



# Egyptian QuickChat

Arabic is the official language of Egypt. However, the Arabic spoken on the streets differs greatly from the standard Arabic written in newspapers and spoken on the radio. Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (ECA) is fun, but difficult to learn. It's basically a dialect of the standard language, but so different in many respects as to be virtually another language. As with most dialects, it's the every day language that differs the most from that of Egypt's other Arabic-speaking neighbours. We've given you the pronunciation guidelines for each word here.

## QUESTION WORDS

How?	iz-zay?
What?	ey?
When?	im-ta?
Where?	fayn?
Which?	ayy?
Who?	meen?

## CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

Hello	sa-lām 'a-lay-kum
Goodbye	ma'-as sa-laa-ma
Yes	ai-wa (or na'am – more formal)
No	la'
Please	min fad-lak/fad-lik/fad-lu-kum (to man/ woman/group – used when asking for something in a shop)
Thank you (very much)	shu-kran (ga-zee-lan)
That's fine/You're welcome	'af-wan (or al'aff-u)
Excuse me	'an iz-nak, es-maH-lee (to man) 'an iz-nik, es-ma-Hee-lee (to woman) 'an iz-nu-kum, es-ma-Hoo-lee (to group)
I'm sorry	'as-sif
What's your name?	is-ma key? (to man) is-mi key? (to woman)
My name is ...	is-mee ...
Where are you from?	en-ta/en-tee min-ain? (m/f)
I'm from ...	a-na min ...
I like/don't like ...	a-na ba-Hibb/ma-ba-Hib-bish
Just a minute	da-ee-a waa-Hid-a

## DIRECTIONS

Where is ...?	fayn ...?
Go straight ahead	'a-la tool
Turn left	How-id shi-māl
Turn right	How-id yi-meen
at the (next) corner	'al-al nas-ya (il-li gai-ya)
at the traffic lights	'and il i-shā-ra

## LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

Do you speak English?	en-ta bi-tit-kal-lim in-glee-zee? (to a man) en-tee bi-tit-kal-li-mee in-glee-zee? (to a woman)
How do you say ... in Egyptian Arabic?	iz-zai a- 'ool ... bil 'a-ra-bee?
What does ... mean?	ya'ni ... ey?
I don't understand	a-na mish faa-hem/fah-ma (m/f)

## TIME & DATES

What time is it?	saa-a kam?
in the morning	sa-ba-Han
in the afternoon	ba-d'id duhr
in the evening	bil layl
today	inn-har-da
tomorrow	bo-kra
yesterday	im-be-riH
Monday	(yom) al-it-nayn
Tuesday	(yom) at-ta-laat
Wednesday	(yom) al-ar-ba'a

Thursday	(yom) al-kha-mees
Friday	(yom) al-gu-m'a
Saturday	(yom) as-sabt
Sunday	(yom) al-Hadd

## SHOPPING & SERVICES

I'd like to buy ...	'aiz/'ai-za ash-ti-ri ... (m/f)
How much is it?	bi-kam da?
I don't like it	mish 'a-gib-ni
May I look at it?	mum-kin a-shoo-fu?
I'm just looking	bat-far-rag bas
It's cheap	da ra-khees
It's too expensive	da ghaa-lee 'ow-ee
I'll take it	'a-khud-ha
Do you accept credit cards?	bi-ta-khud kre-dit kard? (m) bi-ta-khu-dee kre-dit kard? (f)

## PLACES

the city centre	wust al-ba-lad
the embassy	as-si-fā-ra
the market	as-sooq
the post office	al-boos-ta/mak-tab al-ba-reed
the tourist office	mak-tab as-si-yaa-Ha

## TRANSPORT

What time does the ... leave/arrive?	im-ta qi-yaam/wu-suul ...?
boat	al-mar-kib
bus	al-o-to-bees
plane	al-tay-yā-ra
train	al-'atr
I'd like a ticket	'ayz/'ayz-a taz-kar-it (m/f)
I want to go to ...	a-na 'aiz/'ai-za a-rooH ... (m/f)
The train has been cancelled/delayed	il-'atr it- 'akh-khar/it-la-gha
platform number	ra-seef nim-ra
ticket office	mak-tab at-ta-zaa-ker
timetable	gad-wal
train station	ma-Hat-tat al-'atr

## EMERGENCIES

Help!	el-Ha'-nee!
I'm lost	a-na tā-yih/tā-y-ha (m/f)
Go away!	im-shee!
Call a doctor!	i-tas-sal bi-dok-toor! (m) i-tas-sal-ee bi-dok-toor! (f)
Call the police!	i-tas-sal bil-bo-lee!

## SIGNS

Entrance	مدخل
Exit	خروج
Open	مفتوح
Closed	مغلق
Prohibited	ممنوع
Information	معلومات
Hospital	مستشفى
Police	شرطة
Men's Toilets	للرجال
Women's Toilets	للنساء