

TALKING TO THE WORLD... IN ARABIC

# Ahlan wa sahlan fi Heathrow

أهلاً وَسَهْلاً فِي هَيْثْرُو



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## Introduction to Arabic language

Welcome to the Arabic lesson!

Arabic language is spoken in all the countries in North Africa, such as Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria... and the Middle East, such as Lebanon, Syria... All the Arab world uses the same written language, which is the formal Arabic, in their printed publications and when speaking in formal situations such as when reading the news. But the same language might vary when spoken, as every Arabic community has its own colloquial language. In this course you will learn to say words and phrases that will be understood by most speakers of Arabic.

Knowing that the Arabic alphabet is completely different from the Latin, we will show some samples of the Arabic script, together with the transliteration (approximate pronunciation in English) so that you can understand the pronunciation. Most of this manual will focus on the pronunciation of the words rather than the way they are written in Arabic.

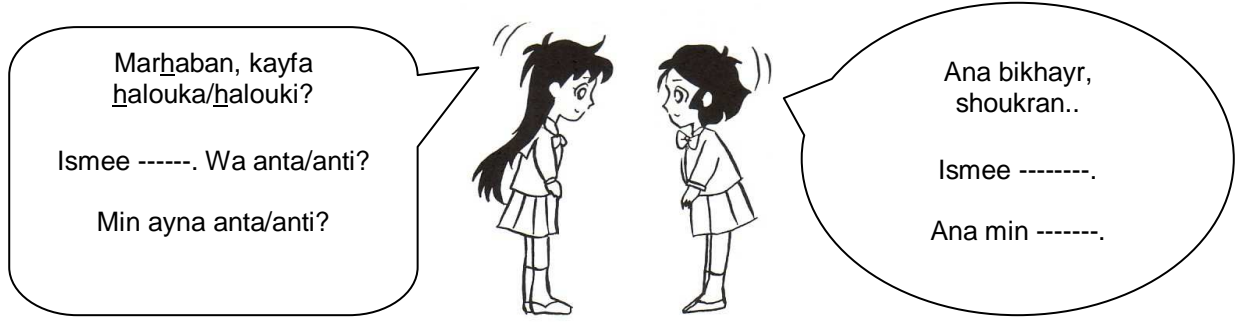
### More about the Arabic script and pronunciation

Pronunciation is difficult to explain in writing, but here are a few guidelines. Don't worry – we will practice the pronunciation in our session.

The Arabic alphabet is made of 28 letters, out of which there are three vowels. These ones are: ا (aa), و (uu), and ي (ii). These are long vowels. We will add to these another three short vowels, having the same shorter sound and written as diacritics, or small signs, on top of, or under the letters.

Fifteen of the consonants are very much like English sounds. To mention some of them: ب (b), ت (t), ث (th)... The others are quite different from the nearest English equivalent. For example, the ص (s), and the ط (t) are produced further back in the mouth. The ق (q), خ (kh), and ح (h) are all sounds that we will practise in our session.

## First Social/Business encounter:



- Hello, how are you sir/madam?  
(Marhaban, kayfa halouka ya sayyidi / halouki ya sayyidati?)

- مَرْحَبًا , كَيْفَ حَالِكَ يَا سَيِّدِي (حَالِكِ يَا سَيِّدَتِي)؟

- I am fine, thank you.  
(Ana bikhayr, shoukran.)

- أَنَا بِخَيْرٍ , شُكْرًا .

- My name is ----- . And you?  
(Ismee ----- . Wa anta/anti?)

- إِسْمِي ----- . وَأَنْتَ (أَنْتِ)؟

- My name is ----- .  
(Ismee -----.)

- إِسْمِي ----- .

- Where are you from?  
(Min ayna anta/anti?)

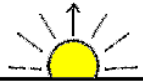
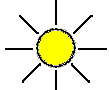




- مِنْ أَيْنَ أَنْتَ (أَنْتِ)؟

- I am from ----- .  
(Ana min -----.)

- أَنَا مِنْ ----- .







Perhaps you have noticed that the same English word has more than one translation in Arabic. It is that the word endings are different when we speak with a man or a lady. For a man, we will say (anta) that is you. And for a lady we will say (anti) when using the same pronoun. We will say (halouka) when asking a man how he is, and (halouki) when asking the same question to a lady. The endings (ka, ki) are a pronoun suffix for the word (halou) which means situation. So in Arabic we are actually asking: "how is your situation?", when asking "how are you?"

To these greetings we could add:

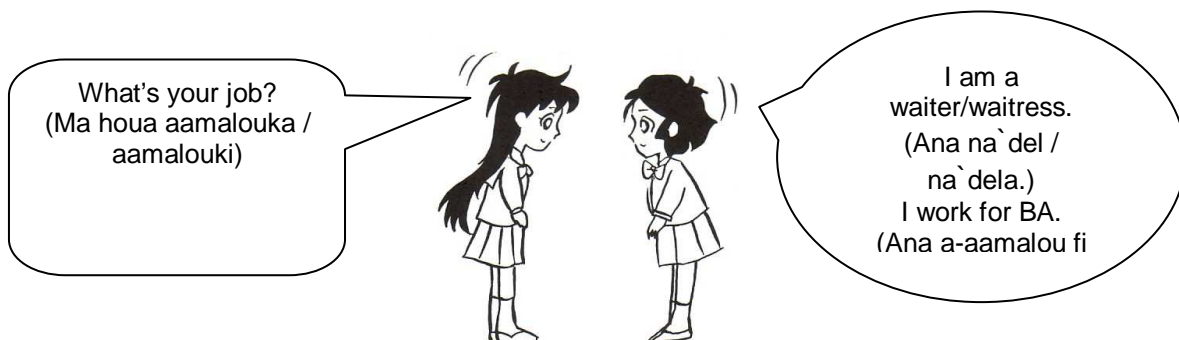
 <p>Greetings in the morning</p>	Good morning	Sabahou-l khayr
 <p>Greetings during the day</p>	(Good day)	Naharouka sa-iid
 <p>Greetings in the evening</p> 	Good evening	Masa-ou-l khayr
<p>Saying Goodbye</p> 	Goodbye or (Go with peace)	Wada-aan  Ma-ii-s salamah
	Thank you	Shoukran
	Please	Min fadlika / min fadliki
	Mr.	Sayyid
	Mrs.	Sayyidah

The Arabic written language is a formal language. When using it to speak, it is enough to add the words “sayyidi”, meaning literally my sir, (when talking with a man) or “sayyidati”, meaning literally my madam, (when talking with a lady) to speak politely with people.

**Jobs:**

<p>Waiter/waitress</p> 	<p>Na`del (masc.) Na`dela (fem.)</p>	<p>Doctor</p>	<p>Ṭabib (masc.) Ṭabiba (fem.)</p>
<p>Cleaner</p> 	<p>Mounath<u>e</u>f (masc.) Mounath<u>e</u>fa (fem.)</p>	<p>Check-in agent</p> 	<p>Mouwath<u>a</u>fou tasjeeli-l mousafireen (masc.) Mouwath<u>a</u>fatou tasjeeli-l mousafireen (fem.)</p>
<p>Customer service</p> 	<p>Khidamatou-z zaba-en</p>	<p>Security agent</p> 	<p>Al amn</p>
<p>Shop assistant</p> 	<p>Al mouwath<u>a</u>fou fil matjar (masc) Al mouwath<u>a</u>fatou fil matjar (fem)</p>		

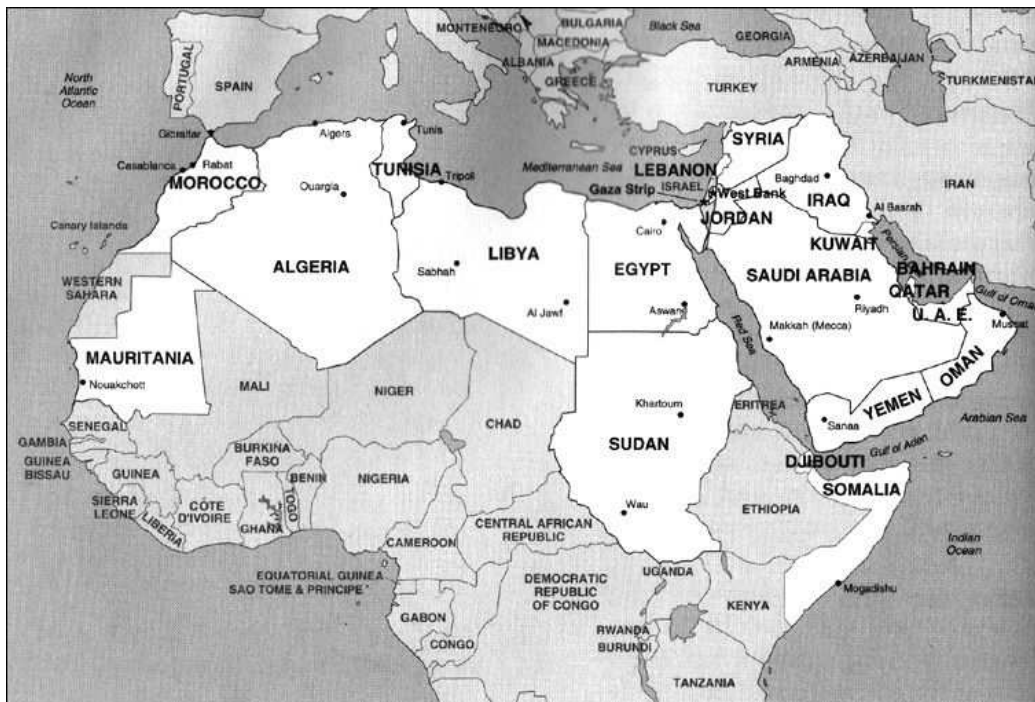
Please note here that in many cases, we do not have very accurate translations for a few English expressions. For example, for check-in agent, we either use the expression: the employee for recording the people travelling, (as mentioned above), or we say the employee at the check-in, or in Arabic: Al mouwathafou aala check-in (masc.) and al mouwathafatou aala check-in (fem.). As for shop assistant, we use the Arabic expression for the employee in the shop, that is Al mouwathafou fil matjar (masc) and Al mouwathafatou fil matjar (fem).




## Offering help:

- Excuse me, can I help you? Hal youmkinou an ousa-iidaka / ousa-iidaki?
- Are you OK? Hal anta / anti bikhayr?
- Is everything OK? Hal koullou shay-en aala ma youram?
- Yes, please. Naam, min fadlika / faliki.
- Yes, thank you. Naam, shoukran.
- No, thank you. La, shoukran.
- You're welcome. Ahlan wa sahlan.

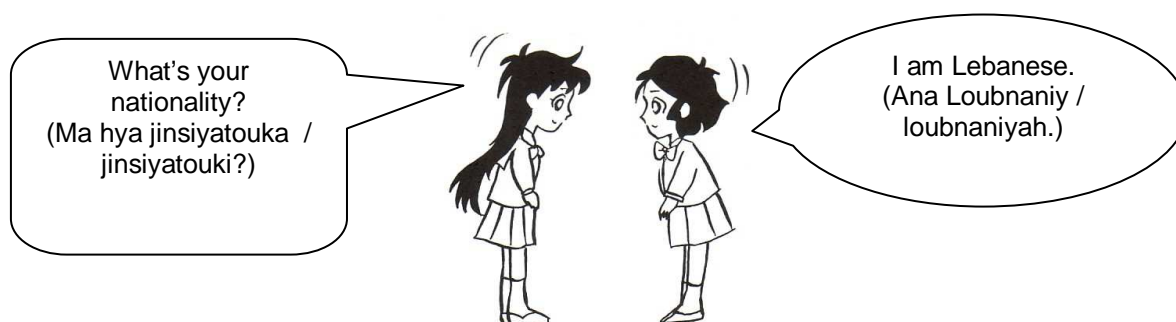
## Countries awareness and nationalities:



There is a difference between English and Arabic in the names of these Arabic countries:

	Country		Nationality
	Lebanon	Loubnan	Loubnaniy
	Syria	Sourya	Souriy
	Iraq	Al lraq	liraqiy
	Saudi Arabia	As-sou-oudya	Sou-oudiy
	Egypt	Misr	Misriy
	Algeria	Aljaza-er	Jaza-eriy
	Morocco	Almaghreb	Maghrebiy
	Jordan	Al-ourdounn	Ourdouniy

Notice that to know the nationality in Arabic, you need to add the sound (iy) at the end of the country name. When the name ends with a consonant, all you have to do is add it, like with Loubnan. All we did was adding (iy) to Loubnan, making the word Loubnaniy. But when the country name ends with a vowel, then take the vowel away, then add the sound (iy), like in Sourya. We took the (a) away, then added the sound (iy).

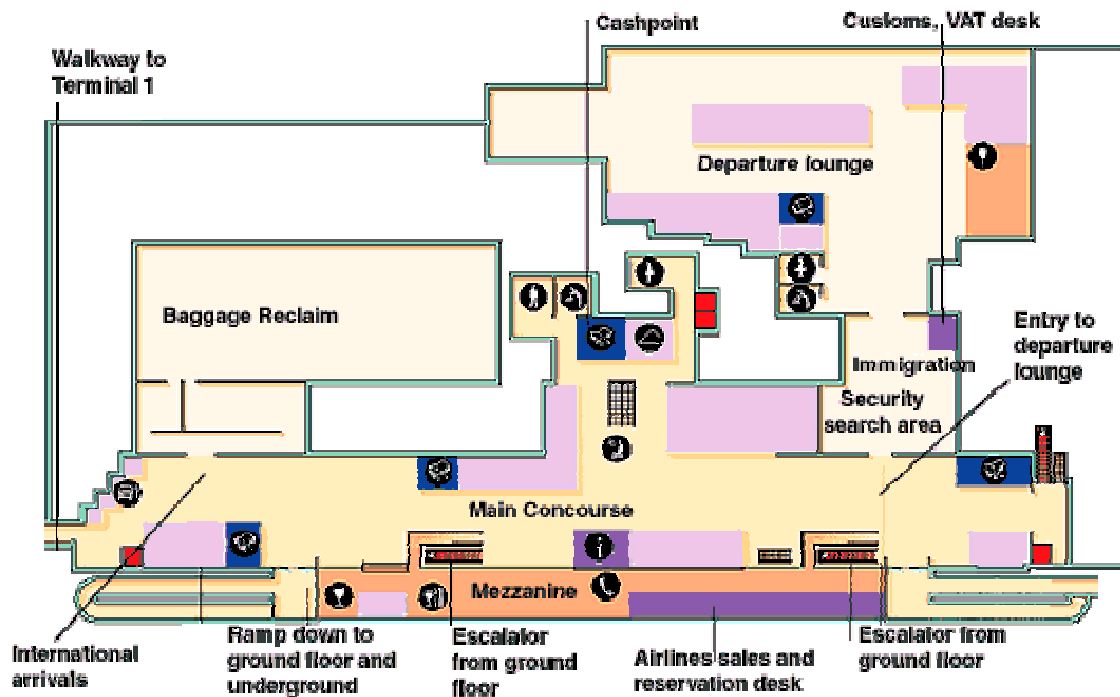


## Airport vocabulary:

Information desk	maktabou listii-lamat	Gate	al bawabah
Lift	Al masaad	Arrival	al wousoul
Stairs	Ad-daraj	Airline company	Sharikatou-t tayaran
Escalator	Ad-daraj al kahraba-iy	Departure	al moughadarah
Check-in counter	Counter tasjeeli-l mousafireen	Exit	al makhraj
Flight	Ar-rihlah	Passport control	Mouraqabat jawazat-es safar
Baggage reclaim	Istilam-oul haqa-ebi		

## Directions:

Heathrow terminal 2\*:



(\* Source: BAA, Heathrow)

Where is .....?

Ayna .....?

On the left.



ila-lyasar.

On the right.



ila-lyamin.

Straight on.



ila l-amam.

Over there.

Hounaka.

Here.

Houna.

You are here.

Anta / anti houna.

### **Cultural awareness:**

Arabic is a very rich language, where we have plenty of polite expressions when we talk with people. We have kind expressions for almost every situation: when people eat, drink, have a shower, take a little nap... It is especially the case when you talk with strangers. You should always use the expressions “min fadlika / fadliki”, and “shoukran” (“please” and “thank you”). You might find it appropriate also to use the expressions “sayyidi” and “sayyidati” (“my sir” and “my madam”) for strangers.

Arabic people normally shake hands with strangers of the same sex. When they are friends, they even hug and kiss each other. People of the same gender keep eye contact. It is good to mention here though that you should be balanced in doing so - in order not to make others feel uncomfortable.

People generally feel more comfortable being served or addressed by someone of the same gender, so bear this in mind when serving or speaking to someone of the opposite gender.

## Numbers and time:

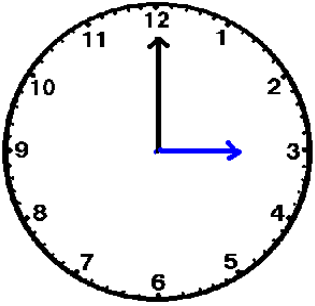
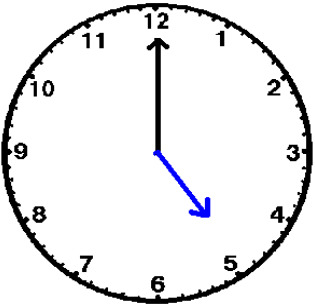
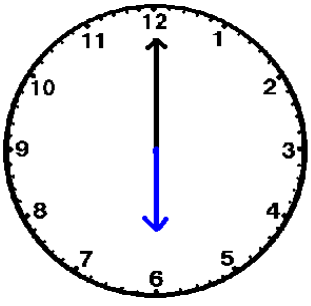
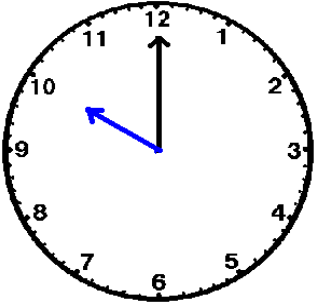
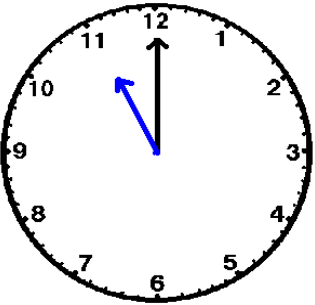
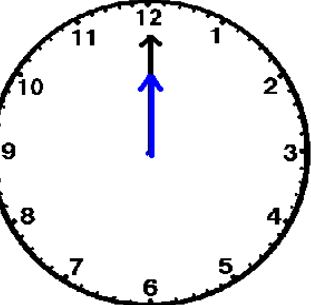
<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Al arqam:</u>
One	Wahed
Two	Ithnan
Three	Thalatha
Four	Arba-aa
Five	Khamsa
Six	Sitta
Seven	Sab-aa
Eight	Thamanya
Nine	Tis-aa
Ten	Aasharah
Eleven	Ahada aasharah
Twelve	Ithna aasharah

First	Al awwal
Second	Ath-thani
Third	Ath-thalith
Fourth	Ar-rabee
Fifth	Al khamis
Sixth	As-sadis
Seventh	As-sabee
Eighth	Ath-thamin
Ninth	At-tasee
Tenth	Al aasher
Eleventh	Al <u>h</u> adi aashar
Twelfth	Ath-thani aashar

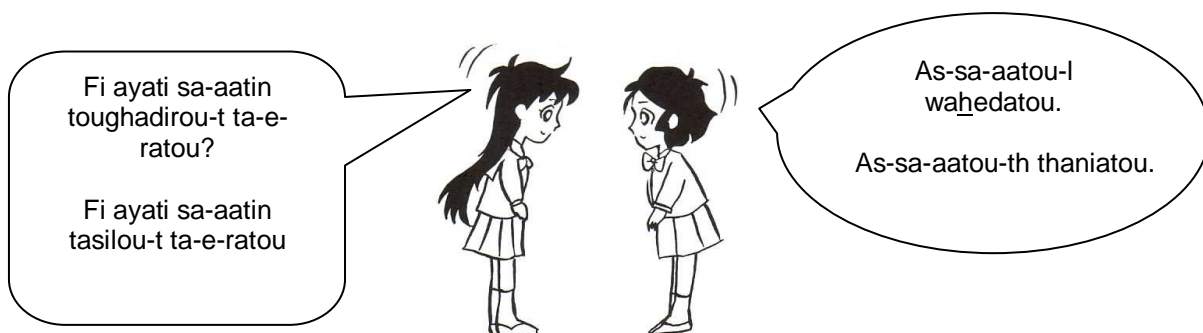
## The time:

To say the time in Arabic, we say “it is the second hour” for the expression “two o’clock” in English. The same applies for all the others. “One o’clock” is the only exception in this case, because we say literally “it is the one hour”.

One o’clock	As-sa-aatou-l wah <u>u</u> datou
Two o’clock	As-sa-aatou-th thaniatou
Three o’clock	As-sa-aatou-th thalithatou
Four o’clock	As-sa-aatou-r rabee-aatou
Five o’clock	As-sa-aatou-l khamisatou
Six o’clock	As-sa-aatou-s sadisatou
Seven o’clock	As-sa-aatou-s sabee-aatou
Eight o’clock	As-sa-aatou-th thaminatou
Nine o’clock	As-sa-aatou-t tasee-aatou
Ten o’clock	As-sa-aatou-l aasheratou
Eleven o’clock	As-sa-aatou-l hadiyatou aashara
Twelve o’clock	As-sa-aatou-th thaniyatou aashara

		
<b>Innaha-s sa-aatou-th thalithatou (it is 3 o'clock)</b>	<b>Innaha-s sa-aatou-l khamisatou</b>	<b>Innaha-s sa-aatou-s sadisatou</b>
		
<b>Innaha-s sa-aatou-l aasheratou</b>	<b>Innaha-s sa-aatou-l hadiyatou aashara</b>	<b>Innaha-s sa-aatou-th thaniyatou aashara</b>

- What time is it, please? (Kami-s sa-aatou-l ana min fadlika/fadliki?)
- It is one o'clock. (Innaha-s sa-aatou-l wahedatou)
- At what time does the plane leave? (Fi ayati sa-aatin toughadirou-t ta-e-ratou?)
- At one o'clock. (As-sa-aatou-l wahedatou).
- At what time does the plane arrive? (Fi ayati sa-aatin tasilou-t ta-e-ratou?)
- As-sa-aatou-th thaniatou.



**Useful websites:**

[www.syrianarabic.com](http://www.syrianarabic.com)

<http://languages.londonmet.ac.uk/arabic/arabic/>

You can have access to more websites, but you need to subscribe for that.

**Grammar book:**

Elementary Modern Standard Arabic 1 & 2

**You can also see Arabic newspapers online, such as:**

[www.aljazeera.net](http://www.aljazeera.net)

[www.naharnet.com](http://www.naharnet.com)