



حكي كل يوم

Haki Kill Yoom

Situational Levantine Arabic



2

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

Rita Housseiny
Alaa Abou El Nour
Matthew Aldrich

حكي كل يوم

Haki Kill Yoom

2

Situational Levantine Arabic

Rita Housseiny
Alaa Abou El Nour
Matthew Aldrich



lingualism

© 2019 by Matthew Aldrich

The author's moral rights have been asserted. All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher.

All product names and brands mentioned in this book are property of their respective owners. Use of these names and brands is for identification purposes only and does not imply endorsement.

Although the author and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information in this book was correct at press time, the author and publisher do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause.

ISBN: 978-1-949650-07-5

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

Edited by Nadine-Lama Choucaire and Matthew Aldrich

Illustrated by Heba Khater

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

Cover art: photo: © iStockphoto/ marcociannarel;
illustration: Heba Khater

website: www.lingualism.com

email: contact@lingualism.com

Table of Contents

<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>How to Use This Book</i>	<i>iv</i>
At the Supermarket.....	1
At the Butcher's	15
In a Clothing Shop	29
At the Market.....	45
At a Hotel	59
Renting an Apartment.....	73
Dealing with a Housekeeper	89
Laundry and Tailoring.....	103
At the Post Office	117
At the Bank.....	130
Visiting a Museum.....	144
At a Mosque.....	157
At a Church.....	173
Dealing with the Police	186
Dealing with Difficulties	199

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Matthew Aldrich

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



How to Use This Book

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

Introductory Paragraph

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

Mini-Dialogues

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

Symbols

Notice that the lines of dialogue are preceded by symbols.

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

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

Arabic Script

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

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

Phonemic Transcription

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

English Translation

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

Footnotes

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

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

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

Culture and Information Notes

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

The Extended Dialogue

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

Vocabulary

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

Expressions

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

Audio

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



At the Supermarket

بِالسُّوْبِرْمَارْكِتِ

A سوْبِرْمَارْكِتِ [supermarket] **supermarket** in Lebanon is a big deal. It has everything from vegetables to toiletries, and it is where Lebanese often do their monthly grocery shopping. Mega stores (equivalent to Walmart or Target) are called هَيْبِرْمَارْكِتِ [hypermarket]. Supermarkets are often very crowded on weekends and evenings, especially since going to the supermarket is, in some parts of Lebanon, a family affair. Normally, if you want to buy just a couple of things, you would avoid the supermarkets and go to a دِكَانِ *dikkēn* (which is a small, corner store that has the basics: some groceries, fruit and vegetables, snacks, sodas, small packs of toilet paper, etc.) or a مِني مَارْكِتِ [minimarket].

IN THE PRODUCE DEPARTMENT (1)

- هَوْدِي الْمَنجَا بِالْكِيلُو أَوْ بِالْقِطْعَةِ؟¹
- ◇ بِالْكِيلُو. الْكِيلُو سِتَّلَاف. بَسْ فِكي تَنْقِيْن عَ دَوَقِكْ.
- أُوْكِي. زَنْلِي هَوْدِي التُّنَيْنِ پْلِيْز.
- ◇ هَوْدِي تَلَات رِبَاع الْكِيلُو. مِّنْزِيْد² هَيْدِي الرُّغْبِيْرَةِ وَمَنْعَمِلُنْ كِيلُو؟
- أُوْكِي³، مَا فِي مَشْكَل.

- Are these mangoes sold by the kilo or by the piece?
- ◇ By the kilo. The kilo for 6,000 L.L. You can pick them out yourself.
- Okay. Weigh these two mangoes for me.
- ◇ They weigh three-quarters of a kilo. Shall we add this small one to them to make an even kilo?
- All right, no problem.

- *háwdi -lmánga bi-lkīlu aw bi-lʔít3a?*¹
- ◇ *bi-lkīlu. -lkīlu sittalēf. bass fiki tnaʔʔíyun 3a záwʔik.*
- *okē. zínli háwdi -ttnēn, [please].*
- ◇ *háwdi tlēt rbē3 ilklīlu. minzīd² háydi -zzyīri w mná3milun kīlu?*
- *okē³, ma fī máškal.*

¹ كيف عم تبيعوهن؟ *kīf 3am tbī3ūhun?* **How are they sold?** (lit. How do you sell them?)

² = مُنْضِيف *mindīf*

³ = طَيِّب *táyyib*

IN THE PRODUCE DEPARTMENT (2)

○ الْخِيَارَات طَازَةٌ؟

◇ أَكِيدُ مَدَامَ. هَلَّقَ وَصَلُوا مِنْ شُوَيَّ.

○ أُوَكِّي، عَطِينِي كَيْسَ پَلِيز، تَنْقِي الْي بَدِّي يَاهُنْ.

◇ تَفْضَلِي، الْمَحَلَّ كِلَوَّ عَ حُسَابِكْ.

○ مَرْسِي! زَنْلِي¹ هَوْدِي پَلِيز وَقَلِّي قَدِّي يَيْطَلْعُوا.

◇ زَيْدِي بَعْدَ وَحْدَةٍ تَيْصِيرُوا كِيلُو عَالَقْدَّ.

○ Are the cucumbers fresh?

◇ Of course, they are, ma'am. They just come in a little while ago.

○ Okay, hand me a plastic bag, please, so I can pick the ones I want.

◇ Here you are. The entire shop is at your service.

○ Thank you! Weigh these for me and let me know how much they come out to.

◇ Add one more to make an even kilo.

○ *lixyārāt ṭāza?*

◇ *akīd, [f'madame]. hālla? wīṣlu mn šwayy.*

○ *okē, 3ṭīni kīs [please], ta-ná??i -lli báddi yēhun.*

◇ *tḥáddali, -Imaḥáll kīllu 3a ḥsēbik.*

○ *[f'merci]! zīn!i¹ hāwdi [please] w ʔílli ʔaddē byītla3u.*

◇ *zīdi ba3d wīḥdi ta-yṣīru kīlu 3a-lʔádd.*

¹ زان (يُزِين) *zēn (yzīn)* to weigh

IN THE DAIRY DEPARTMENT

○ عِنْدَكَ لَبْنَةٌ بَلَدِيَّةٌ؟

◇ آيَهْ مَدَام. مُنْجِبِ اللَّبْنَةَ مِنْ مَزْرَعَةٍ مُرْتَبَةِ مَنْ اللَّقْلُوق.

○ عَظِيم، فِيِّي أَخْذُ ثَنَيْنِ كِيلُو، پْلِيْز؟¹

◇ أَكِيد، بِتَحِيِّي شَيْ تَانِي؟²

○ بَاخْذُ ثَلَاثَ مِئَةِ غَرَامِ حَلُوم، وَوَقِيَّةً عَكَاوِي.³

◇ تِكْرَمَ عَيْنِكَ.⁴

○ Do you have organic, local labneh?

◇ Yes, ma'am. We get our labneh from a respected farm in Laklouk.

○ Great. Can I have two kilos, please?

◇ Sure! Anything else?

○ I'll take 300 grams of Halloumi cheese and an "ounce" of Akkawi cheese.

◇ You got it.

○ 3índak lábni baladíyyi?

◇ ē, [f'madame]. minjīb illábni min mázra3a mráttabi mn illa?lū?

○ 3azīm, fíyí ēxud tnēn kīlu, [please]?¹

◇ akīd, bithībī šī tēni?²

○ bēxud tlēt mīt grām ḥallūm, w w?íyyit 3akkēwi.³

◇ tikram 3áynik.⁴

¹ = طَيِّبْ تَعْطِينِي سَطْلَ عَمُولَ مَعْرُوف؟ [áyyib, ta3tīni sáṭil, 3mōl ma3rūf? Okay, can you give me a tub [of labneh], please?

² = 3āyzi yēr šī? عَائِزَةٌ غَيْرُ شَيْ؟

³ = لا؟, yíslamu, 3azzábtak má3i. **No, thanks. I've bothered you enough.** (This expression can be used after someone does a service for you, usually one requiring physical effort, such as handling bags, going from aisle to aisle getting you a product, etc.)

⁴ = مِّنْ عَيُونِي min 3yūni

IN THE MEAT DEPARTMENT

- صباح الخير، بدي كفتة، پليز. بس بس¹ إذا طازة.
- ◇ آيه مدام. عنا لحمه بتجنن إجت الصبح. قدي بتحيي أعطيك؟
- بس كيلو واحد. فيي كمان آخذ كبة؟
- ◇ آيه أكيد، بتحيي تبلك ياهن²؟
- آيه، پليز، بدي كل شي علين.
- ◇ تمام يلا ثواني.

○ Good morning, I'd like some kofta, please, but only if they're fresh.

◇ Yes, ma'am. We have some great meat that came in just this morning. How much would you like?

○ Just one kilo, please. Can I also have kibbeh?

◇ Sure, of course. Would you like it seasoned?

○ Yes, please. All the works.

◇ Great, coming right up.

○ *ṣabāḥ ilxēr, báddi káfta, [please]. bass bás¹ íza ṭāza.*

◇ *ē, [f' madame]. ʔinna láḥmi bitjánin íjit iṣṣúbuḥ. ʔaddē bithíbbi a3ṭíki?*

○ *bass kīlu wāḥad. fíyi kamēn ēxud kíbbi?*

◇ *ē, akīd, bithíbbi tabbállik yēhun²?*

○ *ē, [please], báddi kill šī ʔaláyyun.*

◇ *tamēm, yálla sawēni.*

¹ *bass* has two meanings, both of which we see here, as the conjunction **but** and the adverb **only**. Notice the emphasis on the second word in the audio.

² *ملحن ويهرن mállifun w báhhirun* **salt and season them**

ASKING WHERE SOMETHING IS

- عَفْوَاً، وَيْنِ فِي لَاقِي مَعْجُون سَنَان؟
 ◇ معَاجِين السَّنَان وَفَرَاشِي السَّنَان وَرَا، رَايُون تَمَانْتَعَش بِفَتِكِر، دِغْرِي
 حَدَّ رَايُون وَرَقِ التُّوَالَيْتِ.
 ○ مَرْسِي! وَالْدِيُودُورَان؟
 ◇ حَدَّ هَوْدِيك، رَايُون عِشْرِين.
 ○ أَوْكِي، مَرْسِي كَثِير.

- Excuse me, where can I find toothpaste?
 ◇ The toothpaste and toothbrushes are in the back, aisle 18, I believe, right next to the toilet paper aisle.
 ○ Thanks! And the deodorant?
 ◇ Around there, as well. Aisle 20.
 ○ Okay, thank you so much!

- 3áfwan, wēn fiyi lē? i ma3jūn snēn?
 ◇ ma3ājīn issnēn w farāši -ssnēn wāra, [f rayon] tmínta3š bíftikír,
 díyri hadd [f rayon] wāra? it[f toilette].
 ○ [f merci]! w il[f déodorant]?
 ◇ hadd hawdík, [f rayon] 3išrīn.
 ○ okē, [f merci] ktīr.

BUYING PHONE CARDS AND LOTTO TICKETS

○ لَوْ سَمَحْتِ، بِتَبِيعُوا شَي كُرُوتِي تَشْرِيجَ لِلتَّلْفُونِ¹؟

◇ آيَه، بَسْ هَلْ خَالِصِينَ.²

○ إِهْ أُوَكِّي، دَوْمَاج. طَيِّب³، عِنْدُكُنْ لُوتُو شَي؟

◇ آيَه عِنَّا، كَمْ وَرَقَة بِتَحِبُّ؟⁴

○ وَرَقَة وَحْدَة. فَيَكْ تَعْطِينِي زَيْد⁵ كَمَا نْ پْلِيْز؟

◇ آيَه، أَكِيد.

○ Excuse me, do you sell prepaid phone cards here?

◇ Yes, we do, but we're out now.

○ Oh, okay, that's a shame. Do you have lotto?

◇ Yes, we do. How many sheets would you like?

○ Just one. Can you also give me a Zeed, please?

◇ Sure, of course.

○ *law samáhjit, bitbī3u šī krūtīt tišrīj la-tl^[f]téléphone*?¹

◇ *ē, bass hállo? xālšin*.²

○ *āh okē, [fdommage]*.³ *táyyib, 3índkun [f]loto* šī?

◇ *ē, 3ínna, kam wár?a bithjabb*?⁴

○ *wár?a wífjdi. fík ta3tīni zīd⁵ kamēn, [please]*?

◇ *ē, akīd.*

¹ *tišrīj* is derived from the verb شَرَّج *šárraj* (from the English charge). كَارْت تَشْرِيج *[f]carte tišrīj* is a prepaid card to load credit to your cell phone in Lebanon. There are two phone providers in Lebanon: Alfa and Touch (formerly known as MTC, and still often referred to by that name). / ² *tába3 il?addē?* **For how much?** (prepaid phone cards are available in varying amounts) / ³ *3tīni* عَطِينِي تَبِ الْعِشْرِينَ. **Give me the \$20 one.** (the card with \$20 in credits) / ⁴ *kam šábaki hābbi ti?tá3i* **How many grids would you like to play?** / ⁵ *zīd* **Zeed** is an additional game played on the Loto grid. www.ildj.com/en/DrawGames/Zeed/About

Extended Dialogue

○ صباحو! وَلَا مَرَّة جيت عَ هَيْدِي السُّوپَرْمَارْكِت قبل¹، وَبَدِّي شَوِيَّة مُسَاعِدَة.

◇ صباحو دُمَوَايِل. وَلَا يَهْمَكْ أَبَدًا. أَنَا بَسَاعِدِك. كَيْف فِي سَاعِدِك²؟
○ أَوَّل شَي بَدِّي أَعْرِف وَينَ قِسْم اللَّحْمِ وَالْجَبْنَة.
◇ هُون، خَلِينَا نَمْشِي سَوِي.

(They walk over to the meat department.)

○ بُونْجور مُعَلِّم، پْلِيْز فِي آخْد كِيلو لَحْمَة بقر لِلشَّوِي؟
◇ شَي تَانِي؟

○ أَيَّه، بَدِّي ثَنِيْن كِيلو مَقَانِق.

◇ حَظَّكَ جِلو، إْجَانَا مَقَانِقْ غَيْر شِكْل³ الْيَوْم الصُّبْح.

○ تَمَام، قَدِّي بَدَّكَ مَنِي؟

◇ بَسْعَرْلِكْ يَاهُنْ هُون، بَسْ فِيْكَ تِدْفَعِي عَالِصَنْدُوق بَسْ تُخْلَصِي كِلْ غَرَاضِكْ.

○ تَمَام، مَرْسِي.

(She looks at the clerk assisting her.)

○ أَوْكِي، بَفْتِكِرِ رَح جِيب الْجَبْنَة بَعْدِيْن. رَح جِيب الْإِشْيَا الضَّرُورِيَة هَلَّق. وَينَ فِيْ لَاقِي لَبْنَة.

◇ عِنْدِكَ إِحْتِمَالِيْن: إِمَّا بَتَاخْدِيَا مِنْ قِسْم الْجَبْنَة، فَلَيْت⁴ وَبِيَوْضُبُولِكْ يَاهَا هُونِيْكَ دَغْرِي. هَوْدِي إِجْمَالًا بِيَكُونُوا طَازَة أَكْثَر، أَوْ فِيْكَ تَاخْدِي يَلِي مَوْضِبِيْن بِالْبَرَادْ هُونِيْكَ.

○ أَوْكِي، خَلِينَا نَرْوَحْ عَ بَرَادْ الْجَبْنَة إِذَا، وَهِيْكَ بَجِيبْ جَبْنَة وَلَبْنَة فَرْدْ مَرَّة.

(They walk over to the cheese section.)

◇ أَهْلَا مَدَام، شُو فِيْ أَعْطِيْكَ؟

○ فِيْ يَلِيْزْ آخُدْ كِيْلُو عَكَّاوِي وَتَيْنْ كِيْلُو لَبْنَةْ بَلْدِيَةْ؟
 ◇ خَلِّصُوا الْعَكَّاوِي الْيَوْمَ، بَسْ فِي عِنَّا حُلُومَ. بِيَهْمَكْ؟
 ○ آيَهْ يَلِيْزْ، بَاخُدْ بَسْ نَصَّ كِيْلُو.
 ◇ بِأَمْرِكْ. شَي تَانِي مَدَامْ؟
 ○ لَأْ مَرْسِي، قَدِّي كِلْنْ سَوِي؟
 ◇ خَمْسْتَعَشْرَ أَلْفَ، بَسْ مِشْ هَوْنْ بَتْدَفْعِي. أَنَا بَسْعَرْلِكْ، وَبَتْدَفْعِي
 عَالِصَنْدُوقَ.

○ اهْ مَظْبُوطْ. مَرْسِي كَثِيرَ.
 ◇ تَكْرَمْ عَيْنِكَ مَدَامْ.

(She looks at the clerk assisting her.)

○ أَوَكِي، آخِرْ شَي فِيكَ تَفْرَجِينِي وَيْنْ قِسْمَ الْخَضْرَا وَالْفَوَاكِي؟
 ◇ أَكِيدْ. لِحَقِينِي.⁵

(They walk over to the produce section.)

○ مَرْحَبَا مُعَلِّمَ، فِيكَ تَسَاعِدْنِي نَقِّي خَضْرَا وَبِقَلَّةْ؟
 ◇ أَكِيدْ، شُو بَتَجِيِّي أَعْطِيكِ؟
 ○ فِيْ يَلِيْزْ آخُدْ ضُمَّتَيْنْ بَقْدُونِسْ وَضُمَّةْ نَعْنَعِ. وَكِمَانْ بَاخُدْ كِيْلُو تِفَّاحْ
 وَكِيْلُو نُجَاصْ. وَإِذَا عِنْدَكَ بَطِيخْ مُنِيحْ، بَاخُدْ رَاسْ عَ دَوَقَكْ.
 ◇ تَكْرَمْ عَيْنِكَ.

○ Good morning! I have never been to this supermarket, and I need some help, please.

◇ Good morning, miss! No worries at all. I can help you out. What can I do for you?

○ I first want to know where the meat and cheese sections are?

◇ Right over here. Let's walk together.

(They walk over to the meat department.)

- Good morning, sir. Can I please have one kilo of barbecue beef?
- ◇ Anything else?
- Yeah. I'd like two kilos of sausages.
- ◇ You're in luck. We got great sausages in this morning.
- Awesome. How much do I owe you?
- ◇ I'll price it here, and you can pay at the cashier when you're done with all your shopping.
- Great! Thank you.

(She looks at the clerk assisting her.)

- Okay. I think I'll get cheese later. I'll do the necessities now. Where can I find labneh?
- ◇ Well, you have two options: you can either get it from the cheese section, where they package it for you on the spot, and that's usually the fresher kind. Or, you can get it pre-packaged from the refrigerator over there.
- Okay, let's go to the cheese section then. And I'll get the cheese and labneh all at once.

(They walk over to the cheese section.)

- ◇ Hi, ma'am. What can I get for you?
- Can I please have 1 kg of Akkawi cheese and 2 kg organic, local Labne?
- ◇ We're all out of Akkawi for the day. But we have Halloumi. Are you interested?
- Yes, please. I'll only take half a kilo, though.
- ◇ My pleasure. Anything else, ma'am?
- No, thank you. How much is total then?
- ◇ It's 15,000 L.L., but you don't need to pay here. I'll price here, and you can just pay at the cashier.
- Oh, that's right. Thank you very much.
- ◇ My pleasure, ma'am.

(She looks at the clerk assisting her.)

- Okay, and finally, can you please show me the produce section?

◇ Certainly! Follow me.

(They walk over to the produce section.)

○ Hello, sir. Can you please help me pick out some vegetables and herbs?

◇ Of course! What can I get for you?

○ Can I please have two bunches of parsley and one bunch of mint? I'll also take one kg of apples and one kg of pears. And, if you have good watermelon, I'd like a nice watermelon.

◇ You got it.

○ *ṣabāḥu! wāla mārā jīt 3a háydi -s[supermarket] ḡábil¹, w báddi ṣwáyyit msē3adi.*

◇ *ṣabāḥu, [f demoiselle]. wāla yhímmik ábadan. ána bsē3dik². kif fíyi sē3dik?*

○ *áwwal šī báddi á3rif wēn ḡism illáḥmi w iljībni.*

◇ *hōn, xallīna nímši sáwa.*

(They walk over to the meat department.)

○ [^fbonjour] m3állim, [please] fíyi ēxud kīlu láḥmi báḡar la-ššáwi?

◇ *šī tēni?*

○ *ē, báddi tnēn kīlu maḡēni?*

◇ *ḥázziḱ ḥīlu, ijēna maḡēni? xēr šíkl³ ilyōm iṣṣúbuh.*

○ *tamēm, ḡaddē báddak mínni?*

◇ *bsa33írlík yēhun hōn, bass fiki tídfa3i 3a-ṣṣandū? bass txállši kill yrāḏik.*

○ *tamēm, [f merci].*

(She looks at the clerk assisting her.)

○ *okē, bíftikir raḥ jīb iljībni ba3dēn. raḥ jīb ilḡíṣya -ḡḡarūrīyyi hálla? wēn fíyi lēḡi lābni.*

◇ *3índik iḥtimēlēn: ímma btēxdiya min ḡism iljībni, fáliṭ⁴ w biwaḡḡbūlik yēha hunīḱ díyri. háwdi íjmēlan bikūnu ṭāza áktar, aw fiki tēxdi yálli mwaḡḡabīn bi-lberrād hunīḱ.*

○ *okē, xallīna nrūḡ 3a barrād iljībni fa-ízan, w hēḱ bjīb jībni w lābni fard mārā.*

(They walk over to the cheese section.)

◇ *áhla, [f madame], šū fíyi a3ṭíki?*

○ *fíyi [please] ēxud kīlu 3akkēwi w tnēn kīlu lābni baladíyyi?*

◇ *xílṣu -l3akkēwi -lyōm, bass fī 3ínna ḡalūm. bihímmik?*

○ ē, [please], bēxud bass nuṣṣ kīlu.

◇ bi-ámrik. šī tēni, [ʔmadame]ʔ

○ laʔ [ʔmerci], ʔaddē kīllun sáwaʔ

◇ xámsta3šar alf, bass miš hōn btídfa3i. ána bsá33irlik, w btídfa3i 3a-ššandūʔ.

○ āh mazbūt. [ʔmerci] ktīr.

◇ tīkram 3áynik, [ʔmadame].

(She looks at the clerk assisting her.)

◇ okē, ēxir šī fīk tfarjīni wēn ʔism ilxúdra w lifwēkiʔ

○ akīd. lħaʔīni⁵.

(They walk over to the produce section.)

◇ mārħaba m3állim, fīk tsē3idni náʔʔi xúdra w báʔliʔ

○ akīd, šū bithíbbi a3tīkiʔ

◇ fiyi [please] ēxud dūmmtēn baʔdūnis w dūmmīt ná3na3. w kamēn bēxud kīlu tiffēħ w kīlu njāš. w íza 3īndak baṭṭīx mñīħ, bēxud rāš⁶ 3a zāwʔak.

○ tīkram 3áynik.

¹ هَيْدِي أَوَّل مَرَّةٍ بِي لِهَوْن. háydi áwwal mārra bíji la-hōn. **This is the first time I've come here.**

² = إِيْدِمِك ixídmik

³ يَرْ شِكِل yēr šīkil **great, amazing.** Notice that شِكِل šákil **shape, appearance** is normally pronounced with fatha (a) in the first syllable, but with kasra (i) in this expression.

⁴ فَالِت fálit **not pre-packaged**

⁵ = تَاعِي مَعِي tá3i má3i

⁶ رَاس rās **head** is the counter word for watermelons (just as in English, we say a head of lettuce, for example).

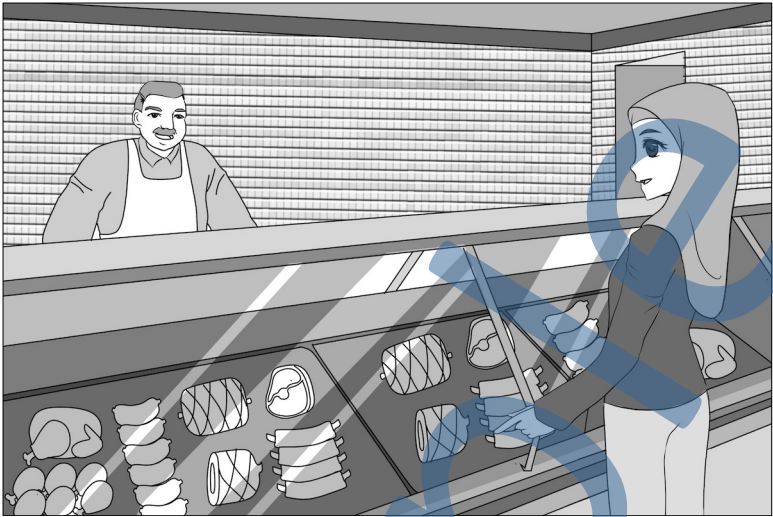
Vocabulary

supermarket	[supermarket]	سوپرمارِکِت
shopping cart	karrāji 3arabēyi	کَرَّاجَة عَرَبَايَة
checkout stand	ṣandūʔ (ṣanēdīʔ) [cashier]	صَنْدُوق (صَنَادِيق) كَاشِير
change (money back)	-lbēʔi	الباقِي
small bills, coins	frāṭa	فُرَاطَة
kilo(gram)	kīlu	كِيلو
to weigh	zēn (yzīn)	زَان (يُزِين)
produce section (of a supermarket)	ʔism ilxúdra	قِسْم الخُضْرَة
greengrocer, vegetable seller	xúdarji	خُضْرَجِي
vegetables	xúdra	خُضْرَة
fruit(s)	fwēki	فَوَاكِه
to select, pick	náʔʔa (ynáʔʔi)	نَقَّى (يُنْقِي)
to peel	ʔáššar (yʔáššir)	قَشَّر (يُقَشِّر)
fresh	tāza	طَاظَة
wilted, dry	dablēn	دَبْلَان
organic	[ʔorganique] báladi	أَوْرْجَانِيك بَلَدِي
season	máwsam (mawēsīm)	مَوْسَم (مَوَاسِم)

cheese	<i>jībni (ajbēn)</i>	جِبْنِيَّة (أَجْبَان)
yogurt	<i>lāban (albēn)</i>	لَبَن (الْأَبَان)
tub, container	<i>sāṭil (sṭūl)</i>	سَطْل (سَطُول)
sweets	<i>ḥīlu (ḥilwayēt)</i>	حِلُو (حِلْوَيَات)
chewing gum	<i>3ilki (3ilak)</i>	عَلِكَّة (عَلِك)
toy	<i>lī3bi (al3āb)</i>	لَعِبَّة (الْأَلْعَاب)

Expressions

○		
Could you weigh one kilo of __ for me?	<i>fīk tzīnli kīlu__?</i>	فِيكَ تَزْنَلِي كِيلُو__؟
Can I have a kilo of Labne and a kilo of Halloumi?	<i>fīyi ēxud kīlu lābni w kīlu ḥallūmi?</i>	فِيي أَخْدُ كِيلُو لَبْنَةٍ وَكِيلُو حَلْمِي؟
Where is the toys aisle?	<i>wēn maḥṭūṭīn illī3ab/il?al3āb?</i>	وَيْن مَحْطُوطِينَ اللَّعْب/الْأَلْعَاب؟
Do you guys sell Alfa recharge cards?	<i>bitbī3u xṭūṭ tišrīj [Alfa]?</i>	بِتَبِيعُوا خُطُوط تَشْرِيج أَلْفَا؟
Do you guys have Western Union here?	<i>3īndkun [Western Union] ḥōn?</i>	عِنْدَكُنْ وَيُسْتَرُنْ يُونِيُون هُون؟
Where can I find spices?	<i>wēn fīyi lē?i libhārāt?</i>	وَيْن فِيي لَاقِي الْبِهَارَات؟
May I pay with dollars?	<i>fīyi idfa3 bi-ddólar?</i>	فِيي إِدْفَع بِالْدُولَار؟
Do you take checks?	<i>btēxdu [ʔchèque]ēt?</i>	بِتَأْخُذُوا شَاكَات؟



At the Butcher's

عند اللحام

لحامين **lahfāmīn butchers** in Lebanon are either located in standalone butcheries, or inside supermarkets and minimarkets. Butchers take a lot of pride in the quality of their لحمية **lāḥmi meat**, that it is طازة **tāza fresh** or شِغْلَ الْيَوْمِ **šīyl ilyōm butchered today**, and may boast that it is مِنَ الضَّيْعَةِ **min idḡáy3a from the countryside**. Sometimes, they will even tell you بَعْدْنَا دَابْحِينَ **bá3dna dēbfjīn just slaughtered**. While Lebanon has a large Muslim population (a little over half of the population), butchers still serve لحم خنزير **lāḥim xanzīr pork**, especially in towns that are predominantly Christian. If you're looking for halal or non-pork meat, make sure you specify that to your butcher. The Lebanese get quite creative with beef, lamb, and chicken: كُفْتَة **káfta kofta** (beef or lamb meatballs with parsley, onions, and spices); كَبَبْ **kábbi** (spiced ground beef covered with cracked wheat); مَقَانِق **maʔēniʔ** and سِجِقْ **sijíʔʔ** (kinds of Lebanese sausages; and everyone's favorites: مشاوي **mašēwi** (barbecued meat on skewers, or what we call in English kebabs). But be mindful: If you say كَبَاب **kabēb**, in Lebanon, this is a specific type of meat on skewers: ground spiced chicken.

BUYING MEAT

○ بَقْدِي كِيلُو اللَّحْمِ الْمَفْرُومَةِ إِذَا بَتَرِيد¹؟

◇ سَبْعَتَلَف وَخَمْسُمِيَّة.

○ أَوْكِي، پَلِيز زِنْلِي نَصَّ كِيلُو مِّن اللَّحْمِ الْحَمْرَا مِّنْ هُونِيك، وَفَرْمَلِي يَاهَا پَلِيز.

◇ تَحِتْ أَمْرِك².

○ How much is one kilo of ground meat?

◇ 7,500 L.L.

○ Okay, weigh half a kilo from the red meat over there and grind it for me, please.

◇ My pleasure!

○ *b-ʔaddē kīlu -lláħmi -lmafrūmi íza bi-trīd¹?*

◇ *saba3talēf w xamsmíyyi.*

○ *okē, [please] zínli nuṣṣ kīlu mn illáħmi -lħámra min hunīk, w frímli yēha, [please].*

◇ *táħjit ámrík.²*

¹ = 3mōl ma3rūf عَمُولُ مَعْرُوف

² = tíkrami تِكْرَمِي



Renting an Apartment

أجار شقة

Renting a شقة *šīqa* apartment anywhere is not easy, but being prepared for what to expect always makes things much smoother. Rent in Lebanon is significantly cheaper than in the U.S. or Europe—though, prices have gone up over the years and can vary significantly, depending on where you are looking and the level of amenities you require in the apartment. In Beirut, rent tends to be much more expensive than in the suburbs. Likewise, prices in the northern Christian areas tend to be higher than cities that host fewer expats, such as Tripoli or Tyre. You can rent an apartment through the official channels (rental agencies), informally (through subleasing), through a سمسار *simsār* broker, or directly from a صاحب المالك *ṣāhib ilmilik* landlord or صاحبة المالك *ṣāḥbit ilmilik* landlady. Depending on the apartment building, the rent you're quoted may or may not include utilities, taxes, etc., so it's always better to check what is covered, and what you'll need to pay extra for.

LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT

○ صباحو شباب. قالولي إنيو إنتو بتعرفوا¹ إذا في بيوت للأجار هون.
فيكن تساعدوني؟

◇ أيه مطبوط. عم بتنبش² ع بيت³ مفروش أو مش مفروش؟
○ مش مفروش.⁴

◇ في تين. واحد بهيدي البناية أوضتين⁵ نوم. وواحد بشقة⁶ بآخر
الشارع ثلاث أوض⁶ نوم.

○ أوكي، فاضي هلق؟ فيك تفرجيني الشقة⁷ اللي بهيدي البناية؟

○ Good morning, gentlemen. I was told you would be the ones to ask about apartments for rent around here. Can you help?

◇ Yep, that would be us. Are you looking for furnished or unfurnished?

○ Unfurnished.

◇ There are two. One is in this building with two bedrooms. The other is down the street and has three bedrooms.

○ Okay. Are you available now? Can you show me the one you have in this building?

○ *ṣabāḥu ṣabēb. ʔālūli innu intu btá3rfu¹ iza fī byūt la-lʔajār hōn. fīkun tsē3dūni?*

◇ *ē, maẓbūt. 3am bi-tnábbiṣ² 3a bēt³ mafrūš aw miš mafrūš?*

○ *miš mafrūš.⁴*

◇ *fī tnēn. wāḥad bi-háydi -lbinēyi ūdtēn⁵ nōm. w wāḥad bi-šíʔʔa bi-ēxir iššēri3 tlēt úwāq⁶ nōm.*

○ *okē, fāḍi hálḷaʔʔ fīk tfarjīni -ššíʔʔa -lli bi-háydi -lbinēyiʔʔ⁷*

¹ (lit. they told me that you would know)

² = تفتش *tfáttiš*

3 شقة šíʔʔa apartment

⁴ بدون عفش *bidūn 3áfiš*

⁵ عرفتين *yirftēn*

⁶ غرف *yíraf*

⁷ = إذا ما عندك شي، ممكن تفرجيني ياهن؟ *íza ma 3índak šī, múmkin tfarjīni yēhun?*

2

ASKING ABOUT DETAILS

○ كم أوضة وحمّام فيا الشقة؟

◇ أوضتين نوم، أوضة خادمة¹، وحمّامين.

○ وبالأد حاطين إئو المطبخ نافضينو جديد؟²

◇ أيّه، مضبوط. لحقيني.³

○ How many bedrooms and bathrooms are there in the apartment?

◇ Two bedrooms, a maid's room, and two bathrooms.

○ And the ad says the kitchen has been renovated?

◇ Yes, that's right. Follow me.

○ *kam ūḡa w ḥammēm fiya, -šīʔʔa?*

◇ *ūḡtēn nōm, ūḡit xēdmī¹, w ḥammēmēn.*

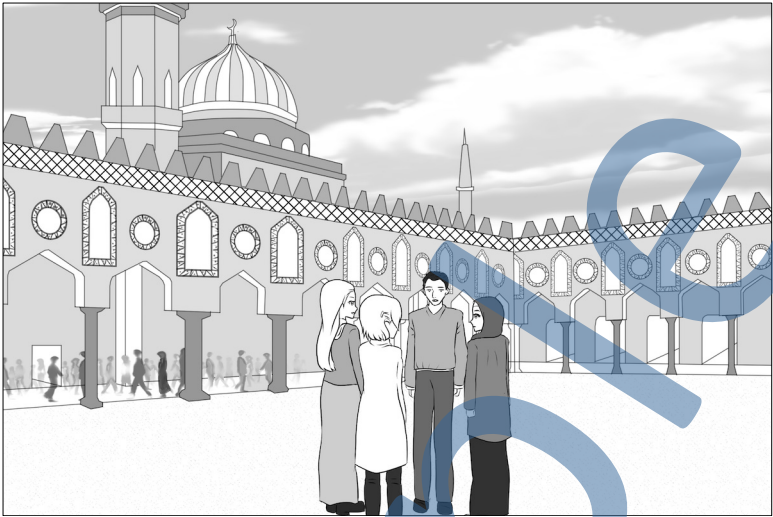
○ *w bi-lʔ[ad] ḥāttīn innu -ilmātḡax nāfdīnu jdīd?²*

◇ *ē, mazḡūt. lḥaḡīni.³*

¹ = غرفة صائغة *yírfit šān3a*

² = بالإعلان كاتبين إئو مجددين المطبخ؟ *bi-lʔi3lēn kētbīn innu mjaddidīn ilmātḡax?*

³ = تعي معي. *ṣaḥīḥ, tá3i má3i.*



At a Mosque

بالجامع

Lebanon is home to 18 طائفة *tāyfi* (طوائف *tawāyif*) **religious sects** that contribute to its cultural richness. This diversity means that you can find mosques and churches in abundance, and can even find Jewish temples (though rarer), in some areas. The most well-known mosques جوامع *jawēmi3* (or مساجد *masējid*) include Mohammad Al-Amin Mosque, Al Mansouri Mosque, and Al-Omari Grand Mosque. Non-Muslims can visit mosques as long as they respect the rules and etiquette, which are comparable to those of mosques elsewhere. It's best to visit outside of prayer times (although some mosques do allow visitors even during prayer time). Both men and women should be dressed modestly, or they will require that you wear a عباية *3abēyi* that they provide. Women should also cover their hair with a scarf, so you should either bring one with you or use one they provide you with. Photography is allowed inside most mosques outside of prayer times, but it is always better to ask and be on the safe side.

Extended Dialogue

- سُورِي كَيْفَ مُنْوَصَل عَ جَامِعِ الْمُنْصُورِي؟
◇ يَنْضَلُّكُن رَائِحِينَ بَهِيدَا الْإِتِّجَاه، تَكْتَبُوا شِفْتُوا مُحْمَصَةُ الْأَنْدُلُس.
مَدْخَلِ الْجَامِعِ مِنْ بَعْدِ هَيْكِ بِشُورِي.
○ أُوْكِي، مَرْسِي كَثِير! وَفِينَا نَفُوت¹؟
◇ آيَه طَبْعًا! لِحَقُونِي إِذَا بَدَكُنْ أَنَا رَائِحِ بَهِيدَا الْإِتِّجَاه أَصْلًا².
○ مَرْسِي كَثِير!³
◇ وَلَوْ عَيْب⁴. بَسْ لَازِمِ تَشْلُحُوا مِنْ إِجْرِيكُنْ⁵ هُونِيك. فَيَكُنْ تَضَلُّكُن بِالْكَلسَات.
○ أُوْكِي عَظِيم. فِي شَي تَانِي لَازِمِ نَعْرِفُوا؟
◇ السَّتَات بِالْعُرُوبِ لَازِمِ يَغْطُوا شَعْرُنْ، وَمَمْنُوعُ يَفُوتُوا إِذَا لَابْسِينَ شَي ضَيْقٌ أَوْ قَدْ الْجِسْمِ.
○ كُلُّنْ مُحَضَّرِينَ حَالَنْ لِلزِّيَارَةِ! مَرْسِي. وَفِينَا نَصُورْ جُورًا؟
◇ فَيَكُنْ تَصُورُوا صُورَ بِالسَّاحَةِ طَالَمَا مَا فِي صَلَا أَوْ مَوْعِظَةٍ، بَسْ بُظْنٌ إِنْوُ جُورَاتُ الْجَامِعِ مَمْنُوعِ.
○ أُوْكِي وَمِنْفُوتِ كُلْنَا عَ ذَاتِ الْمَطْرَجِ⁷؟
◇ السَّتَاتِ يَفُوتُوا عَ قِسْمِ السَّتَاتِ هُونِيك عَ مِيلَةَ الْيَمِينِ.
○ أُوْكِي، وَفِي مَطْرَحِ يَتَوَضَّوْا؟
◇ آيَه، فِي، بَسْ بَرَّا.
○ اهْ أُوْكِي، يَمَكُنْ أَحْسَنُ نُرُوحِ كُلْنَا عَالِحَمَامِ قَبْلَ مَا نَفُوتِ فِإِذَا.
◇ أُوْكِي، عَ رَاجِتِكُنْ⁸. هَلِّقْ صِرْتُوا تَعْرِفُوا وَيَنْ تَلَاقُوا كُلَّ شَي.
○ آيَه مَرْسِي كَثِير وَاللَّهِ عَ لُطْفِكَ.
◇ وَلَا يَهْمُكَ يَا عَمِّي عَيْبِ.

- Excuse me, how can we get to Al Mansouri Mosque?
- ◇ You'll keep going in this direction until you see Al Andalous Roastery. The entrance of the mosque is just a bit after it.
- Okay, thanks a lot. Is it okay to enter it?
- ◇ Oh yes. You can come along with me if you'd like. I'm going that way anyway.
- Thanks a lot.
- ◇ Not at all. But you will need to take off your shoes. You can keep your socks on.
- Okay, great. Anything else we should know?
- ◇ Women in the group should cover their hair, and they would not be allowed in if they're wearing anything that's form-fitting.
- They're all well-prepared for this, thanks! And can we take photos inside?
- ◇ Yes, you can take as many photos as you wish in the courtyard as long as it is not during prayer time, or during a sermon. But I think it's prohibited inside the mosque itself.
- Okay. Would we all go into the same area?
- ◇ The women should enter the ladies' section on the right over there.
- Okay. And is there somewhere they can perform ablution?
- ◇ Yes, but it's outside.
- Okay, perhaps it's better that we all go to the bathroom first, and then come back in.
- ◇ Okay, as you wish. And now you know where you can find everything.
- Yes, thanks a lot for your kindness!
- ◇ Don't mention it! It's nothing!
- [sorry] *kīf mnūṣal 3a jēmi3 ilmanṣūri?*
- ◇ *bitqállkun rāyḥīn bi-háyda -lʔittijēh, ta-kíntu šiftu maḥmášt ilʔanadálus. mádxal iljēmi3 min ba3d hēk bi-šwáy.*
- *okē, [ʔmerci] ktīr! w fīna nʔūt¹?*

◇ ē, *táb3an! lha?ūni iza báddkun. ána rāyih bi-háyda -l?ittijēh áslan.*²

○ [^fmerci] ktīr!³

◇ *waláw 3ēb*⁴. *bass lēzim tišlāhu min ijráykun*⁵ *hunīk. fikun tqállkun bi-lkalsēt.*

○ *okē 3azīm. fī šī tēni lēzim ná3rfu?*

◇ *-ssittēt bi-l[group] lēzim yǧáttu šá3run, w mamnū3 yfūtu iza lēbsīn šī dāyyi? aw ʔadd iljīsīm.*

○ *kíllun mḥaḍḍrīn ḥālun la-zzyāra! [^fmerci]. w fīna nšáwwir júwwa?*

◇ *fikun tšáwwru šúwar bi-ssēḥa tālama ma fī šála aw máw3iza, bass bzīnn innu juwwēt*⁶ *iljēmi3 mamnū3.*

○ *okē w minfūt kíllna 3a zēt ilmátraḥ*⁷?

◇ *-ssittēt bifūtu 3a ʔísm issittēt hunīk 3a máylit ilyamīn.*

○ *okē, w fī mátraḥ yitwáḍḍu?*

◇ ē, fī, *bass bárra.*

○ *āh okē, yímkin áḥsan nrūḥ kíllna 3a-lḥammēm ʔábil ma nfūt fa-ízan.*

◇ *okē, 3a rāḥítkun*⁸. *hálla? širtu tá3rfu wēn tlēʔu kill šī.*

○ ē, [^fmerci] ktīr wálla 3a lútfak.

◇ *wála yḥímmik ya 3ámmi*⁹ *3ēb.*

¹ = *يَدْخِلُو* *nidxíllu*

² = *إِمْشُوا وَرَائِي، هُوَ أَسَاسًا عَ طَرِيقِي.* *imšu warāyi, húwwi asēsan 3a ʔarīʔi.* **Follow me. It's on my way anyway.**

³ = *كَيْلَكَ ذَوْق!* *kíllak zōʔ!*

⁴ *3ēb* is one of those words that you can use in many different contexts. It literally means 'shame.' But In this context, it means 'shame on you for thinking that you need to thank me.' Essentially, it's a 'don't mention it.' *3ēb* is also used in other contexts. For example, if children disrespect their elders, their parents may say something like *يا عَيْبُ الشُّوم ya 3ēb iššūm* **Shame on you!**

⁵ *تَكُونُوا حَافِيِينَ tkūnu ḥāfyīn* **go barefoot**

⁶ = *دَاخِل dēxil*

⁷ = *الْمَكَان ilmakēn*

⁸ = *مِثْل مَا بَدُكُن mītil ma báddkun*

⁹ يا عَمِّي *ya 3ámmi* (lit. Uncle!) can be used to express genuine annoyance, as in يا عَمِّي خُص بَقَا! *ya 3ámmi, xálaş bá?a* **Enough already!** But here, it's used to feign mild offence for being thanked, something along the lines of 'Oh my God, don't worry about it!' As it is not literal or directed at the listener, it can be said to men and women.

Vocabulary

(large) mosque	<i>jēmi3 (jawēmi3)</i>	جامع (جَوَامِع)
(small) mosque, masjid	<i>másjid</i>	مَسْجِد
minaret	<i>máʔzani</i>	مَأْذَنَة
dome	<i>ʔíbbi (ʔíbab)</i>	قُبَّة (قُبَب)
courtyard	<i>sēḥa</i>	سَاحَة
column	<i>3amūd (3wēmīd)</i>	عمود (عَوَامِيد)
gate	<i>buwwēbi</i>	بُؤَابَة
ticket	<i>tázkara (tazēkir)</i>	تَذْكِرَة (تَذَاكَر)
to visit	<i>zār (yzūr)</i>	زار (يُزور)
shoe rack, shoe area	<i>maḥáll la-lʔáḥziyi/la-ljízam</i>	مَحَلٌّ لِلْأَحْذِيَّةِ/لِلجِزَم
charity box	<i>şandūʔ işşadaʔāt</i>	صَنْدُوق الصَّدَقَات
administration office	<i>máktab ilʔidāra</i>	مَكْتَب الإِدَارَة
hijab, veil	<i>ḥjēb</i>	حُجَاب
headscarf	<i>ṭárfḥa</i>	طَرَحَة
women's prayer gown	<i>tōb şála</i>	تَوْب صَلا
skirt	<i>tannūra (tananiṛ)</i>	تَنْوَرَة (تَنَانِير)



At a Church

بِالْكَنِيسَةِ

While everyone is welcome at a *knīsi* church in Lebanon, there are a few things to keep in mind. Firstly, if you're visiting a church in a village or a small town for the first time, expect people to look you up and down. They're not trying to be disrespectful, but small churches or churches in small towns rarely have newcomers, so you'd be a novelty to them. Secondly, please plan to dress modestly and respectfully. While some parishes are more liberal than others, it is better to err on the side of caution. And, while there are no particular rules as to what exactly to wear when you visit a church, it is expected that you not show too much skin. You're not expected to wear a headscarf or long sleeves, but you also shouldn't be wearing short skirts or dresses, shorts, or strapless or low-cut tops. Many people dress up for church, especially if it's Sunday mass. People especially like to dress up their children, more than they dress up themselves! Lastly, it's important to keep in mind that you can only receive communion in a Catholic church if you are baptized. In general, just observe the same etiquette you would in any other place of worship. Be respectful of others and as quiet as possible, unless you're participating in church hymns or chants; do not use your cellphone; and don't eat inside the church. Photography is acceptable unless otherwise noted, and as long as a service is not in progress.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH

○ لَو سَمَحْتِي، كُنَيْسَة مَار شَرِبِل وَين؟¹
 ◇ إِذَا بَتَضْلُك سَائِقَة دِغْرِي، بَتَشُوفِي سَتَانْد حِلَو عَ يَمِينِك. بَتَضْلُك
 رَايْحَة. مَا تَرْوَحِي لَا يَمِين وَلَا شَمَال. بَتَشُوفِي الْكُنَيْسَة هُونِيك عَ آخِر
 الطَّرِيق.

○ تمام، مَرْسِي.
 ◇ بَسَّ خَلِي بِبَالِكْ إِنْو مَعِ إِنْو مَا فِي قَاعْدَة مَكْتُوبَة عَنِ اللَّبْس، مَا
 يَحْبُذُوا إِنْو تَفُوتِي بَتَنْوَرَة قَصِيرَة.
 ○ قَلِتْ هِيكْ أَنَا، فَجِيتْ مَعِي بَنُطْلُونْ بِلْبَسُو قَبْلَ مَا فُوت. مَرْسِي كَثِير!

○ Excuse me, where is the St. Charbel church?

◇ If you keep driving straight, you'll see a sweets kiosk on your right-hand side. Keep going, don't make any turns, and you'll see it there at the end of the road.

○ Excellent - thank you!

◇ But bear in mind that, although there's no written rule about dress code, it is frowned upon if you enter wearing a short skirt.

○ I figured, so I brought a pair of pants I'll slip on. Thanks so much!

○ *law samáhti, knīsīt mār šārbil wēn?*¹

◇ *iza bitdállik sēyʔa díyri, bitšūfi [stand] hīlu 3a yamīnik. bitdállik rāyḥa. ma trūḥi la yamīn wála šmēl. bitšūfi liknīsi hunīk 3a ēxir ittārī?*

○ *tamēm*, [^fmerci].

◇ *bass xállī bi-bēlik innu ma3 innu ma fī ʔā3di maktūbi 3an illībīs, ma biḥábbzu innu tfūti bi-tannūra ʔašīri.*

○ *ʔílit hēk ána, fa-jíbit má3i baṇṭalōn bilíbsu ʔábil ma fūt.* [^fmerci] *ktīr!*



Dealing with Difficulties

إذا في شي مشكلة

Lebanon is amazing in so many ways, but it can also be frustrating at times. But if you know what to expect, you'll be more equipped to deal with these frustrations with the least hassle. Some of the most common things you'll likely have to deal with include:

Lack of punctuality: Being late to everything, from meetings to social gatherings, is very typical in Lebanon. And, while it's not as habitual as it once was, it's still common enough that it warrants mention. In spite of this, it is not recommended to show up late to anything just because you think others might—because they may not, and you don't want to be the one who's disrespectful, unprofessional, or inappropriate (depending on the situation you find yourself in) by making people wait.

Nepotism: Nepotism is alive and well in Lebanon. You're unlikely to have to deal with it personally, unless you're in Lebanon long term or are there for professional reasons.

Bribes: Bribes are also still common practice in Lebanon, although not as much as they once were. These are typical in public institutions, when you're trying to obtain official documents. This corruption is becoming less and less acceptable, especially now that people are more likely to raise the issue and post on social media if they're asked to pay