



A beginner-friendly guide to real spoken Arabic, with **dialogues**, **grammar breakdowns**, and **audio support**.

Spoken Arabic

**Speak
Like
A Local!**



Perfect for **complete beginners** to **A2 level learners**.

Includes **169 audio tracks** + practical conversations.

WELCOME TO LEVANTINE ARABIC: SPEAK LIKE A LOCAL!

BY: WWW.STREETARABIC.COM

Whether you're learning for travel, connection with people, culture, business or for pure curiosity, this book is your gateway to speaking like a local.

What is Levantine Arabic?

Levantine Arabic is the everyday spoken language in **Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Palestine**, a region known as the Levant. While each country has its own accent, the core of the dialect is shared, making communication smooth across borders.

What sets Levantine Arabic apart is its clarity and melodic pronunciation, which many find particularly pleasant. This clarity has contributed to its widespread understanding beyond the Levant, if you speak levantine Arabic in the gulf countries or in some areas in North Africa, they will definitely understand you! So don't stress, start learning with a relaxed mindset!

A significant reason for this broad comprehension is the influence of Levantine Arabic in media and entertainment. Lebanese and Syrian productions have dominated Arab TV dramas, films, and music, making the dialect familiar to viewers and listeners across the Arab world.

Unlike Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), which is reserved for formal writing and official speeches, Levantine Arabic is used in daily conversations, at home, in cafés, on the streets, and even in business meetings. It's the language of everyday life, rich in expression and cultural nuance.

About the Book

This is not a grammar-heavy textbook. It's a guided experience, where each lesson flows into the next, helping you speak with confidence and cultural awareness. You'll see real graffiti from Arab cities throughout the book to give you a deeper feel of the region and its people, because language isn't just words, it's expression, art, and energy.

Our goal is to break the myth that Arabic is hard to learn. With the right approach anyone can learn and speak Arabic.

We want you to enjoy this journey and to trust the process. Move forward, one step at a time. Let the language come alive.
And soon, you'll be speaking Arabic like a local.

Who is this book for?

- Absolute beginners who want to speak and understand the spoken Arabic quickly
- Travelers to the Levant region
- Business Partners or friends of native speakers
- Heritage speakers reconnecting with their roots
- People relocating to an Arabic speaking countries
- People who are curious about the language and the culture

Audio Companion Included

This book comes with audio recordings to help you listen, repeat, and practice while learning grammar and sentence structure.

You can either:

- Download a ZIP folder, all files are organized and labeled by page number or
- Log in to your Street Arabic Dashboard from the website to stream the audio per lesson, and access the rest of the language learning tools.

Don't worry, no prior knowledge of Arabic is needed!



YALLA

Let's Start!

Lesson 1: Getting Familiar with Arabic Letters and Sounds

What you need to know:

- **First**, we write from **right to left**.
- **Second**, Arabic has **28 letters**, and yes, they can be a little confusing.
- **Third**, each letter can take up to **four different shapes** depending on where it appears in a word: isolated, initial, medial, and final.. you can worry about that if you decide to learn how to write!
- **Fourth**: each letter has a name just like you do :)
- **Fifth**: we get creative! Some letters are swapped or softened, it's part of what makes the dialect so fun to speak.

 Click the audio icon to hear all the Arabic letters.

حرف الالف (ا) - long AA - Alef

Alef is the name of the AA sound in Arabic (ا) usually makes the sound "aa" like in "apple" but longer, more like the "a" in "father."

It sounds like a long "a", similar to:

In French:

- Like the "a" in "papa"

In Spanish:

- Like the "a" in "casa" or "mamá"

Here are some examples:

Arabic	Pronunciation	Meaning
آدم	Aa-dam	Adam (a name)
آسف	Aa-sef	Sorry (masculine)
أرض	Ard	Earth
أسد	Asad	Lion

Note

You might notice something sitting on top of the Alef, this little symbol (ء) is called Hamza. It sounds like a glottal stop, kind of like taking a quick pause before saying the vowel.

Think about when you say "uh-oh" in English, hear that little catch in your throat between the two parts? That's the Hamza sound!
And yes, we say it a lot in Arabic!

 Click the audio icon to hear all the Arabic letters.

Baa - B sound - حرف الباء (ب)

Baa is the name of the B sound in Arabic (ب) usually makes the sound like in

- English: boy, baby
- French: banane, bonjour
- Spanish: bebé, bueno

Here are some examples:

Arabic	Pronunciation	Meaning
باب	baab	Door
بنت	bint	Girl
كتاب	ktaab	Book
بيرة	Beera	Beer

Taa - T Sound - حرف التاء (ت)

Taa is the name of the T sound in Arabic (ت) usually makes the sound like in:

- English: Table, Tea
- French: Tomate, Tout
- Spanish: Tomar, Taza

Here are some examples:

Arabic	Pronunciation	Meaning
تمر	tamr	Dates (the fruit)
تين	teen	Fig
تفاح	tuffaa7	Apple
تلفزيون	telfizion	Television

 Click the audio icon to hear all the Arabic letters.

Thaa - Th Sound - حرف الثاء (ث) Like in Think/ Thin

Thaa is the name of the Th sound in Arabic (ث) usually makes the sound like in

- English: think, thank you, thin
- French: No exact equivalent
- Spanish: In Spain, the "z" and soft "c" like in gracias, zapatos, sumo (only spanish from spain can relate to this)

Here are some examples:

Arabic	Pronunciation	Meaning
ثلج	thalj	Snow
ثلاث	thalath	Three
ثوم	thoom	Garlic
مثل	mithl	Like / as

Note

Sorry to break your heart, but we don't always pronounce the TH sound, in spoken arabic we pronounce it as T so these words would be like, Talj, talat, toom, mitl



This graffiti was spotted in Amman, Jordan, it boldly declares "أنا عربي" (I am Arab) next to the powerful words of Mahmoud Darwish (Palestinian poet):

"On this earth, there is something worth living for."

A striking blend of language, art, and identity, raw, real, and proudly Arab.

Lesson 2: Understanding Arabizi: Texting Language

Arabizi is the way many Arabic speakers write Arabic using Latin letters (A-Z) and numbers when texting or typing online. It became popular because many phones and keyboards didn't support Arabic script, especially in the early 2000s. It's still used today on WhatsApp, social media, and texts because it's fast and familiar.

Why do we use numbers?

Some Arabic sounds don't exist in English or Latin languages, so we use numbers to represent those sounds.

Let's explore the three most important ones: 3, 7, and 2.

3 → Representing the Arabic letter “ع” (3ein)

The **number 3** looks similar to the shape of the Arabic letter **3ein (ع)**. The 3ein sound is unique to Arabic and is often described as a deep, throaty, or "guttural" sound that comes from the back of the throat.

7 → Representing the Arabic letter “ح” (7aa)

The **number 7** is used to represent the letter **7aa (ح)**. The sound of 7aa is like a deep, breathy "H" sound that comes from the throat. It's different from the regular "h" sound in English.

Lesson 5: Shu Esmak? What's Your Name?

In Arabic, to ask "What's your name?", we say "**Shu esmak?**" (شو اسمك؟) for a male, or "**Shu esmek?**" (شو اسمك؟) for a female. Here's how it works:


- Shu (شو) means "what."
- Esm (اسم) means "name."
- Esmak (اسمك) means "Your name"

In English you add **my, your, his, her, their, our** and so on before the word "name"

But in Arabic we do it differently, instead of using separate words like **my, your, his, her**, we add a small ending (called a possessive suffix) to the word "**Esm**"

These endings are (I, ak, ek, o, ha, na, kom, hom)

Here's how it looks:

 [Click the audio icon](#)

 Person	Arabic	Built from	Means in English
I	اسمي (esmi)	esm + -i	my name
You (male)	اسمك (esmak)	esm + -ak	your name (to a man)
You (female)	اسمك (esmek)	esm + -ek	your name (to a woman)
He	اسمه (esmo)	esm + -o	his name
She	اسمها (esmha)	esm + -ha	her name
We	اسمنا (esmna)	esm + -na	our name
You (plural)	اسمكم (esmkom)	esm + -kom	your name (plural)
They	اسمهم (esmhom)	esm + -hom	their name

I will break it down even further, because I want you to understand this rule, this rule is very very important and we use it all the time.

In Arabic, we don't say "my" as a separate word. Instead, we attach a letter to the end of the word **"esm"** (which means "name" in English).

Here's how it works:

Esm + i = esmi → my name

(The i at the end means "my")

Esm + ak = esmak → your name (talking to a man)

(The ak means "your" for a male)

Esm + ek = esmek → your name (talking to a woman)

(The ek means "your" for a female)

Esm + o = esmo → his name

(The o means "his")

Esm + ha = esmha → her name

(The ha means "her")

Esm + na = esmna → our name

(The na mean "our")

Esm + kom = esmkom → her name

(The kom mean "your" plural form)

Esm + hom = esmhom → their name

(The hom mean "their")

It's just like building blocks. You take the word esm and add a small piece to the end depending on who you're talking about. **This rule applies to ALL NOUNS**

To ask someone about their name we say **Shu esmak?** (speaking to a male) or **Shu esmek?** (speaking to a female)

Shu means What - so shu esmak means what's your name (speaking to a guy)
remember no helping verb is needed like **"what is" - there's no "is" in Arabic**

The literal translation would be (what your name)

Exercise1: Let's practice what you've learned using English letters (transliteration).

Fill in the blank with the correct form of "esm":

1. My name is George → _____ George
2. What's your name? (to a man) → Shu _____?
3. Her name is Hana → _____ Hana
4. Our name is Rana and Samer → _____ Rana o (and) Samer
5. Their name is Mike and Lisa → _____ Mike o Lisa
6. What's your name? (to a woman) → Shu _____?
7. What's his name? → Shu _____?

Exercise 2: Translate these sentences into Levantine Arabic using English letters. (Feel free to try Arabic script too — but it's optional!)

- My name is Mike and her name is Lisa.

- His name is Adam and my name is Sara.

- Our names are Adam, Sama and Reema

- Her name is Lina and his name is Ahmad

- Their names are George, Ali and Maria

Note

You'll find all the answers at the end of the book.

Try not to peek before giving it your best shot 😊

What You've Learned So Far

By now, you should be able to:

1. Recognize and pronounce the Levantine Arabic alphabet

You are now familiar with how each letter sounds. A full reference with proper pronunciation is available on our website, logion to your Street Arabic Dashboard www.streetarabic.com

2. Understand Arabizi (Arabic texting language)

You've learned how Arabic is written using Latin letters and numbers, and how we use it in texting and online communication.

3. Recognize sound switching in spoken Arabic

You understand how certain sounds shift in everyday Levantine Arabic.

4. Use and understand personal pronouns

You know the meaning and usage of all the personal pronouns

5. Introduce yourself and others

You can confidently introduce yourself, ask someone's name, and introduce other people.

6. Ask and answer basic questions

You can talk about basic personal information such as name, age, nationality, the country you live in, and your profession.

7. Use possessive suffixes

You understand how to express possession using suffixes (l, ak, ek, o, ha, na...)

8. Talk about nationalities and countries

You can say the names of countries in Arabic and use the correct forms of nationalities for masculine, feminine, and plural.

9. Understand that Arabic doesn't use the verb "to be"

You now know that Arabic does not use helping verbs like "am," "is," or "are" in the present tense.

What You've Learned So Far

By now, you should be able to:

1. Greetings & Common Words

You started with essential greetings and everyday words to help you start small conversations and understand basic words. You can listen to the audio on the website. www.streetarabic.com

2. The bididi Form

You learned how to say "I want" and conjugate "bididi" for all pronouns:

Bididi, biddak, biddek, bidido, biddha, biddna, biddkom, biddhom

3. Bididi + Verb

You learned how to combine "bididi" with verbs like:

Ana bididi adros, enta biddak taakol, enti biddek tsaafri, huweh bidido yrou7...

4. Time Words

You've learned time words that help you talk about when something is happening:

bokra, el osbou3 el jay, ba3d bokra, halla ...

5. Expressing Daily Situations with bididi

You've practiced using "bididi" to describe real-life situations:

Bididi asaafer 3ala lebnaan, bididi ass7a bakkeer.....

7. Prepositions

You learned prepositions like: men, 3ala, fi, la ...

Login to your Street Arabic Dashboard to access all audios

 www.streetarabic.com

What You've Learned So Far

By now, you should be able to:

1. Numbers & How to Use Them Naturally

- Count from 1 - 100
- Use numbers with nouns.
- Use numbers in real-life context: telling time, prices, quantities.

2. How to Ask About the Price

You can ask:

Addeish 7a2 el sayyaara? – How much is the car?

Addeish 7a2ha? – How much is it? (referring to a feminine item)

3. You Know How to Use “3endi” – I Have

3endi, 3endak, 3endek, 3endo, 3endha, 3endna (3enna), 3endkom, 3endhom

4. Days of the Week

El tenein, el talaata

5. How to Say "I Will..." – The “Ra7” Form

You've learned how to express the future tense with “ra7” + verb:

- Ana ra7 arou7 3ala el sou2 – I will go to the market
- Ra7 adros bokra – I will study tomorrow

Login to your Street Arabic Dashboard to access all audios

 www.streetarabic.com

What You've Learned So Far

By now, you should be able to:

1. Conjugate Verbs in the Present Tense

You can take any verb and conjugate it for different pronouns by adding **b** at the beginning. Like: Ana baakol – I eat Enta btaakol – You (m) eat Heye btaakol – She eats.

2. Use the Present Continuous with “3am”

You can now express what you're doing right now:

- Ana 3am bakteb – I'm writing

3. Use a Wide Range of Common Verbs

You've learned 30+ high-frequency verbs for daily life:

to go, come, eat, drink, sleep, wake up, help, study, buy, pay, give, talk, listen, watch, etc.

And you've practiced them in bididi / ra7 / present forms.

4. Talk About Your Family

Example: Esmi Sara, 3omri 3shreen saneh, 3endi okht

5. Use and Recognize Colors in Arabic

You know the basic colors and how to use them in daily conversation

6. Understand and Ask for Directions

You know how to ask for directions using wein, and you know how to conjugate direction words yameenak, shmaalek (yasaarek)....

You can find all audios for these lessons on our website:

 www.streetarabic.com

What You've Learned in the last lessons

You should be able to:

1. Conjugate Verbs in the Past Tense

You've learned how to talk about things that already happened by changing the verb endings: Ana ro7et- I went | Enta akalt - You (m) ate | Heye 3emlet - She did

2. Recognize and Understand Root Verbs

You've seen how most Arabic verbs come from a three-letter root, and how many words are built around that root. For example: K-T-B (to write)

3. Use the Helping Verb "Kaan" (كان)

You can now describe past states and habits using kaan: Kaan 3endi wa2t/waqt – I had time

4. Combine Past and Future Tenses in One Sentence

You've practiced mixing tenses, like saying you went to do something: Ana ro7et aakol – I went to eat

5. Talk About Body Parts and Physical Expressions

You've learned the names of essential body parts and how to use them in real conversations.

6. Use Everyday Adjectives and Real-Life Expressions

You can now describe people, things, and feelings, ana mabsoot - I'm happy

7. Describe the Weather and the Seasons

You can now make small talk about the weather and the four seasons

8. Talk About Your Hobbies and Preferences

You can now say what you like, don't like, or even hate.

9. Use Key Connecting Words in Conversation

You've learned essential connectors to build longer, more natural sentences

You can find all audios for these lessons on our website:

 www.streetarabic.com

Congrats! You're Officially an A1-A2 Arabic Speaker

Finishing this book is a big achievement. Nice work getting this far! 🙌

Many people want to learn a new language, but you took action and made it happen.

You didn't just learn random words or confusing grammar rules, you learned how to talk and connect with others. Every word and rule in this book was added to help you speak naturally and confidently, just like locals do.

Learning a new language can feel tricky at first, but you've already started talking about the present, past, and future. That's a solid start.

This ebook was made with beginners like you in mind. Everything comes from real questions students ask us from all over the world. No complicated grammar, just clear, useful Arabic you can actually use.

Now you should feel comfortable using Arabic, in a café, a taxi, a business meeting, or with friends. That's what Street Arabic is all about.

Remember, you can find audio lessons, flashcards, extra dialogues, and quizzes on your dashboard to help you practice more. Keep listening and repeating out loud to improve your pronunciation and understanding.

This is just the beginning. We're working on more flashcards, audio lessons, and tips to help you keep going. We'll keep you updated so you can learn at your own pace. No stress, no rush. Just keep practicing and speaking out loud. You're doing better than you think.

We're here with you every step of the way. Yalla, let's keep it going!

Peace and love,

The Street Arabic Team

