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

# Greetings In Gulf Arabic

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

# 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) – IshHalek?/ IshHalik? – اشحالك؟
2. How are you? – Keyf Halek?/Keyf Halik? – كيف حالك؟
3. How are you? (in Saudi Arabia) – Wishlonak?/ Wishlonek? – وشلونك؟
4. How are you? (What’s new?) – Shoo khbarak?/ Shoo khbarek? – شو خبارك؟
5. Are things going well? – Alomoor tayyiba? – أمور طيبة؟

To respond to someone:

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

The last of these three (Zayn, alhamdulillah / زين الحمد لله) is the most ‘Gulf’-sounding of the three.

# 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 – شكرا لك
5. Thanks (Health to you) – Tislam/Tislami – تسلم/ي
6. Thanks (Health to your hands) – Tislam/i Eedak/ek – تسلم/ي ايدك
7. Thank you (May God bless you) – Ya’aTeek al’Aafi – يعطيك العافي
8. Thank you very much – Shukran jazeelan – شكرا جزيلا
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 – لو سمحت/ي
2. Excuse me – IsmaH lee – اسمح لي
3. Please – Min FaDlak/FaDlech – من فضلك
4. I’m sorry – Aasif/aasifa – اسف
5. Please (come in/go ahead) – TafaDal/i – تفضل/ي

# Everyday Phrases

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

# 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 – طبعا
6. Exactly/precisely – BaDhabt – بضبط
7. God willing (hopefully) – Inshallah – ان شاء الله
8. Let’s go – Yallah – يالا

# Introductions

1. What’s your name? – Eesh ismak/ismek? – ايش اسمك؟
2. My name is \_ – Ismi \_ – اسمي\_\_\_
3. Where are you from? – Min weyn ent/enti? – من وين انت/ي؟
4. I’m from \_. – Ana min \_. – أنا من \_\_.
5. Where do you work? – Wayn tashtaghli? – وين تشتغل/ي؟
6. I work at \_\_. – أشتغل في \_\_\_.
7. Where do you live? – Wayn sakin/e? – وين ساكن/ة؟
8. I live in \_\_\_ – Sakin/Sakna fi \_\_. – ساكن/ة في\_\_\_.
9. Nice to meet you – Tasharrafna – تشرفنا
10. Nice to meet you too (the honor is mine) – Sharaf lana – شرف النا

# Phrases To Say Goodbye

1. Goodbye – Ma’asalaameh – مع السلامة
2. Bye – Yalla bay – يلا باي
3. God be with you – Allah Ma’ak – الله معك
4. See you (Hope to see you when it’s good) – Nshoofak ‘ala khayr – نشوفك على خير

# Restaurant exchange

W

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

C

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

W

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

C

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

W

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

C

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

W

لدينا الكنافة، البقلاوة، وأصابع زينب. بماذا تود أن تبدأ؟  
(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

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

C

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

W

بالتأكيد! سأحضر لك القهوة العربية مع الكنافة.  
(Bittakīd! Sa’uḥaḍdiru laka al-qahwa al-‘arabiyyah ma‘a al-kunāfah.) (Certainly! I’ll bring you the Arabic coffee with the kunafa.)

# Popular dishes

## Appetizers and Salads

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

## Main Dishes

1. كبسة (Kabsa) A spiced rice dish
2. منسف (Mansaf) Jordan’s dish with lamb
3. مقلوبة (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

## Desserts

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

## Beverages

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

# Days of the Week

1. Today – alyawm – اليوم
2. Tomorrow – bacher – باچر
3. Yesterday – ams – أمس
4. Sunday – al-aHad – الأحد
5. Monday – al-ithnayn – الاثنين
6. Tuesday – ath-thulaatha’ – الثلاثاء
7. Wednesday – al-arba‘a’ – الأربعاء
8. Thursday – al-khamees – الخميس
9. Friday – al-jum‘a – الجمعة
10. Saturday – as-sabt – السبت
11. my presentation is tomorrow: عَرْضي غداً (ArDi ghadan) or عَرْضي باچر (ArDi bacher)

# Airport

## General Phrases

1. Airport – matar – مطار
2. Flight – riHla – رحلة
3. Passport – jawaz safar – جواز سفر
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 – حقيبة يدوية
9. Check-in – tasjeel – تسجيل
10. Customs – jamarik – جمارك
11. Immigration – jawazaat – جوازات

## Questions

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

# Emergencies

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

# Taxi-Related Phrases

## 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? – وين أقدر ألقى تاكسي؟
4. How much does it cost to go to…? – Kam yikallif arrooHa ila…? – كم يكلّف الروحة إلى…؟
5. Please take me to… – Min faDlak khuthni ila… – من فضلك خذني إلى…
6. Can you wait for me here? – Tigdar tintiThirni hnee? – تقدر تنتظرني هنا؟
7. I am in a hurry – Ana (musta‘jil) – أنا مستعجل
8. Please drive slower – Min faDlak, soot akhaff – من فضلك، سوق أخفّ
9. How long will it take to get there? – Kam yista‘riq alwaqt hataa wOsil? – كم يستغرق الوقت حتى أوصل؟

## Directions

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

## Destinations

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

## Problems and Questions

1. This is not the right way – Hatha moo al-Tareeq al-saH – هذا مو الطريق الصح
2. Can you give me a receipt? – Tigdar ta'Teeni iSal? – تقدر تعطيني إيصال؟
3. This is too expensive – Hatha ghaali marah – هذا غالي مره