyyib, xud ilʔarbi3īn di wi ḥuṭṭ ilbāʔi rašīd.*

◇ *tamām, yafāndim, ḥamdílla 3ála -ssalāma² wi ma-tinsīš ittaqyīm³.*

¹ = *yíḥsib (ilḥisāb) = yí3mil ilḥisāb calculate (the fare)*

² *ḥamdílla 3ála -ssalāma* is a formulaic wish to someone who has completed a journey (or recovered from an illness). The response is *allāh yisallimak*.

³ *ma-tinsinīš fi-ttaqyīm* Don't forget to rate me.

RENTING A TAXI FOR AN EXTENDED TIME

◊ بقولك ياسطى، كُنت عايِز اروح الزّمالك و اعمِل كام مِشوار كِده.
فاضى؟

◊ ماشى حضرتك بسّ فين المشاوير دى؟

◊ هنروح الاول الزّمالك هاخد حاجات و بعدين هنطلع على مدينة نصر اوصلها.

◊ بسّ اجنا كِده هنجيها من شرقها لغربها.¹

◊ هراضيك يا عمر متقلّش. ١٥٠ جنيّه تمام؟

◊ ماشى يا بيّه، اللي انت عايِزه.

◊ Hey, sir, I wanted to go to Zamalek along with a few other destinations. Are you free?

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

◊ We'll first go to Zamalek to pick up some stuff and then head to Nasr City to drop it off.

◊ But it'll take us so long.

◊ I'll make it worth your while (lit. make you content). Don't worry. Is 150 LE good?

◊ All right, sir. As you wish.

◊ *baʔúllak yásta, kunt^o 3āyiz arūḥ izzamālak w a3mil kām mišwār kida. fāḍi?*

◊ *māši ḥaḍrītak bass^o fēn ilmašawīr di?*

◊ *hanrūḥ ilʔáwwil izzamālak hāxud ḥagāt, wi ba3dēn hanīṭla3 3ála maḍīnit naṣr awaṣṣálha.*

◊ *bass íḥna kida hanǧībha min šarʔáha li-yarbáha.*¹

◊ *haraḍīk ya 3amm, ma-tiʔláʔš. míyya w xamsīn ginēh tamām?*

◊ *māši ya bēh, íl- ínta 3áyzu.*

¹ (lit. take it from east to west); *bass íḥna kida* هنجيها من شرقها من غربها *hanlíff^o ktīr áwi* But we'll be driving all over the place.

Extended Dialogue

(stops a black taxi)

○ الْحَيَّ السَّابِعَ يَا سَطَى؟

◇ لَا جَيَّ سَابِعَ مِينِ دِلْوَقْتِي؟¹

(stops a white taxi)

○ الْحَيَّ السَّابِعَ لَو سَمَحْتْ؟

◇ مَعْلِيشْ وَاللَّهِ يَا بِنْتِي بَسْ مِشْ طَرِيقِي خَالِصْ.

(stops another black taxi)

○ الْحَيَّ السَّابِعَ؟

◇ مَاشِي بَسْ هَاخُدْ ٦٠ جِنِيَه.

○ لَا ٥٠ بَسْ.

◇ لَا يَفْتِيحْ إِلَّاهُ²، سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُوا!

(stops another white taxi)

○ حَيَّ السَّابِعَ مِينِ فَضْلِكَ؟

◇ آه تَمَامِ اِنْفِضِيلِي³.

○ هَتَشْغَلِ الْعَدَّادَ؟

◇ الْعَدَّادُ هَيُخَسِّرُ مَعَايَا فِي الْجَوِّ وَالزَّحْمَةَ دِي.

○ خَلَاصَ تَمَامِ، مُتَشَكَّرَه.

(orders an Uber)

○ مِينِ فَضْلِكَ، حَضْرَتِكَ فِينِ دِلْوَقْتِي؟

◇ اَنَا دَاخِلٌ عَلَى مُجْمَعِ التَّحْرِيرِ. مَكَانَ حَضْرَتِكَ عَ الـ GPS مَظْبُوطٌ؟

○ آه بَسْ مَظْمُنْشِ يَكُونُ مَظْبُوطٌ أَوْ فِي الْجَوِّ دَهْ. بَصَّ اَنَا عِنْدَ مَحَطَّةِ

الْمِتْرُو اللى هِنَاكَ.

◇ تَمَامِ اَنَا شَفْتُ حَضْرَتِكَ. اَنَا دَاخِلٌ عَلَيْكَ دِلْوَقْتِي.

(gets in the car)

- ◊ سلامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ. إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ الْحَيَّ السَّابِقَ.
- ◊ تَحْتَ أَمْرِكَ يَا فَنْدِمَ.

(approaches destination)

- ◊ أَنَا هُنْزَلُ النَّاصِيَةِ الْجَايَةِ دَى عَلَى طُولِ.
- ◊ حَمْدُ اللَّهِ عَ السَّلَامَةِ يَا فَنْدِمَ. كِدَهُ الْحِسَابِ ٤٧.
- ◊ تَمَامٌ ائْتَفَضَلِ الْخُمْسِينَ دَوْلَ.
- ◊ تَمَامٌ هَحْطُ لِحَضْرَتِكَ التَّلَاثَةِ جِنِيهِ دَوْلَ فِى الرَّصِيدِ.
- ◊ لَا خَلَاصَ مَفِيشَ مُشْكِلِهِ. مُتَشَكَّرُهُ جِدًّا لِذَوْقِكَ.
- ◊ الْعَفْوُ يَا فَنْدِمَ.

(stops a black taxi)

- ◊ 7th District, sir?
- ◊ No, how can we go to the 7th District now?

(stops a white taxi)

- ◊ 7th District, please?
- ◊ I'm sorry, young lady, but it's not on my way at all.

(stops another black taxi)

- ◊ 7th District?
- ◊ Okay, but I'll take 60 LE.
- ◊ No, just 50 LE.
- ◊ No can do. Goodbye.

(stops another white taxi)

- ◊ 7th District, please?
- ◊ Yes, okay. Get in.
- ◊ And will you turn on the fare meter?
- ◊ The meter will make me lose out in such weather and traffic.
- ◊ Never mind then. Thank you.

(orders an Uber)

- ◊ Excuse me, where are you now?

◇ I'm just coming toward Mogamma Tahrir. Is your location on the GPS accurate?

○ Yeah, but I can't guarantee it will be accurate in such weather. Anyway, I'm at the subway station over there.

◇ Okay, I've spotted you. I'm just coming toward you.

(gets in the car)

○ Hello! [We're going to] 7th District, God willing.

◇ As you please, ma'am.

(approaches destination)

○ I will get out right here at this corner coming up.

◇ Thank God you arrived safely, ma'am. The fare is 47 [LE].

○ Okay, take this 50 [LE].

◇ All right. I'll add the remaining 3 LE to your credit.

○ No, that's okay. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

◇ You're welcome, ma'am.

(stops a black taxi)

○ *ilḥáyy issābi3 yásṭa?*

◇ *lā, ḥáyy² sābi3 min dilwá?ti?*¹

(stops a white taxi)

○ *ilḥáyy issābi3, law samáḥt?*

◇ *ma3alíšš, wallāhi ya binti, bass² miš ṭarī?i xāliš.*

(stops another black taxi)

○ *ilḥáyy issābi3?*

◇ *māši bass² ḥāxud sittin ginēh.*

○ *la?, xamsin bass.*

◇ *lā, yifṭaḥ allāh², salāmu 3alēku!*

(stops another white taxi)

○ *ilḥáyy issābi3 min fáḍlak?*

◇ *āh, tamām, itfaddá!i³.*

○ *ḥatšáyyal il3addād?*

◇ *il3addād ḥayxássar ma3āya fi -ggaww² wi -zzáḥma di.*

○ *xalāš tamām, mutšakkira.*

(orders an Uber)

○ *min fáqlak, ḥaqrítak fēn dilwá?ti?*

◇ *ána dāxil 3ála mugámma3 ittaḥrīr. makān ḥaqrítik 3a -l [GPS] mazbūt?*

○ *āh, bass^o ma-ḍmánš^o yikūn mazbūt áwi fi -ggaww^o da. buṣṣ ána 3and^o maháttit ilmítu -lli hināk.*

◇ *tamām, ána šuft^o ḥaqrítik. ána dāxil 3alēki dilwá?ti.*

(gets in the car)

○ *salām 3alēkum. in šā? allāh ilḥáyý issābi3.*

◇ *taḥt^o ámrik yafándim.*

(approaches destination)

○ *ána hánzil innásya -ggáyya di 3ála tūl.*

◇ *ḥamadílla 3a -ssalāma yafándim. kída -lḥisāb sá3a w arbi3īn.*

○ *tamām, itfáḍḍal ilxamsīn dōl.*

◇ *tamām, haḥútt^o l-ḥaqrítik ittalāta gnēh dōl fi -rrašīd.*

○ *la?, xalās, ma-fiš muškíla. mutšakkíra gíddan li-zō?ak.*

◇ *il3áfw^o yafándim.*

¹ = *حَيَّ سَابِعِ إِزَاي دِلْوَقْتِي* ḥayy^o sābi3 izzāy dilwá?ti?

² *yíftaḥ allāh* يَفْتَحُ اللهُ is commonly used by merchants when they do not agree on a price offered. It is a shortened version of the Egyptian proverb *bēn ilbāyī3 wi -ššāri yíftaḥ allāh.* (lit. *بين البائع و الشاري يفتح الله.* May God open [a way] between the seller and buyer.) **If you don't like my price, you don't have to buy it.**

³ *إِرْكَبِي!* **Get in!**

[continued from p. 5] ... it to the driver quickly and get out... or better yet, get out first and hand the driver the money through the window, which is common practice in Egypt. This way, you can get away before... an argument erupts. Whatever you do, do not ask *بِكَاْم الْأَجْرَه؟* *bi-kām il?úgra?* **How much is the fare?** at the end of the trip; this is basically asking to be overcharged. Likewise, asking the fare beforehand for short trips (of just a few blocks) shows that you do not know the system. Keep in mind, however, that traffic congestion on longer trips can merit a higher fare, and your driver might insist on a bit more for a route you've taken before during a less congested time.

As taxi drivers are almost always male, it is important to follow cultural norms depending on your gender. It is fine for male passengers to sit in the front seat next to the driver. However, female passengers should always sit in the back seat lest be sending an unwanted message to the driver. It may be prudent to send a friend the taxi's license plate number (often printed on the side of the vehicle, as well) and an "ok" message upon arriving safely.

When a taxi is not using a meter, don't be surprised if the driver stops to pick up another passenger if their destination is on the way (or if a taxi with a passenger in it already stops for you). Of course, this doesn't mean you're sharing the fare with fellow passengers!

Chatting with your taxi driver is a great opportunity for practicing your Arabic. You may get to listen to interesting stories and be asked all sorts of personal questions. As an added benefit, becoming chummy with your cabbie will reduce the chance of an argument over the fare at the end of the trip. For expressions related to small talk, see the chapter **Making Small Talk** on p. 116.

In the greater Cairo metropolitan area, you will see taxis in two colors: تاكسي أسود *táksi íswid* **black taxi** (with white fenders) and تاكسي أبيض *táksi ábyaq* **white taxi** (with a checkered strip on the side). The iconic black taxis are slowly being replaced by white taxis, which have air-conditioning and fare meters. In Alexandria, taxis are yellow and black. In other parts of Egypt, you will notice taxis in other colors (blue, green, orange, etc.).

Taxis parked outside 5-star hotels charge double or triple the going rate. Walk a block from the hotel to hail a taxi and prices will plummet. The same situation exists at airports, where taxi drivers have their fingers crossed that unsuspecting new arrivals will pay whatever they ask. Use a ridesharing service such as Uber or Careem instead.

Vocabulary

taxi

táksi

تاكسي

(rideshare) app

aplikēšan
taṭbī?

إبليكيشن
تطبيق

driver	<i>sawwāʔ</i>	سَوَّاق
meter	<i>ʒaddād</i>	عَدَّاد
fare	<i>úgra</i>	أُجْرَه
change (money back)	<i>ilbāʔi</i>	الْباقِي
change (small change, change for a larger bill)	<i>fákka</i>	فَكَّه
the next corner	<i>innáʒya -ggáyya</i>	النَّاصِيَه الْجَائِيَه
street	<i>šāri3 (šawāri3)</i>	شَارِع (شَوَارِع)
narrow street, side street, alley	<i>zuʔāʔ</i>	زُقَاق
tram	<i>tirām</i>	تِرَام
subway, metro (UK: underground)	<i>mítru</i>	مِترُو
police report	<i>máħdar (maħāđir)</i>	مَحْضَر (مَحَاضِر)
police station	<i>ʔism</i>	قِسْم
traffic, congestion	<i>záħma</i>	زَحْمَه
traffic sign	<i>išāra</i>	إِشَارَه
police checkpoint	<i>lágna</i>	لَجْنَه
license	<i>rúxša</i>	رُخْصَه
credit	<i>rašid</i>	رصيد
rating, evaluation	<i>taqyīm</i>	تَقْيِيم
square, plaza	<i>midān</i>	مِيدَان
bridge	<i>kúbri</i>	كُوبْرِي
tunnel	<i>náfaʔ (anfāʔ)</i>	نَفَق (أَنْفَاق)

highway	(<i>tariʔ</i>) <i>sari3</i>	طريق) سريع
roundabout, traffic circle	<i>dawarān</i>	دَوْرَان
corniche, waterfront road	<i>kurniř</i>	كورنيش
taxi door	<i>bāb ittākṣi</i>	باب التاكسي
window	<i>řibbāk</i>	شِبَاك
front seat	<i>ikkūrṣi -lli ʔuddām</i>	الكرسي اللي قدام
back seat	<i>ikkānaba illi wāra</i>	الكنبة اللي ورا
trunk (UK: boot)	<i>řaṅṭa (řúnat)</i>	شنته (شنت)
hood (UK: bonnet)	<i>kabbūt</i>	كبوت
tire (UK: tyre)	<i>kawitř</i>	كاوتش
(car) horn	<i>kaláks</i>	كلاكس
seat belt	<i>řjzām ilʔamān</i>	حزام الامان
windshield wipers	<i>massařāt</i>	مساحات
mirrors	<i>ilmirayyāt</i>	المرايات
gas tank (UK: petrol tank)	<i>tank (ilbanzīn)</i>	تأنك (البنزين)

Expressions

I want to go to...	<i>āna 3āyiz arūřh...</i>	انا عايز اروح...
Do you know...?	<i>īnta 3ārif...?</i>	إنت عارف...؟
If you don't mind, I would like to open the window.	<i>3āyiz áftař iřřibbāk ma3alířř.</i>	عايز أفتح الشباك معلش.

Excuse me, I will stop here for a minute to get something.	<i>háʔaf hína diʔiʔa, min fáɖlak, āxud/agīb ḥāga</i>	هَقْف هِنَا دِقِيقَه مِّن فَضْلِكَ، آخُد/اَجِيب حَاجَه.
If there is a shortcut, I'd be grateful.	<i>law fi ʔarīʔ muxtiʃir yarēt.</i>	لَوْ فِيهِ طَرِيق مُخْتَصِرٍ يَارَيْتَ.
You're taking [us] for a long ride when the trip is actually short!	<i>ínta bitliff^o ktīr raym inn issikka ʔuʃayyára!</i>	إِنْتَ بَتْلِفْ كَثِير رَعْم إِنَّ السَّكَّ قَصِيرَه!
Can we take the 6th of October bridge?	<i>múmkīn nāxud kúbri uktūbar?</i>	مُمْكِن نَاخُد كَوْبُرِي أَكْتُوبَر؟
Please, drive faster as I'm in a hurry.	<i>ya rēt tísri3 3ašān mistá3gil.</i>	يَا رَيْت تِسْرِعِ عِشَان مِسْتَعْجِل.
Could you please slow down a bit?	<i>min fáɖlak, múmkīn tiháɖdi šwáyya?</i>	مِن فَضْلِكَ مُمْكِن تَهْدِي شُوِيَه؟
Go straight.	<i>3ála tūl. ʔawwāli</i>	عَلَى طُول. طَوَالِي
Turn right.	<i>xuʃš^o ymīn.</i>	خُشْ يَمِينِكَ.
Turn left.	<i>xuʃš^o šmāl.</i>	خُشْ شِمَالِكَ.
Here is fine. (Stop here.)	<i>hína kwáyyis.</i>	هِنَا كَوَيْس
The next street on the right/left.	<i>iššāri3 iggáyy^o ymīn/šmāl.</i>	السَّارِعِ الْجَائِي يَمِين/شِمَال.
The corner after the next one.	<i>innáʃya -lli ba3d iggáyya.</i>	النَّاصِيَه اللى بَعْد الْجَائِيَه.

How much is the fare, please?	<i>ilḥisāb kām min fáqlak?</i>	الحِسَابِ كَامٍ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ؟
Do you have change?	<i>ma3āk fákka?</i>	مَعَاكَ فَكَّهُ؟
Do you want me to open the trunk for you?	<i>aftáḥlak iššánṭa?</i>	اِفْتَحْلكَ السَّنْطَه؟
May I fill the tank? It will only take five minutes.	<i>astaʔzínak amáwwin bass xámas daʔāyi??</i>	اِسْتَأْذِنْكَ اَمَوْنٌ بَسَّ خَمْسَ دَقَائِقٍ؟
Where will you get out?	<i>nāzil fēn ḥadritak?</i>	نَاذِلْ فَيْنَ حَضْرَتِكَ؟
Wait, I'll pull over in a comfortable spot.	<i>istánna, aʔáflak fi -lwás3a.</i>	اِسْتَنْتَى اِقْفَلْكَ فِي الوَسْعَه.
Look, I'll drop you off at the end of the bridge, and you will just need to cross the road.	<i>buṣṣ, hanazzílak āxir ikkúbri w ínta 3áddi -nnáhya -ttánya.</i>	بُصَّ هَنْزَلْكَ آخِرِ الكَوْبُرَى وَ اِنْتِ عَدَى النَّاحِيَه التَّائِيَه.
I'm sorry, I really don't have any change.	<i>ma3alíṣṣ ma-3iṣ fákka, wallāhi.</i>	مَعْلَشْ مَعِيَشْ فَكَّهُ وَاللهِ.



Asking for Directions في الشارع

As a well-known Egyptian proverb goes, *illi yis'āl mi'tuḥšš*, *illi yis'āl ma-ytúhš*. **He who asks does not get lost.** So it's better to ask for help than wander around aimlessly. Asking shopkeepers or traffic officers for directions is your best bet. You'll find that most Egyptians are happy to stop and give directions. Someone may even take the time to guide you to the place you're trying to find if it's not too far. Rarely will you find someone in such a rush that they'll blow you off with a hasty "I don't know." In fact, people seem to be reluctant to admit when they don't know the way. While you may hear an occasional *ma-3ráfš wallāhi I really don't know.*, more often than not, people will instead give you the wrong directions... unintentionally, making their best guess, in an optimistic attempt to seem helpful. And if they respond to your request for directions with *húwwa ḡállak fēn?* **Did they tell you where it was?**, this is a dead giveaway that they don't actually know where the place you're trying to find is. (See dialogue 6 on p. 24.) In any case, head in the indicated direction, and if in any doubt, ask a second—and even a third—person for directions. After all, it just gives you more practice with Arabic!

ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS (1)

○ اقرب محطة مترو فين الله يخليك¹؟

◇ هتمشي طوالي² لحد ما توصل للميدان. هتعديه، هتلاقي في يافطة

مترو، تاني مفرق م الميدان ع الشمال.

○ بعيد من هنا اوى يعنى؟

◇ لا يادوب³ عشر دقائق مشي.

○ Excuse me, where is the nearest subway station?

◇ You'll go straight until you reach the square, cross it and you'll find a "Metro" sign at the second intersection left of the square.

○ Is it very far from here?

◇ No, it's just a ten-minute walk.

○ áʔrab maháttit mítru fēn allāh yixallīk¹?

◇ hatīmši ʔawwālī² li-ḥádd³ ma tíwšal li-lmidān. hat3addī, hatlāʔi fi yáftit mítru, tāni máfri? mi -lmidān 3a -ššimāl.

○ bi3īd min hina áwi yá3ni?

◇ laʔ, yaḏōb³ 3ášar daʔāyi? mašy.

¹ الله يخليك *allāh yixallīk* literally means 'May God keep you' and can be used in various contexts to mean **excuse me** or **please**, as in this dialogue, or to mean **thank you** when someone pays you a compliment, offers to help, or does you a favor.

² = طول على *3ála ʔūl*

³ = يادوبك *yadōbak* = مجرد *mugárrad* **barely**; مفيش *ma-fiš* **there is not (even)**

Even locals can get lost in a city as big as Cairo. Mostafa tells us about his experience getting lost and trying to ask for directions in the blog series Egyptian Arabic Diaries: www.lingualism.com/ead



At the Coffee House

عَ الْقَهْوَة

The قَهْوَة *qahwa* coffee house is the quintessential hang-out for Egyptian men. You will rarely find yourself more than a minute's walk from the next coffee house. Some are holes in the wall; others are spacious establishments, sprawling onto the sidewalks, and even taking over entire alleys in the evening. At coffee houses, you will see Egyptian men, young and old alike, reading newspapers, watching soccer matches on TV, playing backgammon, cards, or dominoes, or just chatting with friends and strangers all while enjoying tea, Turkish coffee, or other beverages... and occasionally while smoking shisha. Although women may not be openly welcome at many neighborhood coffee houses, you will notice some Egyptian women (mostly accompanied by men) in coffee houses downtown and in more middle-class neighborhoods. Tourists, however, are always welcome. It's Egyptian hospitality.

ASKING ABOUT AVAILABLE BEVERAGES

○ لَوْ سَمَحْتَ.

◇ أَوْمُرْ يَا أُسْتَاذَ.

○ عِنْدَكُمْ أَيَّةُ مَشْرُوبَاتٍ؟

◇ فِيهِ شَايٌ وَ قَهْوَةٌ¹ وَ سَحْلَبٌ وَ يَنْسُونٌ وَ نَعْنَاعٌ وَ حِلْبَةٌ وَ الْبَارِدِ فِيهِ

عَصَايِرٌ وَ حَاجَةٌ سَاقِعَةٌ وَ فِيهِ شَيْشَةٌ قَصٌّ وَ سَلُومٌ وَ فَوَاكِهِ.

○ تَمَامٌ طَبِّ دَقِيقَةٍ وَ هَقُولُكَ.

○ Waiter!

◇ Yes sir, how can I help you?

○ What drinks do you have?

◇ We have tea, coffee, sahlep, anise, mint, fenugreek, and for cold drinks, we have juice and soft drinks. And we have qas, salloum, and fruit-flavored shishas.

○ Okay, give me a minute, please.

○ *law samáht.*

◇ *ú?mur ya ustāz.*

○ *ʒandúkum ?ē mašrubāt?*

◇ *fī šāy wi ?áhwā¹ wi sáhlab wi yansūn wi niʒnāʒ wi hǐlba, wi -lbārid
fī ʒašāyir wi hāga sáʒʒa, wi fī šīšit ?ašš, wi sallūm wi fawākīh.*

○ *tamām, ṭab di?i?ā wi ha?úllak.*

¹ In an Egyptian coffee house, قَهْوَةٌ *áhwā* is understood to be قَهْوَةٌ تُرْكِي *áhwā túrki* **Turkish coffee**, not brewed coffee.

ORDERING TEA

○ لَوْ سَمَحْتِ كُنْتُ عَائِزِ شَايِ.

◇ شَايِكَ أَيُّهُ؟

○ سُكَّرِ بَرَّةً.

◇ فَتْلُهُ وَلَا كُشْرِي؟¹

○ فَتْلُهُ.

○ Excuse me, I'd like some tea.

◇ How sweet [would you like] your tea?

○ Sugar on the side.

◇ Do you want a tea bag or with tea leaves?

○ A tea bag.

○ *law samáht² kunt² 3āyiz šāy.*

◇ *šāyak ʔē?*

○ *súkkar bárra.*

◇ *fátla wálla kúšari*?¹

○ *fátla.*

¹ When you order tea, you can specify that you want شاي فتله *šāy fátla*, made with tea bags, or شاي كُشْرِي *šāy kúšari*, with loose tea leaves in a pot which you pour through a sieve into your cup.

Don't confuse قَهْوَة *ʔáhwa* **coffee house** with كافيّة *kafēh* **café**. The former is the traditional Egyptian establishment with a very بلدي *báladi* **local** atmosphere and very affordable prices for all, while the latter is the Western style **café** with espresso drinks, frappés, and other fancy drinks, cakes, salads, WiFi, and so on... and fancy prices to match.

Hesham tells us more about the Egyptian coffee house on the Lingualism blog at www.lingualism.com/ahwa.

ORDERING COFFEE

○ لَوْ سَمَحْتَ كُنْتُ عَائِزٍ قَهْوَهُ تُرْكِي.

◇ سَادَهُ وَلَا عَ رِيحَهُ وَلَا زِيَادَهُ؟

○ زِيَادَهُ.

○ Excuse me, I'd like some Turkish coffee.

◇ Plain, a little sweet, or very sweet?

○ Very sweet.

○ *law samáħt, kunt⁹ 3āyiz ḡáhwa túrki.*

◇ *sāda wálla 3a rīħa wálla ziyāda?*

○ *ziyāda.*

Sugar is added to Turkish coffee as it is being boiled. Specify the level of sweetness when ordering:

ساده *sāda* (lit. plain) **no sugar**

ريحه *3a rīħa* or على ريعه *3ála rīħa* (lit. with a whiff) **with very little sugar**

مضبوط *mazbūt* (lit. correct) **medium-sweet**

زياده (سُكَّر) *súkkar ziyāda* (lit. excess (sugar)) **extra sweet**

The Egyptian coffee house has a history of being the meeting place for figures from science, literature, and art. The Nobel prize-winning author Naguib Mahfouz is widely known to have spent a lot of time in coffee houses, where he wrote some of his best novels. He frequented the famous قهوة الفيشاوي *ḡáhwit ilfišāwi* **El Fishawy Café** in Khan El Khalili, Cairo.



At a Barbershop

عند الحلاق

Barbers are usually quite chatty and like to entertain their customers. Because of this, they can be considered the center of information for a neighborhood, knowing things like who is selling their home, who is renting, who is looking for a new car, and so on. This also makes it an excellent opportunity to practice your Arabic. But not on Mondays. Barbershops are closed on Mondays in Egypt. Barbershops are strictly a man's domain. You would only see a woman in a barbershop if she's bringing in her young son for a haircut (but there are hairdressers who specialize in cutting children's hair, so even this is a rare scenario). In more affluent neighborhoods, unisex hair salons are common, but these tend to be more expensive, as well. After your barber has finished cutting your hair, he may say to you نعيماً *na3īman*, which doesn't translate well, but it is the standard formulaic greeting/wish to someone who has just had a haircut. If friends notice your new haircut, they may also say نعيماً *na3īman*. Your reply should be الله ينعِم عليك *allāh yin3im Salēk* to a man and الله ينعِم عليكِ *allāh yin3im Salēki* to a woman.

ASKING ABOUT AVAILABILITY

○ الدُّنْيَا زَحْمَةٌ كَيْدُهُ لِيَهْ؟¹

◇ مَعْلِيشْ بَقِي يَوْمِ جُمُعَةٍ وَكُلُّهُ عَائِزٌ يَحْلُقُ بَعْدَ الصَّلَاةِ.

○ طَبِّ، أَجِيلُكَ أُمَّتِي تَحْلُقُ لِي وَتَكُونُ فَيَاضِي؟²

◇ تَعَالَى بَعْدَ الْعَصْرِ أَرْوَقِي.³

○ Why is it so crowded?

◇ Sorry about that, but it's Friday, and everyone is trying to get a haircut after the prayers.

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

◇ You'd better come later in the afternoon.

○ *iddúnnya záhma kida lē?*¹

◇ *ma3alíšš^a bá?a yōm gúm3a wi kúllu 3āyiz yíhla? ba3d iṣṣála.*

○ *ṭab, agīlak ímta tiḥlá?li wi tkūn fādī?*²

◇ *ta3alāli ba3d il3áṣr árwa?*³

¹ = *izzáhma di kulláha?* أَيُّهُ الرِّحْمَةُ دِي كُلُّهَا؟

² = *rāyi?* رَائِي؟

³ *áhṣan* better; *áfḍa* emptier, less crowded

Avoid getting a shave using the straight razor used by barbers as these are well known to cause infections.

Extended Dialogue

- اهلاً وَ سهلاً. نوڑتی¹ المكان یا مدام ساره.
- بنورك یا حیبتی، مُتَشکَّره.
- النهارده مفییش. ضِعْطُ شُغْلٍ² فا هكون فاضیالك و اعملك كل الی انتی عایزه.
- یا ریت فِعْلاً. انا عشان كده قُلت اجیلك النهارده بدری.
- اُومری.
- بُصی³ بقی یا ستی، انا عایزه اعمل نیو لوك و اظبط كام حاجه كده.
- تمام، هنقُص مثلاً؟
- لا بُصی، هنقُص الاطراف⁴ بس. لکن عایزه اعمله كیرلی و هایلایت خفیف.
- طیب، الكیرلی درجات كثیر⁵. فیه حاجه مُعینّه فی دماغك⁶؟
- آه بُصی الصوره دی. شُفتها و عاجبانی اوی.
- تمام هِنحاول نُوصل لِأقرب تعریجه لِالصوره. بس مِش شَرط تَطَّلِع بِالظَّبْطِ عشان فَتِلِّه شَعْرِكِ⁷ مُخْتَلِفِه.
- طیب، خلینا نشوف.
- غَیْرُه⁸؟
- و عایزه اعمل حَمَام بُخار و تَنْضِيف لِوَشی.
- تَجِبِ ماسك أَوْ حاجه؟
- لا مِش. مُشكِلِه⁹ بس عایزه اعمل كمان مانیکیر.
- تَجِبِ بادیکیر كمان؟
- لا خلینا نَخَلِّص دُول الاول بس و بَعْد كده نشوف.
- خلاص، مِین عَینِیا¹⁰.

(after the hairdresser has finished)

◇ حِلُّو جِدًّا! وَ تَصَدَّقِي الدَّرَجَةَ الَّتِي قُلْتِي لِي عَلَيْهَا فِي الْهَائِلَايَاتِ طَلَعْتَ
أَحْسَنَ فِعْلًا.

○ مَا أَنَا قُلْتِكِ دِي هِتْكَوْنِ أَلِيْقِ¹¹ عَلَى دَرَجَةِ شَعْرِكِ وَ بَشْرَتِكِ.

◇ تَسَلِّمِ أَيْدِيكِ¹² حَبِيْبَتِي. كِدِهْ حِسَابُنَا كَام؟

○ كِدِهْ كَلُّهُ ٢٧٠ جِنِيَه.

◇ اِتَّفَضِّلِي يَا حَبِيْبَتِي.

○ Welcome, Mrs. Sarah.

◇ Thank you, dear.

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

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

○ I'm at your service.

◇ 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 something specific 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's thickness is different.

◇ It's okay. Let's see!

○ And what else?

◇ I also want to have my face steamed and cleansed.

○ Would you like a mask or something?

◇ 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.

o With pleasure.

(after the hairdresser has finished)

◇ Very nice! You know what? The shade of highlights that you suggested is really much better.

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

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

o Altogether it's 270 LE.

◇ Here you are, dear.

o *áhlan wa sáhlan nawwárti¹ -Imakān ya madām sāra.*

◇ *bi-nūrik ya ḥabíbtí, mutšakkíra.*

o *innahárda ma-fiš dayt² šuyt², fa hakūn fadyālik w a3millik kull ill- ínti 3ayzā.*

◇ *ya rēt fi3lan. ána 3ašān kída ʔult agīlik innahárda bádri.*

o *uʔmúri.*

◇ *búšši³ báʔa ya sítti, ána 3áyza á3mil [new look] w aʔabbaʔ kām ḥāga kída.*

o *tamām, hanʔúšš⁴ másalanʔ*

◇ *laʔ, búšši, hanʔúšš ilʔaʔrāf⁴ bass. lākin 3áyza a3mílu kírlí wí haylāyt xafif.*

o *ʔáyyib, ikkírlí daragāt kítlí⁵. fí ḥāga mu3ayyána fí dmāyik⁶ʔ*

◇ *āh, búšši -ššūra dí. šuftāha wí 3agbāni áwí.*

o *tamām, hanḥāwíl níwšal lí-ʔáʔrab ta3rīga lí-ššūra. bass³ miš šart⁷ tíʔla3 bí-zzáb⁷ 3ašān fátlit šá3rik⁷ muxtálifa.*

◇ *ʔáyyib, xallīna nšūf.*

o *ḡēru⁸ʔ*

◇ *wí 3áyza á3mil ḥammām buxār wí tanqíf lí-wíšši.*

o *tíḥíbbi mask aw ḥāgaʔ*

◇ *laʔ, miš muškíla⁹ bass³ 3áyza á3mil kamān manikír.*

o *tíḥíbbi badikír kamānʔ*

◇ *laʔ, xallīna nxállāš dól ilʔáwwíl bass³ wí ba3d⁹ kída nšūf.*

o *xalāš, mín 3ínáyya¹⁰.*

(after the hairdresser has finished)

◇ *ḥílw³ gíddan! wí ʔšaddáʔi -ddáraga -lí ʔultíli 3alēha fí -lhaylāyt tíl3ít áḥsan fí3lan.*

o *m- ána ʔultílik dí ḥatkūn alíʔ¹¹ 3ála dáragít šá3rik wí bašrítik.*

◇ *tíšlam ídēkj¹² ḥabíbtí. kída ḥisábna kāmʔ*

o *kída kúllu mitēn wí sab3ín gínēh.*

◇ *itfaqqáali ya ḥabíbtī.*

¹ *nawwárt* (lit. you enlightened) is a formulaic welcome. A common response is *bi-nūrak* (lit. with your light). You can also say *mináwwar* and respond *mináwwar bi-ṣḥābu* or *mináwwar bi-ḥālu*.

² = *iššúyī⁹ xafif*; *ḍayṭ⁹ šuyī* (lit. work pressure)

³ = *šūfi*

⁴ = *ittaraṭīf*

⁵ = *káza dáraga*

⁶ = *fi bālik*

⁷ *fátlit ša3r* = *naw3īt ša3r* **hair texture, kind of hair**

⁸ = *wi ḥē kamān?* و ايّه كمان؟ = *wi ḥē tāni?* و ايّه تاني؟

⁹ = *miš muhímm*

¹⁰ *ínti tuḥmúri* = *taḥt⁹ ámrik* = *ḥāḍir*

¹¹ = *ḥatlí? áktar*

¹² *tíslam idēk* is the formulaic thank-you to someone who has skillfully done something for you, such as cut your hair or prepare a meal. A common response is *allāh yisállimak*.

Vocabulary

beauty salon; (male) hairdresser	<i>kuwāfir</i>	كُوَافِير
(female) hairdresser	<i>kuwāfira</i>	كُوَافِيرَه
to cut	<i>ʔaʃʃ</i>	قَصَّ
haircut	<i>ʔúʃʃa</i>	قُصَّة
bob cut	<i>kárya</i>	كَارِيَه
pixie cut	<i>garsōn</i>	جَارْسُون
highlights	<i>haylāyt</i>	هَائِلَايْت
hair	<i>ša3r</i>	شَعْر
type of hair (thickness, etc.)	<i>fátlit iššá3r</i>	فَتْلَة الشَّعْر
curly	<i>kírli</i>	كِيرْلِي
perm, straightening	<i>fard</i>	فَرْد
straightening iron	<i>bēbi līs</i>	بِيْبِي لِيْس
to dye ¹	<i>sábaʔ</i>	صَبَغ
hair dryer	<i>sišwār</i>	سِشْوَار
layered	<i>dēgradē</i>	دِيْجْرَادِيَه
bangs	<i>ʔáʃʃa</i>	قَصَّة
bun	<i>káʔka</i>	كَحْكَه
ponytail	<i>dēl ʔuʃān</i>	دِيْل حُصَان
part	<i>farʔ</i>	فَرَق
face	<i>wišš</i>	وَشَّ

steam facial	<i>ḥammām buxār</i>	حَمَّامُ بُخَار
cleansing	<i>taṇḍīf</i>	تَنْضِيف
threading, epilation	<i>fātla</i>	فَتْلَه
eyebrow	<i>ḥāgīb (ḥawāgīb)</i>	حَاجِب (حَوَاجِب)
eyelid	<i>gīfn (gufūn)</i>	جِفْن (جُفُون)
eyelash	<i>rimš (rumūš)</i>	رِمَش (رُمُوش)
pedicure	<i>badikīr</i>	باديكيير
manicure	<i>manikīr</i>	مانيكيير
(finger/toe) nail	<i>ḍufr (ḍawāfir)</i>	ضُفْر (ضَوَافِر)
finger	<i>ṣubā3 (ṣawābi3)</i>	صُباع (صَوَابِيع)

¹ Notice that the *ص* is pronounced *s* (not *ṣ*) in this word.

Expressions

I want to have the tips trimmed.	<i>3áyz- aḡúṣṣ ilḡatrāf.</i>	عَايْزَه أَقْصَّ الاَطْرَاف.
I want to have bangs.	<i>kunt⁹ 3áyz- á3mil ḡúṣṣa.</i>	كُنْتُ عَايْزَه اعْمَلِ قُصَّه.
I want to use the straightening iron.	<i>3áyz- á3mil šá3ri bēbi līs.</i>	عَايْزَه اعْمَلِ شَعْرِي بِيْنِي لِيْس.
(showing a photo) Can you do this haircut?	<i>ti3ráfi ti3míli -lḡáṣṣa di?</i>	تَعْرِفِي تَعْمَلِي الْقُصَّه دِي؟

I want to apply threading on my face.	<i>3áyz- á3mil wíšši bi-lfátla.</i>	عَايْزَه اَعْمِلْ وِشِّي بِالْفَتْلَه.
I want to have my face waxed.	<i>3áyza á3mil wíšši bi-ššám3.</i>	عَايْزَه اَعْمِلْ وِشِّي بِالشَّمْع.
I'd like my hair washed and blow-dried.	<i>3áyza áysil šá3ri w a3mílu síšwār.</i>	عَايْزَه اَغْسِلْ شَعْرِي وَ اَعْمِلْهُ سِشْوَار.
Do you have dye in this color?	<i>3ándak sábyit illōn da?</i>	عِنْدَكَ صَبْغَة اللُّون ده؟
What colors of highlights do you have?	<i>?ē alwān ilhaylāyt illi 3andúkum?</i>	ايه ألوان الهائلَايْت اللى عِنْدكُمْ؟