

# Gulf Arabic phrasebook

## 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/beeck – اهلا بيك
9. Greetings/God bless you (may God give you life) – Hayyak Allah- الله حيالك
10. Greetings (may God bless you) (response) – Allah yaHayyeek – بحبيك 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) – Shlonak?(masculine)/ Ishlonik?(feminine) – شلونك؟
  2. How are you? – shlonkum? – شلونكم؟
- Other phrases:
1. How are you? (in UAE) – Ish-Halek?/ IshHalik? – اشحالك؟/ 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 الحمد زين 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) – Tislam/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 – جزيلًا شكرا
9. You’re welcome – ‘afwan – عفوا
10. You’re welcome (Forgiveness) – Ela’afuo – 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 – اي
2. No – La – لا
3. Yes, of course – Eeh, bala – اي بلى
4. Sure – Akeed – أكيد
5. Of course – Taba’an – طبعًا
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 اشتغل
7. Where do you live? – Wayn sakin/e? – ساكن/ة؟ وين
8. I live in – Sakin/Sakna fi – في ساكن/ة
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

- اليوم؟ أساعدك أقدر كيف وسهلاً أهلاً W  
(Ahlan wa sahan! Kayfa aqdiru

asā'iduka al-yawm?) (Welcome! How can I help you today?)  
C 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?)

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 يمكنني 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 شكراً. (Shukran. Aidan urid al-qahwa al-'arabiyyah.) (Thank you. Also, I want the Arabic coffee.)

W مع العربية القهوة لك سأحضر بالتأكيد! (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. مقلوقة (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