

# 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 – السلام 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/beeck – اهلا بيك
9. Greetings/God bless you (may God give you life) – Hayyak Allah- الله حياك
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

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) – Tislam/i Eedak/ek – ايدك تسلم/ي
7. Thank you (May God bless you) – Ya’aTeek al’Aafi – العافي يعطيك
8. Thank you very much – Shukran jazeelan – جزىلا 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/FaDlech – فضلك من
4. I’m sorry – Aasif/aasifa – اسف
5. Please (come in/go ahead) – TafaDal/i – تفضل/ي

## 4 Everyday Phrases

1. How do I go to \_\_\_? – Shloon arooH \_\_\_? – ؟ أروح شلون
2. Do you speak English? – Tatakallam inglizi? – تتكلم/ي انغليزي؟
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. – سمحت لو الحساب
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 – اي
2. No – La – لا
3. Yes, of course – Eeh, bala – اي بلى
4. Sure – Akeed – أكيد

5. Of course – Taba'an – طبعاً
6. Exactly/precisely – BaDhabt – بضبط
7. God willing (hopefully) – Inshalah – شاء الله ان
8. Let's go – Yallah – يالا

## 6 Introductions

1. What's your name? – Eesh is-mak/ismek? – اسمك؟ ايّش
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
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 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 sahan! Kayfa aqdiru asā'iduka al-yawm?) (Welcome! How can I help you today?)
- C الآن. أكل أن أريد (Urid an ākul al-ān.) (I want to eat now.)
- W تناوله؟ تودّ الذي ما طبعاً، (Tab'an, mā alladhī tawaddu tanāwulahu?) (Of course, what would you like to eat?)

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

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

C أطلب أن يمكنني ماذا جداً. جيد هذا للحلوى؟ (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 تبدأ؟ أن تود (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 الكنافة. أريد (Urid al-kunafah.) (I want the kunafa.)

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

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

W مع العربية القهوة لك سأحضر بالتأكد! 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. فلفل (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

## 10 Days of the Week

1. اليوم – alyawm
2. باجر – bacher
3. أمس – ams
4. الأحد – al-aHad
5. الاثنين – al-ithnayn
6. الثلاثاء – ath-thulaatha'
7. الأربعاء – al-arba'a'
8. الخميس – al-khamees
9. الجمعة – al-jum'a
10. السبت – as-sabt
11. my presentation is tomorrow: عرّضي غداً (ArDi ghadan) or عرّضي باجر (ArDi bacher)

## 11 Airport

### 11.1 General Phrases

1. Airport – matar – مطار
2. Flight – riHla – رحلة
3. Passport – jawaz safar – سفر جواز
4. Ticket – tathkara – تذكرة
5. Gate – baab – باب
6. Terminal – maHall rukuub – محل ركوب
7. Baggage – Haqa'ib – حقائب
8. Carry-on luggage – Haqeeba yadawiya – يدوية حقيبة
9. Check-in – tasjeel – تسجيل
10. Customs – jamarik – جمارك
11. Immigration – jawazaat – جوازات

### 11.2 Questions

1. Where is the airport? – Wain al-matar? – المطار؟ وين
2. Where is the check-in counter? – Wain kaawnter at-tasjeel? – وين التسجيل؟ كاوتنتر
3. Where is the gate? – Wain al-baab? – الباب؟ وين
4. Where is baggage claim? – Wain maHall al-Haqa'ib? – محل وين الحقائب؟
5. When does the flight leave? – Mataa tughadir ar-riHla? – متى الرحلة؟ تغادر
6. What is the gate number? – Shu raqam al-baab? – الباب؟ رقم شو

## 12 Emergencies

Help! – Sa'adni! – ساعدني! I lost my luggage – Dayya't Haqa'ibee – ضيعت حقائبي

## 13 Taxi-Related Phrases

### 13.1 General

1. Taxi – Taxi – تاكسي
2. I need a taxi – Ahtaaj taxi – أحتاج تاكسي
3. Where can I find a taxi? – Wain agdar alga taxi? – ألقى أقدر وين تاكسي؟
4. How much does it cost to go to...? – Kam yikallif ar-rooHa ila...? – إلى الروحة يكلف كم؟
5. Please take me to... – Min faD-lak khuthni ila... – خذني فضلك من... إلى
6. Can you wait for me here? – Tigdar tintiThirni hnee? – تقدر هنا؟ تنتظرنني
7. I am in a hurry – Ana (musta'jil) – مستعجل أنا
8. Please drive slower – Min faDlak, soot akhaff – أخفّ سوق فضلك، من
9. How long will it take to get there? – Kam yista'riq alwaqt hataa wOsil? – الوقت يستغرق كم؟ أوصول؟ حتى

## 13.2 Directions

1. Go straight – Saeed 3ala Tool – طول على سيد
2. Turn right – Liff yameen – يمين لف
3. Turn left – Liff yasaar – يسار لف
4. Stop here – Waqif hnee – هنا وقف
5. Can you drop me off here? – Tigdar tanazzilni hnee? – تنزلني تقدر هنا؟

### 13.3 Destinations

1. Take me to the airport – Khuthni ila al-matar – المطار إلى خذني
2. Take me to the hotel – Khuthni ila al-funduq – الفندق إلى خذني
3. Take me to the city center – Khuthni ila markaz al-madina – المدينة مركز إلى خذني
4. Take me to the mall – Khuthni ila al-mool – المول إلى خذني
5. Take me to the hospital – Khuthni ila al-mustashfa – المستشفى إلى خذني

### 13.4 Problems and Questions

1. This is not the right way – Hatha moo al-Tareeq al-saHeeH – هذا الصحيح الطريق مو
2. Can you give me a receipt? – Tigdar ta'Teeni iSaala? – تعطيني تقدر إيصال؟
3. This is too expensive – Hatha ghaali jiddaan – جداً غالي هذا