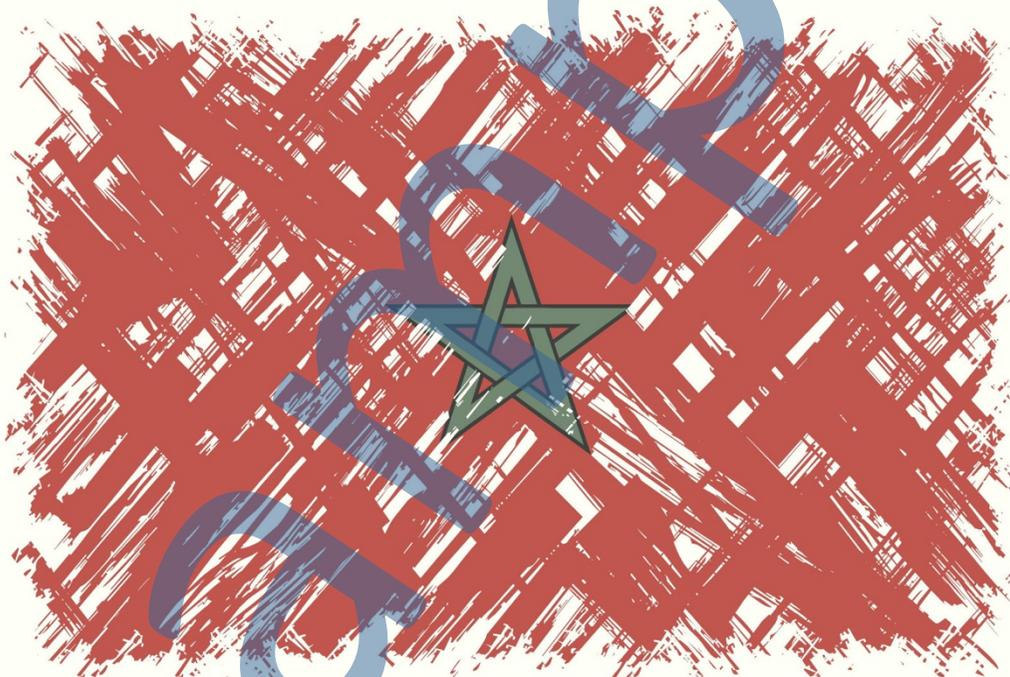


Moroccan Colloquial Arabic Vocabulary



Matthew Aldrich
with
Ayoub Trafeh



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lingualism

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Introduction

Vocabulary, much more than grammar, is the key to effective communication in Arabic. You need words to speak; you need words to listen and understand.

Knowing grammar inside and out won't save you if you don't have the right word to plug into the structure. You can walk into a shop armed with grammatical structures such as "I would like some ___." or "Do you have any ___?", but if you don't know the word for the thing you want, you may very well leave the shop empty handed. On the other hand, if you walk into that same shop and simply say "sugar", you're almost certain to get what went there for.

And without an extensive repertoire of vocabulary, you will understand very little of what others are talking about. Spoken Arabic, to your foreign ears, will remain little more than gibberish. But once you can understand the majority of what you hear, something magical happens. The input becomes manageable—you will be able to use contextual clues from what you do understand to guess the meaning of new words and start to make rapid progress in Arabic.

It is therefore very important to build up a large store of words as soon as possible. **Moroccan Colloquial Arabic Vocabulary** is an enormously effective means to this end. By presenting practical words and phrases categorized by topic and arranged with a logical flow, mental connections that assist in vocabulary retention are fostered. The page layout in parallel columns of English translation, and Arabic script provides a variety of ways to study the vocabulary by allowing you to cover columns and test yourself.

The accompanying MP3s, free to download from our website at www.lingualism.com/mcav, make up an invaluable part of the learning process, allowing you to hear and mimic native speakers' pronunciation, pitch, intonation, and rhythm. Additional study materials (Anki digital flashcards, e-book) are available separately from our website and provide even more powerful tools for rapid vocabulary acquisition.

Although extremely important, vocabulary still only makes up one aspect of learning a language. **Moroccan Colloquial Arabic Vocabulary** is the ideal supplementary tool to reinforce vocabulary acquisition. However, it is not meant to be a stand-alone course. It is expected that you have followed, are following, or plan to follow, a course in Moroccan Colloquial Arabic (MCA). Alternatively, you may have studied another dialect of Arabic, or Modern Standard Arabic

(MSA), and are curious to learn more about the MCA and tune your ears to the idiosyncrasies of this beautiful dialect.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Ayoub Trafeh for collaborating with me to make this book possible, providing authentic Moroccan Arabic translations of the items in this book, proof-reading the text, giving me valuable feedback and cultural insights to ensure the accuracy of the information, and recording the audio tracks.



The accompanying **MP3s** can be downloaded for free at:

www.lingualism.com/mcav

How to Use This Book

Moroccan Colloquial Arabic Vocabulary is made up of 57 thematic sections, each dedicated to a different topic.

You may study the sections and individual vocabulary items in any order or work through the book systematically. It is encouraged that you mark up and highlight the book as you use it. Make it your own. There is also a Notebook after the last section where you can add in more words you have learned from other sources.

Many words could logically belong to more than one topic. While some words do appear in more than one section, to avoid superfluous repetition of words, most appear only once. To your surprise, you might not be able to find common animals such as *cow* and *horse* in the section “Animals”, for instance. This is because farm animals appear in the section “Agriculture” instead. This might not

be entirely intuitive, so to solve this, an Alphabetical English index can be found at the back of the book.

- For nouns and adjectives having an irregular plural form, the plural appears in parentheses.
- If a noun is listed in its dual or plural ([pl.]) form, this is indicated.
- A noun ending in ة is feminine, and a noun *not* ending in ة is masculine. The gender is marked [m.] and [f.] for nouns which do not follow this rule.
- All countries, except those marked [m.] and all cities are feminine. Keep this in mind as countries and cities are not marked [f.].
- Normally, only the masculine version of nouns denoting humans is listed when the feminine equivalent can be formed by adding ة. For example, أستاذ is a male teacher. A female teacher would be أستاذة.
- For the sake of consistency and simplicity, the masculine singular form is used in expressions. You will need to use your knowledge of Arabic grammar to produce the feminine or plural equivalents.
- Some nouns are classified as *collective nouns*. An explanation of the usage of collective nouns appears on pages 56-57.
- Each verb appears in its base form (its most basic form without any prefixes or suffixes), which is the masculine singular past tense, literally “he did”; however, the English translation appears in its standard citation form: “to do”. In order to use a verb in a sentence, it must be conjugated. Some basic rules for conjugation are laid out in the Grammar section.
- The Arabic script reflects common spelling conventions used by Moroccans. Of course, as there is no official spelling of a dialect, variations occur among native speakers. In this book, we strived for some consistency in spelling and style.
- A few words, which are vulgar or taboo, do not appear on the audio tracks because of their sensitive nature. These are marked *vulgar*.

Pronunciation

Moroccan Colloquial Arabic is a spoken dialect with no official status or rules of orthography. Moroccans tend to borrow spelling conventions from Modern Standard Arabic with some accommodations to account for MCA pronunciation. Arabic script, however, is ill suited to show the actual pronunciation of MCA. Even if you are comfortable with Arabic script, it is advised that you pay close attention the pronunciation on the audio tracks to mimic the native speaker's pronunciation.

Consonants

The following sounds are also found in English and should pose no difficulties for learners:

	<u>examples</u>
ب [b] as in bed	بنت (daughter)
د/ذ [d] as in dog , but with the tongue touching the back of the upper teeth	دمر (blood)
ف [f] as in four	ذاب (melt)
ك [g] as in gas	فين (where)
ج [ʒ] as in pleasure and beige	كزن (horn)
ه [h] as in house	جا (come)
ك [k] as in kid	هو (he)
ل [l] a light l as in love	كل (all)
م [m] as in moon	لحية (beard)
ن [n] as in nice	مات (die)
پ [p] as in spoon	نسى (forget)
س [s] as in sun	پارك (park)
ش [ʃ] as in show	سنّة (tooth)
ت/ث [t] as in tie , but with the tongue touching the back of the upper teeth	شمس (sun)
ف [v] as in very	تينيس (tennis)
و [w] as in word	ثورة (revolution)
ي [j] as in yes	فيزا (visa)
ز [z] as in zoo	وجه (face)
	ياقوت (ruby)
	زوين (beautiful)

The following sounds have no equivalent in English and require special attention. However, some exist in other languages you may be familiar with.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ر | [r] tapped (flapped) as in the Spanish <i>cara</i> , or the Scottish pronunciation of <i>tree</i> | راجل (<i>man</i>) |
| غ | [ɣ] very similar to a guttural r as in the French <i>Paris</i> , or the German <i>rot</i> | غالط (<i>wrong</i>) |
| خ | [x] the unvoiced equivalent of غ, as in the German <i>doch</i> , Spanish <i>rojo</i> , or Scottish <i>loch</i> | خذا (<i>take</i>) |
| ق | [q] like ك but further back, almost in the throat, with the tongue touching the uvula | قحط (<i>drought</i>) |
| ح | [ħ] like a strong, breathy ه, as if you were trying to fog up a window | حب (<i>like</i>) |
| ع | [ʕ] a voiced glottal stop, as if you had opened your mouth under water and constricted your throat to prevent choking and then released the constriction with a sigh | عاش (<i>live</i>)
باع (<i>sell</i>) |
| ء | [ʔ] an unvoiced glottal stop, as above, but with a wispy, unvoiced sigh; or more simply put, like the constriction separating the vowels in <i>uh-oh</i> | ع سؤال (<i>question</i>) |

The following sounds also have no equivalent in English but are emphatic (velarized) versions of otherwise familiar sounds. An emphatic consonant is produced by pulling the tongue back toward the pharynx (throat), spreading the sides of the tongue wide as if you wanted to bite down on both sides of your tongue, and producing a good puff of air from the lungs.

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--|
| ص | [sˤ] emphatic s | ضعيب (<i>hard</i>) |
| ط | [tˤ] emphatic t | حيط (<i>wall</i>) |
| ض/ظ | [ðˤ] emphatic ḏ | مريض (<i>sick</i>)
مظلم (<i>dark</i>) |

MCA lacks the sound of the emphatic consonant ط [ðˤ] found in MSA. In MCA, ض and ط are pronounced identically.

A consonant is marked doubled with the diacritic shadda (ّ).

Vowels

Keep in mind that it is better to mimic the pronunciation on the audio tracks as closely as possible, rather than try to align the vowel sounds of MCA with what you might be used to if you have studied Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). While in MSA, there are relatively few vowel sounds, in MCA, as in most dialects, we can find a richer range of vowel qualities. Some of these sounds seem to lie somewhere between the cardinal vowel sounds of MSA. That is, what is perceived by a Moroccan as fatha (َ /a/) may sound like something between fatha and kasra (ِ /i/) to us. In fact, we might say that short vowels in general in Moroccan Arabic have a rather relaxed quality, similar to a *schwa* sound (ə/). The tashkeel (also known as vowelings or diacritics) in this book reflect the sounds as perceived by Moroccans as either fatha, kasra, or damma (ُ /u/).

Likewise, the spelling of words, especially those borrowed from other languages, may not consistently represent the actual vowel sounds you hear. For example, you may see و and expect the sound /u:/ but hear something that sounds more like /a:/. So, again, rely on the audio tracks for accurate pronunciation—and not solely on the spelling.

The short vowels kasra (ِ) and damma (ُ) are marked accordingly. However, fatha (َ) is not marked, as it is the most common short vowel; instead, an unmarked consonant can be assumed to be pronounced with fatha. بَنْت (instead of بَنْتْ) represents /bant/. Fatha may be written adjacent to the letters و and ي to distinguish their pronunciation as a consonant (/w/ and /y/) from that of a long vowel (/u:/ and /i:/).

Sukuun (◌ْ) indicates that there is no vowel sound following the consonant; a word ending in a consonant is understood to be the final sound, so, to avoid redundancy, sukuun is not written: بَنْت (instead of بَنْتْ).

Notice the special use of diacritics in this book to represent various sounds of و and ي:

	<i>examples</i>
و [u:] as in moon	توت (<i>strawberry</i>)
و [o:] as in toe (but without the glide to [w])	مؤف (<i>purple</i>)
و [aw] as in now	جؤ (<i>weather</i>)
ي [i:] as in feed	بيت (<i>room</i>)
ي [e:] as in day (but without the glide to [ɣ])	خبب (<i>bad</i>)
ي [ay] as in night	بيص (<i>egg</i>)

Grammar

This section provides a brief introduction to the grammar of Moroccan Colloquial Arabic. It covers the basics of noun and adjective inflections as well as verb conjugations—enough to allow you to plug in vocabulary from this book to form simple sentences. It also highlights some of the idiosyncrasies of MCA that distinguish it from other varieties of Arabic.

Nouns

Nouns in MCA are either masculine or feminine (in gender) and can be singular or plural (in number). A noun's gender and number are significant in that they determine the form that words (such as pronouns, adjectives, and verbs) relating to it will take.

Many nouns have irregular plural forms. In this book, common irregular plurals are given in parentheses. The regular plural suffix is **ات** for both masculine and feminine non-human nouns and also for feminine human nouns. Masculine human nouns take the regular plural **ين**.

حَيَّوان (animal) → حَيَّوانات (animals)
مَرَّة (time) → مَرَّات (times)
مُعَلِّم (male teacher) → مُعَلِّمين (teachers)
مُعَلِّمَة (female teacher) → مُعَلِّمات (female teachers)

Most feminine nouns end in **ة**. In this book, feminine nouns that do not have this ending are labeled '[f.]'. A masculine human noun can normally be made feminine by adding **ة**, as with the example 'teacher' above.

The definite article **ال** is prefixed to a noun (or adjective).

بيت /bi:t/ (a room) → البيت /lbi:t/ (the room)

As in other varieties of Arabic, the **ل** /l/ sound is assimilated before certain consonants, known as sun letters, namely **ت, ث, د, ذ, ر, ز, س, ش, ص, ض, ط, ظ, ج**, and **ن**. For example, /al/ + /n/ = /ann/. In careful pronunciation, the definite article does not assimilate before **ج**.

شَمْسٌ /shamsh/ (a sun) → الشَّمْسُ /shshamsh/ (the sun)

جَدُّ /jadd (a grandfather) → الجَدُّ /jjadd/ (or الجَدُّ /ljadd/) (the grandfather)

In natural speech, the a- can be dropped from the definite article, especially at the beginning of an utterance. Moroccans may also leave the alif (l) unwritten to reflect this pronunciation: لِكْتَاب (the book). When preceding two consonants, this may also sound like /li/: لِكْتَاب /liktāb/ (the book).

Demonstrative pronouns agree with the noun they modify in number and gender. The plural forms are used with both human and non-human plurals.

هاذا (this) [m.]

هاذاك (that) [m.]

هاذي (this) [f.]

هاذيك (that) [f.]

هاذو (these) [pl.]

هاذوك (those) [pl.]

هاذا كُتَاب (This is a book.) [lit. this... book]

هاذي مَدْرَسَة (This is a school.)

هاذو كُتُوبَة (These are books.)

When used with a noun (as an “adjective”), a demonstrative precedes the noun it modifies. The noun takes the definite article. The forms for ‘this’ and ‘these’ lose their final vowel.

هاذا الكُتَاب (this book) [m.]

هاذاك الكُتَاب (that book) [m.]

هاذي المَدْرَسَة (this school) [f.]

هاذيك المَدْرَسَة (that school) [f.]

هاذا الكُتُوبَة (these books) [pl.]

هاذوك الكُتُوبَة (those books) [pl.]

هاذا الكُتَاب كُبِير (This book is big.) [lit. this the-book... big.]

هاذي المَدْرَسَة كُبِيرَة (This school is big.)

هاذا الكُتُوبَة كُبُر (These books are big.)

Possessive constructions can be represented in a few ways. Possessive suffixes can be added to nouns.

كُتَابِي (my book)

كُتَابُنَا (our book)

كُتَابِكَ (your book) [m.] or [f.]

كُتَابِكُمْ (your book) [pl.]

كُتَابُو (his book)

كُتَابُهُمْ (their book)

كُتَابِهَا (her book)

The first three suffixes above take the forms **يا** /ya/, **ك** /k/, and **ه** /h/ when suffixed to a noun ending in a vowel. However, the feminine ending **ة** /a/ changing to **ت** /t/ in a possessive construction.

كُرْسِي /kúrsi/ (chair)	خَالَة (aunt)
كُرْسِيَا (my chair)	خَالَتِي (my aunt)
كُرْسِيكَ (your chair)	خَالَتِهَا (her aunt)
كُرْسِيه /kursi:/ (his chair)	خَالَتُو (her aunt)

Another common way to form a possessive construction is by adding the possessive suffix to the words **ذِيَال** or **تَاع**, which follow a noun with a definite article.

الدَّارِ ذِيَالِي = الدَّارِ تَاعِي (my house)	الدَّارِ ذِيَالْنَا = الدَّارِ تَاعْنَا (our house)
الدَّارِ ذِيَالِكَ = الدَّارِ تَاعِكَ (your house)	الدَّارِ ذِيَالِكُمْ = الدَّارِ تَاعِكُمْ (your house) [pl.]
الدَّارِ ذِيَالُو = الدَّارِ تَاعُو (his house)	الدَّارِ ذِيَالَهُمْ = الدَّارِ تَاعَهُمْ (their house)
الدَّارِ ذِيَالِهَا = الدَّارِ تَاعِهَا (her house)	

The words **ذِيَال** and **تَاع** can also connect two nouns and can be thought of as meaning *of* but often translate as a compound noun or 's in English. **ذِيَال** can be shortened to **ذُ**.

إِذَاعَة ذِيَال/ذُ/تَاع الرَّادِيُو (a radio station) [lit. station of radio]
الدَّارِ ذِيَال/ذُ/تَاع الرَّجَالِ (the man's house) [lit. the house of the man]

Two nouns may also be connected without using one of these words in what is known as an *idaafa* construction. The first noun cannot take the definite article.

شِيْفُوْر طُوْبِيْس (a bus driver) [lit. driver bus]
شِيْفُوْر الطُّوبِيْس (the bus driver) [lit. driver the bus]
كَاس مَا (a glass of water) [lit. glass water]
كَاس الْمَا (the glass of water) [lit. glass the water]

Prepositions can take possessive suffixes, which act like object pronouns.

مِنْهَا (from her)	لِيه (to him)
قُدَّامْنَا (in front of us)	مَعَايَا (with me)

Adjectives agree with the noun they modify in gender and number, and thus have three forms: masculine, feminine, and plural. Feminine adjectives are formed from masculine adjectives by adding **ة**. Plural adjectives regularly take **ين**; however, like nouns, many adjectives have irregular plural forms.

كَبِير (big) [m.]	مُذَيَان (good) [m.]
كَبِيرَة (big) [f.]	مُذَيَانَة (good) [f.]
كُبَار (big) [pl.] (irregular plural)	مُذَيَانِين (good) [pl.] (regular plural)

Adjectives agree with the gender and number of the nouns they modify. Notice that, unlike in MSA, adjectives only have one plural form in MCA.

بَاب كَبِير (a big door)	رَاجِل مُذَيَان (a good man)
بِيَاب كُبَار (big doors)	رُجَال مُذَيَانِين (good men)
مُدِينَة كَبِيرَة (a big city)	مُرَا مُذَيَانَة (a good woman)
مُدُن كُبَار (big cities)	نُسَا مُذَيَانِين (good women)

An adjective also agrees in definiteness by taking the definite article if its noun is definite.

البَاب الكَبِير (the big door) [lit. the door the big]
المُدِينَة الكَبِيرَة (the big city) [lit. the city the big]

In the above examples, the adjectives are used attributively, that is, as part of a noun phrase. In Arabic, adjectives follow the noun they modify. In English attributive adjectives precede nouns; however, predicate adjectives follow the verb *to be*. In Arabic, predicate adjectives do not agree in definiteness.

البَاب كَبِير (The house is big.) [lit. the house... big]
المُدِينَة كَبِيرَة (The city is big.) [lit. the city... big]

Equational Sentences

Equational sentences are sentences which would have the verb *to be* (*am, is, are*) in English. The last two examples in the previous section are equational sentences. Notice that there is no word for *is* in the Arabic sentences. The verb *to be* is not needed in present-tense equational sentences in Arabic. Of course, the predicate is not always an adjective; it can also be a noun, location, etc.

بابا مُعَلِّم. (My father is a teacher.)
المرأ هنا. (The woman is here.)

Negative equational sentences contain the word مُشي 'not.'

الباب مُشي كَبِير. (The door is not big.) [lit. the door... not big]
المدينة مُشي كَبِيرَة. (The city is not big.) [lit. the city... not big]

Interrogative sentences can be formed in a couple of ways: 1) by simply by using a rising intonation, or 2) by placing واش at the beginning of the question.

الباب كَبِير؟ (Is the door big?)
واش الباب كَبِير؟ (Is the door big?)

Pronouns may act as the subject of an equational sentence.

أنا (I [m.] or [f.])	حُنا (we)
تُنا (you [m.])	تُتوما (you [pl.])
تُتي (you [f.])	هُوما (they)
هُو (he; it [m.])	
هِي (she; it [f.])	

أنا مُشغول. (I am busy. [m.])
أنا مُشي مُشغولة. (I am not busy. [f.])
هِي مُشي صاحِبتي. (She's not my (girl)friend.)

A negative sentence can also be formed by sandwiching a predicate adjective or noun with ما...ش. The feminine adjective ending َة becomes ا before ش.

تُنا ما مُزيانُش. (You are not nice.)
الباب ما كَبِيرُش. (The door is not big.)
المدينة ما كَبِيراش. (The city is not big.)
هِي ما صاحِبتيش. (She's not my (girl)friend.)

Pronouns may, of course, be used in interrogative sentences, and may precede or follow the predicate. Notice, however, that the pronoun may be dropped when it is clear from the context, as in the last examples.

هُومَا هُنَا؟ (Are they here?)

هُوَ فِي الدَّارِ؟ = فِ الدَّارِ هُو؟ (Is he at home?)

هُوَ مُعَلِّمٌ؟ = مُعَلِّمٌ هُو؟ (Is he a teacher?)

نَتَا جِيعَانٌ؟ = جِيعَانٌ؟ (Are you hungry?)

Verbs

Verbs are conjugated in MCA much as they are in other varieties of Arabic. They take prefixes and/or suffixes to show tense, person, number, gender, and negation. The most basic form of a verb, without any prefixes or suffixes, is known as the *base form*. In this book, each verb is listed in its base form.

The conjugation patterns below exemplify the prefixes and suffixes used in MCA. However, there are further vowel variations that occur in the conjugation of certain types of verbs. A full treatment of the rules of verb conjugation in MCA is beyond the scope of this brief introduction to grammar.

Past tense verbs are formed by adding suffixes to the base form. Let's use the base form of the verb كُتِبَ (to write) to model present tense verb conjugation.

كُتِبْتُ (I wrote)

كُتِبْتِي (you wrote [m.] or [f.])

كُتِبَ (he wrote [m.])

كُتِبَتْ (she wrote [f.])

كُتِبْنَا (we wrote)

كُتِبْتُمَا (you wrote [pl.])

كُتِبُوا (they wrote)

Notice:

- Gender is only distinguished in the third-person singular ('he/she') forms.
- The masculine third-person singular form does not take a suffix; it is the base form from which other past tense verbs are conjugated.
- The position of the vowel in the verb changes in the feminine third-person singular and third-person plural forms.
- The use of personal pronouns before verbs would be redundant in Arabic, as this information is already included in a verb's conjugation.

The vowel **ي** is inserted before the suffix in the first- and second-person forms if the base form ends in a double consonant, and it replaces a final vowel.

حَطَّ (he put)

حَطَّيْنَا (we put)

مَشَى (he walked)

مَشَيْتُ (I walked)

The **negative past tense** is formed by placing the negative particle ما before the verb and adding the suffix -ش.

ما كُتبتش (I didn't write)	ما كتبتناش (we didn't write)
ما كتبتيش (you didn't write [m.] or [f.])	ما كتبتوش (you didn't write [pl.])
ما كتبتش (he didn't write [m.])	ما كتبتوش (they didn't write)
ما كتبتاش (she didn't write [f.])	

Imperative verbs (used to issue orders and commands) sometimes contain a different vowel from the base form. A handful of verbs have unique imperative forms or borrow forms from synonymous verbs, as in the last example below. First, let's look at masculine singular forms.

كُتب (to write) → كُتب (Write! [m.])	حط (to put) → حط (Put! [m.])
خرج (to exit) → خُرج (Exit! [m.])	مشا (to go) → سير (Go! [m.])

Feminine singular imperatives take the suffix ي.

كتبي (Write! [f.])	خُرجي (Exit! [f.])
--------------------	--------------------

Plural imperatives (used when giving an order to more than one person) take the suffix وا.

كتبوا (Write! [pl.])	سيروا (Go! [pl.])
----------------------	-------------------

Negative imperatives add the prefix ت and ما ش.

ما تكتبش (Don't write!)	ما تمشيش (Don't go!)
-------------------------	----------------------

Present tense verbs are based on the imperative forms. One of three prefixes is added, and for plural verbs the suffix وا. To that, the present tense particle ك is prefixed. Notice that, unlike in the past tense, there are separate forms for masculine and feminine singular second-person ('you') forms.

كنتب (I write)	كنكتبوا (we write)
كنتب (you write [m.])	كنكتبوا (you write [pl.])
كنتبي (you write [f.])	
كيتب (he writes) [m.]	كيتبوا (they write)
كيتب (she writes) [f.]	

Notice:

- The second-person masculine singular ('you') and third-person feminine singular ('she') forms are identical but become clear in the context of a sentence.
- The position of the vowel in the verb changes in the second-person feminine singular ('you') and all plural forms.

The negative present tense is formed in the same way as the negative past tense, by the particle ما before the verb and the suffix ش.

ما كُتِبْتُش (I don't write)	ما كُتِبْتُمْش (we don't write)
ما كُتِبْتِش (you don't write [m.])	ما كُتِبْتُمْش (you don't write [pl.])
ما كُتِبْتِيش (you don't write [f.])	
ما كُتِبْتِش (he doesn't write [m.])	ما كُتِبْتُمْش (they don't write)
ما كُتِبْتِيش (she doesn't write [f.])	

The future tense is expressed by replacing the present tense particle ك with غ or غادي. The negative is formed by sandwiching either the verb or غادي with ما...ش.

غَنَمَشِي (I will go)
ما غَنَمَشِيش (I won't go)
الرَّاجِلْ غَيِّكْتَبْ (the man will write)
الرَّاجِلْ ما غَيِّكْتَبْش (the man won't write)
الرَّاجِلْ ما غاديش يَكْتَبْ (the man won't write)

1

Life and Death

life	حياة عيشة
to live	عاش
I live in Morocco.	أنا ساكن في المغرب. أنا عايش في المغرب.
alive	عايش
to give birth to	وُلِد
to be born	تولد تُزاد
birth	وُلادة
baby, infant	بيني تُرِيَّة
to be breastfed, suckle	رُضِع
to breastfeed	رَضَّع
toddler	دُرِّي صُغِير وُلْد صُغِير
diaper	كوش ليكوش
well-behaved	ضُرَيْف
naughty, mischievous	خَطِير قُبِيح

childish, immature

صَغِيرٌ فِي عَقْلُو

mature(-acting)

بُعَقْلُو

boy, child

دَرِّي (دَرَارِي)

وُلْد (وُلَاد)

girl

دَرِّيَّة، بِنِيَّة

adolescent, teenager

مُرَاهِق

to grow up

كَبِر

person

بِنَادِم

man

رَاجِل (رُجَال)

woman

مُرَا (مُرَاوَات، عِيَالَات)

adults, grown-ups

نَاس كُبَار

young people, youth

شَبَاب

young

صَغِير (صَغَار)

young man

شَاب (شَبَاب)

young woman

شَابَّة

in one's fifties, middle-aged

There is no common equivalent in Arabic for 'middle-aged.' Instead, a more precise description, such as 'in one's forties/fifties/sixties' is used.

فِي الْخَمْسِينَات

old

كُبِير (كُبَار) فِي الْعُمُر

old man

رَاجِل كُبِير

old woman

مُرَا كُبِيرَة

to age, grow old

كَبِر

Everyone gets old.

كُلُّ شَيْ كَيَكْبُر.

childhood

صُغْرُ

in one's childhood

فِي صُغْرُو

adolescence

مُرَاهِقَةٌ

youth

شَبَابٌ

in one's youth

فِي شَبَابُو

old age

الْكِبَرُ

birthday

عِيدُ مِيلَادٍ

Happy Birthday!

عِيدُ مِيلَادٍ سَعِيدًا!

Happy birthday and may
you have many more!

عِيدُ مِيلَادٍ سَعِيدًا! عُقْبَالِ مِئَةٍ
عَامٍ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ!

When is your birthday?

إِمْتَى عِيدُ مِيلَادِكَ؟

My birthday is in May.

عِيدُ مِيلَادِي فَمَايَ.

age, life span

العُمُرُ

all one's life

طُولُ عُمُرُو

year

عَامٌ

How old are you?

شَحَالِ فَعُمُرُكَ؟

I'm 20 years old.

عِنْدِي عِشْرِينَ عَامًا.

to turn __ years old

دَارَ عَامًا

He's turning ten years old
next week. **f** *semaine*

سَمَانَةُ الْجَايَةِ غَيْدِيرِ عَشْرَةَ
سِنِينَ.

I turned thirty last
month.

دَرْتِ ثَلَاثِينَ عَامًا الشَّهْرَ لِي
فَاتَ.

2

Family

family

famille

فاميللا (فاميلات)

عائلة (عائلات)

(extended) family

العائلة الكبيرة

العائلة البعيدة

relative

كيجيني (من العائلة)

I have some relatives that
live in New York.

عندي العائلة في نيويورك

related to

كيجي لـ

Are you two related?

كتجيو لبعضياتكم؟

I'm not related to him.

لا، ماكيجيني والو.

father

والد

أب

mother

والدة

أم

my mother and father

الوالدة و الوالد

dad

بابا

mom

ماما

my mom and dad

ماما و بابا

Hi, Dad!

سّلام بابا!

Where are you, Mom?

فينك أ ماما؟

parents

الوالدين

son, (male) child	وُلْد (وُلاد)
daughter, (female) child	بُنْت (بُنات)
Do you have any children?	عِنْدَكَ وُلْد؟
How many children do you have?	شُحَال مِنْ وُلْد عِنْدَكَ؟
They had triplets.	تُرَادُو عِنْدَهُمْ ثَلَاثَة تُوَام.
siblings	خوت
brother	خو (خوت)
My brother and my friend's brother came with me.	جَا مَعَايَا خويَا وَ خُو صَاحِبِي.
sister	أَخْت (خَوَاتَات)
older brother	الِاخِ الكَبِير
younger sister	الأَخْت الصُّغِيرَة
Do you have any brothers or sisters?	عِنْدَكَ شَي خوت؟
I have two older sisters and one younger brother.	عِنْدِي جوج خَوَاتَات كَبَار وَ خويَا صُّغِير.
I'm the youngest in my family.	أَنَا الصُّغِير فِ الدَّار.
I'm the middle child/son.	أَنَا الوُسْطَانِي.
I'm an only child.	مَاعِنْدِيش خوت.
twins	تُوَام
Are you two twins?	وَاش أَنْتُومَا تُوَام؟
I have a twin brother.	عِنْدِي خويَا تَوَّام.
half-brother	خويَا مِنْ بَا خويَا مِنْ مِي

half-sister

خُتِي من بَا
خُتِي من مَي

He's my half-brother.

هُوَ خويَا من بَا.

husband

رَاجِل (رُجَال)

This is my husband.

هَذَا رَاجِلِي.

wife

مُرَا (مُرَاوَات)

__'s wife

مُرْت__

His wife came with him.

جَات مَعَاه مُرْتُو.

stepfather

رَاجِل الأُمِّ

stepmother

مُرْت الرَّاجِل

stepbrother

وُدَّ رَاجِل الأُمِّ
وُدَّ مُرْت الرَّاجِل

stepsister

بُنْت رَاجِل الأُمِّ
بُنْت مُرْت الرَّاجِل

stepson

وُدَّ الرَّاجِل
وُدَّ المُرَا

stepdaughter

بُنْت الرَّاجِل
بُنْت المُرَا

grandfather

جَدِّ (جُدُود)

grandmother

جَدَّة

my grandparents

جَدِّي و جَدَّاتِي

grandpa

جَدِّي

grandma		جدّاتي
great-grandfather		بّات الجدّ
grandson		حفيد (أحفاد)
granddaughter		حفيدة
grandchildren		أحفاد
uncle	<i>father's brother</i>	عمّ (عمام)
aunt	<i>father's brother's wife</i>	مّرات العمّ
aunt	<i>father's sister</i>	عمّة
uncle	<i>father's sister's husband</i>	راجل العمّة
uncle	<i>mother's brother</i>	خال (خوال)
aunt	<i>mother's brother's wife</i>	مّرت الخال
aunt	<i>mother's sister</i>	خالة
uncle	<i>mother's sister's husband</i>	راجل الخالة
cousin	<i>father's brother's son</i>	وُدّ العمّ (وُلاد العمّ)
cousin	<i>father's brother's daughter</i>	بنت العمّ (بنتات العمّ)
cousin	<i>father's sister's son</i>	وُدّ العمّة (وُلاد العمّة)
cousin	<i>father's sister's daughter</i>	بنت العمّة (بنتات العمّة)
cousin	<i>mother's brother's son</i>	وُدّ الخال (وُلاد الخال)
cousin	<i>mother's brother's daughter</i>	بنت الخال (بنتات الخال)
cousin	<i>mother's sister's son</i>	وُدّ الخالة (وُلاد الخالة)
cousin	<i>mother's sister's daughter</i>	بنت الخالة (بنتات الخالة)

We're cousins.

حُنا وُلاد العَمِّ.

حُنا بَنات العَمِّ.

حُنا وُلاد الخال.

حُنا بَنات الخال.

orphan

يَتِيم (يَتَامَى)

orphanage

دار لِيَتَامَى

to adopt

اَتَبَّنَى

adoption

تَبْنَى

to be adopted

مَتَّبَنَى

I was adopted.

أنا مَتَّبَنَى.

an adopted son

وُلد مَتَّبَنَى

adoptive parents

الوالِدين بالتَّبْنَى

birth parents

الوالِدين الأَصْلِيِّين

ancestors, forefathers

جُدود

descendants

أَحْفاد

3

Love, Marriage, and Sex

to love, be in love		حَبَّ بُغَا
love		الْحُبِّ
I love you!		كُنْتُ بِحُبِّكَ!
darling		حَبِيب حَبِيبَة
romance		رومانسية
to love passionately		عَشَقَ
passion		عَشِقَ
lover		مَعْرُوم
date	rendez-vous	مَوْعِد رونديفو
to go on a date with —		خَرَجَ مَعِ —
dating, in a relationship		مُصَابِح
a couple; going out, dating		كُوپِل
boyfriend		صَاحِب (صُحَاب)
girlfriend		صَاحِبَة
to break up	lit. they broke up	كَاصَّوْ
to break someone's heart	lit. to torture	عَذَّبَ
engagement		خُطْبَة
to get engaged		خُطِبَ

time

وَقْت (أَوْقَات)

day

نَهَار
يَوْم (أَيَّام)

in the morning

فُ الصُّبْح

at noon

فُ الظُّهْر

in the afternoon; in the evening

فُ العُشْيَة

at night

فُ اللَّيْلِ

at midnight

فُ نَصِّ اللَّيْلِ

three days ago

ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ هَازِي

the day before yesterday

وَلِّ الْبَارِح

yesterday

الْبَارِح

yesterday morning

الْبَارِح الصُّبْح

last night

الْبَارِح بِاللَّيْلِ

today

الْيَوْم

this morning

هَاز الصُّبْح

this afternoon; this evening

هَاز العُشْيَة

tonight

اللَّيْلَة

الْيَوْم بِاللَّيْلِ

tomorrow

غَدًا

tomorrow morning

غَدًا الصُّبْح

The following common verbs do not fit neatly into other categories. If you cannot find a verb here, try the index in the back of the book to see if it is listed under another category.

to abandon, desert	تُخَلَّى فَجَرَ
to accept	قَبِلَ
to accompany	مَشَى مَعَ
to adjust	عَدَّلَ
to admit	عُتِرِفَ
to advise, recommend	نُصِحَ
to affect	أَثَرَ عَلَى
to allow	خَلَّى
to answer, respond, reply	جَاوَبَ
to apologize for	طَلَبَ السُّمَاحَ عَلَى عُتَذَرَ عَلَى
to appear	بَانَ
to appreciate	قَدَّرَ
to approve of	وَأْفَقَ عَلَى
to arrange, organize	قَادَ
to ascend, go up	طَلَعَ
to ask	سَوَّلَ
to attend	حَضَرَ

yes	آه
no	لَا
Excuse me, ...	سُمِّحْ لِيَا
please	عَافَاك
Here you are!	هَآ نُنَا!
Go ahead!	تُفَضِّل!
You first!	نُنَا اللُّوْل!
Thank you.	شُكْرًا
I'm sorry.; I apologize.	سُمِّحْ لِيَا.
Hi!	السَّلَام!
Hello!	السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ!
Good morning!	صُبْحَا الْخَيْرَا!
How are you?	كِيدِير؟ كِيدَايْر؟ سَافَا؟
I'm fine.	لَابَاس، سَافَا.
Hi! How are you? It's been a long time since I've seen you!	السَّلَام! كِيدَايْر؟ شَحَال مَاشَفْتَك!
What's up?	أَش كَتْعَاوْد؟

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