# Levantine Arabic Verbs

## Conjugation Tables and Grammar

to study

imperfect

idrus
nidrus
tidrus
tidirsi
yidrus
tidrus
yidirsu

imperative

drisu

darsu
drisi

masculine
feminine
plural

dérís
dérsi
dérsin

I studied hard for my exams.

We went to study at Jehan's place.

Omar never studies when he gets back from school. I don't know how he'll pass!

Nancy, study so you can pass your tests.

together when you get home.

MP3 download

# Levantine Arabic Verbs
## QUICK LOOKUP

| # | Arabic | English | # | Arabic | English | # | Arabic | English | # | Arabic | English |
|---|--------|---------|---|--------|---------|---|--------|---------|---|--------|---------|
| 1 | إجا | come | 27 | حْمَرّ | turn red | 53 | صار | become | 79 | لاقى | find |
| 2 | أَخَد | take | 28 | خِلِص | stop | 54 | ضِحِك | laugh | 80 | لِبِس | wear |
| 3 | أَعْلَن | announce | 29 | خَلَّص | finish | 55 | ضَلّ | stay | 81 | لِعب | play |
| 4 | أَكَل | eat | 30 | خَلّى | let | 56 | طَبَخ | cook | 82 | مَسَك | hold |
| 5 | أَمَر | order | 31 | دَرَس | study | 57 | طَلَب | request | 83 | مِشي | walk |
| 6 | باع | sell | 32 | دَفَع | pay | 58 | طْلِع | ascend | 84 | نامر | sleep |
| 7 | بَرَم | turn | 33 | دَقَر | touch | 59 | عِرف | know | 85 | نْبَسَط | enjoy |
| 8 | بِقي | become | 34 | راح | go | 60 | عَزَم | invite | 86 | نِسي | forget |
| 9 | بَلَّش | begin | 35 | رَبَط | bind | 61 | عَطى | give | 87 | نْضَمّ | join |
| 10 | تَرَك | leave | 36 | رْتاح | rest | 62 | عِمِل | do | 88 | نَطَر | wait |
| 11 | تْعامَل | treat | 37 | رِجِع | return | 63 | غَسَّل | wash | 89 | نْقال | be said |
| 12 | تْعَلَّم | learn | 38 | رِكِب | ride | 64 | غَيَّر | change | 90 | نْلْغى | be canceled |
| 13 | تْغَدّى | have lunch | 39 | رَمى | throw | 65 | فاق | wake up | 91 | هْتَمّ | be interested |
| 14 | تْفادى | avoid | 40 | زار | visit | 66 | فَتَح | open | 92 | وُصِل | arrive |
| 15 | تْلَخْبَط | err | 41 | ساعَد | help | 67 | فَرْجى | show | 93 | وَعَد | promise |
| 16 | تْلْفَن | phone | 42 | سَأَل | ask | 68 | فَكَّر | think | 94 | وِقِع | fall |
| 17 | تْمَنّى | hope | 43 | سْتَعْمَل | use | 69 | فِهِم | understand | 95 | وِقِف | stand |
| 18 | جاب | bring | 44 | سْتْهْنى | enjoy | 70 | قال | say | 96 | وَقَّف | stop |
| 19 | حاوَل | try | 45 | سَكَّر | close | 71 | قَبَض | earn | 97 | وِلد | be born |
| 20 | حَبّ | like | 46 | سَكَن | live | 72 | قَتَل | kill | 98 | كان في | there to be |
| 21 | حْتَفَل | celebrate | 47 | سِمِع | hear | 73 | قِدِر | be able to | 99 | كان عِنْدو | have |
| 22 | حَرَّك | move | 48 | شاف | see | 74 | قَرا | read | 100 | كان إلو | have |
| 23 | حَسّ | feel | 49 | شْترى | buy | 75 | قَعَد | sit | 101 | كان معو | have |
| 24 | حِضِر | watch | 50 | شْتَغَل | work | 76 | كان | be | 102 | كان بَدّو | want |
| 25 | حَطّ | put | 51 | شِرِب | drink | 77 | كَتَب | write | 103 | كان فِيّو | be able to |
| 26 | حِكي | speak | 52 | شَكَر | thank | 78 | كَذّب | lie | | | |

# Levantine Arabic Verbs

## Conjugation Tables and Grammar

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# Contents

# Introduction

**Levantine Colloquial Arabic** is an umbrella term for the continuum of dialects spoken in Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Israel, and Jordan, a region collectively known as the Levant. Although there are some differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar, the varieties of Arabic spoken in this region are, to a large extent, mutually intelligible. It would be confusing and ineffective to try to include several regional varieties in the conjugation tables in this book. For this reason, one variety, Lebanese Arabic, has been chosen. Even if you plan to travel to—or just talk with speakers from—other parts of the Levant, you will be able to communicate using the Lebanese dialect and accent successfully. If your aim is to mimic a local dialect, you will only need to make minor adjustments, which you will pick up over time by listening to locals. (Update (2021): *Palestinian Arabic Verbs* is now available.)

The concept of this book has been modeled after two other Lingualism titles: *Egyptian Colloquial Arabic Verbs* and *The Big Fat Book of Egyptian Arabic Verbs.* The former focuses on classifying verbs into patterns while the latter gives conjugation tables for the most common verbs, along with example sentences. **Levantine Arabic Verbs: Conjugation Tables and Grammar** does both, including tables of the most commonly used verbs in daily life and example sentences, as well as providing a system of verb classifications which allows you to conjugate any of the 750 verbs shown in the indexes.

The materials in this book are largely based on surveys completed by native speakers of Lebanese Arabic. I found that individuals, even those in the same city (namely, Beirut), sometimes disagree on the vowels used in some verbs. In such cases, I chose the most common, acceptable form. Keep this in mind, however, as you will hear variations among native speakers.
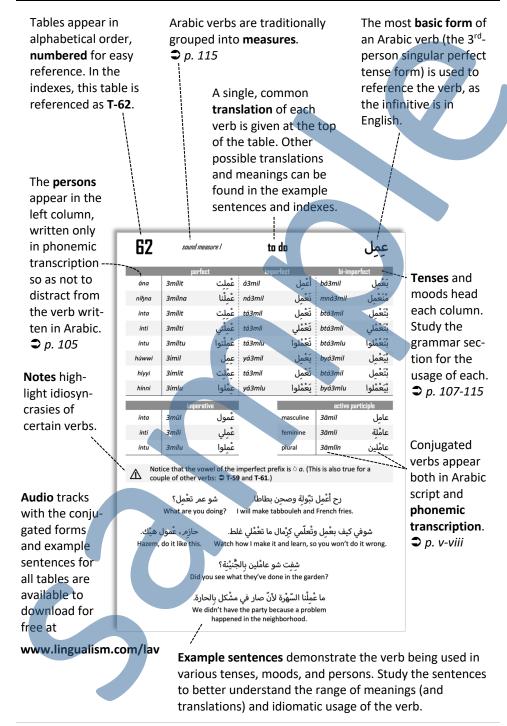
The conjugation tables show perfect, imperfect, bi-imperfect, imperative, and active participle forms of verbs. (These may also be known by other grammatical names, such as past, subjunctive, present, command, and present participle.) The passive participle (past participle) and verbal noun (gerund, masdar) are not included in the tables as they are used as adjectives and nouns, respectively, falling outside the scope of this book.

I want to thank Aisha El Saleous, Ibrahim Sioufi, Hoda Hilal, Mona Noureddine, and Nadine-Lama Choucaire for providing the many wonderful example sentences in this book, as well as editing and answering all of my questions to ensure a high level of accuracy and authenticity of the information. A special thanks to Nadine-Lama Choucaire for also recording the accompanying audio tracks.

## Audio

Visit **www.lingualism.com/lav**, where you can find free accompanying audio to download or stream (at variable playback rates)

# How to Use This Book

Tables appear in alphabetical order, **numbered** for easy reference. In the indexes, this table is referenced as **T-62**.

Arabic verbs are traditionally grouped into **measures**. ➲ *p. 115*

A single, common **translation** of each verb is given at the top of the table. Other possible translations and meanings can be found in the example sentences and indexes.

The most **basic form** of an Arabic verb (the 3rd-person singular perfect tense form) is used to reference the verb, as the infinitive is in English.

The **persons** appear in the left column, written only in phonemic transcription so as not to distract from the verb written in Arabic. ➲ *p. 105*

**Notes** highlight idiosyncrasies of certain verbs.

**Audio** tracks with the conjugated forms and example sentences for all tables are available to download for free at

**www.lingualism.com/lav**

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## 62 — sound measure I — to do — عمِل

| | perfect | | imperfect | | bi-imperfect | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ána* | *3mílit* | عْمِلت | *á3mil* | أَعْمِل | *bá3mil* | بَعْمِل |
| *níḥna* | *3mílna* | عْمِلْنا | *ná3mil* | نَعْمِل | *mná3mil* | مْنَعْمِل |
| *ínta* | *3mílit* | عْمِلت | *tá3mil* | تَعْمِل | *btá3mil* | بْتَعْمِل |
| *ínti* | *3mílti* | عْمِلْتي | *tá3mli* | تَعْمْلي | *btá3mli* | بْتَعْمْلي |
| *íntu* | *3míltu* | عْمِلْتوا | *tá3mlu* | تَعْمْلوا | *btá3mlu* | بْتَعْمْلوا |
| *húwwi* | *3ímil* | عِمِل | *yá3mil* | يَعْمِل | *byá3mil* | بْيَعْمِل |
| *híyyi* | *3ímlit* | عِمْلِت | *tá3mil* | تَعْمِل | *btá3mil* | بْتَعْمِل |
| *hínni* | *3ímlu* | عِمْلوا | *yá3mlu* | يَعْمْلوا | *byá3mlu* | بْيَعْمْلوا |

| | imperative | | | active participle | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ínta* | *3mūl* | عْمول | masculine | *3āmil* | عامِل |
| *ínti* | *3mili* | عْمِلي | feminine | *3āmli* | عامْلِة |
| *íntu* | *3mílu* | عْمِلوا | plural | *3āmlīn* | عامْلين |

⚠ Notice that the vowel of the imperfect prefix is ◌ *a*. (This is also true for a couple of other verbs: ➲ **T-59** and **T-61**.)

رح أَعْمِل تبّولة وصحِن بطاطا    شو عم تعْمِل؟
I will make tabbouleh and French fries.    What are you doing?

شوفي كيف بعْمِل وتْعلّمي كِرمال ما تعْمْلي غلط.    حازِم، عْمول هيك.
Watch how I make it and learn, so you won't do it wrong.    Hazem, do it like this.

شِفِت شو عامْلين بالجْنَيْنة؟
Did you see what they've done in the garden?

ما عْمِلْنا السّهْرة لأنّ صار في مشْكل بالحارة.
We didn't have the party because a problem happened in the neighborhood.

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**Tenses** and moods head each column. Study the grammar section for the usage of each. ➲ *p. 107-115*

Conjugated verbs appear both in Arabic script and **phonemic transcription**. ➲ *p. v-viii*

**Example sentences** demonstrate the verb being used in various tenses, moods, and persons. Study the sentences to better understand the range of meanings (and translations) and idiomatic usage of the verb.

Use the **Index by Table Pattern** to conjugate hundreds more common Levantine Arabic verbs.

First, find the verb you would like to conjugate in the Arabic Index (➲ *p. 133*) or English Index (➲ *p. 144*). Next to it, you will see an alphanumeric label. For example, if you look up سبح or *swim,* you will see 1s1 following the verb.

Now, go to the Index by Table Pattern (➲ *p. 118*) and find group 1s1. (Notice that 1s1 is shorthand for sound measure I, first subgroup. ➲ *p. 115-117*).

You can see سبح *swim* listed alphabetically in group 1s1. There is no conjugation table for this particular verb, but all of the verbs belonging to group 1s1 share the same conjugation pattern. Use any of the verbs that do have a table (marked **T-**) to model the conjugation of سبح.

You can, for example, look up **T-32** (table 32 on *p. 32* for the verb دفع *pay*) and substitute the three radicals (consonants) of this verb with those of سبح *swim.* If you want to say *they swim,* find the equivalent of *they pay* in table 32 (the bi-imperfect *hínni* form): بْيِدْفَعوا *byídfa3u* and transform it into بْيِسْبَحوا *byísbaḥu.*

| 1s1 | *sound measure I* ① | | T-42 | سأل | ask |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | بحش | dig | | سبح | swim |
| | يخع | humiliate | | سحب | withdraw |
| | يعت | send; mail | | سمح | allow, permit |
| | بلع | swallow | | شحد | beg (for money) |
| | تبع | follow | | شرح | explain |
| | جرح | wound, injure, hurt | | شلح | undress; take off, remove |
| | جمع | add, add up; harvest | | صنع | manufacture |
| | حصل على | obtain | | ضهر | leave; go out |
| | خدع | deceive | | طبع | print |
| | خلع | snatch | | طحن | grind |
| | دعس | step | | طرح | subtract |
| | دعس على | tread on | | ظهر | appear |
| T-32 | دفع | pay | T-66 | فتح | open |
| T-33 | **دقر** | touch | | فحص | examine |
| | دهن | paint | | فقس على | click on |
| | رفع | raise | | فلح | plow (field); work hard |
| | زحط | slip | T-71 | **قبض** | earn |
| | زرع | plant (a seed), grow (a plant) | | قنع | convince |
| | زعب | kick; speak harshly | | | |

# Pronunciation

Levantine Colloquial Arabic (LCA) is a spoken dialect with no official status or rules of orthography. Native speakers tend to borrow spelling conventions from Modern Standard Arabic with some accommodations to account for LCA pronunciation. Arabic script, however, is ill-suited to show the actual pronunciation of LCA, including word stress and sound changes that occur when verbs are conjugated. Even if you are comfortable with Arabic script, it is advised that you pay close attention to the phonemic transcription (and audio tracks) to determine a more precise pronunciation of verbs. IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbols are found in [square brackets] in the descriptions below. You may find exceptions to the following rules, especially when it comes to words borrowed from other languages.

## Consonants

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

|   |   |   | *examples* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **b** | ب | [b] as in **b**ed | *bána* بنى *(build)* |
| **d** | د | [d̪] as in **d**og, but with the tongue touching the back of the upper teeth | *dáris* درس *(study)* |
| **f** | ف | [f] as in **f**our | *fātūra* فاتورة *(bill)* |
| **j** | ج | [ʒ] as in plea**s**ure and bei**g**e | *jísim* جِسِم *(body)* |
| **h** | ه | [h] as in **h**ouse | *hājam* هاجم *(attack)* |
| **k** | ك | [k] as in **k**id | *ákal* اكل *(eat)* |
| **l** | ل | [l] a light **l** as in **l**ove | *líbis* لِبِس *(get dressed)* |
| **m** | م | [m] as in **m**oon | *māt* مات *(die)* |
| **n** | ن | [n] as in **n**ice | *nísi* نِسي *(forget)* |
| **p** | ب | [p] appears in some foreign borrowings | *spōr* سْبور *(sport)* |
| **s** | س ث | [s] as in **s**un | *síni* سِنِة *(year)* |
| **š** | ش | [ʃ] as in **sh**ow | *šū* شو *(what)* |
| **t** | ت | [t̪] as in **t**ie, but with the tongue touching the back of the upper teeth | *tlāti* تْلاتة *(three)* |
| **v** | ف | [v] appears in some foreign borrowings | *mūvī* موفي *(movie)* |
| **w** | و | [w] as in **w**ord | *wēn* وِيْن *(where)* |
| **y** | ي | [j] as in **y**es | *yíktub* يِكْتُب *(he writes)* |
| **z** | ز ذ | [z] as in **z**oo | *zār* زار *(visit)* |

# to come إِجا

| | perfect | | imperfect | | bi-imperfect | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ána* | *jīt* | جيت | *íji* | إجي | *bíji* | بِجي |
| *níħna* | *jīna* | جينا | *níji* | نِجي | *mníji* | مْنِجي |
| *ínta* | *jīt* | جيت | *tíji* | تِجي | *btíji* | بْتِجي |
| *ínti* | *jīti* | جيتي | *tíji* | تِجي | *btíji* | بْتِجي |
| *íntu* | *jītu* | جيتوا | *tíju* | تِجوا | *btíju* | بْتِجوا |
| *húwwi* | *íja* | إجا | *yíji* | يِجي | *byíji* | بْيِجي |
| *híyyi* | *íjit* | إجِت | *tíji* | تِجي | *btíji* | بْتِجي |
| *hínni* | *íju* | إجوا | *yíju* | يِجوا | *byíju* | بْيِجوا |

| | imperative | | | active participle | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ínta* | *tá3a* | تَعا | masculine | *jēy* | جاي |
| *ínti* | *tá3i* | تَعي | feminine | *jēyi* | جايةِ |
| *íntu* | *tá3u* | تَعوا | plural | *jēyīn* | جايين |

⚠ ① Only the third-person perfect forms begin with إ *i-*.
② The positive imperative is completely unrelated to the verb.
③ The masculine active participle is also commonly pronounced جايي *jēyi*.

جيت لعنْدك ودقّيْت الباب، ما حدا فتح.
I came to your house and knocked on the door, but no one answered.

لمّا تِجي مِن السّوق دِقّيلي.
When you get back from shopping, call me.

بْتِجي لعنْدي الشّغالةِ مرّة بالشّهِر.
The cleaning lady comes to my house
once a month.

أيْمْتى جايين؟
When are you are coming?

تعوا عَ بُكْرا الصُّبْح، مْنِفْطِر سَوا.
Come tomorrow morning and we'll have breakfast together.

*irregular measure I* · **to take** · أَخَد

| | perfect | | imperfect | | bi-imperfect | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ána* | *ʔaxádit* | أَخَدت | *ʔēxud* | آخُد | *bēxud* | باخُد |
| *níħna* | *ʔaxádna* | أَخَدْنا | *nēxud* | ناخُد | *mnēxud* | مْناخُد |
| *ínta* | *ʔaxádit* | أَخَدت | *tēxud* | تاخُد | *btēxud* | بْتاخُد |
| *ínti* | *ʔaxádti* | أَخَدْتي | *tēxdi* | تاخْدي | *btēxdi* | بْتاخْدي |
| *íntu* | *ʔaxádtu* | أَخَدتوا | *tēxdu* | تاخْدوا | *btēxdu* | بْتاخْدوا |
| *húwwi* | *ʔáxad* | أَخَد | *yēxud* | ياخُد | *byēxud* | بْياخُد |
| *híyyi* | *ʔáxadit* | أَخَدت | *tēxud* | تاخُد | *btēxud* | بْتاخُد |
| *hínni* | *ʔáxadu* | أَخَدوا | *yēxdu* | ياخْدوا | *byēxdu* | بْياخْدوا |

| | imperative | | | active participle | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ínta* | *xud* | خُد | masculine | *ʔēxid (mēxid)* | آخِد (ماخِد) |
| *ínti* | *xídi* | خِدي | feminine | *ʔēxdi (mēxdi)* | آخْدِة (ماخْدِة) |
| *íntu* | *xídu* | خِدوا | plural | *ʔēxdīn (mēxdīn)* | آخْدين (ماخْدين) |

⚠ ① The imperfect forms have a long vowel, unlike regular measure I verbs.
② The active participle has a less common variant beginning with مـ *m-*.
③ أكل *ʔákal* (**T-4**) is the twin of this irregular verb.

أخدِت عِلْبِة مناكير مِن الخْزانِة.
I took the nail polish box out of the closet.

خِدوا خيُّكُن الصُّغير عالمدْرسِة معْكُن.
Take your little brother with you to school.

ما بْتاخُد ولا شي بْدون إذِن.
Don't take anything without permission.

خِدي حْمِلي معي الغْراض.          كان آخِد معو عِدِّة صيْد.
Help me carry these bags.       He has taken a fishing kit with him.

*sound measure I*     **to stop**     خِلِص

| | perfect | | imperfect | | bi-imperfect | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ána* | *xlíṣit* | خْلِصت | *íxlaṣ* | إخْلَص | *bíxlaṣ* | بِخْلَص |
| *níḥna* | *xlíṣna* | خْلِصْنا | *níxlaṣ* | نِخْلَص | *mníxlaṣ* | مْنِخْلَص |
| *ínta* | *xlíṣit* | خْلِصت | *tíxlaṣ* | تِخْلَص | *btíxlaṣ* | بْتِخْلَص |
| *ínti* | *xlíṣti* | خْلِصْتي | *tíxlaṣi* | تِخْلَصي | *btíxlaṣi* | بْتِخْلَصي |
| *íntu* | *xlíṣtu* | خْلِصْتوا | *tíxlaṣu* | تِخْلَصوا | *btíxlaṣu* | بْتِخْلَصوا |
| *húwwi* | *xíliṣ* | خِلِص | *yíxlaṣ* | يِخْلَص | *byíxlaṣ* | بْيِخْلَص |
| *híyyi* | *xílṣit* | خِلْصِت | *tíxlaṣ* | تِخْلَص | *btíxlaṣ* | بْتِخْلَص |
| *hínni* | *xílṣu* | خِلْصوا | *yíxlaṣu* | يِخْلَصوا | *byíxlaṣu* | بْيِخْلَصوا |

| | imperative | | | active participle | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ínta* | *xlāṣ* | خْلاص | masculine | *xāliṣ* | خالِص |
| *ínti* | *xláṣi* | خْلَصي | feminine | *xālṣa* | خالْصَة |
| *íntu* | *xláṣu* | خْلَصوا | plural | *xālṣīn* | خالْصين |

خِلْصِت الحفْلِة بْسبب المشْكِل.

The party stopped because the fight.

خْلصي مِن التّفْكير بْهالشّغْلِة.

Stop thinking about that.

إذا بْتِترْكيه، بْيخْلِص حكْيو معِك.

If you break up with him, he'll stop talking to you.

خِلِص المِشْوار لأنّ تِعِبْنا.

The journey stopped because we were tired

هَيْدول الجّماعة خالْصين مِن كُتِر الشُّرْب.

These people are wasted from drinking too much.

**to see**

# شاف

| | perfect | | imperfect | | bi-imperfect | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ána* | *šífit* | شِفِت | *šūf* | شوف | *bšūf* | بْشوف |
| *níħna* | *šífna* | شِفْنا | *nšūf* | نْشوف | *minšūf* | مِنْشوف |
| *ínta* | *šífit* | شِفِت | *tšūf* | تْشوف | *bitšūf* | بِتْشوف |
| *ínti* | *šífti* | شِفْتي | *tšūfi* | تْشوفي | *bitšūfi* | بِتْشوفي |
| *íntu* | *šíftu* | شِفْتوا | *tšūfu* | تْشوفوا | *bitšūfu* | بِتْشوفوا |
| *húwwi* | *šēf* | شاف | *yšūf* | يْشوف | *bišūf* | بيشوف |
| *híyyi* | *šēfit* | شافِت | *tšūf* | تْشوف | *bitšūf* | بِتْشوف |
| *hínni* | *šēfu* | شافوا | *yšūfu* | يْشوفوا | *bišūfu* | بيشوفوا |

| | imperative | | | active participle | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ínta* | *šūf* | شوف | masculine | *šēyif* | شايِف |
| *ínti* | *šūfi* | شوفي | feminine | *šēyfi* | شايْفِة |
| *íntu* | *šūfu* | شوفو | plural | *šēyfin* | شايْفين |

ما شِفْنا هِشام مْبارِح.
We didn't see Hisham yesterday.

بِدّو يْشوف مِن ويْن يْجيب دعِم لنشِر رِوايْتو.
He wants to see where he can get the funds to publish his novel.

أيْمْتى بدّكُن تْشوفوا الشِّقّة الجْديدِة؟
When do you want to see the new apartment?

بُكْرا بْشوف إذا فيِّ روح ع حفْلِة فيْروز بْمْهرجانات بيْت الدّين.
Tomorrow, I'll see if I'm going to go to a Fayrouz concert at the Beit Ed-Dine festival.

شوفي هالفِسْتان وعْطيني رأيِك.
Look at this dress and give me your opinion.

# 103 *prepositional phrase* **to be able to** كان فِيو

| | perfect | | imperfect | | present | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ána* | *kēn fīni* | كان فيني | *ykūn fīni* | يْكون فيني | *fīni* | فيني |
| | *kēn fíyi* | كان فِيي | *ykūn fíyi* | يْكون فِيي | *fíyi* | فِيي |
| *níħna* | *kēn fīna* | كان فينا | *ykūn fīna* | يْكون فينا | *fīna* | فينا |
| *ínta* | *kēn fīk* | كان فيك | *ykūn fīk* | يْكون فيك | *fīk* | فيك |
| *ínti* | *kēn fīki* | كان فيكي | *ykūn fīki* | يْكون فيكي | *fīki* | فيكي |
| *íntu* | *kēn fīkun* | كان فيكُن | *ykūn fīkun* | يْكون فيكُن | *fīkun* | فيكُن |
| *húwwi* | *kēn fíyu* | كان فِيو | *ykūn fíyu* | يْكون فِيو | *fíyu* | فِيو |
| *híyyi* | *kēn fíya* | كان فِيا | *ykūn fíya* | يْكون فِيا | *fíya* | فِيا |
| *hínni* | *kēn fíyun* | كان فِينُ | *ykūn fíyun* | يْكون فِينُ | *fíyun* | فِينُ |

① Notice that here are two *ána* forms, both of which are common.

② In prepositional phrases, the verb كان *kēn* is invariable, remaining in the third-person singular form.

③ The present tense is expressed without using the bi-imperfect بيكون *bikūn*.

④ Compare with قِدِر *ʔídir* in **T-73**.

كان فِيو يِتِّصِل عالموْبايْل.
He could have called by mobile phone.

ما فيكي تْجيبي بْطريقِك الكنْزِة؟
Can't you bring the sweater with you?

فيني غنّي معك عالمسْرح؟ فِينُ يْركُّبوا بانِرْز عالطُّرقات.
Can I sing with you on stage?     They can put the banners on the streets.

كان فينا نِنْهي المَوْضوع كِرْمال ما يْصير مشاكِل.
We could have put an end to the matter
so that there wouldn't be problems.

# Personal Pronouns

## Independent Pronouns

Levantine Arabic 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.

|  | LCA | English |  |
|---|---|---|---|
| *ána* | أَنا | I | *first-person masculine/feminine singular* |
| *níḥna* | نِحْنا | we | *first-person masculine/feminine dual/plural* |
| *ínta* | إِنْتَ | you | *second-person masculine singular* |
| *ínti* | إِنْتي | you | *second-person feminine singular* |
| *íntu* | إِنْتو | you (guys) | *second-person masculine/feminine dual/plural* |
| *húwwi* | هُوِّ | he; it | *third-person masculine singular* |
| *híyyi* | هِيِّ | she; it | *third-person feminine singular* |
| *hínni* | هِنِّ | they | *third-person masculine/feminine dual/plural* |

⚠ Compared to Modern Standard Arabic, Levantine Colloquial Arabic has four fewer pronouns, as the dual is absorbed into the plural, which is used for both genders.

| LCA | MSA |
|---|---|
| إِنْتو | أَنْتُما / أَنْتُمْ / أَنْتُنَّ |
| هِنّ | هُما / هُمْ / هُنَّ |

➲ *You can hear the pronunciation of the independent pronouns on audio track 76B* (**T-76B**)*.*

Keep in mind that a conjugated 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:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *bḥíbbak.* | بْحِبَّك. | I love you. |
| *<u>ána</u> bḥíbbak.* | أَنا بْحِبَّك. | **I** love you. |

③ The imperfect follows the progressive particle عم *3am*, equivalent to the present continuous tense of English. It refers to actions happening at the time of speaking, as well as those that are repetitive or ongoing.

*3an šū <u>3am</u> tíħki?*　　　　　　عن شو عم تِحْكي؟　　What are you talking about?

*3áli <u>3am</u> yjámmi3 maṣariyyātu.*　علي عم يْجمّع مصرِيّاتو.　Ali is saving up his money.

عم *3am* need not be repeated in a string of verbs.

<u>3am</u> *túṭbux u tíħḍar tilfizyõ.*　عم تُطْبُخ وتْحْضر تِلْفِزْيون.　She's cooking and watching TV.

The negative particle ما *mā* precedes عم *3am.*

　　　　<u>mā 3am</u> *íħḍar film.*　　ما عم إحْضر فيلْم.　I'm not watching a movie.

④ A negative imperative (command) is expressed by placing ما *mā* in front of a second-person imperfect verb.

　　<u>mā</u> *tídʔar fíyyi.*　　　　　　ما تِدْقر فيي.　Don't touch me.

　　<u>mā</u> *trūħi la-wáħdik la-hunēk.*　ما تْروحي لَوَحْدِك لَهُنْيك.　Don't go there alone.

⑤ An imperfect verb follows certain conjunctions of purpose* and time**.

*rāħit 3a-lbáħir <u>ta</u>-tísbaħ.*　راحِت عالبحِر تَتِسْبح.　She went to the beach <u>(in order) to</u> swim.

*3am bídrus <u>kirmēl</u> mā -sʔuṭ.*　عم بِدْرُس كِرْمال ما إسقُط.　I'm studying <u>so that</u> I don't fail.

*fátaħ ššibbēk <u>ʔábil mā</u> ynēm.*　فتح الشِّبّاك قِبل ما يْنام.　He opened the window <u>before</u> he went to bed.

\* تـ *ta-,* لـ *la-,* حتّ *ħátta,* عشان *3ašān,* مِنْشان *minšān,* كِرْمال *kirmēl* 'in order to', 'so that'

\*\* قِبل ما *ʔábil mā* 'before'; بعد ما *bá3id mā* 'after'; بسّ *bass* 'when'

## The Bi-Imperfect Tense

### Form

The bi-imperfect is formed by prefixing ب to conjugations of the imperfect tense. If the imperfect prefix has a vowel, the bi-imperfect prefix takes a sukuun (◌ no vowel). If it has a sukuun, the bi-imperfect prefix takes a kasra (◌ i). The *níħna* form takes م (m) instead of ب (b).

# Indexes

750 verbs are listed in the indexes, by pattern, alphabetically in Arabic, and by English translation. The pattern for each verb is designated by an alphanumeric indicator (1s1, 8d, etc.) Verbs which have their own tables are shown in bold and their table numbers are preceded by **T-**.

## Index by Table Pattern

The tables in this book show the conjugations for dozens of the most commonly used verbs in Levantine Arabic, but, at the same time, the patterns in these tables can be applied to other verbs with identical or nearly identical patterns, allowing you to conjugate nearly any verb in the language. This index arranges verbs into groups with common conjugation patterns.

| | trip *(intr.)* | تْفَرْكش |
|---|---|---|
| **T-15** | be confused; get mixed up; err, make a mistake | تْلَخْبَط |

**F**  *foreign borrowings*

| download | داوْنْلود، يْداوْنْلِد |
|---|---|
| save | سايْف، يْسايِف |

# Arabic – English Index

أثّر affect; influence 2s
**إجا** come *(irr.)* **T-1**
أجّر rent (لـ to) 2s
أجّل postpone 2s
**أخد** take *(irr.)* **T-2**
أخّر delay *(tr.)* 2s
أدّب discipline 2s
أدّن call to prayer 2s
2d يْؤَدّي perform, carry out أدّى
أسّس found, establish 2s
أصْدر publish 4s
**أعْلن** announce, declare 4s **T-3**
أكّد confirm, check, verify, assure 2s
**أكل** eat *(irr.)* **T-4**
ألّف compose 2s
**أمر** instruct; give an order, command 1s3 **T-5**
آمن believe (in بـ) 3s
أنْكر deny 4s
أهّل train, qualify, welcome 2s
بادر initiate 3s
بادل reciprocate 3s
بارك bless 3s
باس kiss 1h2
باض lay (an egg) 1h1
**باع** sell 1h1 **T-6**
بْتسم smile 8s
بحش dig 1s1

بحْلق stare, gaze 11s
بخّ spray 1g1
بخْشش tip (give a gratuity) 11s
بخع humiliate (cause to lose face) 1s1
بخِل become stingy 1s5
بخْوش puncture 11s
بدّل replace 2s
برد file (down) 1s2
برد get cold 1s2
برز become clear 1s2
برش grate 1s2
برْطل bribe 11s
**برم** turn (around); visit, roam 1s2 **T-7**
برْهن prove 11s
برى sharpen a pencil 1d1
بزق spit 1s2
بسط display; spread out 1s3
بشّر preach (about بـ) 2s
بصْبص peep 11s
بطّل quit 2s
بعت send; mail 1s1
بِعِد become far 1s6
**بِقي** become; stay; remain 1d3 **T-8**
بكّل button, fasten, buckle 2s
بِكي cry 1d4
بلّ wet, dampen 1g1
**بلّش** begin, start 2s **T-9**
بلع swallow 1s1

**133** | Levantine Arabic Verbs

# English – Arabic Index