EASTERN ARABIC
LEVEL 3
READING BOOKLET
Travelers should always check with their nation's State Department for current advisories on local conditions before traveling abroad.
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Arabic Dialects

There are many varieties of Arabic spoken throughout the Arab world, including North Africa. Of the hundreds of known dialects, the spoken varieties with the largest number of speakers are grouped, on the basis of similarity in vocabulary and syntax, into the following:

- Syrian Arabic - (or Eastern Arabic, as taught in this course) spoken in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan;
- Egyptian Arabic - spoken in urban Egypt;
- Gulf Arabic - spoken in Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, the Emirates (Qatar), Oman, Bahrain, and Eastern Saudi Arabia;
- Iraqi Arabic - spoken in Iraq;
- North African Arabic - spoken in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco;
- Saudi Arabic - spoken in Central and Western Saudi Arabia;
- Yemeni Arabic - spoken in Yemen and southern Saudi Arabia.
The Written System—Modern Standard Arabic

The written form of the Arabic language, which dates back to pre-Islamic periods, is called “Standard” or “Literary” Arabic and is used and understood throughout the Arab world. It is the form of the language taught in schools and is the default for educated Arabs of any nationality. The written system has also been adopted by neighboring countries whose language is not Arabic, such as Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Colloquial or “spoken” Arabic, including Syrian Arabic, varies widely by region, sometimes differing enough to be mutually unintelligible. It is considered to be a “dialect,” and is almost never written down. Most educated Arabic speakers are able to easily jump back and forth between Standard and dialect, even within the same sentence, with no loss of understanding.

The Arabic writing system is easy to learn and master because the Arabic alphabet has a high correspondence between sound and symbol. This means that a letter is pronounced almost the same in every word position.

The Arabic Alphabet

If you have done the Reading Lessons in Levels 1 & 2, you will be familiar with the Arabic script. If the Arabic alphabet is new to you or you need to re-familiarize yourself with the sounds of the alphabet, you may want to do the Levels 1 & 2 Readings before proceeding with Level 3.
The Arabic alphabet contains 29 letters including the hamza (glottal stop). There are also two variants of existing letters, alif and taa. A number of diacritical marks complement the alphabet. These are signs written above or below the letters; they are listed on page 16, after the alphabet chart.

There are two categories of Arabic letters. The first category contains six letters only, which are called “one-way connectors” because they connect only to the “preceding letters” or letters to the right. They do not connect to “following letters” or letters to the left. These are:

و ذ ر ز د ا

The other 23 letters of the alphabet constitute the letters of the second category. They connect to both preceding letters (to the right) and following letters (to the left), hence the term “two-way connectors.”

The alphabet contains three long vowels: alif (aa), waw (uu), and ya (ii). The latter two function also as consonants, as in “wet” and “yes.” There are three short counterparts of these vowels represented by diacritical marks: the fatHa (a), the damma (u), and the kasra (i). They are about half as long. A tiny circle written above a consonant is called a sukuun and represents the absence of a vowel.

The mark that resembles a tiny “w” is called shadda. It signifies a doubled consonant. For example, this mark over
the letter “t” makes the word pronounced /sit-tah/ rather than /sitah/.

A complete listing of the Arabic alphabet has been included for your reference, beginning on page 10. It is shown in two 2-page spreads, reading right to left. Each letter has four different representations, depending on its position within a word. The listing includes the forms that the letters assume in different word positions. There is an independent form, as well as a beginning, a middle, and an end form. The term “initial” means the first letter of the word starting from the right, “medial” means all the letters in the middle, and “final” refers to the last letter of the word, on the left. The chart is to be used only as a guide since all of the necessary information for beginning to read in Arabic will be given in the audio portion of the Reading Lessons.

The Letter taa’ marbuuta (ة)

The letter taa’ marbuuta (ة) serves only as a suffix and is a variant of the letter taa’ (تا). The taa’ marbuuta (ة) functions most often as the feminine noun marker — meaning that when this letter is attached to most masculine nouns and adjectives, it makes them feminine.

The taa’ marbuuta is not always pronounced. Whether or not it is pronounced depends on the grammatical function and structure of the word to which it is added.
The *taa‘ marbuuta* is not pronounced when:

- the word is said by itself, for example the word “car,” *sayyaara* (سيارة)
- the word is followed by an adjective, as in “big car,” *sayyaara* *kbiire* (سيارة كبيرة)

The *taa‘ marbuuta* (ة) is pronounced just like a regular *taa’* (ت) when:

- a personal pronoun is attached to the word, as in, “my car,” *sayyaartiit* (سياراتي). In this case, the *taa‘ marbuuta* (ة) is replaced with the letter *taa’* (ت).
- another suffix is attached to the word, e.g., “two cars,” *sayyaartiin* (سيارتين). Again, in this case, the *taa‘ marbuuta* (ة) is replaced with the letter *taa’* (ت).
- the word belongs with the following noun, resulting in a grammatical function similar to that of the preposition “of,” as in the “city of New York” *madiina(e)t nyuuyoork* (مدينة نيويورك).

**The Definite Article (الـ): Assimilating and Non-Assimilating Sounds**

The definite article in Arabic *al* (ال), is made up of the letters *alif* (ا) and *laam* (ال) and is prefixed to nouns and adjectives. Its pronunciation changes depending on the word that follows it.
• It is pronounced *al* when prefixed to words beginning with a sound/letter that belongs to a certain group of letters referred to as “moon” or “lunar” letters. Long ago, Arab grammarians used the word “moon,” *qamar* (قَمَر), to exemplify this group of sounds. If the article is prefixed to a word beginning with a moon letter, the *laam* is pronounced as an I-sound and is said to be *non-assimilating*.

For example, if the article is prefixed to the word “moon,” *qamar* (قَمَر), the result, “the moon,” is *al-qamar* (القَمَر).

• In contrast, there are words which start with sounds/letters called “sun” or “solar” letters. Arab grammarians used the word “sun,” *shams* (شَمَس), to exemplify this class of sounds. If the article is prefixed to a word beginning with a sun letter, the *laam* changes to the sound of the sun letter and it is said to be *assimilating*.

For example, if the article is prefixed to the word “sun,” *shams* (شَمَس), the result, “the sun,” is *ashshams* (الشَّمْس). The *sh* in *ash* blends into the *sh* in *shams*.

Note that only the *pronunciation* of the article is affected, not its spelling.
Phonological Variation
Local Dialects vs. Modern Standard Arabic

Differences between spoken Syrian and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) exist at the phonological level. Some examples of the differences in pronunciation are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>MSA Pronunciation</th>
<th>Eastern Arabic Pronunciation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>قَلَم</td>
<td>qalam</td>
<td>qal</td>
<td>like c as in cod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ظريف</td>
<td>Dhariif</td>
<td>zariif</td>
<td>like th as in thine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>نظّارة</td>
<td>naDh-Dhaara</td>
<td>naD-Daara</td>
<td>like th as in thine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ذهب</td>
<td>dhahab</td>
<td>dahab</td>
<td>like th as in the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>لذيذ</td>
<td>ladhiidh</td>
<td>laziiz</td>
<td>like th as in the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ثوم</td>
<td>thuum</td>
<td>tuum</td>
<td>like th as in thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ثانوي</td>
<td>thaanawiy</td>
<td>saanawii</td>
<td>like th as in thin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These variants are not interchangeable; you may not use s for th and still claim that your speech is in Modern Standard Arabic.
The Reading Lessons

The Reading Lessons in *Eastern Arabic 3* are designed to familiarize the learner with words that appear on signs, menus, and the like, as well as phrases that the learner is likely to see or hear in Arabic-speaking countries. Also there is a lesson on the pronunciation of the names of some famous Syrians, as well as some typical expressions and regional idioms. There are twenty Reading Lessons in all. Vowel markers have been included to aid you in reading unfamiliar words. Normally, everyday written Arabic will not include these markers or diacritics. You will be reading both Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Eastern Arabic. Instruction will be given as needed. Normally, writing is done only in MSA, and experienced readers look at the words and translate them “on the fly” into their dialect.

The recorded portion of the reading materials for *Eastern Arabic 3* will be found at the end of the program. You can do the Readings when it is most convenient for you, either with the lessons, or entirely after completing the full 30 lessons. Full instructions on how to proceed are in the recording.
### Alphabet Chart (Read from right to left)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol in Transliteration</th>
<th>Final Position</th>
<th>Medial Position</th>
<th>Initial Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aa</td>
<td>ل</td>
<td>ل</td>
<td>ا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>بـ</td>
<td>بـ</td>
<td>بـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>تـ</td>
<td>تـ</td>
<td>تـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>th</td>
<td>ثـ</td>
<td>ثـ</td>
<td>ثـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>جـ</td>
<td>جـ</td>
<td>جـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>حـ</td>
<td>حـ</td>
<td>حـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kh</td>
<td>خـ</td>
<td>خـ</td>
<td>خـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>دـ</td>
<td>دـ</td>
<td>دـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dh</td>
<td>ذـ</td>
<td>ذـ</td>
<td>ذـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>رـ</td>
<td>رـ</td>
<td>رـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>زـ</td>
<td>زـ</td>
<td>زـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>سـ</td>
<td>سـ</td>
<td>سـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sh</td>
<td>شـ</td>
<td>شـ</td>
<td>شـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>صـ</td>
<td>صـ</td>
<td>صـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>ضـ</td>
<td>ضـ</td>
<td>ضـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Name in Transliteration</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ألف</td>
<td>alif</td>
<td>ا</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>باء</td>
<td>baa</td>
<td>ب</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>تاء</td>
<td>taa</td>
<td>ت</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ثاء</td>
<td>thaa</td>
<td>ث</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>جيم</td>
<td>jiim</td>
<td>ج</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>حاء</td>
<td>Haa</td>
<td>ح</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>خاء</td>
<td>khaa</td>
<td>خ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>دال</td>
<td>daal</td>
<td>د</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ذال</td>
<td>dhaal</td>
<td>ذ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>راء</td>
<td>raa</td>
<td>ر</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>زاي</td>
<td>zay</td>
<td>ز</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>سين</td>
<td>siin</td>
<td>س</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>شين</td>
<td>shiin</td>
<td>ش</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>صاد</td>
<td>Saad</td>
<td>ص</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ضاد</td>
<td>Daad</td>
<td>ض</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbol in Transliteration</td>
<td>Final Position</td>
<td>Medial Position</td>
<td>Initial Position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>ط</td>
<td>ط</td>
<td>ط</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dh</td>
<td>ظ</td>
<td>ظ</td>
<td>ظ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>`</td>
<td>ع</td>
<td>ع</td>
<td>ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gh</td>
<td>غ</td>
<td>غ</td>
<td>غ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>ف</td>
<td>ف</td>
<td>ف</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>q</td>
<td>ق</td>
<td>ق</td>
<td>ق</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>ك</td>
<td>ك</td>
<td>ك</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>ل</td>
<td>ل</td>
<td>ل</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>م</td>
<td>م</td>
<td>م</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>ن</td>
<td>ن</td>
<td>ن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>ه</td>
<td>ه</td>
<td>ه</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uu/w</td>
<td>و</td>
<td>و</td>
<td>و</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ee/y</td>
<td>ي</td>
<td>ي</td>
<td>ي</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aa</td>
<td>م</td>
<td>م</td>
<td>م</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>ن</td>
<td>ن</td>
<td>ن</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Alphabet Chart (Read from right to left)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name in Transliteration</th>
<th>Letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>طاء</td>
<td>Taa</td>
<td>ط</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ظاء</td>
<td>Dhaa</td>
<td>ظ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>عَينْ</td>
<td>çayn</td>
<td>ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>غَينْ</td>
<td>ghayn</td>
<td>غ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>فَاء</td>
<td>faa</td>
<td>ف</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>قاف</td>
<td>qaaf</td>
<td>ق</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>كاف</td>
<td>kaaf</td>
<td>ك</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>لَام</td>
<td>laam</td>
<td>ل</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ميم</td>
<td>miim</td>
<td>م</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>نون</td>
<td>nuun</td>
<td>ن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>هاء</td>
<td>haa</td>
<td>ه</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>وَاو</td>
<td>waaw</td>
<td>و</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>يَاء</td>
<td>yaa</td>
<td>ي</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>أَلِف مَقصورة</td>
<td>alif maqSuura</td>
<td>ى</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>تاء مَربوطة</td>
<td>taa marbuuTa</td>
<td>ء</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>هَمزة</td>
<td>hamza</td>
<td>ء</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Diacritical Marks (read from right to left)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name in Transliteration</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sukuun</td>
<td>سُكون</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>۰</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>no vowel follows, above the letter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fatHa</td>
<td>فَتْحة</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>ٍ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>short vowel, above the letter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damma</td>
<td>ضَمّة</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>ِ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>short vowel, above the letter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kasra</td>
<td>كَسْرة</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>ِ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>short vowel, below the letter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shadda</td>
<td>شَدّة</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>ّ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>indicates a double consonant, above the letter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson One: Travel Signs

1. مطار
2. جمارك
3. أمتىحة
4. محطة
5. موقف باص
6. بوابة
7. مغادرة
8. وصول
9. سيريا تل
10. هاتف
11. مكتب سياحي
12. صرف عملات
13. قطار سريع
14. موقف تكسي
15. جوازات
16. استعلامات
17. تذكرة ذهاب
18. تأشيرة سياحية
19. تجديد جوازات
20. رسوم خروج
Lesson One Translations

1. airport
2. customs
3. baggage
4. station
5. bus stop
6. airport gate
7. departures
8. arrivals
9. Syria Telephone
10. telephones
11. tourist office
12. currency exchange
13. rapid-service / express train
14. taxi stand
15. passport checkpoint
16. information
17. one-way ticket
18. tourist visa
19. passport renewal
20. exit fee
Lesson Two: More Travel Signs

1. مَوْقِف سَيْارات
2. رحلة مُباشِرة
3. مكتب استعلامات
4. حَمَال
5. رحلات دَوْليَّة
6. مكتب بَريد
7. رَقْم الرِحْلة
8. عَرْبة
9. تذِكرَة ذَهاب وإياب
10. بطاقة صَعْود
11. خِزانةُ أمتعة
12. تَذاكر
13. رُكَاب
14. مَحَطّة الرُكَاب
15. رحلات داخِليَّة
16. إذن إقامة
17. إذن عَمَل
18. مُضيفة
19. جَوَّال
20. تَرانزيت
Lesson Two Translations

1. parking
2. ticket office
3. information office
4. international flights
5. domestic flights
6. post office
7. the flight number
8. flight attendant
9. round trip ticket
10. boarding pass
11. baggage locker
12. direct flight
13. passengers
14. baggage/luggage handler
15. the airport terminal
16. resident permit
17. working permit
18. trolley
19. cell phone
20. plane connection
Lesson Three: Driving in Syria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>تحويلة</td>
<td>1. Place of Turning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>اتجاه واحد</td>
<td>2. One Direction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>مدرسة</td>
<td>3. School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>طريق عام</td>
<td>4. Main Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>طريق غير معبدة</td>
<td>5. Unpaved Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ممنوع الدخول</td>
<td>6. No Entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ممنوع الالتفاف</td>
<td>7. No U-turns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ممنوع الوقوف</td>
<td>8. No Stopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>الأولوئية للاخرين</td>
<td>9. Priority for Others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>مشرطة</td>
<td>10. Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ساحة</td>
<td>11. Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>مخرج</td>
<td>12. Exit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>تقاطع</td>
<td>13. Intersection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>خور</td>
<td>14. Chasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ممنوع الالتقاء</td>
<td>15. No Lifting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>حفرات</td>
<td>16. Pits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>قف</td>
<td>17. Stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>مشاة</td>
<td>18. Pedestrians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>طرق عام</td>
<td>19. Public Roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>طرق غير معبده</td>
<td>20. Unpaved Roads</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson Three Translations

1. square
2. one way
3. highway
4. unpaved road
5. dead end street
6. sidewalk
7. work in progress
8. stop
9. pedestrians
10. police
11. detour
12. exit
13. school
14. intersection
15. falling rocks
16. sidewalk
17. no u-turn
18. no parking
19. yield
20. bumpy road
Lesson Four: Signs on Syrian Roads and Highways

المتحلق الجنوبي

بغداد

طريق محلي

جنوب

حدود السرعة

خفف السرعة

عبور قطارات

محطة بنزين

حلب

خدمة سيارات
Lesson Four (continued)

11. اِزْدِحام مُرور

12. طَوارِئ الطرُق

13. بَيْروت

14. ممنوع التَجاوْز

15. اِسْتِراحة

16. مَوْقِف طَوارِئ

17. صِيانة سيارات

18. دَرْعا-عَمّان

19. ممنوع التَكلُم مَع السائِق.

20. ممنوع مَدِ الرأس مِن النافذة.
Lesson Four Translations

1. South Ring Road
2. Bagdad
3. local road
4. south
5. speed limit
6. slow down
7. train crossing
8. gas station
9. Aleppo
10. automobile assistance
11. heavy traffic
12. emergency road service
13. Beirut
14. double line road - no passing
15. roadside refreshments / rest area
16. emergency stop
17. car service
18. A highway connecting the cities Daara and Ammaan
19. Please don’t speak to the driver.
20. Don’t lean out the windows.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Five: Arabic Loan Words</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>زَعْفَران</td>
<td>حَشْاشُشين</td>
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<td>صُفّة</td>
<td>صِفر</td>
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<td>طَحينَة</td>
<td>الإَكْسِير</td>
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<tr>
<td>تَعْرِفة</td>
<td>جِن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>حُمُص</td>
<td>جَرْرَة</td>
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<tr>
<td>أمير البَحْر</td>
<td>لِيْمون</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>الخُوارِزْمي</td>
<td>جِهاد</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>شَراب</td>
<td>مَخْزَن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>الكُحْل</td>
<td>مَطْرَح</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>سُكر</td>
<td>الجَبْر</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson Five Translations

1. assassin
2. zero
3. elixir
4. genie
5. jar
6. lemon
7. jihad
8. magazine / storehouse or military supply
9. mattress
10. algebra
11. saffron
12. sofa
13. tahini
14. tarrif
15. hummus
16. admiral
17. algorism
18. syrup
19. kohl
20. sugar
Lesson Six: Expressions and Pastimes

1. برجيس
2. طاولة زهر
3. شطرنج
4. ضاما
5. كراكوز
6. حكاواتي
7. كرة القدم
8. كرة السلة
9. كرة المضرب
10. الكرة الطائرة
Lesson Six (continued)

سِباحَة
11.

سَهْرة
12.

حَفْلة
13.

سيران
14.

مَبْروك!
15.

لا تَواخِزْني!
16.

دايْمَة
17.

صَحْتين.
18.

شَو هَالحَكي؟
19.

عَلى راْسي! / عَلى عيني!
20.
Lesson Six Translations

1. Two player board game
2. backgammon
3. chess
4. checkers-like game
5. puppets
6. storyteller
7. soccer
8. basketball
9. tennis
10. volleyball
11. swimming
12. late evening get-together
13. party
14. picnic
15. “Congratulations!”
16. “I beg your pardon; Excuse me!”
17. “May it last for ever.”
18. “Two healths.”
19. “What are you talking about?”
20. “With pleasure! or “Willingly!” (Literally, “on my head / on my eye,”)
1. غداء
2. عشاء
3. عصرونيّة
4. قائمة الأكل
5. مشروبات
6. صحن اليوم
7. سلطة
8. مقبلات
9. أركيلة
10. شوربة
11. وجبة رئيسية
12. حلويات
13. الحساب
14. الإكرامية
15. الإكرامية محسوبة
16. مغاسل
17. فوطة، من فضلك!
18. قنننة زيت زيتون
19. نصف طلب
20. خلي الباقي
Lesson Seven Translations

1. lunch
2. dinner
3. a snack
4. the menu
5. wine list
6. the daily special
7. salad
8. appetizers
9. water pipe used for smoking tobacco
10. soup
11. main dish
12. sweets
13. the check / bill
14. tip included in the check
15. tip
16. washroom
17. A napkin, please!
18. olive oil cruet
19. a half portion
20. Keep the change.
Lesson Eight: Medical Terminology

1. غرفة إسعاف
2. تأمين
3. سيارة إسعاف
4. مشفى
5. ممرضة
6. طبيب مناوي
7. دواء
8. مُعالجة طبَّية
9. العناية المشددة
10. تحليل دم
11. مَرْضان.
12. عَندي صُداع.
13. سَخْنان شْوَيِ.
14. عَندي وَجَع بَطْن.
15. رِجْلي عَم تِجَعْني.
16. كتافي عَم تِجَعْني.
17. سِنّي عَم يِجَعْني.
18. وين فيه صَيْدَلِيّة فَاتِحة؟
19. عَندي حَساسيّة للمُضادّات.
20. ميزان حَرارة
Lesson Eight Translations

1. emergency room
2. insurance
3. ambulance
4. hospital
5. nurse
6. doctor on call
7. medicine
8. medical assistance
9. intensive care unit
10. blood test
11. I don’t feel good.
12. I have a headache.
13. I have a little fever.
14. I have a stomachache.
15. My leg hurts.
17. I have a toothache.
18. Where is an open pharmacy?
19. I’m allergic to antibiotics.
20. thermometer
Lesson Nine: Traveling by Train

سِكّة

قِطار

قطار سَريع

قطار شَحْن

مَقعَد قطار

دَرَجة أولى

بِسافِر درجة أولى بس.

حَجْز

مَحْجوز

مَقصُورة نَومَ
Lesson Nine (continued)

11. عربية نوم

12. عربة أكل

13. أمر المحطة

14. تكييف

15. جدول مواعيد

16. نفق

17. الرجاء عدم الوقوف.

18. مقصورة

19. نصف تذكرة

20. جابي
Lesson Nine Translations

1. track
2. train
3. express train
4. freight train
5. seat in a train.
6. first class
7. I only travel in first class.
8. reservation
9. reserved
10. sleeping compartment
11. sleeping car
12. dining car
13. head of the station
14. air conditioning
15. train schedule
16. tunnel
17. “No standing.”
18. compartment
19. child’s fare
20. conductor
Lesson Ten: Supermarket Items

1. خُضَر
2. فَواكه
3. جُبن
4. مَعكِرونة
5. نَجاج
6. لَحم
7. كيلو واحِد
8. منِتْجات أَلباَن
9. لبن
10. الصُنْدوق
11. بوَظة
12. خُبْز
13. زُبْدة
14. فَطايِر
15. زيت
16. خَلّ
17. مَلح
18. ثوم
19. فُلفُل
20. خَيار
Lesson Ten Translations

1. vegetables
2. fruit
3. cheese
4. pasta
5. chicken
6. meat
7. one kilo
8. dairy products
9. yogurt
10. cashier
11. ice cream
12. bread
13. butter
14. pies
15. oil
16. vinegar
17. salt
18. garlic
19. peppers
20. cucumber
Lesson Eleven: At the Hotel

1. الاستقبال
2. مفتاح
3. مدير
4. مصعد
5. غرفة بسريرين
6. غرفة مفردة
7. غرفة مع منظر
8. غرفة مع فطور
9. غرفة رياضية
10. إيقاظ
11. بركة سباحة
12. بالموسم
13. سوبا
14. تدليك / مساج
15. صالون حلاقة
16. كونسييرج
17. عدم الإزعاج
18. خدمة الغرف
19. تحضير الغرفة
20. فندق خمس نجوم
Lesson Eleven Translations

1. reception area
2. key
3. director / manager
4. elevator
5. a double room
6. a single room
7. room with a view
8. bed and breakfast
9. gym
10. wake up call
11. pool
12. in season
13. sauna
14. massage
15. hairdresser
16. concierge
17. Do not disturb.
18. room service
19. to make up the room
20. five-star hotel
Lesson Twelve: Items in the Bathroom

1. مَعْجون أسْنان
2. صابون
3. صابون سائِل
4. دوَش
5. شامبو
6. وَرَق تَواليت
7. آلة حِلاقة كِهْرَبائيّة
8. حَوْض / بانْيو
9. مَنشَفَة
10. مُجَفِّف شَعر
11. مَغْسَلَة
12. عَطر
13. بودرة أَطفاَل
14. بَرْنُس
15. اسْفَنْجة
16. مِراَة
17. مُطَهِّر فَم
18. رَغْوة حِلاقة
19. مُزِيل رَائحة
20. طاقِيّة حمّام
Lesson Twelve Translations

1. toothpaste
2. soap
3. shower soap
4. shower
5. shampoo
6. toilet paper
7. an electric razor
8. bathtub
9. towel
10. hair dryer
11. sink
12. perfume
13. baby powder
14. bathrobe
15. sponge
16. mirror
17. mouthwash
18. shaving foam
19. deodorant
20. shower cap
Lesson Thirteen: At the Post Office

1. بَرْقِيّة
2. خَتْم
3. طَابِع
4. بِطاقة بَريديّة
5. فَواتير لِلدَفع
6. صُنْدوق بَريد
7. بَريد مُسَجِّل
8. بَريد جَوّي
9. تَوْفِيق البريد
10. طَرْد
11. تَأخير بِالبريد
12. ساعي بَريد
13. إِيصال
14. وُصل استِلام
15. طَلب
16. يُرْسِل
17. يَرِسل بِالبريد
18. يَقِف بِالصَفّ
19. موَظّف بَريد
20. يُوقِع
Lesson Thirteen Translations

1. wire (electronic transfer)
2. hand stamp / rubber stamp
3. postage stamp
4. postcard for use in Syria only
5. bills paid at the post office
6. mail box
7. registered mail
8. air mail
9. post office savings account
10. parcel
11. mail delay
12. postman
13. receipt
14. return receipt
15. form
16. to send
17. to mail
18. to stand in line
19. post office clerk
20. to sign
Lesson Fourteen: At the Bank

1. حساب جاري
2. دفعة أولى
3. فتح حساب
4. إغلاق حساب
5. حوالة مصرفية
6. وديعة
7. كشف حساب
8. فائدة
9. قرض
10. بطاقات صرف / آلة صرف
Lesson Fourteen Translations

1. checking account
2. down payment
3. open an account
4. close an account
5. bank transfer (female)
6. deposit
7. account statement
8. interest
9. loan
10. ATM card /ATM machine
11. bank investments (male)
12. interest rate
13. home equity loan
14. bank loan (male)
15. bank window / teller
16. checkbook
17. percentage rate
18. depreciation
19. inflation
20. bank transaction (female)
Lesson Fifteen: At a Newstand or Bookstore

1. جريدة
2. جريدة يومية
3. مجلة
4. رسم كاريكاتورية
5. دليل سياحي
6. خريطة مدينة
7. خريطة طريق
8. قاموس
9. رواية
10. كتاب أطفال
قِصّة بوليسِيّة

تاريخ مَحَلّي

كتاب شَعْر

وَصْلَة إنْتَرْنِت

عَرْض لِكتَاب

كتاب بِغِلاف سَميك

طلَب خاص

قصة قَصيرة

قصة خُرافِيّة

رُزْنامة

Lesson Fifteen (continued)
Lesson Fifteen Translations

1. newspaper
2. daily newspaper
3. magazine
4. comic book
5. tourist guide
6. city map
7. road map
8. dictionary
9. novel
10. children’s book
11. mystery story
12. local history
13. poetry book
14. internet connection
15. book review
16. hardcover book
17. special order
18. short story
19. fairy tale
20. calendar
Lesson Sixteen: Regional Expressions and Holidays

1. حاجة بَأه!
2. طَيِّب!
3. كُل سِنِة وانْتَو سالمين!
4. رَمَضان
5. عيد الفِطْر/ العيد الصَغير
6. الحَج
7. عيد الأضحى
8. العيد الكَبير
9. عيد الميلاد
10. عيد الفِضْح
11. كنيسة حنانيا
12. معلولا
13. دير مار سركيس
14. صيدنيا
15. الجامع الأموي
16. قصر العظم
17. مسرح بصري
18. ايبلا
19. رأس شمرا
20. قلعة حلب

Lesson Sixteen (continued)
Lesson Sixteen Translations

1. Come on! or Stop it!
2. OK!
3. May you be safe every year!
4. Ramadan - month when Muslims fast from dawn to sunset
5. Smaller Eid - three days of celebrations after Ramadan
6. The Haj - the annual pilgrimage to Mecca
7. Eid of Sacrifice - four days of festivities after the annual Haj
8. Greater Eid - four days of festivities after the annual Haj
9. Christmas - an official holiday in Syria and Lebanon
10. Easter - an official holiday in Syria and Lebanon
11. St. Ananias Church in Damascus
12. Maaloula - only place in the world where Aramaic is still used today as a living language
13. Monastery of Saint Sergius
14. Sednaya - ancient convent
15. Omayyad Mosque in Damascus
16. Azem Palace in Damascus
17. Bosra amphitheater (2 BC)
18. Ebla - ancient city (circa 2400 BC)
19. Ras Shamra (Ugarit) - ancient city where first alphabet was developed (7 BC)
20. Citadel of Aleppo
Lesson Seventeen: Syrian Proverbs

1. ساعة إلهك وساعة لربك.
2. إذا بدعوة تحيرو خيرو.
3. حامل السلم بالعرض.
4. ما بحوك جلادك مثلك ضفرك.
5. القرد بعين صاحب غزال.
6. من تحت الدلف لتختي المزراب.
7. أول الرقص حنجلة.
8. لا تدل شحاد على باب دارك.
9. كل من نوع مرغوب.
10. الغائب حجيب معو.
الاسْكافي حافي والحايك عَرْيان.

كَثْرُ الآيادِي بِتَحْرِقِ الطَّعَامِ.

دُودُ الخَلّ مِنْو وفِيه.

مِتْل خازوق البَحْرَة.

اِيِد وحَدة ما بِتَصَفِّق.

بِدّو سَلْتَو بَلا عِنِب.

مَثْلِ الخِنْفْسة بِالطَّاسِة.

كَمَا تَزْرَعُ تَحْصُد.

أَجْوَدُ مِن حاتِم.

الوَلَدُ سِرُّ أبِيّه.
Lesson Seventeen Translations

1. Time for fun, time for prayer.

2. If you want to confuse someone, give them a choice.

3. Said to someone who makes things more complicated than they have to be. (Literally, carrying a ladder sideways.)

4. Nothing can scratch your skin like your own nail.

5. All her geese are swans. (Literally, “A monkey in the eyes of its owner is like a gazelle.”)

6. Out of the frying pan and into the fire. (Literally, going from under a leaky ceiling to under a downpour.)

7. Things don’t start at full blast. (Literally, “Dancing begins in a slow movement.”)

8. Beware of greedy people. (Literally, “Don’t show a beggar where you live.”)

9. You want what you can’t have. (Literally, “Everything prohibited is desired.”)

10. An absent person has his excuse. (Said when someone has not arrived when expected. Literally, “A person on the road has an excuse.”)

11. The cobbler’s children have no shoes. (Literally, “The cobbler is barefoot and the weaver is naked.”)
Lesson Seventeen Translations  (continued)

12. Too many cooks spoil the broth. (Literally, “Too many hands burn the food.”)

13. Family disagreements are from the family itself. (Literally, “Worms in vinegar are produced by it [vinegar].”)

14. Like a fish out of water. (Literally, “resembles the stake-like stopper of a fountain.”)

15. A single hand cannot clap.

16. To be content with a safe escape. (Literally, “He wants his basket empty without grapes.”)

17. Like a beetle in a cup. (Used when too much effort is exerted to no avail.)


19. “More generous than Hatim,” a legendary generous man who lived before the rise of Islam.

20. Like father, like son. (Literally, “A son is the secret of his father.”)
Lesson Eighteen: Well-Known Syrians

1. عُمَر أبو ريشة
2. يُوسُف العَظْمة
3. عَبد الرُحْمن الكَواكِبي
4. شَفيق جَبْرَي
5. ناظم القدسي
6. هاشم الأتاسي
7. شَكْري القوْنْتَلي
8. سُلطان باشا الأطرش
9. زَكي الأَرسلَوْزي
10. إِبْراهيم هَنانو
Lesson Eighteen (continued)

11. نزار قباني

12. حافظ الأسد

13. فارس الخوري

14. أبو خليل القباني

15. فيروز

16. الأخوين رحباني

17. صباح فخري

18. أدونيس

19. حنا مينا

20. ساطع الحضري
Lesson Eighteen Translations

1. Omar Abu Risheh - one of Syria’s and the Arab world’s renowned poets

2. Yousef al-Azmeh - an officer in the Ottoman Army (Following the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the independence of Syria, he became the first Minister of Defense. He was killed fighting the French invasion and became a national hero.)

3. Abdelrahman Al-Kawakby - a thinker, social reformer, and journalist

4. Shakik Jabry - a civil servant, poet, and literary critic

5. Nazem al-Qudsy - a prominent Syrian political leader (He was president in 1931, 1939, 1954, and 1960.)

6. Hashim al-Atasy - a prominent Syrian political leader (He was president in 1931, 1939, 1954, and 1960.)

7. Shukrii al-quwatli - was president in 1943 and 1955

8. Sultan Pasha al-Atrash - a noted leader of the Druze minority, led the Syrian rebellion against the French

9. Zaki al-Arsuzi - a thinker and philosopher

10. Ibrahim HanANO - a leader of the resistance against the French occupation 1920-1945

11. Nizar Qabbani - the foremost Arab poet of modern times
Lesson Eighteen Translations (continued)

12. Hafez al-Asad - the late president of Syria (Created stability in Syria for thirty years.)

13. Faris al-Khoury - a lawyer and statesman; the first prime minister of the Syrian Republic

14. Abu-Khalil al-Qabbani - founder of the Arab theater in modern history

15. Fairuz- a Lebanese singer who enjoyed great popularity in the Arab world, particularly in Syria and Lebanon

16. The Rahbany Brothers (Mansour and Assi) - revolutionized Arab music and revived traditional, classical music and poetry

17. Sabah Fakhry - one of the two best tenors in the Arab world

18. Adonis (Ali Ahmad Saeed) - a modern Avant Garde Syrian poet with an international reputation

19. Hanna Mina - a renowned contemporary Syrian novelist

20. Sati al-Husri - a writer and statesman; considered the father of Arab nationalism
Lesson Nineteen: Expressions for Special Occasions

1. تَهَانينا!

2. اللَّه مَعَكَ!

3. تَمُنِّيَاتنا بِالشِّفاءِ العاجل!

4. نَعيمًا!

5. الحَمْدُ اللَّه عَلَى السَّلامة.

6. مُسْتَحِيل!

7. كُلْ عام وَأَنتَ بِخَيرَ!

8. الله يَعطِيك العافية!

9. بِصَحِّيْتَكُن!

10. طَابّ يَومُكَ!
11. رَوِّق! 

12. يا حَرام الشوم! 

13. بِحْكي مَعَك بَعْد شْوَيّ! 

14. يااللَّه! 

15. عَلى الطائِر المَيْمون! 

16. مُوْفَاق نُشَااللَّه! 

17. دِير بالَّك عَلى حَالَّك! 

18. عُقبَال ميْت سِنة! 

19. انتَبَه! 

20. يا ريت!
Lesson Nineteen Translations

1. Congratulations! (for a special event)
2. Goodbye! Literally, “May God be with you.”
3. Get well soon!
4. Bless you! -- Cheers! Said when one has finished taking a bath or returned from the barber or hair dresser.
5. Welcome back! Glad you’re all right! Said after one returns from a trip or has recovered from an illness. (Literally, “Thank God for your safety.”)
6. No Way!
7. May you be well every year, said on any festive occasion, for example New Year or Christmas
8. Good job! (Literally, “May God give you strength.”)
9. To your health! Cheers!
10. Have a good day!
11. Cheer up!
12. What a pity!
13. I’ll talk to you soon!
14. Come on!
15. Have a good trip! Bon voyage!
Lesson Nineteen Translations (continued)

16. Break a leg! (Literally, “May God make you succeed!”)

17. Take good care of yourself!

18. Happy Birthday! (Literally, “A hundred more years like this one!”)

19. Watch out!

20. I wish!
Lesson Twenty: Some Famous Syrian Dishes

1. كِبَّة
2. كَنَافة
3. بَقْلاوَة
4. مَعْمول
5. شيخ المَحْشي
6. كُواج
7. مَلَوخِية
8. مَحْشي
9. مُجَدَّرة
10. مَقَلَّى
11. بامِيَة
12. رِز بِفول
13. بازِلا وَرُزُّ
14. فاصوليا بِالزيت
15. سَبانِخ
16. فِطائِر سبانِخ / فِطائِر جُبْن
17. سَمَك مَشْوِي
18. بابا غَنّوج
19. لَحْم مَشْوِي
20. مُتَبَّل
Lesson Twenty Translations

1. kibbeh - comes in many varieties (It is basically a dome-like pocket stuffed with lamb fat, red peppers, onion, walnuts, and spices.)

2. kunafeh - a baked dessert made from shredded wheat and sometimes stuffed with pistachios or white cheese

3. baklava - it’s origin is claimed by the Greeks, Turks, and Syrians

4. mamoul - a soft dough stuffed with pistachios, walnuts, or dates and dusted with confectioners’ sugar

5. sheikh el-mehshirt - a Syrian dish made from small cored zucchinis stuffed with minced meat, onion, and pine nuts and cooked in yogurt

6. kawaj - a stew that contains tomatoes, diced zucchini, onions, tomato sauce

7. mluukhiye - an herb

8. mahshi - zucchini, eggplant, and bell peppers stuffed with rice and meat

9. mjaddara - cracked wheat cooked with lentils and served with a layer of carmelized onions on top

10. foul m’alla - green broad beans stir fried with cilantro and garlic in olive oil
11. bamya - okra cooked in a tomato-based stew with lamb and served with rice

12. riz b-foul - rice with green broad beans and lamb

13. bazilla w-riz - rice with peas and lamb

14. fasuulia b-zzeit - green beans stir fried in olive oil with cilantro and garlic (Another version is cooked in tomato sauce with garlic.)

15. sabanekh - spinach

16. fatayer sabanekh/jiben - pastries with spinach / cheese on top

17. samak mashwi - grilled fish

18. baba ghannuuj - an eggplant dip

19. lahmc meshwi - grilled lamb

20. mtbbal- a dip prepared from mashed carrots or zucchini mixed with tahini, lemon juice, and olive oil