

PART A: KEY LANGUAGE

2.1 WELCOME TO CAIRO!

CD1 16

Your teacher, Sherif, records for us useful language at the railway station. First, Mr Mousa, a businessman, is welcomed by his company representative. Then Sherif takes a taxi to his hotel.

In this unit you can learn how to:

- say *hello* and *goodbye*, *please* and *thank you*;
- attract people's attention;
- and, above all, make the most of a small amount of language.

There's no magic wand that will enable you to speak fluent Arabic overnight. Goodwill is important, though. You'll find, as you hear Sherif in Cairo, that saying *please!* will get you by in a whole variety of situations, especially if you smile!

2.2 KEY LANGUAGE

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Hello, sir (madam, miss).

Excuse me, sir. Excuse me, madam (miss).

Goodbye, sir (madam, miss).

Thank you, sir (madam, miss).

There you are, sir. There you are madam (miss).

A coffee, please.

Mina Hotel, please.

The restaurant, please.

Note that to be polite in Arabic, it is often necessary to add **يا أستاذ (yaa ustaaz)**, **يا مدام (yaa madaam)** or **يا آنسة (yaa aanisa)**, even when you would not say the equivalent in English. Notice also that some phrases change depending on whether you're talking to a man or a woman. For the moment, just try to remember the changes individually. There will be more practice on these later in the programme.

Try to learn the Arabic phrases, then cover up the English KEY LANGUAGE on this page. Look at the page opposite and see how much of the English you can remember. Then cover up the Arabic phrases and do it in reverse. It's also a good idea to try and read the Arabic out loud as this will help with script familiarity.

LEARNING STRATEGIES

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Remember to work through every section with the book and recording as many times as you need in order to feel comfortable with the language. In unit 1, you learned the sequence: read and listen, then repeat after, and then with the Arabic speakers. You can now add a step to this. When you have repeated after and with the speakers, try to keep the language in your mind while you do something else. Then try saying the sentences again, gradually increasing the time gap. In this way, the KEY LANGUAGE will become part of your long-term memory – you will have learned it! So, this strategy can be summed up as:

- (i) read and listen;
- (ii) repeat after the speakers;
- (iii) repeat with the speakers;
- (iv) repeat without an immediate model.

Practise doing this sequence with the key Arabic sentences in 2.2 opposite. Then test yourself. When you hear the Arabic for the following, repeat it:

- a A coffee, please.
- b Mina Hotel, please.
- c Thank you, madam.



«مرحباً في مصر!»

marHaban fee maSr!

أهلاً، يا أستاذ (يا مدام، يا آنسة). (يا آنسة).
ahlan, yaa ustaaz (yaa madaam, ya aanisa).

لو سمحت، يا أستاذ. لو سمحت، يا مدام (يا آنسة).
law samaHt, yaa ustaaz. law samaHtee, yaa madaam (ya aanisa).

مع السلامة، يا أستاذ (يا مدام، يا آنسة).
maHa salaama, yaa ustaaz (yaa madaam, ya aanisa).

شكراً، يا أستاذ (يا مدام، يا آنسة).
shukran, yaa ustaaz (yaa madaam, ya aanisa).

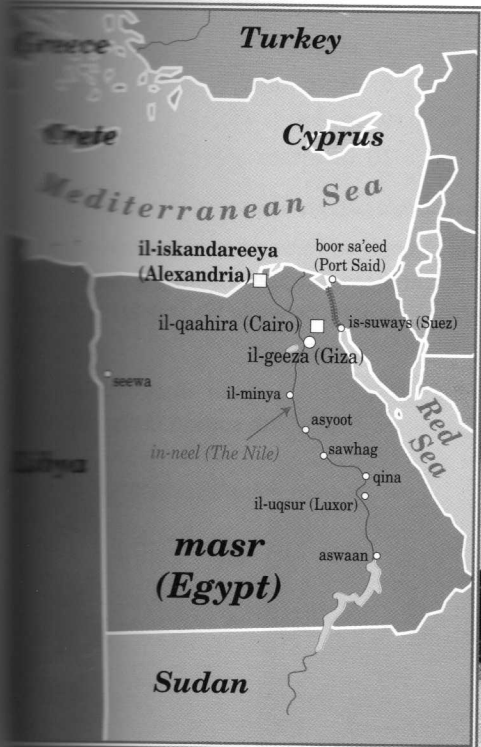
إتفضل، يا أستاذ. إتفضلي، يا مدام (يا آنسة).
itfaDDal, yaa ustaaz. itfaDDalee, yaa madaam (ya aanisa).

قهوة، من فضلك. qahwa, min faDlak.

فندق مينا، من فضلك. funduq meena, min faDlak.

المطعم، من فضلك. il-maTAHm, min faDlik.

المطعم، من فضلك. il-maTAHm, min faDlik.



2.3 OVER TO YOU

CD 22 ?

You now know how to use Arabic to do some useful jobs. Looking at the photos on the opposite page:

- a ask to be taken to the Mina Hotel;
- b ask a male receptionist for the restaurant;
- c ask the waitress for a coffee.

2.4 STRATEGIES



It's a good idea to train yourself to listen and to read in a positive way, picking out the key words that carry the message, and ignoring what is less important. For example, can you quickly spot the words for coffee, cola, cafeteria and Mina Hotel in the text opposite?

2.5 VOCABULARY

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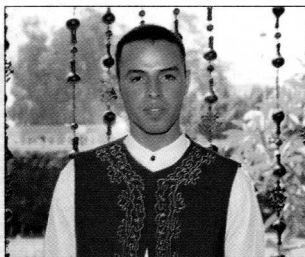
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You'll understand better if you anticipate the words you expect to hear in a particular situation and learn them. In this unit, you will hear Sherif in the station coffee shop, taking a taxi, and arriving at the hotel. You will hear the words in the list. Try learning these words now to make your listening easier.

One good technique is to concentrate on a word and try to 'photograph' it in your mind. Then cover it up and write it down from memory. Do this with all the words and then with four or five at a time.



- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1 welcome | 6 reception |
| 2 cola | 7 restaurant |
| 3 falafel sandwich | 8 telephone |
| 4 spit-roast lamb | 9 there |
| 5 the | 10 omelette |

A useful way of dealing with any words you find difficult to remember is to copy them out with their English meanings on a slip of paper, and carry it about with you. Use any odd spare moments to revise them – in a bus, for example, or while waiting for the kettle to boil.

2.6 LOOKING AHEAD

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You'll find it easier to understand people if you think in advance about what they're likely to say in certain situations. So, when Sherif asks for a coffee at the station buffet, you already know that he is unlikely to say *I'd like you to bring me a coffee, please*, but rather *A coffee, please*. Note down in English similar phrases you might hear or need to say:

- a in a hotel (e.g. *The telephone, please.*);
- b in a restaurant.



c

b

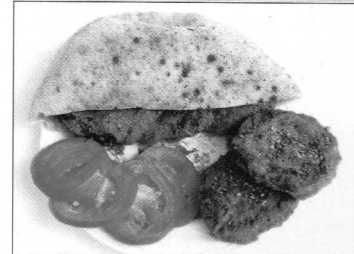
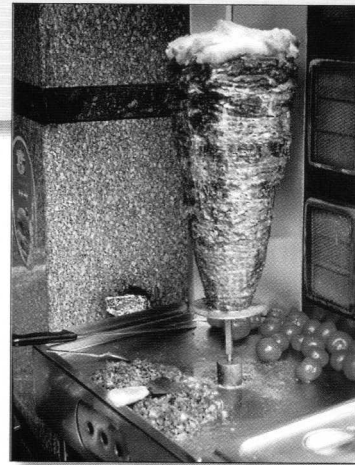
a

«لمطعم، من فضلك»

يوجد في كافيتريا فندق مينا مشروبات مثل الكولا والقهوة.

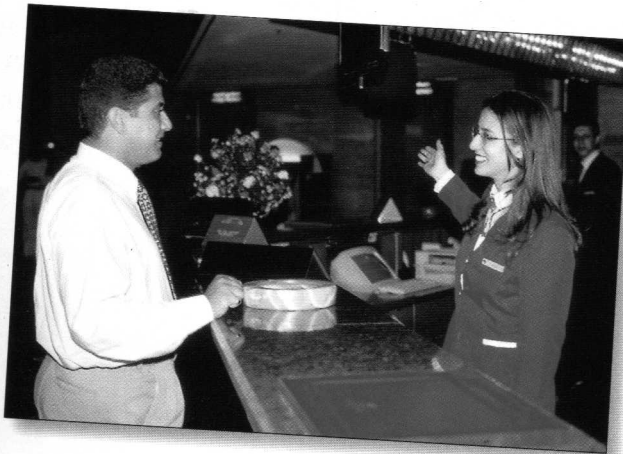


- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ٨ تليفون tleefoon | ٤ شورمة shawarma | ١ مرحباً marHaban |
| ٩ هُناك hunaak | ٥ ال... il... | ٢ كولا kola |
| ١٠ أومليت omlet | ٦ استقبال istiqaal | ٣ ساندوتش فلافل saandawitsh falaafil |
| | ٧ مطعم maTAHm | |



«التليفون»

من فضلك



PART B: LANGUAGE IN ACTION

2.7 NOW I UNDERSTAND

CD 28 ?

To ask for a coffee, to ask to be taken to the Mina Hotel, and to ask for the restaurant, Sherif simply says what he wants, and adds *please*. As you listen, note down in English six instances of the same strategy being used. The photos on the page opposite give you some clues. Replay the story as often as you need to.

2.8 GOT IT?



When you're travelling in an Arab country, you should be able to read some of the signs around you. Some signs also appear in English or French, but this is not always the case and it is useful to be able to pick out some key words in order to get your bearings. For example, say which of the English below matches the Arabic signs on the right.

- 1 Hotel Extady
- 2 taxi
- 3 reception
- 4 restaurant

2.9 HERE'S THE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT OF THE TRANSCRIPT WHICH APPEARS ON THE PAGE OPPOSITE.

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THE RAILWAY STATION

Hoda Sadiq Hello! My name's Hoda Sadiq.
 Ali Mousa Mrs Hoda Sadiq?
 Hoda Sadiq Yes, I'm Hoda Sadiq.
 Ali Mousa Hello, Madam Hoda. My name is Ali Mousa.
 Hoda Sadiq Hello, Mr Ali. Welcome!

THE COFFEE SHOP

Sherif Waiter! A coffee, please.
 Waiter A coffee, yes.
 Sherif Thank you.
 Waiter Goodbye, sir.
 Sherif Goodbye.

THE TAXI RANK

Hoda Sadiq Goodbye, Mr Mousa!
 Ali Mousa Goodbye, Mrs Sadiq!
 Sherif Mina Hotel, please.
 Taxi-driver Mina Hotel?
 Sherif Yes, Mina Hotel.

THE MINA HOTEL: RECEPTION

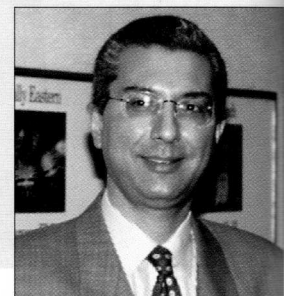
Sherif Excuse me! Reception, please?
 Porter Reception is there, sir.
 Sherif Thank you.
 Receptionist Hello, hello, sir!
 Sherif Hello, Miss. My name's Sherif Mansour.
 Receptionist Hello, Mr Mansour ... Here you are.
 Sherif The telephone, please?
 Ah! Thanks!

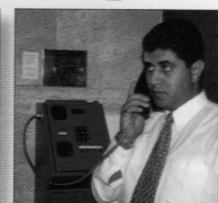
THE TELEPHONE

Sherif Mr Gamal Sami, please ...

RECEPTION

Ali Mousa Hello. My name's Ali Mousa.
 Receptionist Welcome, Mr Mousa ... sir?
 Sherif The restaurant, please?
 Receptionist The restaurant is there, sir!





فندق مينا، الاستقبال *funduq meena, il-istiqaal*

شريف لو سمحت! الاستقبال، من فضلك؟

law samaHt! il-istiqaal, min faDlak?

البواب الاستقبال هناك، يا أستاذ.

il-istiqaal hunaak, yaa ustaaz.

شكراً. *shukran.*

أهلاً، أهلاً يا أستاذ! *ahlan, ahlan yaa ustaaz!*

أهلاً يا أنسة! أنا اسمي شريف منصور.

ahlan yaa aanisa! ena ismee shereef mansoor.

أهلاً أستاذ منصور. إتفضل!

ahlan ustaaz mansoor. itfaDDal!

شريف التليفون، من فضلك... آه، شكراً!

it-tileefoon, min faDlik? ... aah, shukran!

التليفون *it-tileefoon*

شريف الأستاذ جمال سامي، من فضلك.

il-ustaaz gamaal saamee, min faDlak.

الاستقبال *il-istiqaal*

علي موسى أهلاً. أنا اسمي علي موسى.

ahlan. ena ismee AHlee moosa.

الموظفة مرحباً أستاذ موسى. أستاذ؟

marHaban ustaaz moosa. ustaaz?

شريف المطعم، من فضلك. *il-maTAHm, min faDlik.*

الموظفة المطعم هناك، يا أستاذ.

il-maTAHm hunaak, yaa ustaaz.

المحطة *il-maHaTTa*

هدى صادق أهلاً. أنا اسمي هدى صادق.

ahlan! ena ismee hoda Saadiq.

علي موسى مدام هدى صادق؟ *madaam hoda Saadiq?*

هدى صادق نعم. أنا هدى صادق. *nAHm. ena hoda Saadiq.*

علي موسى أهلاً مدام هدى. أنا اسمي علي موسى.

ahlan madaam hoda! ena ismee AHlee moosa.

هدى صادق أهلاً أستاذ علي. مرحباً!

ahlan ustaaz AHlee! marHaban!

الكافيتريا *il-kaafeetirya*

شريف يا جرسون! قهوة، من فضلك.

yaa garsoon! qahwa, min faDlak.

الجرسون قهوة، نعم! *qahwa, nAHm!*

شريف شكراً. *shukran.*

الجرسون مع السلامة، يا أستاذ! *mAH as-salaama, yaa ustaaz!*

شريف مع السلامة! *mAH as-salaama!*

موقف التاكسي *mawqaf it-taksee*

هدى صادق مع السلامة، يا أستاذ موسى!

mAH as-salaama, yaa ustaaz moosa!

علي موسى مع السلامة، يا مدام صادق!

mAH as-salaama, yaa madaam Saadiq!

شريف فندق مينا، من فضلك. *funduq meena, min faDlak.*

السائق فندق مينا؟ *funduq meena?*

شريف نعم، فندق مينا. *nAHm, funduq meena.*

2.10 PRACTISE

Now cover up the English translation and, as you read the Arabic version, try and remember the English. Then check.

2.11 GRAMMAR



A noun is a word used to name a person, a place or a thing (e.g. Sherif, Cairo, Railway Station, telephone). In Arabic, some nouns are masculine and some are feminine. Luckily, it is usually easy to tell them apart. You can generally assume a noun is masculine unless:

1. It obviously refers to a female, e.g. مَنَى (mona), بِنْت (bint, meaning "girl"), مَدَام (madaam).
2. It has the feminine ending (ة). This is a special letter called *taa marboota*, only ever found on the end of words. It is pronounced *a*, e.g. قَهْوَة (qahwa, "coffee"), مَحَطَّة (maHaTTa, "station").

Almost all other nouns which don't end in (ة) are masculine.

There is no Arabic equivalent of the English *an*, and *the* is always الـ (il). Instead of being written as a separate word, it is written on the beginning of the word, e.g. مَحَطَّة (maHaTTa, "(a) station"), becomes المَحَطَّة (il-maHaTTa, "the station"). Sometimes the *l* sound in *il* "joins together" with the first sound of the following word, e.g. تَلِيفُون (tileefoon, "(a) telephone"), becomes التَلِيفُون (it-tileefoon, "the telephone"). This change only affects the pronunciation and not how you write the word. Don't worry about the details, just listen to how each word sounds and you will begin to pick up the differences.

Read the nouns opposite, decide if they are masculine (♂) or feminine (♀) and then write them out again using الـ (il).

2.12 LISTEN AGAIN

30 31

Each time you hear someone say من فضلك (min fadlak/fadlik) repeat the whole sentence twice, in the pause which follows it.

PART C: TEST YOURSELF

Practise using what you've learned. Play the recording through once or twice until you're comfortable with the language. Then play it again, and repeat what you hear.

2.13

32 ?

In the dialogue on the page opposite, you see how to develop the bare formula من فضلك (min fadlak/fadlik) into a more lengthy exchange, simply by adding other phrases from the vocabulary of this unit. Make up a similar dialogue in a café. Start by attracting the attention of the waiter, and ask for a coffee and a spit roast lamb. Then ask for the telephone. Look at the solution. Your dialogue may not be identical, but it could still be correct.

PART D: THE END OF THE STORY

2.14 THIS IS THE ENGLISH VERSION OF PART D. THE TRANSCRIPT IS ON THE PAGE OPPOSITE.

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Sherif orders lunch in the hotel restaurant. To show how easy this can be, he chooses something from the menu which you would be able to read if you saw it in Arabic on a menu.

Waiter Sir?

Sherif An omelette, please.

Waiter Yes, sir.



الإجابات

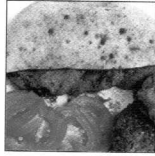
شكرًا مع السلامة، يا مدام، شكرا
شكرًا مع السلامة

شكرًا... من فضلك...
شكرًا... نعم...
شكرًا... نعم...

شكرًا... من فضلك...
شكرًا... نعم...
شكرًا... نعم...

Coffee, please; Hotel Mina,
please; Reception, please;
The telephone, please;
Mr Gamal Sami, please;
The restaurant, please.

2.13



قهوة ♀ القهوة

استقبال

فندق

بنك

شاوَرمة

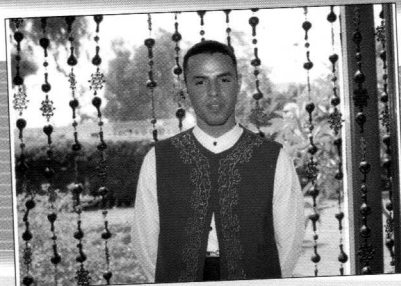
مطعم

«فندق مينا، من فضلك!»



الجرسون اتفضل، يا أستاذ!
شريف شكراً.

شريف يا جرسون! لو سمحت!
الجرسون نعم، يا أستاذ!
شريف كولا وساندويتش فلافل، من فضلك.



الجرسون أستاذ؟
شريف أوملت، من فضلك.
جرسون نعم، يا أستاذ.

الإجابات

المطعم
الشاوَرمة
البنك
الفندق
الاستقبال
القهوة

2.11

a فندق مينا، من فضلك.

b المطعم، من فضلك.

c قهوة، من فضلك.

2.8 a4; b1; c2; d3

2.4

يوجد في كافيتريا فندق مينا مشروبات مثل الكولا والقهوة.

c شكراً، يا مدام.

b فندق مينا، من فضلك.

a قهوة، من فضلك.

2.2