



Vocabulary and Conversation: Meeting People

New Vocabulary [At home]

Listen to and learn these expressions that are used when meeting someone new. Select the dialect you are learning, Egyptian maSri or Levantine/Syrian shaami (the Arabic word shaami can mean Syrian, Damascene, or Levantine). Listen to and repeat each word many times until you can

“hear” and pronounce each word easily. To use this vocabulary you need to know that Arabic omits the present tense verb *is/are*, so the question “What is your name?” will consist of *what* and *your name*, for example: **shuu ismak?** (Levantine), and **ismak ee?** (Egyptian, note that the word “*what?*” occurs at the end of the question in this dialect).

You will notice that this list includes two sets of words for “you”, one identified as “polite”: **HaDritak / HaDritik** or **HaDertak / HaDertik**. This polite form (which literally means “your presence”) is used in situations where you want to show respect to the person you are talking to, especially in Egypt. You will hear this expression used in the dialogues; practice using it in class.



Meaning	maSri	shaami	Formal /written
door	باب	باب	باب
name	ism إِسْم	ism إِسْم	ism إِسْم
what?	ee? إيه؟	shuu? شو؟	maa? ما؟
(reply to) ahlan wa sahlan (to a male)	ahlan biik أهلاً بـيـك	ahlan fiik أهلاً فـيـك	ahlan bika أهلاً بـك
(reply to) ahlan wa sahlan (to a female)	ahlan biiki أهلاً بـيـكِ	ahlan fiiki أهلاً فـيـكِ	ahlan biki أهلاً بـكِ
(reply to) assalaamu ʿalaykumu	wa ʿalaykumu s-salaam وعليكم السلام	wa ʿalaykumu s-salaam وعليكم السلام	wa ʿalaykumu s-salaam وعليكم السلام

Meaning	maSri	shaami	Formal /written
you (polite form, to a male)	HaDritak حَضْرَتَكَ	HaDərtak حَضْرَتَكَ	HaDratuke حَضْرَتُكَ
you (polite form, to a female)	HaDritik حَضْرَتِكَ	HaDərtik حَضْرَتِكَ	HaDratuki حَضْرَتُكِ
Nice to meet you!	itsharrafna اِتَشَرَّفْنَا	tsharrafna تَشَرَّفْنَا	tasharrafnaa تَشَرَّفْنَا
you [masculine]	inta اِنْتَ	inte اِنْتِ	anta اَنْتَ
you [feminine]	inti اِنْتِ	inti اِنْتِ	anti اَنْتِ
my [possessive suffix] my name	-i ي - ismi اِسْمِي	-i ي - ismi اِسْمِي	-i ي - ismii اِسْمِي
your (suffix, masculine) your name	-ak كَ - ismak اِسْمَكَ	-ak كَ - ismak اِسْمَكَ	-ka or -ik كَ - ismuka اِسْمُكَ
your (suffix, feminine) your name	-ik كِ - ismik اِسْمِكِ	-ik كِ - ismik اِسْمِكِ	-ki كِ - ismuki اِسْمُكِ
where?	feen? فَيْنَ؟	ween? وَيْنَ؟	ayna? اَيْنَ؟
from where?	mineen? مَيْنَ؟	min ween? مَن وَيْنَ؟	min ayna? مِّنْ اَيْنَ؟
yes	aywa اَيَّوَهْ	ee اِيَهْ	na'am نَعَمْ
no	la' لَا	la', laa لَا	laa لَا