

Basic Introduction of

Arabic



Basic Introduction to Arabic

Introduction:

This is an extract from the Moroccan Arabic book. You will notice that we did not follow the book page by page. We rather picked some key elements in the book that a beginner can do on his/her own. Page numbers refer to the complete book not this PDF guide. The Arabic readings in these lessons are done by our Language and Culture Facilitators.

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The text accompanies the following ten (10) audio tracks:

- • MO_Arabic_Lesson_1-3.mp3 (Time: 4:05) (File Size: 3.74 MB)
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- • MO_Arabic_Lesson_19-21.mp3 (Time: 2:19) (File Size: 2.12 MB)
- • MO_Arabic_Lesson_22-24.mp3 (Time: 5:10) (File Size: 4.73 MB)
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Lesson 1

Arabic Alphabet

Equiv	End	Mid	Beg	Ind	Name	Equiv	End	Mid	Beg	Ind	Name
D	ض	ض	ض	ض	Dad	A	ا	ا	ا	ا	Alif
T	ط	ط	ط	ط	Ṭah	B	ب	ب	ب	ب	Ba
Z	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	Ẓah	T	ت	ت	ت	ت	Ta
A'	ع	ع	ع	ع	A'ayn	TH	ث	ث	ث	ث	Tha
GH	غ	غ	غ	غ	Ghayn	J	ج	ج	ج	ج	Jim
F	ف	ف	ف	ف	Fa	H	ح	ح	ح	ح	Ha
Q	ق	ق	ق	ق	Qaf	KH	خ	خ	خ	خ	Kha
K	ك	ك	ك	ك	Kaf	D	د	د	د	د	Dal
L	ل	ل	ل	ل	Lam	TH*	ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	Thal
M	م	م	م	م	Mim	R	ر	ر	ر	ر	Ra
N	ن	ن	ن	ن	Noon	Z	ز	ز	ز	ز	Za
H	ه	ه	ه	ه	Ha	S	س	س	س	س	Seen
U O W	و	و	و	و	Waw	SH	ش	ش	ش	ش	Sheen
I E Y	ي	ي	ي	ي	Ya	\$	ص	ص	ص	ص	\$ad

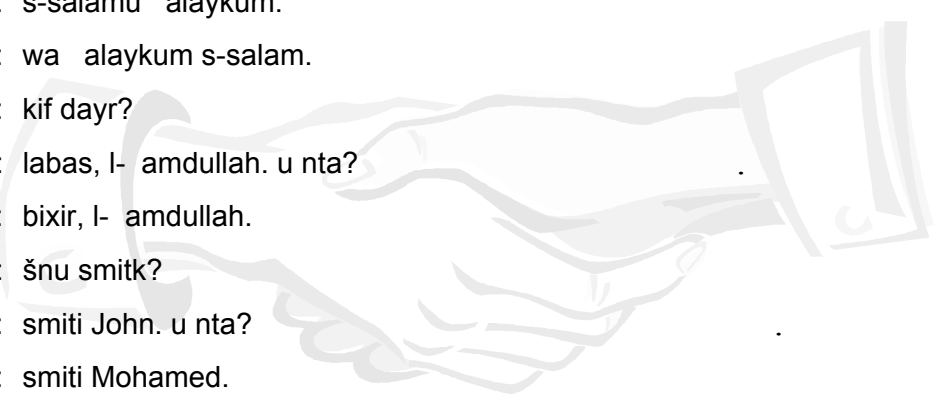
Lesson 2

Greeting expressions and appropriate responses

A: Peace be upon you B: And peace be upon you (too)	s-salamu alaykum wa alaykum s-salam	
A: Good morning B: Good morning	s ba l-xir s ba l-xir	
A: Good afternoon / evening B: Good afternoon / evening	msa l-xir msa l-xir	
name	smiya	
What's your name?	šnu smitk?	
my name...	smiti...	...
your name...	smitk...	...
his name...	smitu...	...
her name...	smitha...	...
Nice to meet you.	mtšrfn	
How are you (masc.)?	kif dayr?	
How are you (fem.)?	kif dayra?	
Are you fine?	labas?	
Good, thanks be to God.	labas, l- amdullah	
Good, thanks be to God.	bixir, l- amdullah	
Everything is fine.	kulši bixir	
Good-bye	bslama	
Good night	layla sa ida	

Lesson 3

Greetings Dialogue



John: s-salamu alaykum. :

Mohamed: wa alaykum s-salam. :

John: kif dayr? :

Mohamed: labas, l- amdullah. u nta? :

John: bixir, l- amdullah. :

Mohamed: šnu smitk? :

John: smiti John. u nta? :

Mohamed: smiti Mohamed. :

John: mtšrfin. :

Mohamed: mtšrfin. :

Lesson 4

Independent Pronouns

We call the following pronouns “independent” because they are not attached to other words, such as nouns, verbs, or prepositions. The pronouns are often used in a number of different ways.

I	ana	
you (masc. singular)	nta	
you (fem. singular)	nti	
he	huwa	
she	hiya	
we	na	
you (plural)	ntuma	
they	huma	

Lesson 5

Possessive Pronouns

In Darija, a suffix (ending) may be added to the end of words in order to express possession.

my	i / yaT*	/
your (singular)	k	
his	u / hT*	/
her	ha	
our	na	
your (plural)	kum	
their	hum	

* For the “my” and “his” forms, the first ending is used for words ending in consonants, while the second is used with words ending in vowels. For example, **smiti** (my name), but **xuya** (my brother).

Example of possessive pronouns with the noun “book.”

book	ktab
my book	ktabi
your (sing.) book	ktabk
his book	ktabu
her book	ktabha
our book	ktabna
your (plur.) book	ktabkum
their book	ktabhum

Lesson 6

Describing Oneself:

Nationalities, Cities, and Marital Status

Vocabulary and Expressions

Where are you (masc.) from?	mnin nta?	
Where are you (fem.) from?	mnin nti?	
I am from the U.S.	ana mn mirikan.	.
I am American.	ana mirikani(ya).	.()
I am from Morocco.	ana mn l-m rib.	.
I am Moroccan.	ana m ribi(ya).	.()
Are you ... ?	weš nta/nti ... ?	... /
Are you from the U.S.?	weš nta/nti mn mirikan?	/
Where are you from in the U.S.?	mnin nta/nti f mirikan?	/
And you?	u nta/nti?	/
city	mdina	
state	wilaya	
big (fem.)	kbira	
small (fem.)	s ira	
Excuse me. (to man / woman)	sm li / sm i li	/
I am not ...	ana maši ...	...
but	welakin	
engaged (fem.)	mxtuba	
married (masc. / fem.)	mzuwj / mzuwja	/
No, not yet.	lla mazal / lla baqi	/
Are you a tourist?	weš nta/nti turist?	/
I work with the Peace Corps.	ana xddam(a) m a hay'at s-salam.	. ()

Lesson 7

Dialogue

Fatima:	s-salamu alaykum.	:
Tom:	wa alaykum s-salam.	:
Fatima:	sm li, weš nta fransawi?	:
Tom:	Ila, ana mirikani.	:
Fatima:	mnin f mirikan?	:
Tom:	mn mdint Seattle f wilayat Washington. u nti?	:
Fatima:	mn Rabat.	:
Tom:	š al f mrk?	:
Fatima:	tnayn u šrin am. u nta?	:
Tom:	rb a u tlatin am.	:
Fatima:	weš nta mzuwj wlla mazal?	:
Tom:	mazal. u nti?	:
Fatima:	Ila, baqiya. weš nta turist?	:
Tom:	Ila, ana xddam m a hay'at s-salam.	:
Fatima:	bslama.	:
Tom:	n-šufk mn b d.	:

Lesson 8

Demonstrative Adjectives & Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative Pronouns

this (masc.)	hada	
this (fem.)	hadi	
these (plur.)	hadu	
that (masc.)	hadak	
that (fem.)	hadik	
those (plur.)	haduk	

These forms may be used at the beginning of a sentence, in the middle or at the end of a sentence, or in questions. In Arabic, these pronouns can represent people.

This is a chair.	hada kursi.	.
This is a table.	hadi tbla.	.
This is Abdallah.	hada Abdallah.	.
This is Aicha.	hadi Aicha.	.
What's this? (masc. object)	šnu / aš hada?	/
What's this? (fem. object)	šnu / aš hadi?	/
Who is this? (masc.)	škun hada?	
Who is this? (fem.)	škun hadi?	
What is that? (masc. object)	šnu / aš hadak?	/
Who is that? (fem.)	škun hadik?	

Demonstrative Adjectives

this/these (masc. / fem. / plur.)	had	
that (masc.)	dak	
that (fem.)	dik	
those (plur.)	duk	

Lesson 9

Mealtime Expressions

In the name of God (said when you begin an activity: eating, drinking, working, studying, traveling, etc.).	bismillah	
Thanks to God (said after finishing a meal, or after expressing that all is well in life).	l- amdullah	
I don't eat ... meat eggs fish chicken	ma-kan-akul-š...l-l m l-bid l- ut d-djaj	/ / /
I drink tea / coffee without sugar.	kan-šrb atay / l-qhwa bla skkar.	/
I eat everything.	kan-akul kulši.	.
I eat vegetables only.	kan-akul ir l-xod ra.	.
I don't feel like eating.	ma-fiya ma-y-akul.	.
I want just/only ...	b it ir ...	...
I don't want to have breakfast.	ma-b it-š n-ft r.	.
The food is delicious.	l-makla bnina.	.
I'm full.	šb t.	.
I want to learn how to cook.	b it n-t llm n-t iyb.	.
May God replenish / reward you. (said after a meal to thank host)	lla y-xlf.	.
To your health (said to someone after eating, drinking, coming out of the hammam, wearing new clothes, having a hair cut, etc.)	bs s a.	.
May God grant you health too. (response to the above)	lla y- tik s æ	.

Lesson 10

Thanking Expressions

Thank you.	šukran.	
You're welcome.	bla jmil.	.

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Lesson 11

Expressions for Nighttime / Sleeping

I'm tired. (male speaker)	ana iyan.	.
I'm tired. (female speaker)	ana iyana.	.
I want to read a little bit.	b it n-qra šwiya.	.
I want to go to bed.	b it n-n s.	.
Where I am going to sleep?	fin adi n-n s.	
Excuse me, I want to go to bed. (addressing a group of people)	sm u li, bn-mši n-n s.	.
I want to go to bed early.	b it n-n s bkri.	.
I want to get up early.	b it n-fiq bkri.	.
I want a blanket.	b it wa d l-mant	.

Lesson 12

Hygiene/Cleanliness Expressions

I want to wash my hands with soap.	b it n- sl yddi b s-s abun.	.
I want to brush my teeth.	b it n- sl snani.	.
I want hot water, please.	b it l-ma s-sxun afak.	.
I want to take a shower.	b it n-duwš.	.
I want to go to the hammam.	b it n-mši l- mmam.	.
I want to change my clothes.	b it n-bddl wayji.	.
Where is the toilet?	fin bit l-ma?	
I want to do laundry.	b it n-sbbn wayji.	.
Where can I do laundry?	fin ymkn n-s bbn wayji.	.

Lesson 13

Offering Help / Asking for Favors

Can I help you?	weš n- awnk?	
Excuse me. (to a man)	sm li.	.
Excuse me. (to a woman)	sm i li.	.
Give me ... please.	t iniafak.	

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Lesson 14

Being Sick

I'm sick. (male speaker)	ana mrid .	.
I'm sick. (female speaker)	ana mrid a.	.
I want to rest a bit.	b it n-rta swiya.	.
Do you feel better?	briti šwiya?	

Lesson 15

Transportation Expressions

I want to go to ...	b it n-mši l ...	...
Take me to ... please.	ddini l ... afak.	
Stop here, please.	wqf hna afak.	.
Is the meter on?	weš l-kuntur xddam?	
Turn on the meter, please.	xddm l-kuntur afak.	.

Lesson 16

Responses to Problems/Difficulties/Apologies

It's not a problem.	maši muškil.	.
There is no problem.	ma-kayn muškil.	.

Lesson 17

Congratulations

Congratulations.	mbruk	
Happy holiday.	mbruk l- id.	.
May God grant you grace. (response to the above)	lla y-bark fik.	.

Lesson 18

Communication

I don't understand.	ma-fhmt-š.	.
I don't know.	ma-n- rf.	.
Slowly please.	b šwiya afak.	.
Repeat please. (to a man)	awd afak.	.
Repeat please. (to a woman)	awdi afak.	.
What did you say?	šnu glti?	

Lesson 19

Numerals

Numbers 1 thru 10

In Moroccan Arabic, there are two ways to combine the numbers 3 through 10 with an object. We sometimes use the “full” or normal form of the number, and sometimes we use a “short” form of the number. Here is a table listing the full form of numbers 1-10 and the short form of numbers 3-10.

	Full Forms		Short Forms	
one (masc.)	wa d		Ø	Ø
one (fem.)	w da		Ø	Ø
two	juj		Ø	Ø
three	tlata		tlt	
four	rb a		rb	
five	xmsa		xms	
six	stta		stt	
seven	sb a		sb	
eight	tmnya		tmn	
nine	ts ud		ts	
ten	šra		šr	

Lesson 20

Numbers 11 thru 19

The numbers 11 thru 19 do not have a short form. Only numbers 3 thru 10 have a short form.

eleven	d aš	
twelve	t naš	
thirteen	tlt aš	
fourteen	rb t aš	
fifteen	xmstaš	
sixteen	st taš	
seventeen	sb taš	
eighteen	tmntaš	
nineteen	ts taš	

Lesson 21

Numbers 20, 30, 40 ... 99

For a multiple of ten (20, 30, 40 etc.) in Arabic, we simply use the name for that number, like in English. For numbers such as 21, 22, or 23, however, it is not like English. In Arabic, the “ones” digit is pronounced first, followed by the word “and,” then followed by the “tens” digit. For example, in Arabic the number 21 is literally “one and twenty” while the number 47 is literally “seven and forty.” Also, remember that for the numbers 22, 32, 42, 52, 62, 72, 82, and 92, we do not use **juj**. Rather, we use **tnayn**. Here is a list of the multiples of ten, with examples of numbers between each multiple:

twenty	šrin	
twenty-one literally: one and twenty	wa d šrin	
twenty-two literally: two and twenty Remember: “ tnayn ,” not “ juj ”	tnayn u šrin	
twenty-three literally: three and twenty	tlata u šrin	
twenty-four	rb a u šrin	
thirty	tlatin	
thirty-one	wa d u tlatin	
thirty-two	tnayn u tlatin	
thirty-three	tlata u tlatin	
forty	rb in	
forty-one	wa d u rb in	
forty-two	tnayn u rb in	
fifty	xmsin	
sixty	sttin	
seventy	sb in	
eighty	tmanin	
ninety	ts in	
ninety-nine	ts ud u ts in	

Lesson 22

Time

To express time, we use the demonstrative pronoun **hadi** and the appropriate number *with the definite article*. This means that for 1:00, 5:00, 10:00, and 11:00, we will use the letter **l** () before the number, while for the others, we will double the first consonant.

one	l-w da		seven	s-sb a	
two	j-juj		eight	t-tmnya	
three	t-tlata		nine	t-ts ud	
four	r-rb a		ten	l- šra	
five	l-xmsa		eleven	l- d aš	
six	s-stta		twelve	t -t naš	

Like in English, Arabic uses certain words to express things like “quarter to five,” “half past seven,” etc.

before	ql		twenty minutes	tulut	
and	u		half	ns	
exactly	nišan		quarter to	lla rob	
quarter	rb		five minutes	qs m	
			ten minutes	qs mayn	

Lesson 23

Some examples of asking and answering about time:

What time is it?	š al hadi f s- sa ?
It is exactly one o'clock.	hadi l-w da nišan.
It is five minutes past two.	hadi j-juj u qs m.
It is ten minutes past three.	hadi t-tlata u qs mayn.
It is a quarter past four.	hadi r-rb a u rb .
It is twenty minutes past five.	hadi l-xmsa u tulut.
It is twenty-five minutes past six.	hadi s-stta u xmsa u šrin.
It is seven thirty.	hadi s-sb a u ns .
It is eight thirty-five.	hadi tmnya u xmsa u tlatin.
It is twenty minutes to nine.	hadi t-ts ud ql tulut.
It is a quarter to ten.	hadi l- šra lla rob.
It is ten minutes to eleven	hadi l- d aš ql qn.
It is five minutes to twelve.	hadi t-tnaš ql qsm.
6:30 A.M.	s-stta u ns da -s
5:15 P.M.	l-xmsa u rb d l- šiya

Lesson 24

At the Hanoot

Vocabulary

store	anut		peanuts	kaw kaw	
store keeper	mul l- anut		almonds	l-luz	
soda	l-monada		bottle	l-qr a	
chocolate	š-šklat		bottle of water	qr a d l-ma	
candies	l- lwa		Kleenex	kliniks	
gum	l-mska		toilet paper	ppapiyi jini	
cookies	l-biskwi		tooth paste	dontifris	
juice	l- asir		soap	s abun	
bread	l-xubz		shampoo	š-šampwan	
jam	l-konfitur		detergent	tid	
butter	z-zbda		bleach	javel	
eggs	l-bid		batteries	l- jrat d r-radyu	
yogurt	danon		razor	r-razwar	
milk	l- lib		tobacco store	s akas	
coffee	l-qhwa		cigarettes	l-garru	
tea	atay		package(s)	bakiya(t)	/
sugar	s-skkar				
cheese	l-frmaj		money	l-flus	
oil	z-zit		change	s rf -s	

Lesson 25

Shopping Expressions

Do you have ... ?	weš ndk ... ?	...
Yes, I do (have).	iyeh, ndi.	.
No, I don't (have).	lla, ma- ndi-š.	.
Is there ... ?	weš kayn ... ?	...
Yes, there is. (masc.)	iyeh, kayn / mujud	/
Yes, there is. (fem.)	iyeh, kayna / mujuda	/
No, there isn't. (masc.)	lla, ma-kayn-š.	
No, there isn't. (fem.)	lla, ma-kayna-š.	
Give me ... please.	t iniafak.	
What do you want ma'am / sir?	šnu b iti a lalla/sidi?	/
How much?	bš al?	
Do you have change?	weš ndk s -srf?	
Do you have change for ... ?	weš ndk s -srf dyaal..?	...

Liters

liter	itru	
¼ liter	rubu itru	
½ liter	ns itru	
1 liter	wa d itru	
2 liters	juj itru	
I want ½ a liter of milk.	b it ns itru d l-lib.	.

Lesson 26

Shopping : practice dialogue

Dialogue

Karla:	s-salamu alaykum.	:
mul l-	anuta alaykum s-salam.	:
	šnu b iti a lalla?	:
Karla:	weš ndk šklat ?	:
mul l-	ayeh, mujud a lalla.	:
Karla:	t ini juj bakiyat.	:
	bš al?	:
mul l-	ut: naš l drhm.	:
Karla:	hak, barak llah u fik.	:
mul l-	uta jmil	:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 1. feen kayna Karla? | .1 |
| 2. weš šrat l- lib? | .2 |
| 3. šnu šrat mn l- anut? | .3 |
| 4. š al mn bakiya? | .4 |
| 5. bš al? | .5 |

Lesson 27

Verb “to want”

In Moroccan Arabic, the verb “to want” is **b a** (تأ). This verb uses the past tense but has a present tense meaning. When conjugated in the present tense, **b a** means “to like.”

I want	b it	
you want (sing.)	b iti	
he wants	b a	
she wants	b at	
we want	b ina	
you want (plur.)	b itu	
they want	b au	

Verb + Noun Examples

I want tea.	b it atay.
Do you want coffee with sugar?	weš b iti l-qhwa b skkar?
Ali wants a glass of water.	Ali b a kas d l-ma.
Driss and Fatima don't want soda.	Driss u Fatima ma-b au-š l-monada.

Lesson 28

Family Members

Vocabulary

woman/wife	mra		in-law(s)	nsib / nsab	/
man/husband	rajl		step-son	rbib	
girl/daughter	bnt		step-daughter	rbiba	
boy/son	wld		grandfather	jdd	
girls/daughters	bnat		grandmother	jdda	
boys/sons/ children	wlad		uncle (paternal)	mm	
the parents	l-walidin		aunt (paternal)	mma	
			uncle (maternal)	xal	
the father	l'ab		aunt (maternal)	xala	
the mother	l'om		my nephew (brother's side)	wld xuya	
the brother	l'ax		my niece (brother's side)	bnt xuya	
the sister	l'ox		my nephew (sister's side)	wld xti	
			my niece (sister's side)	bnt xti	
(my) brother	xu(ya)		my cousin (mas., paternal)	wld mm(t)i	/
brothers/ siblings	xut		my cousin (mas., maternal)	wld xal(t)i	/
(my) sister	xt(i)		my cousin (fem, paternal)	bnt mm(t)i	/
sisters	xwatat		my cousin (fem, maternal)	bnt xal(t)i	/

my father	bba		my mother	mmi	
your father	bbak		your mother	mmk	
his father	bbah		his mother	mmu	
her father	bbaha		her mother	mha	

Lesson 29

Family Expressions

How is Mohamed related to you?	aš kay-jeek Mohamed?	
How is Amina related to you?	aš kat-jeek Amina?	
My mom doesn't work.	mmi ma-xddama-š.	.
My mom and dad are divorced.	bba u mmi mtlqin.	.
I have two twin siblings.	ndi juj xut twam.	.
How many siblings do you have?	š al d l-xutdk?	
How many sisters do you have?	š al mn oxtdk?	
What's your father's name?	šnu smit bbak?	
How old is your brother?	š alfir xuk?	
I have a younger brother.	ndi xuya s r mnni.	.
My (male) cousin and I are the same age.	ana u wld mmi qd qd.	.
My older sister is a teacher.	xiti lli kbr mnni ustada.	.
My younger brother goes to school.	xuya lli s r mnni kay-qra.	.

Lesson 30

Practice Text

smiti John. baba smitu Stephen u mama smitha
Judy. ndi tlata d l-xut: juj bnat u wld. xuya smitu
Brian. huwa xddam f wa d š-šarika. xti Kathy.
mzuwja u ndha jooj drari: wld u bnt. l-wld mazal
s ir ndu tlt šhur. l-bnt ndha tmn sneen u
kat-mši l l-mdrasa. xti s-s ira, Mary, mazal
kat-qra f l-jami a.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. bat John, šnu smitu? | .1 |
| 2. u mmu, šnu smitha? | .2 |
| 3. š al d l-xut d John? | .3 |
| 4. škun s ir-šl- a'ila d John? | .4 |
| 5. weš bnt xt John xddama? | .5 |