

My personal Gulf Arabic phrasebook

Sections 1-7 from <https://storylearning.com/learn/arabic/arabic-tips/gulf-arabic-phrases>

Sections 8-9 from my exchange with ChatGPT

1 Greetings In Gulf Arabic

1. Hello (Peace be upon you) – As-salaamu ‘alaykum – عليكم السلام
2. Hello (and also with you) (response) – Wa ‘alaykum as-salaam – والسلام عليكم و
3. Hello – MarHaba – مرحبا
4. Hello (response to “hello”) – MarHabtein – مرحبتين
5. Hello/Welcome! – Ahlan wa Sahlan – سهلا و أهلا
6. Hi! – Ya hala – هلا يا
7. Hi! – Hala – هلا
8. Hello! – Ahlan beek/beechee – اهلا بيك
9. Greetings/God bless you (may God give you life) – Hayyak Allah- الله حيّاك
10. Greetings (may God bless you) (response) – Allah yaHayyeek – يحياك الله
11. Hello? (on the phone) – Alo? – الو
12. Good morning – SabaH alkhayr – الخير صباح
13. Good morning (response) – SabaH al-noor – النور صباح
14. Good evening – Masa’ alkhayr – الخير مساء
15. Good evening (response) – Masa’ al-noor – النور مساء

2 Meeting People In Gulf Arabic

1. How are you? (in Kuwait and Qatar) – Shlonek?(masculine)/Ishlonik?(feminine) – شلونك؟
 2. How are you? – shlonkum? – شلونكم؟
- Other phrases:
1. How are you? (in UAE) – Ish-Halek?/ IshHalik? – اشحالك؟

2. How are you? – Keyf Halek?/Keyf Halik? – حالك؟ كيف
3. How are you? (in Saudi Arabia) – Wishlonak?/ Wishlonek? – وشلونك؟
4. How are you? (What’s new?) – Shoo khbarak?/ Shoo khbarek? – خبارك؟ شو

5. Are things going well? – Umoor tayyiba? – طيبة؟ أمور

To respond to someone:

1. Thanks be to God (all is well) – Alhamdulillah – الله الحمد
2. Fine, thanks be to God – Bikhayr, alhamdulillah – لله الحمد بخير
3. Fine, thanks be to God – Zayn, alhamdulillah – لله الحمد زين

The last of these three (Zayn, alhamdulillah / الله is the most ‘Gulf’-sounding of the three.

3 Being Polite In Gulf Arabic

1. Thank you – Shookran – شكرا
2. Thanks – Mashkoor/a – مشكور/ة
3. Thanks (plural) – Mashkooreen – مشكورين
4. Thanks to you – Shukran lak/lek – لك شكرا
5. Thanks (Health to you) – Tis-lam/Tislami – تسلم/ي
6. Thanks (Health to your hands) – Tislami/i Eedak/ek – ايديك تسلم/ي
7. Thank you (May God bless you) – Ya’aTeek al’Aafi – العافي يعطيك
8. Thank you very much – Shukran jazeelan – جزيلًا شكرا
9. You’re welcome – ‘afwan – عفوا
10. You’re welcome (Forgiveness) – Ela’afoo – العفو

Other phrases to be respectful:

1. Excuse me – Low samaht/samahti – سمحت/ي لو
2. Excuse me – IsmaH lee – اسمح

لي

3. Please – Min FaDlak/FaDleeh – فضلك من
4. I’m sorry – Aasif/aasifa – اسف
5. Please (come in/go ahead) – TafaDal/i – تفضل/ي

4 Everyday Gulf Arabic Phrases

1. How do I go to ____? – Shloon arooH ____? – أروح شلون؟
2. Do you speak English? – Tatakallam inglizi? – تتكلم/ي انجليزي؟
3. I want ____ – Abee ____ – أبيع/ي
4. I don’t want ____ – Ma abee ____ – ما أبيع/ي
5. I don’t understand Arabic. – Ma afham ‘arabi. – عربي أفهم ما
6. I know a little bit of Arabic. – A’aref ‘arabi shway. – عربة أعرف شوي
7. Can you say that again? – Mumkin ta’id marra thaniya? – ثانية؟ مرة تعد ممكن
8. I’m ready to order. – Ana jahiz/a aTlab. – أطلب جاهزة أنا
9. Can I have the bill please? – El-Hisab low samaHt. – لو الحساب سمحت
10. Where is ____? – Wayn ____? – وين؟
11. How much does this cost? – Kam thaman hada? – هادا؟ ثمن كم
12. What’s the time? – Al-sa’aa kam? – كم؟ الساعة

5 One-word phrases

1. Yes – Eeh – إي
2. No – La – لا

3. Yes, of course – Eeh, bala – إي بلى

4. Sure – Akeed – أكيد

5. Of course – Tab'a'an – طبعا

6. Exactly/precisely – BaDhabt – بالضبط

7. God willing (hopefully) – Inshal-lah – الله شاء ان

8. Let's go – Yallah – يالا

6 Introductions In Gulf Arabic

1. What's your name? – Eesh is-mak/ismek? – اسمك؟ ايش

2. My name is – Ismi – اسمي

3. Where are you from? – Min weyn ent/enti? – انت/ي؟ وين من

4. I'm from – Ana min – من أنا

5. Where do you work? – Wayn tashtaghi? – تشتغل/ي؟ وين

6. I work at – في أشغل – في

7. Where do you live? – Wayn sakin/e? – ساكن/ة؟ وين

8. I live in – Sakin/Sakna fi – في

9. Nice to meet you – Tasharrafna – تشرفنا

10. Nice to meet you too (the honor is mine) – Sharaf lana – النا شرف

7 Gulf Arabic Phrases To Say Goodbye

1. Goodbye – Ma'asalaameh – مع السلامة

2. Bye – Yalla bay – باي يالا

3. God be with you – Allah Ma'ak – معك الله

4. See you (Hope to see you when it's good) – Nshoofak 'ala khayr – خير على نشوفك

8 Restaurant exchange

W اليوم؟ أساعدك أقدر كيف وسهلاً أهلاً (Ahlan wa sahlān! Kayfa aqdiru asā'iduka al-yawm?) (Welcome! How can I help you today?)

C أريد أن أكل الآن. (Urid an ākul al-ān.) (I want to eat now.)

W تناولوه؟ تودّ الذي ما طبعاً، (Tab'an, mā alladhī tawaddu tanāwulahu?) (Of course, what would you like to eat?)

C يمكنك هل والمنسف. التبولة أحب (Uhibb al-tabbouleh wa al-mansaf. Hal yumkinuka an tuwassi bishay' ākhar?) (I love tabbouleh and mansaf. Can you recommend something else?)

W أو اللبنانية المشاوي بتجربة أنصحك بالتأكيد! (Bittakīd! Anṣaḥuka bita-jribati al-mashāwī al-lubnāniyyah aw al-ḥummuṣ.) (Certainly! I recommend trying Lebanese grilled dishes or hummus.)

C أطلب أن يمكنكني ماذا جداً. جيد هذا؟ (Hadha jayid jiddan. Mādhā yumkinuni an aṭlub lil-ḥalwā?) (This is very good. What can I order for dessert?)

W بماذا زينب. وأصابع البقلاوة، الكنافة، لدينا (Ladaynā al-kunāfah, al-baqlawā, wa aṣābi' Zaynab. Bimādhā tawaddu an tabda'?) (We have kunafa, baklava, and Zainab's fingers. What would you like to start with?)

C أريد الكنافة. (Urid al-kunafah.) (I want the kunafa.)

W حالاً. لك سأحضرها ممتاز! (Ikhtiyār mumtāz! Sa'uḥaḍdiruhā laka ḥālan.) (Excellent choice! I'll bring it to you right away.)

C العربية. القهوة أريد أيضاً شُكراً. (Shukran. Aidan urid al-qahwa al-'arabiyyah.) (Thank you. Also, I want the Arabic coffee.)

W مع العربية القهوة لك سأحضر بالتأكيد!

الكنافة. (Bittakīd! Sa'uḥaḍdiru laka al-qahwa al-'arabiyyah ma'a al-kunāfah.) (Certainly! I'll bring you the Arabic coffee with the kunafa.)

9 Popular dishes

9.1 Appetizers and Salads

1. تبولة (Tabbouleh)
2. حمص (Hummus)
3. غنوج بابا (Baba Ghanouj)
4. عنب ورق (Waraq Enab) Stuffed grape leaves
5. فلافل (Falafel)

9.2 Main Dishes

1. كبسة (Kabsa) A spiced rice dish
2. منسف (Mansaf) Jordan's dish with lamb
3. مقلوية (Maqluba) A "flipped" rice dish with layers
4. مشاوي (Mashawi) Grilled meat, including shish tawook
5. الفتة (Fatteh) A layered dish of bread, rice, and meat
6. كوشاري (Koshari) Egypt's dish of rice, lentils, pasta

9.3 Desserts

1. كنافة (Kunafa)
2. بقلاوة (Baklava)
3. زينب أصابع (Asabi' Zainab) Fried dough fingers
4. مهلبية (Mahalabia) pudding with rosewater
5. القاضي لقمة / عوامة (Awameh / Luqmat al-Qadi) Sweet dumplings

9.4 Beverages

1. عربية قهوة (Qahwa Arabiyya)
2. بالنعناع شاي (Shay bil-Na'na') Mint tea