

كلام كل يوم

Kalaam Kull Yoom

Situational Egyptian Arabic

2

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

Alaa Abou El Nour
Matthew Aldrich

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Written by Alaa Abou El Nour and Matthew Aldrich

Edited by Heba Salah Ali and Matthew Aldrich

Illustrated by Heba Khater

Audio by Mohamed Ibrahim and Heba Salah Ali

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website: www.lingualism.com

email: contact@lingualism.com

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Introduction

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

Kalaam Kull Yoom: Situational Egyptian Arabic was written to help intermediate learners succeed at critical moments during everyday communicative tasks. This is the second of two books in a series. I have divided each book into 16 chapters, which are not meant to be studied in order and do not increase in the level of difficulty. Instead, you should find the chapter to navigate your way through a particular transactional or social situation that is relevant to your needs.

For example, are you planning to rent an apartment soon? Then check out the chapter *Renting an Apartment* on page 75. Each chapter has several dialogues, vocabulary lists, bonus expressions, footnotes, and cultural information. (See How to Use This Book on p. iv to learn more about the organization and features of the chapters.)

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

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

Matthew Aldrich

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



How to Use This Book

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

Introductory Paragraph

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

Mini-Dialogues

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

Symbols

Notice that the lines of dialogue are preceded by symbols.

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

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

Arabic Script

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

We write كتاب *kitāb* **book** (and not كِتَاب). Non-final consonants without diacritics are understood to take the short vowel fatha (َ): شمس *šams* **sun** (and not شَمْس). This was done intentionally to keep the texts from being cluttered with redundancies and streamline fluent reading. Also, note that final ي and ة are written without dots: تاكسى *táksi*, مدينة *madīna* **city**, reflecting the spelling habits of Egyptians. You can find a detailed online guide with printable PDFs on Egyptian Arabic pronunciation and Lingualism's system of orthography in the Resources section of this book's product page: www.lingualism.com/kky2.

Phonemic Transcription

Each dialogue also appears as phonemic transcription. This can be helpful for learners who are not yet comfortable enough with the Arabic alphabet. Some of the phonemic characters may seem unfamiliar and confusing, but by investing just a short time learning the sounds each character represents, you will find the system intuitive and easy to read. The Arabic script does not adequately show all of the sound changes (vowel lengthening, shortening, and elision) and shifts in word stress that occur in Egyptian Arabic. So even learners who prefer Arabic script can benefit by referring to the phonemic transcription. Follow the link above for a guide to Lingualism's phonemic transcription system.

English Translation

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

Footnotes

Underlined words and phrases are followed by superscript numbers that reference footnotes:

- Synonyms are preceded by equal signs (=). These show you words and expressions which can replace those in the dialogue without significantly changing the meaning.
- Alternative expressions show examples of other things you might want to say or might hear instead. These are followed by English translations.

Culture and Information Notes

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

The Extended Dialogue

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

Vocabulary

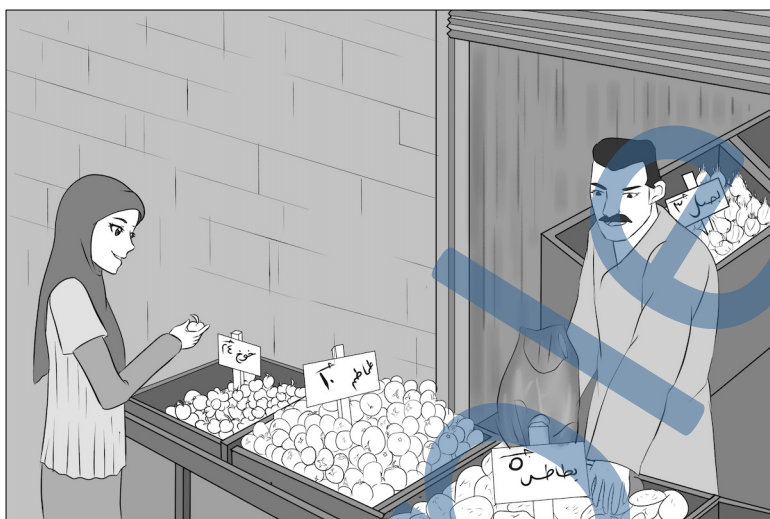
Vocabulary lists in three columns (English, phonemic transcription, and Arabic script) follow the dialogues. These are not glossaries containing all of the words from the dialogues, but rather lists of keywords related to the topic and those likely to be needed in various circumstances—that is, they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

Expressions

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

Audio

All of the dialogues have been recorded by professional voice artists from Cairo, Egypt. You can download or stream the audio free of charge from our website.



At the Greengrocer's

عند الخضري

A *fakahāni* **fruit seller** specializes in selling fruit but may also sell some vegetables. A *xūdari* **vegetable seller**, likewise, sells mainly vegetables but may also sell some fruit. Both terms can be translated as **greengrocer** in English. Prices in shops, not to mention supermarkets, are set and are clearly displayed. Most fruit and vegetables are sold by the kilogram. Vendors use traditional scales and will try to weigh out whole kilograms. (In supermarkets, where digital scales are used, you can buy produce without worrying about making the weight an even kilo.) Some fruit is sold by the piece. Ask when in doubt, as shown in the dialogue on the next page. Prices in small greengrocer's shops and supermarkets alike are set. However, you may be able to haggle a bit with vegetable cart vendors or at farmers' markets. Prices fluctuate depending on the season, demand, and inflation. Tomatoes are especially infamous for fluctuating prices, so there is a running joke about 'crazy tomatoes' (See dialogue 4 on p. 5).

BUYING FRUIT

- المَانْجِه دى بِالْكِيلو وَلَا بِالْوَاَحْدِه¹؟
- ◇ الْكِيلو بِ ١٥ جِنْه بَسْ شَوْف اللى اِنْت عَايِزُه.
- طب، اِوزِنْلِ الْاِثْنَيْنْ دُولْ.
- ◇ دُولْ عَامْلِينْ كِيلو اِلَّا رُبْع. نَزُوْدُ² الصُّغَيْرَه عَلَيْهِمْ عَشَانْ يَكْمَلْ كِيلو؟
- تمام، مَفِيشْ مُشْكِلَه.

- Are these mangoes sold by the kilo or by the piece?
- ◇ A kilo is 15 LE, but 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.

- *ilmánga di bi-kkīlu wálla bi-lwáḥda*¹?
- ◇ *ikkīlu bi-xamastāšar ginēh bass² šūf ill- ínta- 3áyzu.*
- *ṭab, iwzínli -l?itnēn dōl.*
- ◇ *dōl 3amlīn kīlu illa rub3. nizáwwid² iṣṣuyayyára 3alēhum 3ašān yíkmal kīlu?*
- *tamām, ma-fīš muškíla.*

¹ = بِتَبَّع بِالْكِيلو وَلَا بِالْوَاَحْدِه؟ *bitbī3 bi-kkīlu wálla bi-lwáḥda?*

² = نَحُطُّ *nihútt*

Greengrocers will deliver. A tip is expected for the delivery service.

Many Egyptians pull along a عَرِيَّة خُضَار *3arabīt xuḍār*, a small, two-wheeled folding wire shopping cart to transport their vegetables back home in. Note that this word is also used to refer to a mobile vendor's vegetable cart.

BUYING VEGETABLES

○ الخُضار ده طازه؟

◇ أمال¹ يا مدام. لِسّه جايّ مِنْ شَوِيّه.

○ طب، ناوِلْنِي² كَيْس كِدِه. انْقَى بِراحتِي.

◇ اتْفَضِّلِي. المحلّ كُلّه تَحْتِ امْرُك.

○ تَسْلَم! اوْزْنَلِي دَوْل كِدِه شَوْفُهُمْ طَلِّعُوا³ قَدْ اِيّه.

◇ هَاتِي واحْده كمان عشان يَكْمِلُوا⁴ كيلو.

○ Are the vegetables fresh?

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

○ Okay, hand me a plastic bag 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.

○ *ilxuḍār da ṭāza?*

◇ *ummāl¹ ya madām. lissa gayy² min šuwáyya.*

○ *ṭab, nawíl²ni kīs kida. anáʔʔi bi-ráḥti.*

◇ *itfaḍḍáli. ilmaḥál³ kúllu taḥt³ amrak.*

○ *tíslam! iwzín³li dól kida šúfhum ṭíl³u³ ʔadd³ ʔē.*

◇ *hāti wáḥda kamān 3ašān yikmálu⁴ kīlu.*

¹ = طَبْعاً *ṭábʕan*

² اَدِّينِي *iddīni* give me

³ يَجْعَلُوا *yijmálu* they make

⁴ = يَقُوا *yībʔu*

BUYING ORGANIC

○ عِنْدَكَ خِيَارٍ أَوْرْجَانِيك؟

◇ صَوَّبَ يَعْنِي؟ آه فِيهِ بَسَّ الْكِيلُو بِـ ٢٣ جِنِيَه.

○ تَمَامِ اِيَّ حَاجِيَه¹، الْمُهْمَّ مِيَكُونُش مَرْشُوش.

◇ لَا مَتَقْلِقِيْش، دِه مَفِيْهَوْش اِيَّ مُبِيْدَات.

○ طَب، اِوزْنَلِيْ نَصَّ كِيلُو. وَ فِيْهِ فَاكْهَه اِيَه فِي الْمَوْسِمِ دِلْوَقْتِي²؟

◇ فِيْهِ قِشَطَه وَ كَاكَ زَيِّ السُّكَّرِ³.

○ Do you have organic cucumbers?

◇ Greenhouse ones, you mean? Yes, we do, but a kilo is 23 LE.

○ That's fine, whatever [you have], as long as they're not sprayed [with pesticides].

◇ No, don't worry. These don't have any pesticides.

○ Okay, weigh half a kilo for me. And what fruits do you have in season now?

◇ We have nice and sweet sugar apples and persimmons.

○ 3ándak xiyār ōrganīk?

◇ šíwab yá3ni? āh fī bass ikkīlu bi-talāta w 3išrīn ginēh.

○ tamām, ayy^o hāga¹, ilmuhiṣṣ^o ma-ykúnš^o maršūš.

◇ lā, ma-ti?la?īš, da ma-fihūš ayy^o mubidāt.

○ ṭab, iwzīnli nuṣṣ^o kīlu. wi fī fákha ṛē fī -lmūsīm dīlwá?ti?²

◇ fī ṛištā wi kākā zayy issúkkar³.

¹ = zayy^o bá3du مِشْ مُشْكِلَه مِشْ زَيِّ بَعْضَه

² ilyumēn dōl الیومین دُول these days

³ zayy il3ásal (lit. like honey) زَيِّ الْعَسَل

Organic produce is usually sold in supermarkets and in some high-quality greengrocers.

ASKING ABOUT PRICES

○ بِكَاَم كِيلُو الْقُوْطَه¹ النَّهَارْ دَه؟

◇ بِ ٧ جِنِيَه.

○ نِطَبْتُ² لِيَه كِدَه؟ دَه اَنَا لِسَه جَايِيْهَا³ بِ ٤ جِنِيَه مِّنْ يَوْمِيْن.

◇ مَجْنُوْنَه يَا قُوْطَه!⁴ هِنَعْمَلْ اِيْه؟

○ طَب، عَايِزْ كِيلُو بَسَّ جَاْمَدَه عِشَانِ السَّلَطَه.

○ How much is a kilo of tomatoes today?

◇ 7 LE.

○ Why did [the price] jump so much? I just bought some for 4 LE a couple of days ago.

◇ Crazy tomatoes! What can we do?

○ Okay, I'd like a kilo, but hard ones for a salad.

○ *bi-kām kīlu -l?ūṭa¹ -nnahārda?*

◇ *bi-sāb3a gnēh.*

○ *nāṭṭit² lē kida? d-āna līssa gay/bha³ bi-3ārba3a gnēh min yumēn.*

◇ *magnūna ya ?ūṭa!⁴ haní3mil ?ē?*

○ *ṭab, 3āyiz kīlu bass³ gāmda 3ašān issálaṭa.*

¹ = (Alexandrian) الطَّمَاطِمِ *ittamāṭim*

² = زَادَتْ *zādit*; غَلِيَتْ *yilyit* **got expensive**

³ = شَارِيَاها *šaryāha*

⁴ *magnūna ya ?ūṭa!* **Crazy tomatoes!** is a playful expression common among greengrocers to explain fluctuating prices of tomatoes. You may even hear tomato vendors shouting this as they go through neighborhoods on their horse-drawn carts.

Quality varies from one greengrocer's to another and from one supermarket to another. While fruit and vegetables look cleaner and higher in quality in supermarkets, there's no guarantee that they will be tasty or sweet.

ASKING WHAT IS IN SEASON

○ كُنْتُ عَائِزُهُ اعْرِفْ¹، أَيُّهُ الْفَاكْهُهُ الْمَوْجُودُهُ الْيَوْمَيْنِ دَوْلْ؟

◇ خَيْرُ رَبَّنَا كَثِير! فِيهِ مَانْجُهُ وَ بَطِيْخُ وَ تَيْنِ شَوْكِي.

○ آيَوَهُ، أَيُّهُ التَّيْنِ الشَّوْكِي دَه؟

◇ خُدِّي اقْشَرِّكَ وَاحِدَهُ وَ دَوَقِيهَا². دَه لَازِمِ يَتَّكِلِ كِدَه³.

○ طَب، عَائِزُهُ كِيلُو⁴.

◇ لَا دَه يَتَّاحِدِ⁵ بِالْوَاحِدَهُ، الْكَبِيرَهُ بِ ٣ جِنِيهِ وَ الصَّغِيرَهُ بِ ٢ جِنِيهِ.

○ I wanted to know what kinds of fruit there are these days.

◇ God's bounty is great! We have mangoes, watermelon, and prickly pears.

○ Yeah? What is this 'prickly pear'?

◇ There you are. Let me peel one for you to taste. It has to be eaten like this.

○ Okay, I'll take a kilo.

◇ No, this is sold by the piece. A large one is 3 LE and a small one is 2 LE.

○ *kunt³ 3áyza á3raf¹, ʔē ilfákha ilmawgūda ilyumēn dōl?*

◇ *xēr rabbína ktīr! fī mānga wi battīx wi tīn šōki.*

○ *áywa, ʔē ittīn iššōki da?*

◇ *xúdi -ʔaššárlik wáħda wi duʔīha². da lāzim yittākil kída³.*

○ *ṭab, 3áyza kīlu⁴.*

◇ *lā, da byittāxid⁵ bi-lwáħda, ikkibīra bi-talāta gnēh wi -ššuyayyāra bi-tnēh ginēh.*

¹ *di ʔarīʔit* دى طَرِيقَةُ أَكْلُهُ. / *garrabīha* جَرَّبِيهَا = ² *múmkīn tiʔúlli* مُمَكِّن تَقُولِي¹ / *áklu. This is the way to eat it.* / ³ *biyitbā3* يَبْتَاعُ = ⁴ *iwzínli kīlu* اِوْزِنْلِي كِيلُو / ⁵

Prickly pears are rarely sold in greengrocers' shops, but rather on carts in the street.

RETURNING A PURCHASE

○ اَنَا اشْتَرَيْتُ¹ الْبَطِيخَ دِي مَنَّكَ إِمْبَارِحَ وَ عَايزَ ارْجَعُهَا.

◇ لِيَهْ بَسْ؟

○ طَلَعِتْ قَرْعَه² يَا حَاجَّ³، وَ اَنَا إِشْتَرَيْتُهَا عَلَى ضَمَانْتِكَ.

◇ وَلَا يَهْمُكَ. تَاخُدْ وَاحِدَه تَانِيَهْ بَدَالِهَا وَ اشْقُهَا لَكَ⁴؟

○ لَا خَلَاصَ، هَرْجَعُهَا وَ آخُدْ فِلُوشَهَا⁵.

◇ تَمَامَ، اللى اِنْتِ عَايزُهُ.

○ I bought this watermelon from you yesterday, and I want to return it.

◇ Why is that?

○ It turned out to be tasteless, Haji, and I bought it with your guarantee.

◇ Never mind. Take another instead, and shall I split it open for you?

○ No, no. I want to return and get my money back.

◇ Okay, as you wish.

○ *ána -štarēt¹ ilbatṭīxa di minnak imbāriḥ wi 3āyiz araggá3ha.*

◇ *lē bass?*

○ *ṭil3it ṭár3a² ya ḥagg³, w ána ištārītha 3ála ḍamántak.*

◇ *wállā yihímmak. tāxud wáḥda tányā badálha w aṣṣu??ahālak⁴?*

○ *lā, xalās, ḥaraggá3ha w āxud filúsha⁵.*

◇ *tamām, ill- into 3ayzu.*

¹ اخدْتُ *axádt*

² اُقْرَع *áṭra3* (ف. قَرْعَه *ṭár3a*) specifically describes watermelons that are not sweet enough or unripe.

³ حَاجَّ *ḥagg* **Haji, pilgrim** is a polite form of address to an elderly man. To an elderly woman, it's حَاجَّه *ḥágga*.

⁴ اقْطَعْهَا لَكَ *aṭṭa3hālak* = افْتَحْهَا لَكَ *aftaḥhālak* I'll cut it [open] for you

⁵ تَمْنُهَا *tamánha* = حَقَّهَا *ḥaṭṭáha*

Extended Dialogue

- صباح الفلّ. عندك قوطه يا ريس¹؟
◇ صباح النور. آه عندى يا مدام.
○ يكام الكيلو؟
◇ بـ ١٠ جنيه.
○ طب، هاتلى نص كيلو بس جامدين عشان السلطه.
◇ حاجه ثانيه؟
○ آه عايزه كمان ايتين كيلو بطاطس.
◇ طبيخ ولا تخمير؟
○ لا بطاطس تخمير، مش عايزاها تشرب الزيت.
◇ تمام، اللى ائتى عايزاه بس الكيلو منها بـ ٥ جنيه.
○ ماشى او زنى ايتين كيلو. فيه بصل ابيض؟
◇ لا عندى بصل احمر، بـ ٣ جنيه الكيلو.
○ طب، او زنى ايتين كيلو بصل بالمره. عندك فاكهه طازه ايه بقى النهارده؟
◇ عندى خوخ لسه جايل² زى العسل، و فيه مانجه الفونس زى الزبده³.
○ يكام كيلو الخوخ و كيلو المانجه؟
◇ الخوخ الكيلو بـ ٢٤ جنيه، و المانجه الكيلو بـ ٣٥.
○ الخوخ غالى كده ليه؟
◇ ده مستورد يا مدام. جدى منه و مش هتندى⁴.
○ طب، او زنى نص كيلو بس اجره و خلى المانجه مره ثانيه⁵.
◇ من عينيا... حاجه ثانيه يا مدام؟
○ لا تسلم. كده الجساب كام⁶؟

◇ كِدِه كُله ٣٣ جِنيَه.

○ معاك بقية ٥٠؟

◇ آه معايا فكه. اِنْفَضِّلِي.

○ Good morning! Do you have any tomatoes, boss?

◇ Good morning! Yes, I do, ma'am.

○ How much is a kilo?

◇ 10 LE.

○ Okay, bring me half a kilo, but hard ones for a salad.

◇ Anything else?

○ Yeah. I'd like two kilos of potatoes.

◇ For cooking or French fries?

○ I want them for French fries. I don't want them to absorb the oil.

◇ Okay. As you wish, but a kilo of those is 5 LE.

○ That's fine. Weigh two kilos. Are there any white onions?

◇ No, I've got red onions for 3 LE a kilo.

○ Okay, weigh two kilos of onions, too. By the way, what fresh fruit have you got today?

◇ I've got nice, sweet peaches that have just come in. And there are also Alphonso mangoes, smooth as cream.

○ How much is a kilo of peaches or mangoes?

◇ One kilo of peaches is 24 LE, and a kilo of mangoes is 35 LE.

○ Why are the peaches so expensive?

◇ They're imported, ma'am. Try them and you won't regret it.

○ Okay, weigh out just half a kilo so I can try them. And leave the mango for another time.

◇ My pleasure. Anything else, ma'am?

○ No, thank you. How much is total then?

◇ altogether it's 33 LE.

- Do you change for a 50?
- ◇ Yes, I have change. Here you are.

- *ṣabāḥ ilfúll. 3ándak ʔūṭa ʔa ráyyis¹?*
- ◇ *ṣabāḥ innūr. āh, 3ándi ʔa madām.*
- *bi-kām ikkilu?*
- ◇ *bi-3ášara gnēh.*
- *ṭab, hátli nuṣṣ^a kīlu bass^a gamdīn 3ašān issálaṭa.*
- ◇ *ḥāga tánya?*
- *āh, 3áyza kamān itnēn kīlu baṭāṭis.*
- ◇ *ṭabīx wálla taḥmīr?*
- *laʔ, baṭāṭis taḥmīr, miš 3ayzāha tíṣrab izzēt.*
- ◇ *tamām, ill- ínti 3ayzā bass ikkilu mínha bi-xámsa gnēh.*
- *māši iwzínli itnēn kīlu. fī báṣal ábyaq?*
- ◇ *lā, 3ándi báṣal áḥmar, bi-talāta gnēh ikkilu.*
- *ṭab, iwzínli itnēn kīlu báṣal bi-lmárra. 3ándak fákha ṭāza ʔē báʔa -nnahárda?*
- ◇ *3ándi xūx líssa ʔayyíli² zayy il3ásal, wi fī mánga alfōns zayy izzíbdā³.*
- *bi-kām kīlu -lxūx wi kīlu -lmánga?*
- ◇ *ilxōx ikkilu bi-arbá3a w 3iṣrīn ginēh, wi -lmánga ikkilu bi-xámsa w talatīn.*
- *ilxūx ʔāli kída lē?*
- ◇ *da mustáwrad ʔa madām. xúdi mínnu wi miš ḥatindámi⁴.*
- *ṭab, iwzínli nuṣṣ^a kīlu bass^a agarrábu, wi xálli -lmánga márṛa tánya⁵.*
- ◇ *min 3ináyya... ḥāga tánya ʔa madām?*
- *laʔ, tislam. kída -lḥisāb kām?⁶*
- ◇ *kída kúllu talāta w talatīn ginēh.*
- *ma3āk baʔīt xamsīn?*
- ◇ *āh, ma3āya fákka. itfaḥḥáli.*

¹ Greengrocers tend to have a very casual way of dealing with customers, and this is reflected in the language. For example, يا ريس! *ʔa ráyyis! boss!* is customarily used between a greengrocer and the customer.

² ليّسه واصل *líssa wāṣil* **just arrived**

³ زَيّ الرَّبْدَة *zayy izzība* is an expressions to describe anything creamy, soft, and mushy

⁴ جَرَّيْه و هَتْدَعِيلِي = *garraḇī w hatid3īli*

⁵ بَعْدِيْن = *ba3dēn*

⁶ كِيْدَة عَايِزْ كَامَر ؟ = *kīda 3āyiz kām?*

Vendors will sometimes have a piece of fruit cut in half and on display. Otherwise, you can sometimes get the vendor to cut open a watermelon, etc. in front of you, so you can see how ripe his produce is inside.

Vocabulary

greengrocer, vegetable seller	<i>xuḍari</i>	خُضْرِي
fruit seller	<i>fakahāni</i>	فَكَهَانِي
greengrocer's cart, vegetable cart; two- wheel shopping cart	<i>3arabīt xuḍār</i>	عَرَبِيَّة خُضَار
fruit shop	<i>maḥāll⁹ fawākih</i>	مَحَلّ فَوَاكِه
fruit and vegetable shop	<i>maḥāll⁹ xuḍār wi fākha</i>	مَحَلّ خُضَار وَ فَاكْهَة
produce section (of a supermarket)	<i>ʔism ilxuḍrawāt</i>	قِسْم الخُضْرَوَات
change (money back)	<i>bāʔi</i>	بَاقِي
small bills, coins	<i>fākka</i>	فَكَّة
kilo	<i>kīlu</i>	كِيلُو
to weigh	<i>wāzan</i>	وَزَن
to select, pick	<i>nāʔʔa</i>	نَقَّى
to peel	<i>ʔáššar</i>	قَشَّر

fresh	<i>tāza</i> [invariable]	طازِه
to wilt	<i>dībil</i>	دِیِّل
wilted, dry	<i>dablān</i>	دَبْلَان
squished	<i>mahrūs</i> <i>mifá33aṣ</i>	مَهْرُوس مِفْعَص
organic	<i>ōrganīk</i>	اَوْرْجَانِيك
greenhouse	<i>ṣōba (ṣīwab)</i>	صُوبَه (صِوَب)
sprayed (with pesticides)	<i>maršūš</i>	مَرْشُوش
pesticides	<i>mubidāt</i>	مُبِيدَات
season	<i>mūsīm</i>	مُوسِم
herbs	<i>xúḍra</i>	خُضْرَه
vegetables	<i>xuḍār</i>	خُضَار
green beans	<i>faṣúlya</i>	فَاصُولِيَا
broccoli	<i>brúkli</i>	بُرُوكْلِي
carrots	<i>gázar</i>	جَزَر
cauliflower	<i>ḡarnabīt</i>	قَرْنَبِيْت
cucumber	<i>xiyār</i>	خِيَار
garlic	<i>tōm</i>	تَوْم
romaine lettuce	<i>xass⁹ báladi</i>	خَسَّ بَلَدِي
iceberg lettuce	<i>kabútši</i>	كَابُوتْشِي
okra	<i>bámya</i>	بَامِيَه
red onions	<i>báṣal áḥmar</i>	بَصَل أَحْمَر

yellow onions	<i>bāṣal ábyaq</i>	بصل أبيض
green onions	<i>bāṣal áxqar</i>	بصل أخضر
peas	<i>bisilla</i>	بِسِلَّة
potatoes (for boiling)	<i>baṭāṭis ṭabīx</i>	بطاطيس طَبِيخ
potatoes (for frying)	<i>baṭāṭis taḥmīr</i>	بطاطيس تَحْمِير
pumpkin	<i>ḡar3⁹ 3ásal</i>	قَرْع عسل
spinach	<i>sabānix</i>	سبانخ
taro	<i>ḡulḡās</i>	قُلْقَاس
tomato	<i>ḡūṭa</i>	قوطه
tomato (Alexandrian dialect)	<i>ṭamāṭim</i>	طماطم
turnips	<i>lift</i>	لِفْت
zucchini (UK: courgette)	<i>kōsa</i>	كَوْسَه
apricots	<i>mīšmiš</i>	مِشْمِش
banana	<i>mōz báladi</i>	مَوْز بلدِي
beets	<i>bāngar</i>	بَنْجَر
cherries	<i>kirīz</i>	كِرِيز
black dates	<i>bálah ṡwid</i>	بلح إِسْوِد
red dates	<i>bálah zaḡlūl</i>	بلح زَغْلُول
figs	<i>tīn (baršūmi)</i>	تِين (بَرْشُومِي)
green seedless grapes	<i>3ínab banāti</i>	عِنَب بَنَاتِي
red grapes	<i>3ínab áḥmar</i>	عِنَب أَحْمَر

guava	<i>gawāfa</i>	جَوَافَه
lemon	<i>lamūn</i>	لَمُون
mangoes	<i>mānga</i>	مَانْجَه
creamy, smooth (of mangoes)	<i>zayy izzībda</i>	زَيِّ الزَّيْبِدَه
navel orange	<i>burtuḡān bi-sūrra</i>	بُرْتُقَان بَسْرَه
sweet orange	<i>burtuḡān sukkári</i>	بُرْتُقَان سُكَّرِي
peach	<i>xūx</i>	خَوْخ
pears	<i>kummítra</i>	كُمَّتْرِي
persimmons	<i>kāka</i>	كَكََا
plums	<i>barḡū?</i>	بَرْقُوق
pomegranates	<i>rummān</i>	رُمَّان
sugar apple, annona	<i>ḡišṭa</i>	قِشْطَه
watermelon	<i>baṭṭīx</i>	بَطِيخ
unripe, tasteless (of watermelons)	<i>áḡra3 (ḡár3a)</i>	اَقْرَع (قَرْعَه)
sweet (lit. like honey)	<i>zayy il3ásal</i>	زَيِّ الْعَسَل
sweet (lit. like sugar)	<i>zayy issúkkar</i>	زَيِّ السُّكَّر

Expressions

	○	
Hand me...	<i>nawílñi...</i>	نَاوِلْنِي...
Put them in my [vegetable] cart, please.	<i>ḡuṭṭuhúmli fi 3arabīt ilxuḡār.</i>	حُطِّهْمْلِي فِي عَرَبِيَّةِ الْخُضَار.

Weigh 3 kilos each in a separate bag.	<i>iwzínli talāta kīlu kull^p kīlu li-wáḥdu.</i>	اَوْزِنْلِي ٣ كِيلُو كُلُّ كِيلُو لَوَحْدُهُ.
This is not ripe.	<i>di miš mistiwíyya.</i>	دِي مِش مِسْتَوِيَّة.
This cucumber is shriveled.	<i>ilxiyār da dablān.</i>	الْخِيَارْ دِه دَبْلَانْ.
This watermelon is not ripe.	<i>ilbattīxa di ʔár3a.</i>	الْبَطِيخَه دِي قَرْعَه.
This watermelon turned out to be no good (lit. like a cucumber).	<i>ilbattīxa tīl3it zayy ilxiyār.</i>	الْبَطِيخَه طَلَعِت زَيِّ الْخِيَارْ.
The tomatoes are squished.	<i>ittamāṭam mahrūsa.</i>	الطَّمَاطَم مَهْرُوسَه.
I need herbs for stuffed vegetables.	<i>3āyiz xúḍrit máḥṣi.</i>	عَايِزْ خُضْرَة مَحْشَى.
Give me two more bell peppers.	<i>záwwid ʔarnēn filfil kamān.</i>	زَوِّدْ قَرْنَيْنْ فِلْفِلْ كَمَانْ.
Red or white cabbage?	<i>kurúmb ábyaḍ wálla áḥmar?</i>	كُرُنْبْ اَبْيَضْ وَلَا اَحْمَرْ؟
Anything else?	<i>ḥāga tánya?</i>	حَاجَه تَانِيَهْ؟



At the Butcher's

عند الجزار

There are two main kinds of butchers in Egypt. The first type of butcher shop is the جزار *gazzār*, which deals in red meat: كندوز *kandūz* **beef**, بَيْلُو *bitīllu* **veal**, دَانِي *dāni* **lamb**, and جَمَلِي *gámali* **camel**. The word لَحْمَة *láhma* **meat** is generally understood to be beef unless specified otherwise. (Of course, you won't find لَحْمَة خنزير *láhma xanzīr* **pork** in Egypt except at Christian butchers or as imported frozen meat in certain supermarkets that cater to foreign clientele.) Some butcher shops have a restaurant extension called a مَسْمَط *másmat* where traditional meat dishes and sandwiches are served. The other kind of butcher shop is the فرارجي *farárgi*, which specializes in poultry and rabbits. Live birds are kept in cages next to the shop, so you can even pick out the chicken, etc. to be slaughtered and packaged. As with most neighborhood businesses, many butchers offer home delivery services. Large supermarkets also have their own butcher departments with both red meat and poultry. You can even find kebabs and seasoned meats ready to cook.

BUYING MEAT

○ كيلو اللحم المفروم بكام لَو سمحت؟

◇ ١٢٠ جنيّه.

○ طيّب، اوزنلي نصّ من اللحم الحمرا اللي هيناك دي و افرمهالي.

◇ من عينيّا.

○ How much is one kilo of ground meat?

◇ 120 LE.

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

◇ My pleasure!

○ *kīlu -lláhma -lmafrūm bi-kām, law samáht?*

◇ *míyya w 3išrīn ginēh.*

○ *ṭáyyib, iwzínli nuṣṣ³ min illáhma -lḥámra -lli hināk di w ufrumhāli.*

◇ *min 3ináyya.*

In supermarkets, you can usually find three types of meat:

1. مَجْمَد *mugámmad* **frozen**, which, especially when domestic, is the cheapest and lowest in quality.
2. سوداني *sudāni* **Sudanese** (imported from Sudan), generally a bit less expensive than domestic meat
3. بلدي *báladi* **domestic**, which is the freshest, of course, but also the most expensive.



Dealing with the Doorman

كلام مع البوّاب

Most apartment buildings in Egypt employ a **بوّاب *bawwāb* doorman**, whose many responsibilities go beyond just providing security for the **عماره *3imāra* building** to include cleaning the stairs, collecting the garbage from each apartment, repairs (handling minor repairs inside apartments and organizing and supervising professional repairmen when needed), running errands for tenants (paying bills, buying items from local shops, etc.), and basically just assisting tenants in various ways (carrying things upstairs, receiving deliveries, etc.). The doorman will also take it upon himself to be the ‘morality police,’ and may not allow you to have visitors of the opposite sex, which is frowned upon in Egyptian society. Whatever you do, don’t get on your doorman’s bad side, as you would suddenly find life much more unpleasant and difficult. The doorman receives his salary from the building’s tenants. Ask your neighbors (not the doorman) how much they give each month. (See p. 91 for more on tipping your doorman.)

MEETING THE DOORMAN

- ◇ اهلاً وَ سهلاً يا باشا. حَضْرَتِكَ لِسَّه مَاجِرٌ جَدِيدٌ¹ مِش كِدَه؟
 ○ آه لِسَّه إِمْبَارِج. مَاجِرُ الشَّقَّةِ المَفْرُوش اللى فى العاشرِ.
 ◇ مَبْرُوكْ عَلَيْكَ يا باشا بَسْ بِمَا إِنْ حَضْرَتِكَ اجْنِبِ قُلْتِ اقْوَلْكَ² بَرُضَه
 عَلَى نِظَامِ العِمَارَه.
 ○ آه يَارَيْتِ إِتْفَضِّلْ.
 ◇ أَوَّلًا مَيَنْفَعُش حَضْرَتِكَ تِسْتَقْبِلِ سِتَاتِ فى الشَّقَّةِ... وَ اشْتِرَاكِ
 العِمَارَه ١٠٠ جِنِيَه فى الشَّهْر وَ البَوَابَه يَتَقَفِّلِ السَّاعَه ١١.
 ○ تمام طَب بِالْمَرَّةِ بَقَى اِعْمَلِ نُسْخَه مِنْ [مُفْتَاَح] البَوَابَه عِشَانِ
 سَاعَاتِ بِتَأْخَرُ⁴.

- ◇ Welcome, sir! You've just started renting here, right?
 ○ Yeah, I just rented the furnished one on the tenth floor yesterday.
 ◇ Congratulations, sir. But since you're a foreigner, I'd like to inform you of the building system.
 ○ Yes, please go ahead.
 ◇ First of all, you cannot invite women over to the apartment. And the monthly service fees for the building are 100 LE, and the gate closes at 11 p.m.
 ○ Okay. Speaking of which, make me a copy of the gate key, as I get back late sometimes.
 ◇ áhlan wa sáhlán ya bāša. ḥaḍrítak líssa miṭṭággār qidīd¹ miš kída?
 ○ āh, líssa -mbārīj. miṭṭággār iššáṭṭa ilmafrūš illi fi -l3āšir.
 ◇ mabrūk 3alēk ya bāša, bass³ bí-ma inn³ ḥaḍrítak agnābi ʔulṭ
 aʔúllak² bārdu 3ála nizām il3imāra.
 ○ āh, yarēt, itfāḍḍal.
 ◇ ʔawwālan³ ma-yinfá3š³ ḥaḍrítak tistáʔbil sittāt fi -ššáṭṭa... wi -štirāk
 il3imāra mīt ginēh fi -ššahr³ wi -lbawwāba btíʔfil issā3a ḥidašar.

○ *tamām, ṭab bi-lmārra báʔa, i3mīlli nūsxa min muftāḥ ilbawwāba 3ašān sa3āt batʔáxxar*⁴.

¹ حَضْرَتِكَ السَّكِينِ الْجَدِيدِ *ḥaḍrítak issākin iggidīd*

² خَلِّينِي اقْوَلْكَ *xallīni aʔúllak*

³ أَوَّلُ حَاجَةٍ *áwwil ḥāga*

⁴ عِشَان لَمَّا اتَّأَخَّرَ *3ašān* **sometimes**; أَوْقَاتٌ *awʔāt* = أحياناً *aḥyānan* **for when I'm late** *lámma -tʔáxxar*

When should you tip the doorman? It is customary to give the doorman a monthly tip to cover all of his services in advance, or every now and again... but not every single time he helps you carry something or hands you your mail. However, extra tips are expected for running errands (going to pay bills, etc.) and making deliveries (from a local shop, etc.), even if it's just letting him keep the change. For example, if the total is 52.50 LE, you could give him 55 LE... unless he's lugged something quite heavy upstairs to you, in which case you should tip him an extra 5 or 10 pounds, according to your estimation of the effort exerted.

Most doormen are migrant workers from rural areas, especially Upper Egypt (i.e., the south)—so you may notice your doorman's accent (dialect) is a bit different than the locals. A doorman might work for many years in the city, living alone in a small room on the ground floor of the building he works in, and only making a trip home to visit his family once or twice a year.

If a doorman's wife lives with him (and not back in their home village), she will likely offer housekeeping services. Otherwise, you can ask your neighbors to recommend a شَعَّالَة *šayyāla* **housekeeper** to come over to clean once or twice a week.

Doormen sometimes work as unofficial brokers, receiving a finder's fee both from a landlord and the tenant when they find someone to rent an available apartment. (See **Renting an Apartment** on p. 75.)



At a Mosque

في الجامع

Cairo is known as مدينة الألف مَدَنَة *madīnit il?álf mádna* **City of a Thousand Minarets**. There are actually more minarets than that, and many are attached to beautiful, historical mosques that welcome tourists. Some mosques, such as Sultan Hassan Mosque, require a ticket upon entrance for foreign tourists and are closed to tourists during Friday prayers. Modest clothing should be worn inside mosques, and shoes are removed before entering a prayer area. Women should keep their heads covered and be wearing a dress or skirt (not pants). Mosques provide loose skirts and isdals for women, as well as headscarves. Try to avoid passing in front of someone praying so as not to distract them and invalidate their prayer. In any case, there is no need to be nervous about the details of etiquette. People are usually welcoming and hospitable as long as you attempt to show respect for the people and the faith, and small missteps will certainly be excused.

Extended Dialogue

- لَوْ سَمَحْتَ، نِزُوجِ جَامِعِ الْإِزْهَرِ إِزَّاي؟¹
- ◇ هَتَمَشُوا زَيَّ مَا ائْتَوْ كِدِه لِحَدِّ نَفَقِ الْمُشَاه. مَدْخُلِ الْجَامِعِ بَعْدِيه
بِجَاجِه بَسِيطَه.²
- تمام، مُتَشَكِّرِينَ أَوِي. نَقْدَرِ نِدْخُلْ عَادِي؟
- ◇ آه عَادِي. اِنْفَضِّلُوا مَعَايَا طَيِّب. اَنَا كِدِه كِدِه رَايَح.
- شُكْرًا جِدًّا.
- ◇ عَلَى آيَه! بَسْ هَتَقْلَعُوا الْجَزْمَ بَرَّهْ وَ تَلْبِسُوا إِسْدَالِ أَوْ حَاجِه.
- بَسْ إِحْنَا مَعْنَايَش.³
- ◇ لَا مِشْ مُشْكِلَه. هُمَا يَبْقُوا مُؤَقَّرِينَ. اِهْمُ⁴، تَقْدَرُوا تَاخُدُوا إِسْدَالَاتِ
و جِيَّاتِ مِنْهُمْ.
- طَيِّب، نَقْدَرِ نِصُورْ⁵ عَادِي جَوْهْ؟
- ◇ آه صُورُوا بِرَا جِتِكُمْ⁶ فِي السَّاحَةِ طَالَمَا مِشْ وَقْتُ صَلَاةٍ أَوْ خُطْبَةٍ.
- طَيِّب، إِحْنَا مَعَانَا وَاحِدَه مُسْلِمَه وَ حَابَه تِصَلِّي. تَقْدَرِ تِصَلِّي فِينْ؟
- ◇ مُمَكِّنْ تَدْخُلْ مَكَانَ السَّيِّدَاتِ الَّلِي عَ الْيَمِينِ دَه.
- طَيِّب، فِيهِ مَكَانٌ هِيَّ تَقْدَرِ تِتَوَضَّيْ فِيهِ؟⁷
- ◇ آه بَسْ بَرَّهْ.
- طَيِّب، خَلِينَا نَزُوحْ كُلُّنَا الْحَمَّامِ احْسَنْ بَعْدِينَ نِدْخُلْ مَرَّهً وَاحِدَه.
- ◇ تمام، زَيَّ مَا تُحِبُّوَا بَسْ اِدِيكُو⁸ عَرِفْتُوا الْإِمَّاكِينَ وَ النَّظَام.
- تمام، مُتَشَكِّرِينَ جِدًّا لِذَوْقِك.
- ◇ الْعَفْوُ! عَلَى آيَهْ؟

- Excuse me, how can we get to Azhar Mosque?
 - ◇ You'll keep going in this direction until the pedestrian tunnel. The entrance of the mosque is just a bit after it.
 - Okay, thanks a lot. Is it okay to enter it?
 - ◇ Oh yes. Please, come along with me then. I'm going that way anyway.
 - Thanks a lot.
 - ◇ Not at all. But you will need to take off your shoes and wear isdal or something.
 - But we don't have those.
 - ◇ No problem. They will provide them. There they are! You can take either an isdal or a skirt from them.
 - 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 the time for prayers or a sermon.
 - Okay. And we have a Muslim lady with us and she would like to pray. Where can she pray?
 - ◇ She can enter the ladies' section on the right over there.
 - Okay. And is there somewhere she can perform ablution?
 - ◇ Yes, but it's outside.
 - Okay, we'd better 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!
 - ◇ You're welcome! It's nothing!
-
- *law samáht, nīrūh qāmi3 ilʔázhar izzāyʔ¹*
 - ◇ *hatimšu zayyʔ má-ntu kida l-haddʔ náfaʔ ilmušā. mádxal iggāmi3 ba3dī b-hāga bašīṭa².*
 - *tamām, mutšakkirīn áwi. níʔdar nídxul 3ādiʔ*
 - ◇ *āh, 3ādi. itfaḍḍálu ma3āya ṭāyyib. ána kida kida rāyih.*
 - *šúkran gíddan.*
 - ◇ *3ála ʔē! bassʔ hatiʔlá3u -ggízam bárra wi tilbīsu isdāl aw hāga.*

○ *bass íhna ma-3anā³.*

◇ *laʔ, miš muškila. húmma biyibʔu muwaffarīn. áhum⁴, tíʔdaru táxdu isdalāt wi žibāt mínhum.*

○ *ťáyyib, níʔdar nišáwwa⁵ 3ādi gúwwa?*

◇ *āh, šawwáru b-rahítum⁶ fi -ssāḥa ṭalama miš waʔ^a šála aw xúṭba.*

○ *ťáyyib, íhna ma3āna wáḥda musulíma wi ḥábba ṭšállí. tíʔdar ṭišállí fēn?*

◇ *múmkin tídxul makān issayyidāt illi 3a -lyimīn da.*

○ *ťáyyib, fī makān híyya tíʔdar titwáddá fī?*

◇ *āh, bass^a bárra.*

○ *ťáyyib, xallīna nrūḥ kullína -lḥammām áḥsan ba3dēn nídxul márra wáḥda.*

◇ *tamām, zayy^a ma ṭḥíbbu, bass adīku⁸ 3iríftu -lʔamākin wi -nnižām.*

○ *tamām, mutšakkirīn gíddan li-zōʔak.*

◇ *il3áfw. 3ála ʔē?*

¹ = جامع الأزهر مِينْ؟ *gāmi3 ilʔázhar minēn?*

² = بمسافه قُصِيرَه *bi-masāfa ʔuṣayyára*

³ = مِش معانا *miš ma3āna*

⁴ = هَيِّقْ فِيهِ جَوْه. *hayibʔa fī gúwwa. They'll be inside.*

⁵ = نَاخِد صُورَ *nāxud šúwar*

⁶ = مَا اِتُّو عَائِزِينَ *zayy^a má-ntu 3ayzīn as you want*

⁷ = فِيهِ مَكَان لِلْوُضُوءِ؟ *fī makān li-lwuḍūʔ?*

⁸ = آدَى *ādi voilà, here is...;* ادِيك *adīk* / ادِيكِي *adīki* / ادِيكو *adīku* **Here you are!**

Vocabulary

(large) mosque	<i>gāmi3</i>	جامع
small mosque, masjid	<i>másjid</i>	مسجد
small “storefront” mosque (inside another building without a minaret)	<i>záwya</i>	زاوية
minaret	<i>mádna (mídan)</i>	مَدَنَه (مِدَن)
dome	<i>ʔúbba (ʔúbab)</i>	قُبَّه (قُبَب)
courtyard	<i>sāḥja ṣaḥn</i>	ساحه صحن
column	<i>3amūd</i>	عمود
gate	<i>bawwāba</i>	بوابة
tickets	<i>tazākir</i>	تذاكر
shoe rack, shoe area	<i>makān iggí3am</i>	مكان الجِزَم
charity box	<i>sandūʔ iṣṣadaʔāt</i>	صندوق الصدقات
administration office	<i>máktab ilʔidāra</i>	مكتب الإدارة
hijab, veil	<i>ḥigāb</i>	حِجاب
woman wearing hijab, covered woman	<i>muḥággab</i>	مُحَجَّب
headscarf	<i>ṭarḥa</i>	طَرَحَه
khimar (long headscarf that also covers upper torso)	<i>ximār</i>	خِمار
niqab (covers entire face except the eyes)	<i>niqāb</i>	نِقاب

woman in niqab	<i>muntáqiba</i>	مُنْتَقِبِه
abaya	<i>3abāya</i>	عِبَايَه
women's prayer gown	<i>isdāl</i>	إِسْدَال
skirt	<i>žība</i>	جِبِيَه
to visit	<i>zār</i>	زَار
Muslim (male)	<i>múslim</i>	مُسْلِم
Muslim (female)	<i>muslíma</i>	مُسْلِمِه
ablution (ritual cleaning before prayer)	<i>wuḍūʔ</i>	وُضُوء
to perform ablution	<i>itwáḍḍa</i>	اِتَوَضَّعَ
ablution washroom	<i>mēḍa</i>	مِيْضَه
washroom, restroom	<i>ḥammām</i>	حَمَّام
prayer area ¹	<i>muṣálla</i>	مُصَلَّى
women's section (of a mosque)	<i>muṣálla -ssayyidāt</i>	مُصَلَّى السَّيِّدَات
call to prayer	<i>azān</i> <i>adān</i>	اذان ادان
muezzin (person who does the call to prayer)	<i>muʔázzin</i>	مُؤَذِّن
qibla (prayer direction toward Mecca)	<i>ʔíbla</i>	قِبْلَه
to pray (a ritual prayer)	<i>ṣálla</i>	صَلَّى
ritual prayer	<i>ṣála</i>	صلاه

obligatory prayer	<i>ṣalāt ilfarīda</i>	صلاة الفريضة
voluntary prayer	<i>ṣalāt ittaṭāwwu3</i>	صلاة التطوّع
prayer for guidance	<i>ṣalāt ilʔistixāra</i>	صلاة الإستخاره
prayer of need	<i>ṣalāt ilḥāga</i>	صلاة الحاجة
dawn prayer	<i>ṣalāt ilfāgr</i>	صلاة الفجر
Duha prayer (voluntary morning prayer)	<i>ṣalāt idqúḥa</i>	صلاة الضحى
noon prayer	<i>ṣalāt idqúhr</i>	صلاة الظهر
afternoon prayer	<i>ṣalāt il3áṣr</i>	صلاة العصر
sunset prayer	<i>ṣalāt ilmáʔrib</i>	صلاة المغرب
evening prayer	<i>ṣalāt il3íša</i>	صلاة العشاء
Tahajjud prayer (voluntary night prayer)	<i>ṣalāt ittahággud</i>	صلاة التهجد
holiday prayer	<i>ṣalāt il3īd</i>	صلاة العيد
prayer rug	<i>siggādit śála miṣallíyya</i>	سجادة صلاه مصلية
people who are praying	<i>muṣallīn</i>	مُصلّين
prayer, invocation	<i>dú3a dá3wa</i>	دُعاء دَعْوَة
chanting (repetition of short prayers)	<i>zikr (azkār)</i>	ذِكْر (اذكّار)
imam (prayer leader)	<i>imām</i>	إمام
pulpit	<i>mínbar</i>	مِنْبَر

sermon	<i>xúṭba</i>	خُطْبَةٌ
Friday	<i>gúm3a</i>	جُمُعَةٌ
Friday prayer	<i>ṣalāt iggúm3a</i>	صَلَاةُ الْجُمُعَةِ
halaqa (study circle)	<i>ḥálaʔa</i>	حَلَقَةٌ
lesson	<i>dars</i>	دَرْسٌ
Quran	<i>qurʔān</i>	قُرْآنٌ
recitation	<i>tilāwa</i>	تِلَاوَةٌ
sunna (a tradition of the Prophet)	<i>súnna</i>	سُنَّةٌ
fatwa (a religious opinion)	<i>fátwa</i>	فَتْوَى
fatwa council	<i>dār ilʔifta</i>	دَارُ الْإِفْتَاءِ
reward	<i>sawāb</i>	ثَوَابٌ
Ramadan	<i>ramadān</i>	رَمَضَانٌ
Taraweeh prayers (during Ramadan)	<i>ṣalāt ittarawīḥ</i>	صَلَاةُ التَّرَاوِيحِ
to fast	<i>ṣām</i>	صَامَ
fast(ing)	<i>ṣōm</i> <i>ṣiyām</i>	صَوْمٌ صِيَامٌ
breaking fast	<i>fiṭār</i> <i>iftār</i>	فِطَارٌ إِفْطَارٌ
funeral	<i>ganāza</i>	جَنَازَةٌ
funeral prayer	<i>ṣalāt igganāza</i>	صَلَاةُ الْجَنَازَةِ
tomb	<i>qarīḥ</i>	ضَرِيحٌ

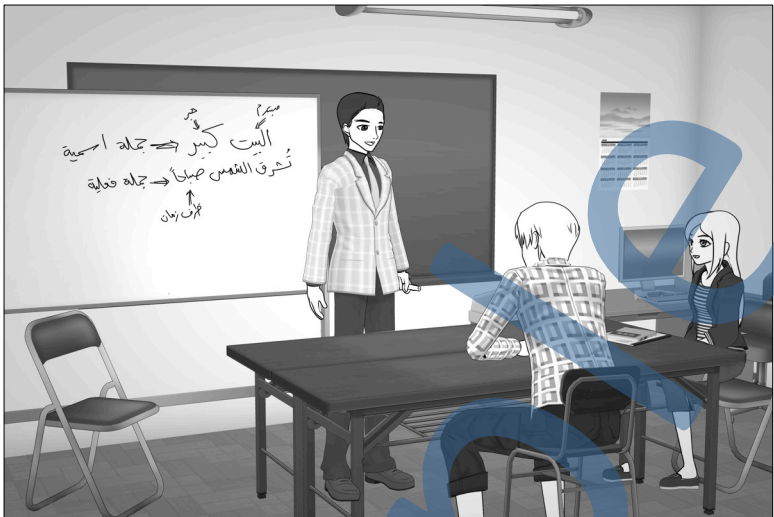
Expressions



What direction do we pray in?	<i>híyya -l?íbla izzāy/minēn?</i>	هِيَ الْقِبْلَةُ إِزَاي/مِنِينَ؟
How much time is left until the midday prayer?	<i>húwwa bā?i ?add^o ?ē 3ála šalāt idqúhr?</i>	هُوَ بَاقِي قَدْ آيَهُ عَلَى صَلَاةِ الظُّهْرِ؟
Where can I make an ablution?	<i>á?dar atwáqda fēn?</i>	أَقْدِرْ أَتَوَضَّئُ فِينْ؟
Where is the women's prayer section?	<i>fēn muşálla -ssayyidāt?</i>	فِينْ مُصَلَّى السَّيِّدَاتِ؟
I'd like [to borrow] a skirt, please.	<i>3áyza žība law samáḥti.</i>	عَايْزُهُ جِيهَ لَوْ سَمَحْتِي.
May I have an isdaal, please?	<i>múmkín isdāl min fáqlík?</i>	مُمْكِنَ إِصْدَالِ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ؟
◇		
The sermon has just started.	<i>ilxútba líssa bád?a.</i>	الْخُطْبَةُ لِسَّهُ بَادَتْهُ.
There is some maintenance going on inside the mosque.	<i>fī tarmimāt fi -ggāmi3.</i>	فِيهِ تَرْمِيمَاتٌ فِي الْجَامِعِ.
There are copies of the Quran and books in the library over there.	<i>fī maşāḥif wi kútub fi -lmaktába illi hināk.</i>	فِيهِ مَصَاحِفُ وَ كُتُبُ فِي الْمَكْتَبَةِ الَّتِي هِنَاكَ.
Charity boxes are next to the gate on your way out.	<i>şanadī? işşada?āt gamb ilbāb w ínta xārig.</i>	صَنَادِيقُ الصَّدَقَاتِ جَمْبُ الْبَابِ وَ إِنْتِ خَارِجَ.

There is a marriage ceremony after the evening prayer.	<i>fī katb^a kitāb ba3d il3iša.</i>	فيه كُتِبَ كِتَابٌ بَعْدَ الْعِشَاءِ.
Take an isdal to put on.	<i>xúdi isdāl tilbisī.</i>	خُذِي إِسْدَالَ تَلْبِيسِيهِ.
Women are on the upper floor.	<i>issayyidāt iddōr illi fō?</i>	السَّيِّدَاتُ الدَّوْرُ اللى فَوْقَ.
There is a room for children upstairs.	<i>fī ōḡa li-lʔaṭfāl fō?</i>	فيه أَوْضَه لِلْأَطْفَالِ فَوْقَ.

¹ مَصَلًى *muṣálla* can refer to the prayer hall inside a mosque, or to any area not in a mosque that is set up for prayers.



At a Language Institute

في مركز تعليم اللغة

A simple internet search will bring up a host of private language institutes in Cairo and Alexandria that specialize in teaching **3árabi** **Arabic** to non-native speakers. If you are going to Egypt specifically to study Arabic for a limited time, it might be a good idea to enroll in a course online so that everything is organized and you know when you need to arrive for the first study term and when to book your return flight for. But if you are going to be in Egypt for an extended time, there are advantages in waiting until you arrive to find the best school and course for your needs. In any case, whenever possible, try to get word-of-mouth recommendations from current or former students. Most schools have programs in both **3ammiyya** **Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (ECA)** and **fúṣḥa** **Modern Standard Arabic (MSA)**. Some schools also have specialized (media, business, literature, etc.) courses in MSA. Non-secular institutes will also offer a third variety of Arabic: **3árabi -lqurʿān** **Quranic Arabic** (sometimes called Classical Arabic). Some schools can provide you with a language partner or tutor, who gets paid per hour, so that you can practice the language more and even go on excursions (to a museum, restaurant, etc.) together.