



EGYPTIAN COLLOQUIAL ARABIC VERBS

يَكْتُبُوا	ma-tiktībū	يَكْتُبُونَ	ma-yiktībūš
يَكْتُبُ	ma-tiktībš	يَكْتُبِينَ	ma-tiktībš
يَكْتُبِي	ma-yiktībūš	يَكْتُبِي	ma-yiktībūš
يَكْتُبِي	ma-baktībš	يَكْتُبِي	ma-bniktībš
يَكْتُبِي	ma-bniktībš	يَكْتُبِي	ma-btiktībš
يَكْتُبِي	ma-btiktībš	يَكْتُبِي	ma-btiktībš
يَكْتُبِي	ma-btiktībūš	يَكْتُبِي	ma-btiktībš
يَكْتُبِي	ma-byiktībš	يَكْتُبِي	ma-byiktībš
يَكْتُبِي	ma-btiktībš	يَكْتُبِي	ma-btiktībš
يَكْتُبِي	ma-byiktībūš	يَكْتُبِي	ma-byiktībūš
يَكْتُبِي	miš háktib	يَكْتُبِي	miš haníktib
يَكْتُبِي	miš haníktib	يَكْتُبِي	miš hatíktib
يَكْتُبِي	miš hatíktib	يَكْتُبِي	miš hatíktibi
يَكْتُبِي	miš hatíktibi	يَكْتُبِي	miš hatíktibi

REVISED EDITION

CONJUGATION
TABLES AND GRAMMAR



EGYPTIAN COLLOQUIAL ARABIC VERBS

CONJUGATION TABLES AND GRAMMAR

MATTHEW ALDRICH



lingualism

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Sample

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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS EGYPTIAN COLLOQUIAL ARABIC?

Various dialects of Arabic are spoken throughout the Arab world. Some of these dialects are so distinct from each other that they are not mutually comprehensible. In fact, they might well be considered separate languages in linguistic terms. However, for reasons of Arab cultural identity and cohesion, Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) has emerged as a lingua franca, a common standard of Arabic, which is used as the official language of all Arab countries and dominates most forms of writing. The educated have mastered MSA, and less educated Arabs can at least understand it fairly well. However, it is still a language Arabs must acquire, their local dialects being their true native language.

Inside Egypt, dialects vary from region to region. Therefore, people from Alexandria, Cairo, and Aswan will have somewhat different accents and may disagree on the exact pronunciation of certain words. There is nothing to worry about, though, as the dialects are mutually intelligible. Of course, Cairo is by far the most populous region of Egypt. It is also the capital, so it is the Cairene dialect that we are referring to when we say Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (ECA).

ECA is by far the giant among Arab dialects. It is not only the most widely spoken dialect, with over 70 million speakers, but also the most widely understood throughout the Arab world, thanks in no small part to the popularity of Egyptian cinema, television, and music. It is then no surprise that it is also the most commonly studied dialect. Even in other parts of the Arab world, if you spoke ECA to a local, you would likely be understood—you just may not understand the other person!

ARABIC SCRIPT AND EGYPTIAN COLLOQUIAL ARABIC

ECA is a spoken dialect. The key word here is *spoken*. Even in literature that portrays Egyptian life, the dialogues are generally written in MSA. There is no tradition of expressing ECA in writing. Nowadays, you will find examples of the dialect printed in advertisements, comic strips, and in some more recently published works. Still, there is no standardized spelling system. The negative prefix *ma-* and the future prefix *ha-* (or *ḥa-*), for example, may be written differently depending on an individual's preference:

ماكتبش	ما كتبش	مكتبش	<i>makatábš</i>	he didn't write
حيكتب	ح يكتب	هيكتب	<i>hayíktib</i>	he will write

Arabic script, for all its beauty and precision in representing MSA, does not clearly represent the pronunciation of ECA. This is especially true when it comes to vowels, which may be lengthened or shortened, inserted or elided, depending on a verb's conjugated form, in ways that do not occur in MSA. Stress, or intonation, also shifts around greatly. Arabic script, then, is limited in how useful it can be to you, the learner, who needs to develop an accurate pronunciation of ECA. So, instead of relying

on Arabic script, a straightforward system of phonemic transcription has been employed throughout this book. It's the next best thing to having a native speaker model the pronunciation for you. It is, therefore, important that you study the transcription system carefully so that your speech is intelligible. That said, each conjugated verb form in the verb tables appears next to itself in Arabic script. This is for the benefit of our Egyptian friends, who are naturally more comfortable with Arabic script than the transcription system used in this book. It's the Arabic script you'll want to point to when an Egyptian is helping you with pronunciation. And it's the Arabic script you'll want to use if you're writing an informal letter in the dialect to an Egyptian friend.

AUDIO

To access the free accompanying audio of this book, please visit:

www.lingualism.com/ecaverbs

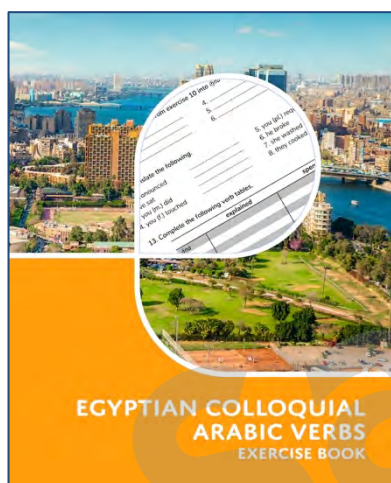
- Newly recorded audio for all tables and example sentences.
- Over five hours of audio modeled by a native speaker from Cairo.
- Pauses after each word or phrase to allow time for repetition.



BUILDING FLUENCY

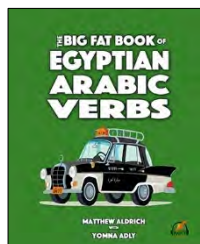
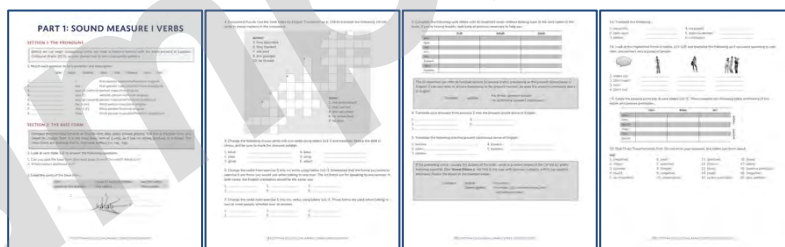
The complex nature of the sound changes that occur in ECA verb conjugations tends to trip up learners' tongues. While the rules that govern stress and sound changes (vowel shortening, vowel lengthening, vowel omission, vowel insertion, consonant assimilation, and vowel assimilation) are regular and predictable, they are also numerous, as demonstrated on the following pages. Even if you have memorized all the rules, having to stop and think in order to apply them to verbs you need to conjugate undermines your attempts at fluency. Fluency is achieved through automation; in the case of ECA verbs, this means being able to produce a correctly conjugated verb with clear pronunciation and without hesitation. With sufficient practice, through repetition, drills, and other exercises, verb conjugation will eventually become second nature, allowing you greater fluency in your speech.

Visit www.lingualism.com/ecaverbs for free resources to practice and build fluency.



Egyptian Colloquial Arabic Verbs: Exercise Book

Get the companion book that takes you through verb conjugation with a series of mini-lessons building from zero to mastery using a variety of exercises and drills!



TAKE YOUR VERB MASTERY FURTHER!

The **Big Fat Book of Egyptian Arabic Verbs** is the perfect companion to **Egyptian Colloquial Arabic Verbs: Conjugation Tables and Grammar**. While this book organizes verbs by their conjugation patterns and lays out the grammatical system of verbs, **The Big Fat Book of Egyptian Arabic Verbs** presents conjugation tables for **264** of the most common verbs in Egyptian Arabic, along with detailed notes on form and usage. Each verb's conjugation table is followed by several example sentences that demonstrate the verb's usage in natural, everyday language. Audio for all the example sentences is available for **free** on MP3 at www.lingualism.com/bfb.

PRONUNCIATION

THE SOUNDS OF EGYPTIAN COLLOQUIAL ARABIC

For those of you who are already familiar with MSA, the sounds of ECA will pose no great challenge. The quality of the vowels is largely the same, while only a few consonants are pronounced differently. The rules for stress and sound changes that are unique to ECA (that is, set it apart from MSA) and give it its distinct sound are laid out on the following pages. Even if you prefer Arabic script over phonemic transcription, a careful read through the pronunciation guide is essential in order to make any real use of this book.

CONSONANTS

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

examples

<i>b</i>	ب	[<i>b</i>] as in bed	<i>bāna</i> بَنَى (build)
<i>d</i>	د	[<i>d</i>] as in dog, but with the tongue touching the back of the upper teeth	<i>dāras</i> درس (study)
<i>f</i>	ف	[<i>f</i>] as in four	<i>fāz</i> فاز (win)
<i>g</i>	ج	[<i>g</i>] as in gas	<i>gíri</i> جرى (run)
<i>h</i>	ه	[<i>h</i>] as in house	<i>hāgam</i> هجم (attack)
<i>k</i>	ك	[<i>k</i>] as in kid	<i>kal</i> كل (eat)
<i>l</i>	ل	[<i>l</i>] a light l as in love; but in the word الله [<i>ɫ</i>] a dark, velarized l as in yell.	<i>líbis</i> لبس (get dressed)
<i>m</i>	م	[<i>m</i>] as in moon	<i>māt</i> مات (die)
<i>n</i>	ن	[<i>n</i>] as in nice	<i>nísi</i> نسي (forget)
<i>s</i>	س	[<i>s</i>] as in sun	<i>sāb</i> ساب (leave)
<i>š</i>	ش	[<i>š</i>] as in show	<i>šakk</i> شك (doubt)
<i>t</i>	ت	[<i>t</i>] as in tie, but with the tongue touching the back of the upper teeth	<i>taff</i> تف (spit)
<i>w</i>	و	[<i>w</i>] as in word	<i>wárra</i> ورى (show)
<i>y</i>	ي	[<i>j</i>] as in yes	<i>yíktib</i> يكتب (he writes)
<i>z</i>	ز	[<i>z</i>] as in zoo	<i>zār</i> زار (visit)
<i>ž</i>	ج	[<i>ʒ</i>] as in pleasure and beige; used in foreign borrowings and sometimes written چ to distinguish it from ج [<i>g</i>].	<i>žim</i> جيم (gym)

SOUND CHANGES

A lot of the changes which occur in conjugated ECA verbs are due to the rules of syllable structure and stress.

VOWEL SHORTENING

When a suffix beginning in a consonant is added immediately after a syllable containing a long vowel, or when a suffix causes the stressed syllable to move, the long vowel is shortened. This is because a long vowel can only exist in a stressed syllable and cannot be followed by two consonants.

$bagīb + ha = bagībha \rightarrow bagíbhā$ بجيئها	I bring it
$ma + nām + š = ma-nāmš \rightarrow ma-námš$ منامش	he didn't sleep
$sāfir + t = sāfirt \rightarrow safirt$ سافرت	you traveled
$nisīt + ni = nisītni \rightarrow nisítni$ نسيئتني	you forgot me

A long *ē* is shortened to *i*.

$ma + ḥabbēt + š = ma-ḥabbētš \rightarrow ma-ḥabbítš$ محبتش	I didn't love
---	---------------

VOWEL LENGTHENING

A final vowel is lengthened when certain suffixes are added to a word ending in a short vowel.

$ma + ráma + š = ma-rámaš \rightarrow ma-ramāš$ مرماش	he didn't throw
$3ámalu + u = 3ámaluu \rightarrow 3amalū$ عملوه	they did it
$nísi + t = nísit \rightarrow nisīt$ نسييت	you forgot

VOWEL ELISION

A short, unstressed *i* (or *u*) is elided (that is, omitted) from a word when its omission would not result in a series of three adjacent consonants, in other words, when the vowel is both preceded and followed by a single consonant only. This does not happen in a final syllable, and it only happens in the first syllable if the preceding word ends in a vowel.

Vowel omission occurs when *-it* (the third person feminine singular (*híyya*) suffix of the perfect tense) or *-u* (the third person plural (*húmma*) suffix of the perfect tense) is added to a sound measure I verb containing *i*:

$šírib + it = šíribit \rightarrow šírbit$ شربت	she drank
--	-----------

THE TABLES

For more information on measures and the classification of verbs, ➡ p. 87.

	<i>sound</i>	<i>hollow</i>	<i>defective</i>	<i>geminate</i>
<i>Measure I</i>	1s1 (p. 2) 1s2 (p. 3) 1s3 (p. 4) 1s4 (p. 5) 1s5 (p. 6) 1s6 (p. 7)	1h1 (p. 8) 1h2 (p. 9) 1h3 (p. 10) 1h4 (p. 11)	1d1 (p. 12) 1d2 (p. 13) 1d3 (p. 14) 1d4 (p. 15) 1d5 (p. 16)	1g1 (p. 17) 1g2 (p. 18) 1g3 (p. 19)
<i>Measure II</i>	2s1 (p. 20) 2s2 (p. 21)		2d (p. 22)	
<i>Measure III</i>	3s (p. 23)		3d (p. 24)	
<i>Measure IV</i>	4s (p. 25)	4h (p. 26)	4d (p. 27)	4g (p. 28)
<i>Measure V</i>	5s1 (p. 30) 5s2 (p. 31)		5d (p. 32)	
<i>Measure VI</i>	6s (p. 33)		6d (p. 34)	
<i>Measure VII</i>	7s1 (p. 35) 7s2 (p. 36)	7h1 (p. 37) 7h2 (p. 38)	7d1 (p. 39) 7d2 (p. 40)	7g1 (p. 41) 7g2 (p. 42)
<i>Measure VIII</i>	8s1 (p. 43) 8s2 (p. 44) 8sp (p. 48)	8h (p. 45) 8hp (p. 48)	8d (p. 46) 8dp (p. 48)	8g (p. 47) 8gp (p. 48)
<i>Measure IX</i>	9s (p. 49)			
<i>Measure X</i>	10s1 (p. 50) 10s2 (p. 51) 10sp (p. 63)	10h (p. 52) 10hp (p. 63)	10d1 (p. 53) 10d2 (p. 54) 10dp (p. 63)	10g1 (p. 55) 10g2 (p. 56) 10gp (p. 63)
<i>Measure X+II</i>	10.2s1 (p. 57) 10.2s2 (p. 58)		10.2d (p. 59) 10.2i (p. 60)	
<i>Measure X+III</i>	10.3s (p. 61) 10.3i (p. 62)		Note: Not all measures have tables for hollow, defective, or geminate forms. For example, measure II verbs which contain ww or yy would be considered hollow by many grammarians; however, since ww and yy behave as normal consonants, they can follow the same conjugation as sound measure II verbs and are therefore grouped accordingly.	
<i>Measure XI</i>	11s1 (p. 64) 11s2 (p. 65) 11p1 (p. 66) 11p2 (p. 67) 11i (p. 68)			
<i>Irregular</i>	i1 (p. 69) i2 (p. 70) i3 (p. 71) i3p (p. 72) i4 (p. 73) i5 (p. 74) i6 (p. 75)			

positive			negative		
ána	qarábt	ضَرَبْتُ	ma-qarábtīš	مَضَرَبْتِش	perfect
íḥna	qarábna	ضَرَبْنَا	ma-qarábnāš	مَضَرَبْنِاش	
ínta	qarábt	ضَرَبْتَ	ma-qarábtīš	مَضَرَبْتِش	
ínti	qarábti	ضَرَبْتِي	ma-qarábtīš	مَضَرَبْتِش	
íntu	qarábtu	ضَرَبْتُوا	ma-qarábtūš	مَضَرَبْتُوش	
húwwa	qárab	ضَرَبَ	ma-qarábš	مَضَرَبْش	
híyya	qárabit	ضَرَبَتْ	ma-qarábītš	مَضَرَبْتِش	
húmma	qárabu	ضَرَبُوا	ma-qarábūš	مَضَرَبُوش	

ána	áqrab	أَضْرَبَ	ma-áqrábš	مَضَرَبْش	imperfect
íḥna	níqrab	يَضْرَبُ	ma-níqrábš	مَيَضَرَبْش	
ínta	tíqrab	تَضْرَبُ	ma-tíqrábš	مَيَضَرَبْش	
ínti	tiqrábi	تَضْرَبِي	ma-tiqrabīš	مَيَضَرَبْش	
íntu	tiqrábu	تَضْرَبُوا	ma-tiqrabūš	مَيَضَرَبُوش	
húwwa	yíqrab	يَضْرَبُ	ma-yíqrábš	مَيَضَرَبْش	
híyya	tíqrab	تَضْرَبُ	ma-tiqrábš	مَيَضَرَبْش	
húmma	yiqrábu	يَضْرَبُوا	ma-yiqrabūš	مَيَضَرَبُوش	

ána	báqrab	بَضْرَبَ	ma-baqrábš	مَبَضَرَبْش	bi-imperfect
íḥna	biníqrab	بَيَضْرَبُ	ma-bníqrábš	مَبَيَضَرَبْش	
ínta	bitíqrab	بِتَضْرَبُ	ma-btiqrábš	مَبِتَضَرَبْش	
ínti	bitiqrábi	بِتَضْرَبِي	ma-btiqrabīš	مَبِتَضَرَبْش	
íntu	bitiqrábu	بِتَضْرَبُوا	ma-btiqrabūš	مَبِتَضَرَبُوش	
húwwa	biyíqrab	بَيَضْرَبُ	ma-biyíqrábš	مَبَيَضَرَبْش	
híyya	bitíqrab	بِتَضْرَبُ	ma-btiqrábš	مَبِتَضَرَبْش	
húmma	biyiqrábu	بَيَضْرَبُوا	ma-biyiqrabūš	مَبَيَضَرَبُوش	

ána	háqrab	هَضْرَبَ	miš háqrab	مِش هَضَرَبَ	future
íḥna	haníqrab	هَنَضْرَبُ	miš haníqrab	مِش هَنَضَرَبُ	
ínta	hatíqrab	هَتَضْرَبُ	miš hatíqrab	مِش هَتَضَرَبُ	
ínti	hatiqrábi	هَتَضْرَبِي	miš hatiqrábi	مِش هَتَضَرَبِي	
íntu	hatiqrábu	هَتَضْرَبُوا	miš hatiqrábu	مِش هَتَضَرَبُوا	
húwwa	hayíqrab	هَيَضْرَبُ	miš hayíqrab	مِش هَيَضَرَبُ	
híyya	hatíqrab	هَتَضْرَبُ	miš hatíqrab	مِش هَتَضَرَبُ	
húmma	hayiqrábu	هَيَضْرَبُوا	miš hayiqrábu	مِش هَيَضَرَبُوا	

ínta	íqrab	إِضْرَبَ	ma-tiqrábš	مَتَضَرَبْش	imperative
ínti	iqrábi	إِضْرَبِي	ma-tiqrabīš	مَتَضَرَبْش	
íntu	iqrábu	إِضْرَبُوا	ma-tiqrabūš	مَتَضَرَبُوش	

active			passive		
masculine	qārib	ضَارِب	maqrūb	مَضْرُوب	particles
feminine	qārba	ضَارِبَةٌ	maqrūba	مَضْرُوبَةٌ	
plural	qarbīn	ضَارِبِينَ	maqrubīn	مَضْرُوبِينَ	

sound measure I	1s1
qárab, yíqrab to hit	ضَرَبَ

positive			negative		
<i>ána</i>	<i>katábt</i>	كَتَبْتُ	<i>ma-katábtīš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	perfect
<i>íḥna</i>	<i>katábnā</i>	كَتَبْنَا	<i>ma-katābnāš</i>	مَكْتَبْنَشْ	
<i>ínta</i>	<i>katábt</i>	كَتَبْتَ	<i>ma-katábtīš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	
<i>ínti</i>	<i>katábtī</i>	كَتَبْتِي	<i>ma-katābtīš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	
<i>íntu</i>	<i>katábtu</i>	كَتَبْتُوا	<i>ma-katābtūš</i>	مَكْتَبْتُوشْ	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>kátab</i>	كَتَبَ	<i>ma-katábš</i>	مَكْتَبْشْ	
<i>híyya</i>	<i>kátabit</i>	كَتَبَتْ	<i>ma-katābītš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>kátabu</i>	كَتَبُوا	<i>ma-katābūš</i>	مَكْتَبُوشْ	

<i>ána</i>	<i>áktib</i>	اَكْتُبْ	<i>ma-ktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْشْ	imperfect
<i>íḥna</i>	<i>níktib</i>	نَكْتُبْ	<i>ma-níktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْنَشْ	
<i>ínta</i>	<i>tíktib</i>	تَكْتُبْ	<i>ma-tíktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	
<i>ínti</i>	<i>tíktībi</i>	تَكْتُبِي	<i>ma-tíktībīš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	
<i>íntu</i>	<i>tíktību</i>	تَكْتُبُوا	<i>ma-tíktībūš</i>	مَكْتَبْتُوشْ	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>yíktib</i>	يَكْتُبْ	<i>ma-yíktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْشْ	
<i>híyya</i>	<i>tíktib</i>	تَكْتُبْ	<i>ma-tíktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>yíktību</i>	يَكْتُبُوا	<i>ma-yíktībūš</i>	مَكْتَبْتُوشْ	

<i>ána</i>	<i>báktib</i>	بَكْتُبْ	<i>ma-baktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْشْ	bi-imperfect
<i>íḥna</i>	<i>biníktib</i>	بِنَكْتُبْ	<i>ma-bníktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْنَشْ	
<i>ínta</i>	<i>bitíktib</i>	بِتَكْتُبْ	<i>ma-btíktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	
<i>ínti</i>	<i>bitíktībi</i>	بِتَكْتُبِي	<i>ma-btíktībīš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	
<i>íntu</i>	<i>bitíktību</i>	بِتَكْتُبُوا	<i>ma-btíktībūš</i>	مَكْتَبْتُوشْ	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>biyíktib</i>	يَبْكُتُبْ	<i>ma-byíktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْشْ	
<i>híyya</i>	<i>bitíktib</i>	بِتَكْتُبْ	<i>ma-btíktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>biyíktību</i>	يَبْكُتُبُوا	<i>ma-byíktībūš</i>	مَكْتَبْتُوشْ	

<i>ána</i>	<i>háktib</i>	هَكْتُبْ	<i>miš háktib</i>	مِشْ هَكْتَبْ	future
<i>íḥna</i>	<i>haníktib</i>	هَنَكْتُبْ	<i>miš haníktib</i>	مِشْ هَنَكْتَبْ	
<i>ínta</i>	<i>hatíktib</i>	هَتَكْتُبْ	<i>miš hatíktib</i>	مِشْ هَتَكْتَبْ	
<i>ínti</i>	<i>hatíktībi</i>	هَتَكْتُبِي	<i>miš hatíktībī</i>	مِشْ هَتَكْتَبِي	
<i>íntu</i>	<i>hatíktību</i>	هَتَكْتُبُوا	<i>miš hatíktību</i>	مِشْ هَتَكْتَبُوا	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>hayíktib</i>	هَيَكْتُبْ	<i>miš hayíktib</i>	مِشْ هَيَكْتَبْ	
<i>híyya</i>	<i>hatíktib</i>	هَتَكْتُبْ	<i>miš hatíktib</i>	مِشْ هَتَكْتَبْ	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>hayíktību</i>	هَيَكْتُبُوا	<i>miš hayíktību</i>	مِشْ هَيَكْتَبُوا	

<i>ínta</i>	<i>íktib</i>	اِكْتُبْ	<i>ma-tíktíbš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	imperative
<i>ínti</i>	<i>íktībi</i>	اِكْتُبِي	<i>ma-tíktībīš</i>	مَكْتَبْتِشْ	
<i>íntu</i>	<i>íktību</i>	اِكْتُبُوا	<i>ma-tíktībūš</i>	مَكْتَبْتُوشْ	

active			passive		
masculine	<i>kātib</i>	كَاتِبْ	<i>maktūb</i>	مَكْتُوبْ	particles
feminine	<i>kātba</i>	كَاتِبَةٌ	<i>maktūba</i>	مَكْتُوبَةٌ	
plural	<i>katbīn</i>	كَاتِبِينَ	<i>maktubīn</i>	مَكْتُوبِينَ	

sound measure I	1s2
<i>kátab, yíktib</i> to write	كُتِبَ

positive			negative		
ána	mišīt	مِشِيت	ma-mšītš	مَمَشِيتْش	perfect
íḥna	mišīna	مِشِينَا	ma-mšináš	مَمَشِينَاش	
ínta	mišīt	مِشِيت	ma-mšītš	مَمَشِيتْش	
ínti	mišīti	مِشِيتِي	ma-mšitīš	مَمَشِيتِيْش	
íntu	mišītu	مِشِيتُوا	ma-mšitūš	مَمَشِيتُوش	
húwwa	míši	مِشِي	ma-mšīš	مَمَشِيش	
híyya	míšyit	مِشِيْت	ma-mišyītš	مَمَشِيْتْش	
húmma	míšyu	مِشِيُوا	ma-mišyūš	مَمَشِيُوش	

ána	ámši	أَمَشِي	ma-mšīš	مَمَشِيش	imperfect
íḥna	nímši	نَمَشِي	ma-nimšīš	مَمَشِينِيش	
ínta	tímši	تَمَشِي	ma-timšīš	مَمَشِينِيش	
ínti	tímši	تَمَشِي	ma-timšīš	مَمَشِينِيش	
íntu	tímšu	تَمَشُوا	ma-timšūš	مَمَشِينُوش	
húwwa	yímši	يَمَشِي	ma-yimšīš	مَمَشِينِيش	
híyya	tímši	تَمَشِي	ma-timšīš	مَمَشِينِيش	
húmma	yímšu	يَمَشُوا	ma-yimšūš	مَمَشِينُوش	

ána	bámši	بَمَشِي	ma-bamšīš	مَمَبَشِيش	bi-imperfect
íḥna	binímši	بِنَمَشِي	ma-bnimšīš	مَمَبَشِينِيش	
ínta	bitímši	بِتَمَشِي	ma-btimšīš	مَمَبَشِينِيش	
ínti	bitímši	بِتَمَشِي	ma-btimšīš	مَمَبَشِينِيش	
íntu	bitímšu	بِتَمَشُوا	ma-btimšūš	مَمَبَشِينُوش	
húwwa	biyímši	بِيَمَشِي	ma-byimšīš	مَمَبَشِينِيش	
híyya	bitímši	بِتَمَشِي	ma-btimšīš	مَمَبَشِينِيش	
húmma	biyímšu	بِيَمَشُوا	ma-byimšūš	مَمَبَشِينُوش	

ána	hámši	هَمَشِي	miš hámši	مِش هَمَشِي	future
íḥna	hanímši	هَنَمَشِي	miš hanímši	مِش هَنَمَشِي	
ínta	hatímši	هَتَمَشِي	miš hatímši	مِش هَتَمَشِي	
ínti	hatímši	هَتَمَشِي	miš hatímši	مِش هَتَمَشِي	
íntu	hatímšu	هَتَمَشُوا	miš hatímšu	مِش هَتَمَشُوا	
húwwa	hayímši	هَيَمَشِي	miš hayímši	مِش هَيَمَشِي	
híyya	hatímši	هَتَمَشِي	miš hatímši	مِش هَتَمَشِي	
húmma	hayímšu	هَيَمَشُوا	miš hayímšu	مِش هَيَمَشُوا	

ínta	ímši	إَمَشِي	ma-timšīš	مَمَتَمَشِيش	imperative
ínti	ímši	إَمَشِي	ma-timšīš	مَمَتَمَشِيش	
íntu	ímšu	إَمَشُوا	ma-timšūš	مَمَتَمَشِينُوش	

active			passive		
masculine	māši	مَاشِي	-	-	particles
feminine	māšya	مَاشِيَّة	-	-	
plural	mašyīn	مَاشِيِينَ	-	-	

defective measure I	1d5
míši, yímši to walk	مِشِي

positive			negative		
<i>ána</i>	<i>ixtárt</i>	إِخْتَرْتُ	<i>ma-xtártiš</i>	مَخْتَرْتِش	perfect
<i>ifna</i>	<i>ixtárna</i>	إِخْتَرْنَا	<i>ma-xtarnāš</i>	مَخْتَرْنَاش	
<i>inta</i>	<i>ixtárt</i>	إِخْتَرْتَ	<i>ma-xtártiš</i>	مَخْتَرْتِش	
<i>inti</i>	<i>ixtárti</i>	إِخْتَرْتِي	<i>ma-xtartīš</i>	مَخْتَرْتِيش	
<i>intu</i>	<i>ixtártu</i>	إِخْتَرْتُوا	<i>ma-xtartūš</i>	مَخْتَرْتُوش	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>ixtār</i>	إِخْتَارَ	<i>ma-xtárš</i>	مَخْتَارْش	
<i>hiyya</i>	<i>ixtārit</i>	إِخْتَارَتْ	<i>ma-xtarītš</i>	مَخْتَارْتِشْ	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>ixtāru</i>	إِخْتَارُوا	<i>ma-xtarūš</i>	مَخْتَارُوش	

<i>ána</i>	<i>axtār</i>	أَخْتَارَ	<i>ma-xtárš</i>	مَخْتَارْش	imperfect
<i>ifna</i>	<i>nixtār</i>	نَخْتَارَ	<i>ma-nixtárš</i>	مَنْخَتَارْش	
<i>inta</i>	<i>tixtār</i>	تَخْتَارَ	<i>ma-tixtárš</i>	مَتَخْتَارْش	
<i>inti</i>	<i>tixtāri</i>	تَخْتَارِي	<i>ma-tixtarīš</i>	مَتَخْتَارِيش	
<i>intu</i>	<i>tixtāru</i>	تَخْتَارُوا	<i>ma-tixtarūš</i>	مَتَخْتَارُوش	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>yixtār</i>	يَخْتَارَ	<i>ma-yixtárš</i>	مَيَخْتَارْش	
<i>hiyya</i>	<i>tixtār</i>	تَخْتَارُ	<i>ma-tixtárš</i>	مَتَخْتَارْشْ	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>yixtāru</i>	يَخْتَارُوا	<i>ma-yixtarūš</i>	مَيَخْتَارُوش	

<i>ána</i>	<i>baxtār</i>	بَخْتَارَ	<i>ma-baxtárš</i>	مَبَخْتَارْش	bi-imperfect
<i>ifna</i>	<i>binixtār</i>	بِنَخْتَارَ	<i>ma-bnixtárš</i>	مَبْنِخْتَارْش	
<i>inta</i>	<i>bitixtār</i>	بِتَخْتَارَ	<i>ma-btixtárš</i>	مَبْتِخْتَارْش	
<i>inti</i>	<i>bitixtāri</i>	بِتَخْتَارِي	<i>ma-btixtarīš</i>	مَبْتِخْتَارِيش	
<i>intu</i>	<i>bitixtāru</i>	بِتَخْتَارُوا	<i>ma-btixtarūš</i>	مَبْتِخْتَارُوش	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>biyixtār</i>	يَبِخْتَارَ	<i>ma-byixtárš</i>	مَبِيَخْتَارْش	
<i>hiyya</i>	<i>bitixtār</i>	بِتَخْتَارُ	<i>ma-btixtárš</i>	مَبْتِخْتَارْشْ	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>biyixtāru</i>	يَبِخْتَارُوا	<i>ma-byixtarūš</i>	مَبِيَخْتَارُوش	

<i>ána</i>	<i>haxtār</i>	هَخْتَارَ	<i>miš haxtār</i>	مِش هَخْتَارَ	future
<i>ifna</i>	<i>hanixtār</i>	هَنَخْتَارَ	<i>miš hanixtār</i>	مِش هَنَخْتَارَ	
<i>inta</i>	<i>hatixtār</i>	هَتَخْتَارَ	<i>miš hatixtār</i>	مِش هَتَخْتَارَ	
<i>inti</i>	<i>hatixtāri</i>	هَتَخْتَارِي	<i>miš hatixtāri</i>	مِش هَتَخْتَارِي	
<i>intu</i>	<i>hatixtāru</i>	هَتَخْتَارُوا	<i>miš hatixtāru</i>	مِش هَتَخْتَارُوا	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>hayixtār</i>	هَيَخْتَارَ	<i>miš hayixtār</i>	مِش هَيَخْتَارَ	
<i>hiyya</i>	<i>hatixtār</i>	هَتَخْتَارُ	<i>miš hatixtār</i>	مِش هَتَخْتَارُ	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>hayixtāru</i>	هَيَخْتَارُوا	<i>miš hayixtāru</i>	مِش هَيَخْتَارُوا	

<i>inta</i>	<i>ixtār</i>	إِخْتَارَ	<i>ma-tixtárš</i>	مَتَخْتَارْش	imperative
<i>inti</i>	<i>ixtāri</i>	إِخْتَارِي	<i>ma-tixtarīš</i>	مَتَخْتَارِيش	
<i>intu</i>	<i>ixtāru</i>	إِخْتَارُوا	<i>ma-tixtarūš</i>	مَتَخْتَارُوش	

active			passive		
masculine	<i>mixtār</i>	مِخْتَارَ	<i>mixtār</i>	مِخْتَارَ	particles
feminine	<i>mixtāra</i>	مِخْتَارَةَ	<i>mixtāra</i>	مِخْتَارَةَ	
plural	<i>mixtarīn</i>	مِخْتَارِينَ	<i>mixtarīn</i>	مِخْتَارِينَ	

hollow measure VIII	8h
<i>ixtār, yixtār</i> to choose	إِخْتَارَ

positive			negative		
ána	iṭmaʔannēt	إِطْمَأْنَيْتَ	ma-ṭmaʔannitš	مَطْمَأْنَيْشْ	perfect
íḥna	iṭmaʔannēna	إِطْمَأْنَيْنَا	ma-ṭmaʔannināš	مَطْمَأْنَيْنَاشْ	
ínta	iṭmaʔannēt	إِطْمَأْنَيْتَ	ma-ṭmaʔannitš	مَطْمَأْنَيْشْ	
ínti	iṭmaʔannēti	إِطْمَأْنَيْتِي	ma-ṭmaʔannitiš	مَطْمَأْنَيْشِي	
íntu	iṭmaʔannētu	إِطْمَأْنَيْتُوا	ma-ṭmaʔannitūš	مَطْمَأْنَيْتُوشْ	
húwwa	iṭmaʔánn	إِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-ṭmaʔánniš	مَطْمَأَنَّشْ	
híyya	iṭmaʔánnit	إِطْمَأْنَتَ	ma-ṭmaʔánnitš	مَطْمَأْنَتَشْ	
húmma	iṭmaʔánnu	إِطْمَأْنُوا	ma-ṭmaʔánnūš	مَطْمَأْنُوشْ	

ána	aṭmaʔánn	أَطْمَأَنَّ	ma-ṭmaʔánniš	مَطْمَأَنَّشْ	imperfect
íḥna	niṭmaʔánn	نِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-niṭmaʔánniš	مَنْطْمَأَنَّشْ	
ínta	tiṭmaʔánn	تِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-tiṭmaʔánniš	مَتْمَأَنَّشْ	
ínti	tiṭmaʔánni	تِطْمَأْنِي	ma-tiṭmaʔánniš	مَتْمَأْنَيْشْ	
íntu	tiṭmaʔánnu	تِطْمَأْنُوا	ma-tiṭmaʔánnūš	مَتْمَأْنُوشْ	
húwwa	yiṭmaʔánn	يِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-yiṭmaʔánniš	مِطْمَأَنَّشْ	
híyya	tiṭmaʔánn	تِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-tiṭmaʔánniš	مَتْمَأَنَّشْ	
húmma	yiṭmaʔánnu	يِطْمَأْنُوا	ma-yiṭmaʔánnūš	مِطْمَأْنُوشْ	

ána	baṭmaʔánn	بِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-baṭmaʔánniš	مَبِطْمَأَنَّشْ	bi-imperfect
íḥna	biniṭmaʔánn	بِنِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-biniṭmaʔánniš	مَبْنِطْمَأَنَّشْ	
ínta	bitiṭmaʔánn	بِتِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-bitiṭmaʔánniš	مَبِتِطْمَأَنَّشْ	
ínti	bitiṭmaʔánni	بِتِطْمَأْنِي	ma-bitiṭmaʔánniš	مَبِتِطْمَأْنَيْشْ	
íntu	bitiṭmaʔánnu	بِتِطْمَأْنُوا	ma-bitiṭmaʔánnūš	مَبِتِطْمَأْنُوشْ	
húwwa	biyiṭmaʔánn	بِيِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-biyiṭmaʔánniš	مَبِيِطْمَأَنَّشْ	
híyya	bitiṭmaʔánn	بِتِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-bitiṭmaʔánniš	مَبِتِطْمَأَنَّشْ	
húmma	biyiṭmaʔánnu	بِيِطْمَأْنُوا	ma-biyiṭmaʔánnūš	مَبِيِطْمَأْنُوشْ	

ána	haṭmaʔánn	هَطْمَأَنَّ	miš haṭmaʔánn	مِشْ هَطْمَأَنَّ	future
íḥna	haniṭmaʔánn	هَنْطْمَأَنَّ	miš haniṭmaʔánn	مِشْ هَنْطْمَأَنَّ	
ínta	hatiṭmaʔánn	هَتِطْمَأَنَّ	miš hatiṭmaʔánn	مِشْ هَتِطْمَأَنَّ	
ínti	hatiṭmaʔánni	هَتِطْمَأْنِي	miš hatiṭmaʔánni	مِشْ هَتِطْمَأْنِي	
íntu	hatiṭmaʔánnu	هَتِطْمَأْنُوا	miš hatiṭmaʔánnu	مِشْ هَتِطْمَأْنُوا	
húwwa	hayiṭmaʔánn	هِيِطْمَأَنَّ	miš hayiṭmaʔánn	مِشْ هِيِطْمَأَنَّ	
híyya	hatiṭmaʔánn	هَتِطْمَأَنَّ	miš hatiṭmaʔánn	مِشْ هَتِطْمَأَنَّ	
húmma	hayiṭmaʔánnu	هِيِطْمَأْنُوا	miš hayiṭmaʔánnu	مِشْ هِيِطْمَأْنُوا	

ínta	iṭmaʔánn	إِطْمَأَنَّ	ma-tiṭmaʔánniš	مَتْمَأَنَّشْ	imperative
ínti	iṭmaʔánni	إِطْمَأْنِي	ma-tiṭmaʔánniš	مَتْمَأْنَيْشْ	
íntu	iṭmaʔánnu	إِطْمَأْنُوا	ma-tiṭmaʔánnūš	مَتْمَأْنُوشْ	

active			passive		particles
masculine	muṭmaʔínn	مُطْمِئَنَّ	-	-	
feminine	muṭmaʔínna	مُطْمِئِنَّه	-	-	
plural	muṭmaʔinnīn	مُطْمِئْنِين	-	-	

irregular measure XI	11i
iṭmaʔánn, yiṭmaʔánn to feel reassured	إِطْمَأَنَّ

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

INDEPENDENT PRONOUNS

ECA has eight persons, which means there are eight pronouns and eight conjugations for each tense. The following table shows the eight *independent pronouns*, that is, pronouns which are independent words, and not prefixes or suffixes.

<i>ána</i>	أَنَا	I	<i>first-person masculine/feminine singular</i>
<i>ihna</i>	إِحنَا	we	<i>first-person masculine/feminine dual/plural</i>
<i>inta</i>	إِنْتَ	you	<i>second-person masculine singular</i>
<i>inti</i>	إِنْتِي	you	<i>second-person feminine singular</i>
<i>intu</i>	إِنْتُو	you (guys)	<i>second-person masculine/feminine dual/plural</i>
<i>húwwa</i>	هُوَ	he; it	<i>third-person masculine singular</i>
<i>híyya</i>	هِيَ	she; it	<i>third-person feminine singular</i>
<i>húmma</i>	هُمَّا	they	<i>third-person masculine/feminine dual/plural</i>

Keep in mind that a conjugated ECA verb contains a prefix and/or suffix which specifies the subject of the verb, so subject pronouns are not usually necessary. Independent pronouns are only used before conjugated verbs to emphasize the subject. Compare the following:

بِحَبِّكَ. *bahíbbak.* I love you.
 أَنَا بِحَبِّكَ. *ána bahíbbak.* I love you.

Although the independent pronouns usually refer to the subject of a verb, they can also be used to emphasize the object of a verb when following an object pronoun suffix.

بِحَبِّكَ إِنْتَ. *bahíbbak ínta.* I love you.

Independent pronouns are more commonly used in the absence of a conjugated verb: in isolation, before active participles, and in sentences without a verb. (The verb *to be* is not normally expressed in the present tense in Arabic.)

مِين؟ أَنَا؟ *mīn? ána?* Who? Me?
 هُوَ عَائِزٌ يَرْوِح. *húwwa 3āyiz yiráwwaḥ.* He wants to go home.
 هِيَ جَمِيلَةٌ أَوِي. *híyya gamīla awi.* She is very beautiful.

NEGATIVE INDEPENDENT PRONOUNS

The independent pronouns have negative forms, which can be used for emphasis in negative to be sentences, especially when expressing frustration:

<i>ána</i>	<i>ma-nīš</i>	مَنِيْش
<i>íḥna</i>	<i>ma-ḥnāš</i>	مَحْنَاش
<i>ínta</i>	<i>ma-ntāš</i>	مَنْتَاش
<i>ínti</i>	<i>ma-ntīš</i>	مَنْتِيْش
<i>íntu</i>	<i>ma-ntūš</i>	مَنْتُوش
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>ma-huwwāš / ma-hūš</i>	مَهْوَّاش / مَهْوَاش
<i>híyya</i>	<i>ma-hiyyāš / ma-hīš</i>	مَهْيَّاش / مَهْيَاش
<i>húmma</i>	<i>ma-hummāš</i>	مَهْمَّاش

أَنَا مِش عَايِزْ أَرْوِّح. *ána miš 3āyiz aráwwaḥ.* I don't want to go home.
 مَنِيْش عَايِزْ أَرْوِّح. *ma-nīš 3āyiz aráwwaḥ.* I don't want to go home.

SUFFIXED PRONOUNS

SUBJECT PRONOUN SUFFIXES

There are two sets of subject pronoun suffixes. One is used in conjugations of the perfect tense (➔ [The Perfect Tense p. 89](#)), while the other is used for other tenses: bare imperfect, bi-imperfect, and future (➔ [The Imperfect Tense p. 91](#)).

DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUN SUFFIXES

Object pronoun suffixes trigger sound changes in a verb in the same way that subject pronoun suffixes do, as can be seen throughout the verb tables in this book. (➔ [Sound Changes p. xi](#)) In the table on the following page, you can see the sound changes which occur depending on whether the verb to which the direct object pronoun is suffixed ends in a single consonant (C+), two consonants (CC+), or a vowel (V+). Notice that the spelling of each suffix is identical regardless of the verb's ending. The phonemic transcription, however, shows what sound changes actually occur. Examples can be seen below the table.

positive			negative	
person	direct object pronoun suffix			
ána	‘ni	ني	ma-...-nīš	مَ... نِيش
ifna	‘na	نا	ma-...-nāš	مَ... نَاش
inta	-ak	كَ	ma-...-ákš	مَ... كُش
inti	-ik	كِ	ma-...-kīš	مَ... كِيش
intu	‘ku(m)	كو	ma-...-kūš	مَ... كُوش
húwwa	-u	هَ	ma-...-ūš	مَ... هُوش
híyya	‘ha	ها	ma-...-hāš	مَ... هَاش
húmma	‘hum	هُمْ	ma-...-húmš	مَ... هُمْش

C+

positive			negative	
person	direct object pronoun suffix			
ána	-íni	يَني	ma-...-inīš	مَ... نِيش
ifna	-ína	يَنا	ma-...-ināš	مَ... نَاش
inta	‘ak	كَ	ma-...-ákš	مَ... كُش
inti	‘ik	كِ	ma-...-ikīš	مَ... كِيش
intu	-úku	مُكو	ma-...-ukūš	مَ... كُوش
húwwa	‘u	هَ	ma-...-ūš	مَ... هُوش
híyya	-áha	هَها	ma-...-ahāš	مَ... هَاش
húmma	-úhum	هُمْ	ma-...-uhúmš	مَ... هُمْش

CC+

positive			negative	
person	direct object pronoun suffix			
ána	̄ni	ني	ma-...-nīš	مَ... نِيش
ifna	̄na	نا	ma-...-nāš	مَ... نَاش
inta	̄k	كَ	ma-...-‘kš	مَ... كُش
inti	̄ki	كِ	ma-...-kīš	مَ... كِيش
intu	̄ku	كو	ma-...-kūš	مَ... كُوش
húwwa	̄*	هَ	ma-...-hūš	مَ... هُوش
híyya	̄ha	ها	ma-...-hāš	مَ... هَاش
húmma	̄hum	هُمْ	ma-...-húmš	مَ... هُمْش

V+

A stress mark above a hyphen (‘) indicates that the syllable immediately before the suffix is short and stressed. A macron above a hyphen (̄) indicates that the syllable immediately before the suffix is long and stressed. (* The final vowel is simply lengthened and stressed.)

كَتَبَ ← كَتَبَ kátab (C+) → kátabu he wrote → he wrote it
 كَتَبُوا ← كَتَبُوا kátabu (V+) → katabū they wrote → they wrote it
 اِسْتَخْدِمَ ← اِسْتَخْدِمَ istáxdim (C+) → istaxdímu he used → he used it

SPECIAL CASES: TO HAVE AND TO BE

TO HAVE

positive			negative		
<i>ána</i>	<i>3ándi</i>	عَنْدِي	<i>ma-3andīš</i>	مَعْنَدِيْش	<i>3and-</i>
<i>íḥna</i>	<i>3andína</i>	عَنْدِنَا	<i>ma-3andināš</i>	مَعْنَدِنَاش	
<i>ínta</i>	<i>3ándak</i>	عَنْدَكَ	<i>ma-3andákš</i>	مَعْنَدَكَش	
<i>ínti</i>	<i>3ándik</i>	عَنْدِكَ	<i>ma-3andikīš</i>	مَعْنَدِكِيْش	
<i>íntu</i>	<i>3andúku</i>	عَنْدُكَو	<i>ma-3andukūš</i>	مَعْنَدُكَوْش	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>3ándu</i>	عَنْدُهُ	<i>ma-3andūš</i>	مَعْنَدُوش	
<i>híyya</i>	<i>3andáha</i>	عَنْدَهَا	<i>ma-3andahāš</i>	مَعْنَدَهَاْش	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>3andúhum</i>	عَنْدُهُمْ	<i>ma-3anduhúmš</i>	مَعْنَدُهُمْش	
<i>ána</i>	<i>líyya</i>	لِيَا	<i>ma-līš</i>	مَلِيْش	<i>li-</i>
<i>íḥna</i>	<i>līna / lína</i>	لِينَا	<i>ma-lnāš</i>	مَلْنَاْش	
<i>ínta</i>	<i>līk / lak</i>	لِيكَ / لَكَ	<i>ma-lákš</i>	مَلَكْش	
<i>ínti</i>	<i>līki / líki</i>	لِيَكِي	<i>ma-lkīš</i>	مَلَكِيْش	
<i>íntu</i>	<i>līku / líku</i>	لِيَكُو	<i>ma-lkūš</i>	مَلَكُوْش	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>lī / lu</i>	لِيْه / لَهُ	<i>ma-lūš</i>	مَلُوش	
<i>híyya</i>	<i>līha / láha</i>	لِيْهَا / لَهَا	<i>ma-lhāš</i>	مَلْهَاْش	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>līhum / líhum</i>	لِيْهُمْ	<i>ma-lhúmš</i>	مَلْهُمْش	
<i>ána</i>	<i>ma3āya</i>	مَعَايَا	<i>ma-m3īš*</i>	مَمْعِيْش	<i>ma3a-</i>
<i>íḥna</i>	<i>ma3āna</i>	مَعَانَا	<i>ma-m3anāš</i>	مَمْعِنَاْش	
<i>ínta</i>	<i>ma3āk</i>	مَعَاكَ	<i>ma-m3ákš</i>	مَمْعَكَش	
<i>ínti</i>	<i>ma3āki</i>	مَعَاكِي	<i>ma-m3akīš</i>	مَمْعَكِيْش	
<i>íntu</i>	<i>ma3āku</i>	مَعَاكُو	<i>ma-m3akūš</i>	مَمْعَكُوْش	
<i>húwwa</i>	<i>ma3ā</i>	مَعَاه	<i>ma-m3ahūš</i>	مَمْعَهْوش	
<i>híyya</i>	<i>ma3āha</i>	مَعَاهَا	<i>ma-m3ahāš</i>	مَمْعَهَاْش	
<i>húmma</i>	<i>ma3āhum</i>	مَعَاهُمْ	<i>ma-m3ahúmš</i>	مَمْعَهُمْش	

3ánd-, *li-*, and *ma3a-* are in fact not verbs, but prepositions. However, with the addition of a personal pronoun suffix, they perform the function of verbs. Although often interchangeable, *3ánd-*, *li-*, and *ma3a-* have different nuances and uses. (*The first syllable of these negative forms (*ma-m3*) is often pronounced *ma-3* (without the second *m*) in relaxed speech: *ma-m3īš* → *ma-3īš* (I don't have))

3ánd- is used 1) for possessions, and 2) in idiomatic constructions.

عَنْدِي بَيْتٌ كَبِير. *3ándi bēt kibīr.* I have a big house.

مَعْنَدِيْش عَرِيَّة. *ma-3andīš 3arabíyya.* I don't have a car.

عَنْدُهُ حُمَّى. *3ándu ḥúmma.* He has a fever.

الْوَلَدُ عَنْدُهُ كَامَ سَنَةٍ؟ *ilwálad 3ándu kam sána?* How old is the boy?

THE PERFECT TENSE

Form

<i>ána</i>	-t	ت
<i>íḥna</i>	-na	نا
<i>ínta</i>	-t	ت
<i>ínti</i>	-ti	تي
<i>íntu</i>	-tu	توا
<i>húwwa</i>	-	-
<i>híyya</i>	-it	ت
<i>húmma</i>	-u	وا

The *húwwa* form, as mentioned above, is the base form. It has no suffix. Other persons are conjugated by the addition of a suffix to this base form, as shown in the table on the left.

When adding a first- or second-person suffix to a geminate or defective verb, a vowel is inserted. (→ geminate and defective tables for examples)

When the stem ends in the same letter the suffix begins with (i.e. *n* or *t*), the ensuing double consonant is written with a shadda in the Arabic script.

سَكِنَّا *sikínna* we lived
سَكَيْتُ *sikítt* I shut up

Use

The perfect tense specifies that the action is finished. It is equivalent to the the simple past and present perfect tenses of English.

كَتَبْتُ الْجَوَابَ إِمْبَارِحَ. *katábt ilgawāb imbāriḥ.* I wrote the letter yesterday.
كُنَّا هِنَاكَ مَرَّتَيْنِ. *kúnna hināk marritēn.* We've been there twice.

Negation

In statements, the negative is formed by adding the prefix *ma-* and the suffix *-š* to conjugated form of the perfect verb. However, in questions, the verb is usually preceded by the word *miš* (*muš*) instead.

مَكْتَبْتِشِ الْجَوَابَ. *ma-katábtīš ilgawāb.* I didn't write the letter.
مِشْ كَتَبْتُ الْجَوَابَ؟ *miš katábt ilgawāb?* Didn't he write the letter?

INDEXES

tr = transitive verb (a verb which can take an object)

intr = intransitive verb (a verb which cannot take an object)

VERB INDEX BY TABLE

Alphabetical Ordering: ʔ a ā b d d f g y h h i ī k l m n q r s š t t u v w x y z z 3

1s1	(p. 2)	sound measure I	gerund
ʔabaḏ	قبض	get paid; 3ala arrest	ʔabḏ / ʔabaḏān قبض / قبضان
ʔala3	قلع	take off (clothes); get undressed	ʔal3 قلع
ʔaṭa3	قطع	cut; tear	ʔaṭ3 / ʔaṭa3ān قطع / قطعان
badaʔ	بدأ	begin	badʔ / bidāya بدء / بداية
baḥas	بحث	research	baḥs بحث
bala3	بلع	swallow	bal3 / bala3ān بلع / بلعان
ba3at	بعث	send	ba3atān بعثان
dabaḥ	دبح	slaughter	dabḥ دبح
dafa3	دفع	pay	daf3 دفع
ḏaṣaṭ	ضغط	press	ḏaṣṭ / ḏaṣaṭān ضغط / ضغطان
ḏaman	ضمن	guarantee	ḏamān ضمان
ḏarab	ضرب	hit, beat	ḏarb ضرب
fasax	فسخ	break off, cancel	fasx / fasaxān فسخ / فسخان
fataḥ	فتح	open; switch on	fataḥ / fataḥān فتح / فتاحان
gama3	جمع	gather, collect	gam3 / gama3ān جمع / جمعان
garaḥ	جرح	wound, injure	garaḥ جرح
ḥaḏar	حضر	attend	ḥuḏūr حضر
ḥafaḏ	حفظ	keep; protect; memorize	ḥifḏ حفظ
ḥalaʔ	حلق	shave, cut (hair)	ḥalʔ / ḥilāʔa حلق / حلاقة
ḥaraʔ	حرق	(tr) burn	ḥarʔ / ḥarīʔ / ḥaraʔān حرق / حريق / حرقان
ḥaṣal	حصل	happen, take place	ḥuṣūl حصول
kasar	كسر	(tr) break	kasr كسر
lazaʔ	لرز	(tr) stick	lazʔ لرز
madaḥ	مدح	praise	madaḥ / madaḥān مدح / مدحان
mana3	منع	A min B forbid	man3 / mana3ān منع / منعان
masaḥ	مسح	wipe	masaḥ / masaḥān مسح / مسحان
nabaḥ	نبح	make hoarse, strain (one's voice)	nabaḥ / nabīḥ / nabaḥān نبح / نبیح / نبهان

VERB INDEX BY TRANSCRIPTION

Alphabetical Ordering: ʔ a ā b d d f g ɣ h ħ i ī k l m n q r s š t t u v w x y z z 3

ʔ					
ʔabad	قبض 1s1	get paid; 3ala arrest	ʔammim	أمر 2s1	nationalize
ʔaddar	قدر 2s2	appreciate; evaluate, appraise	ʔangaz	أنجز 4s	perform, carry out, execute
ʔaddim	قدم 2s1	(tr) advance; introduce, present; fi apply (for)	ʔanha	أنهى 4d	(tr) end, finish, complete
ʔaḏa	قضى 1d2	spend (time)	ʔann	أن 1g3	moan
ʔaḏḏa	قضى 2d	spend (time); suffice	ʔanqaz	أنقز 4s	save, rescue
ʔafal	قفل 1s2	close; switch off	ʔaqna3	أقنع 4s	A bi- B convince A of B
ʔafaz	قفز 1s2	jump	ʔara	قرا 1d1	read
ʔaggar	أجر 2s2	rent	ʔaraş	قرص 1s3	bite, sting
ʔaggil	أجل 2s1	postpone, delay	ʔarrab	قرب 2s2	min approach
ʔaghaḏ	أجهض 4s	have an abortion; have a miscarriage	ʔasam	قسم 1s2	(tr) divide
ʔaḥrag	أحرج 4s	embarrass	ʔasār	أثار 4h	agitate, excite
ʔakal	أكل i3	eat (= كل kal)	ʔasbat	أثبت 4s	prove
ʔakkid	أكد 2s1	confirm, verify	ʔaslam	أسلم 4s	become Muslim
ʔakkil	أكل 2s1	feed (= وكل wakkil)	ʔassar	أثر 2s2	3ala affect, have an effect on
ʔakram	أكرم 4s	be generous / hospitable to	ʔaṣad	قصد 1s3	mean
ʔala	قلی 1d2	(tr) fry	ʔaṣarr	أصر 4g	bi- insist (on)
ʔalab	قلب 1d2	(tr) turn over, invert	ʔaṣṣ	قص 1g2	cut
ʔala3	قلع 1s1	take off (clothes); get undressed	ʔaṣṣar	قصر 2s2	shorten
ʔalya	ألغى 4d	cancel	ʔatal	قتل 1s2	kill, murder
ʔall	قلّ 1g3	(intr) decrease, diminish	ʔatāḥ	أتاح 4h	permit, allow
ʔallib	قلب 2s1	examine, check	ʔatlaʔ	أطلق 4s	release; fire (bullet, etc); name
ʔallif	ألف 2s1	compose	ʔaṭa3	قطع 1s1	cut; tear
ʔallil	قلل 2s1	(tr) reduce	ʔaṭṭa3	قطع 2s2	cut up
ʔalqa	ألقى 4d	recite; throw down	ʔawwim	قوم 2s1	(tr) stand up, make get up
ʔamar	أمر 1s3	order, command	ʔaxad	أخذ i3	take (= خد xad)
			ʔaxxar	أخر 2s2	delay
			ʔaz3ag	أزعج 4s	annoy, disturb

VERB INDEX BY ARABIC SCRIPT

Alphabetical Ordering (from right to left): ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل م ن ه و ي

ا							
8d	begin	<i>ibtada</i>	ابتدى	5s1	<i>bi-</i> A make an excuse, give A as an excuse	<i>itfaggig</i>	اتحجج
9s	(intr) turn white, whiten	<i>ibyaḏḏ</i>	ايض	8s1	(intr) unite	<i>ittafad</i>	اتحد
i3p	be taken	<i>ittāxid</i>	اتخذ	5s1	be determined; be restricted	<i>itfaddid</i>	اتحدد
i3p	be eaten	<i>ittākil</i>	اتاكل	5s2	(intr) move	<i>itfarrak</i>	اتحرك
5s1	<i>bi-</i> be influenced / affected by	<i>itʔassir</i>	اتأثر	7s1	(intr) burn, be burned	<i>itfaraʔ</i>	اتحرق
5s2	be late	<i>itʔaxxar</i>	اتأخر	5s1	improve, become better	<i>itfassin</i>	اتحسن
5s1	<i>min</i> be certain of	<i>itʔakkid</i>	اتأكد	7d1	be told	<i>itfaka</i>	اتحكى
6s	exchange with each other	<i>itbādil</i>	اتبادل	5s1	look for an opportunity	<i>itfayyin</i>	اتحين
7h1	be sold; be sold out	<i>itbā3</i>	اتباع	6s	fight (with each other)	<i>itxāniʔ</i>	اتخايق
11p1	become confused	<i>itbargil</i>	اتبرجل	5s2	graduate	<i>itxarrag</i>	اتخرج
7s1	be sent	<i>itba3at</i>	اتبعت	5s2	<i>fi</i> specialize (in), major (in)	<i>itxaṣṣaṣ</i>	اتخصص
5s1	be stupefied	<i>itballim</i>	اتبلم	7g1	be startled	<i>itxaḏḏ</i>	اتخض
5d	adopt	<i>itbanna</i>	اتبنى	7s1	<i>li-</i> get engaged (to)	<i>itxaṭab</i>	اتخطب
7h1	be brought	<i>itgāb</i>	اتجاب	5s1	be disappointed	<i>itxayyib</i>	اتخيّب
6s	ignore	<i>itgāhil</i>	اتجاهل	5s1	imagine	<i>itxayyil</i>	اتخيل
6s	be answered	<i>itgāwib</i>	اتجاوب	7s1	be distracted	<i>itxayal</i>	اتخيل
5s2	dare, have the courage	<i>itgarraʔ</i>	اتجرأ	6s	interfere	<i>itdāxil</i>	اتداخل
7s1	be wounded / injured	<i>itgaraf</i>	اتجرح	6d	be concealed / hidden	<i>itdāra</i>	اتدارى
5s1	<i>3ala</i> spy (on)	<i>itgassis</i>	اتجسس	6s	<i>min</i> become annoyed (with)	<i>itdāyiʔ</i>	اتدايق
5s2	(intr) assemble, come together	<i>itgamma3</i>	اتجمع	5s2	(intr) <i>3ala</i> train for	<i>itdarrab</i>	اتدرب
5s1	go crazy	<i>itgannin</i>	اتجنن	7g1	be knocked / hammered / pounded	<i>itdaʔʔ</i>	اتدق
5s1	<i>min</i> get married to	<i>itgawwiz</i>	اتجوز				
6s	battle each other	<i>itfārib</i>	اتحارب				
7g1	be loved	<i>itfabb</i>	اتحب				

abandon هجر *hagar* 1s3
able: be ~ to قدر *ʔidir* 1s4, عرف *ʔirif* 1s4
abortion: have an ~ أجهض *ʔaghaḍ* 4s
absent: be ~ غاب *yāb* 1h2
accept رضى *riḍi bi-* 1d4, قبل *ʔibil* 1s4
accompany وصل *waṣṣal* 2s2, ~
 musically صاحب *ṣāhib* 3s
accounts: settle ~ with حاسب *ḥāsib* 3s
accumulate حوش *ḥawwiṣ* 2s1
accustom عود *ʔawwid ʔala* 2s1, get ~ed
 to اتعود *itʔawwid ʔala* 5s1
acquainted: become ~ with اتعرف *itʔarraf bi-*
/ʔala 5s2
act مسل *massil* 2s1
add ضاف *dāf* 1h2, زود *zawwid* 2s1
address كلم *kallim* 2s1, خاطب *xātib* 3s
adjust ضبط / ضبط *ṣabat* 1s3; be ~ed انضبط *itṣabat* 7s1
adopt اتبنى *itbanna* 5d
advance (intr) اتقدم *itʔaddim* 5s1; (tr) قدم *ʔaddim* 2s1
advantage: take ~ of استغل *istayall* 10g1
advise A to B نصح *naṣaḥ A bi- B* 1s1
affect أثر *ʔassar ʔala* 2s2; be ~ed by تأثر *itʔassir*
bi- 5s1
afraid: be ~ خاف *xāf min* 1h4
age (intr) كبر *kibir* 1s4
agitate أثار *ʔasār* 4h
agree (to) قبل *ʔibil* 1s4, وافق *wāfiʔ ʔala* 3s, ~ with A
 on B اتفق *ittafaʔ maʔa A ʔala B* 8s1
aim (at) نشن *naššin ʔala* 2s1
air out هوى *hawwa* 2d
allow أتاح *ʔatāḥ* 4h, ~ A to B *samaḥ li- A bi- B*; be
 ~ed أتيح *ʔutiḥ* 4hp
amazed: be ~ (at) استعجب *istaʔgib* 10s1
amuse سلى *salla* 2d, ~ oneself اتسلى *itsalla* 5d
analyze حلل *ḥallil* 2s1
anger زعل *zaʔʔal* 2s2
angry: get ~ (with) اتغاض *ityāz* 7h1, ~ غضب *yidib* 1s4,
 اتفرغ *itnarviz ʔala* 11p1, زعل *ziʔil min* 1s4
announce أعلن *ʔaʔlan* 4s
annoy زعل *zaʔʔal* 2s2, دايق *dāyiʔ* 3s, أزج *ʔazʔag* 4s;
 be/get ~ed (with) زعل *ziʔil min* 1s4,

انزعج *inzaʔag* 7s2, اتدایق *itdāyiʔ min* 6s,
 اتغاض *ityāz* 7h1, اتفرغ *itnarviz ʔala* 11p1
answer رد *radd ʔala* 1g2, جواب *gāwib ʔala* 3s; be
 ~ed اتجواب *itgāwib* 6s
anxious: be ~ اتغوش *itwaywiṣ* 11p1; make
 ~ وغوش *waywiṣ* 11s1
apologize (for) اعتذر *iʔtazar ʔan* 8s1
appear بان *bān* 1h3, ظهر *ṣaḥar* 1s1; make
 ~ ظهر *ṣaḥhar* 2s2
applaud سقق *saʔʔaf* 2s2
apply (for) قدم *ʔaddim fi* 2s1, طلب *ṭalab* 1s3
appoint عين *ʔayyin* 2s1; be ~ed اتعين *itʔayyin* 5s1
appointment: make an ~ with واعد *wāʔid* 3s
appraise قدر *ʔaddar* 2s2
appreciate قدر *ʔaddar* 2s2
approach قرب *ʔarrab min* 2s2
appropriate: be ~ صح *ṣaḥḥ* 1g1
approve (of) رضى *riḍi bi-* 1d4
arrange رص *raṣṣ* 1g2, رتب *rattib* 2s1, نظم *naẓẓam* 2s2,
 وضبط *waḍḍab* 2s2; ~ to meet واعد *wāʔid* 3s, ~ to
 meet each other اتواعد *itwāʔid* 6s
arrest قبض *ʔabaḍ ʔala* 1s1, get ~ed اتمسك *itmasak* 7s1
arrive وصل *waṣal* 1s1, وصل *wiṣil* 1s4
ascend طلع *ṭiliʔ* 1s4
ask (about) سأل *saʔal ʔan* 1s1, استفهم *istaḥfihim*
ʔan 10s1; ~ A for advice on B شاور *šāwir A li-*
B 3s; ~ A to B وصى *waṣṣa A ʔala B* 2d; ~
 for طلب *ṭalab* 1s3; ~ for information
 about استعلم *istaʔlim ʔan* 10s1
assemble (intr) اجتمع *igtamaʔ* 8s1,
 اجتمع *itgammaʔ* 5s2; (tr) جمع *gammaʔ* 2s2
assist عاون *ʔāwin* 3s
attach شبك *ṣabak* 1s3
attack هجم *ḥagam ʔala* 1s2
attempt حاول *ḥāwil* 3s
attend حضر *ḥaḍar* 1s1
attract جذب *gazab* 1s2
available: become ~ اتوفر *itwaffar* 5s2
avoid فادى *fāda* 3d, اتفادى *itfāda* 6d
aware: become ~ of درى *diri* 1d4
baby: have a ~ خلف *xallif* 2s1