Speak Arabic for Daily Life in the Gulf

العربية للحياة اليومية في الخليج

12 practical lessons for expats and newcomers in the GCC

Phrases, conversations and vocabulary with pronunciation

AlBurhan Arabic Academy
AlBurhan Language Courses Ltd · Licence no. 07011175
Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates
alburhan.academy

Welcome

This book goes with the course **Speak Arabic for Daily Life in the Gulf**. It teaches the Arabic you will actually say every day in cafes, shops, taxis, at work, at home and with friends. The Arabic is Gulf style, written with full vowel marks so that you can read it correctly.

How to use each lesson

1. **Study** the phrases and say them out loud.
2. **Listen** to the audio in the course, then to the two conversations.
3. **Practise** with the quizzes and the roleplay.
4. **Pass the exam** to unlock the next lesson.

Reading the pronunciation

The pronunciation line is a simple English-friendly spelling. A few things to know:

- **g** is used for the letter ڤ as it sounds in the Gulf (*ragm* = number).
- **kh** sounds like the Scottish “loch”. **gh** is a soft throaty “r”.
- A dash at the end of a word (for example *si-r*) marks the Arabic letter ع (ayn), a sound made deep in the throat.
- **aa, ee, oo** are long sounds.
- Where a phrase changes for a woman, the women’s form is shown in red under it.

Contents

1. Meet Someone New — Greetings, names, where you are from, work and language
2. Cafe and Restaurant — Order food and drinks, ask for the bill
3. Shopping and Prices — Numbers, prices, sizes, bargaining politely
4. Taxi, Directions and Delivery — Tell a driver where to go, ask the way, receive a delivery
5. Work and Appointments — Times, days, book and change an appointment
6. Family and Home — Talk about family, rent a place, describe your home
7. At the Pharmacy — Say what hurts, ask for medicine, understand how to take it
8. Phone, SIM and Internet — Buy a SIM, top up, fix a connection problem
9. Bank and Government Services — Open an account, pay a bill, ID and forms
10. A Problem at Home — Report a repair to the landlord or building staff
11. Travel, Airport and Hotel — Check in, ask at the airport, book a room
12. Plans, Invitations and Social Life — Invite and accept, weekend plans, Ramadan and Eid greetings

Lesson 1: Meet Someone New

Your mission. Greet someone, say your name and where you are from, talk about your work and language, and say goodbye politely.

Greet someone

السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ	*as-salaam alaykum*	Hello
وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ	*wa alaykum as-salaam*	Hello in reply
هَلَا	*hala*	Hi
صَبَاحْ الْخَيْرْ	*sabaah al-khayr*	Good morning
صَبَاحْ النُّورْ	*sabaah an-noor*	Good morning in reply
شْلُونَكْ؟ / كَيْفْ حَالَكْ؟ شْلُونِكْ؟ / كَيْفْ حَالِكْ؟	*shloonak? / kayf haalak?* to a woman: shloonik? / kayf haalik?	How are you?
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهْ، بِخَيْرْ	*al-hamdu lillah, bi-khayr*	Thank God, I am well

Say your name and where you are from

اِسْمِي...	*ismi...*	My name is...
شُو اِسْمَكْ؟ / وِشْ اِسْمَكْ؟ شُو اِسْمِكْ؟ / وِشْ اِسْمِكْ؟	*shu ismak? / wesh ismak?* to a woman: shu ismik? / wesh ismik?	What is your name?
مِنْ وَيْنْ إِنْتَ؟ مِنْ وَيْنْ إِنْتِي؟	*min wayn inta?* to a woman: min wayn inti?	Where are you from?
أَنَا مِنْ الْهِنْدْ	*ana min al-hind*	I am from India
وَيْنْ تَسْكُنْ؟ وَيْنْ تَسْكِنِينْ؟	*wayn taskun?* to a woman: wayn taskineen?	Where do you live?
أَسْكُنْ فِي دُبَيْ	*askun fi dubay*	I live in Dubai

Talk about work and language

شُو تَشْتَغِلْ؟ شُو تَشْتَغِلِينْ؟	*shu tashtaghil?* to a woman: shu tashtaghileen?	What work do you do?
أَشْتَغِلْ فِي شَرِكَة	*ashtaghil fi sharika*	I work in a company

أَتَكَلَّمْ عَرَبِي شْوَيْ	*atkallam arabi shwayy*	I speak a little Arabic
مُمْكِنْ تُعِيدْ؟ مُمْكِنْ تُعِيدِي؟	*mumkin tu'eed?* to a woman: mumkin tu'eedi?	Can you repeat?
مَا فَهِمْتْ	*ma fahimt*	I did not understand

Be polite and say goodbye

تَشَرَّفْنَا	*tasharrafna*	Nice to meet you
مَشْكُورْ مَشْكُورَة	*mashkoor* to a woman: mashkoora	Thank you
عَفْوًا	*afwan*	You are welcome
يَعْطِيكْ الْعَافِيَة يَعْطِيكِ الْعَافِيَة	*ya-teek al-aafiya* to a woman: ya-teeki al-aafiya	Thank you for your effort (literally: may God give you strength)
مَعَ السَّلَامَة	*ma-a as-salaama*	Goodbye
حَيَّاكْ اللّٰهْ حَيَّاكِ اللّٰهْ	*hayyaak Allah* to a woman: hayyaaki Allah	Welcome

Conversation: Meeting a neighbour

AHMAD	السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. أَنَا أَحْمَدْ.	*as-salaam alaykum. ana Ahmad.*	Hello. I am Ahmad.
RAVI	وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. اِسْمِي رَافِي. تَشَرَّفْنَا.	*wa alaykum as-salaam. ismi Ravi. tasharrafna.*	Hello. My name is Ravi. Nice to meet you.
AHMAD	حَيَّاكْ اللّٰهْ. مِنْ وَيْنْ إِنْتَ؟	*hayyaak Allah. min wayn inta?*	Welcome. Where are you from?
RAVI	أَنَا مِنْ الْهِنْدْ. وَإِنْتَ؟	*ana min al-hind. wa inta?*	I am from India. And you?
AHMAD	أَنَا مِنْ الْإِمَارَاتْ. وَيْنْ تَسْكُنْ؟	*ana min al-imaaraat. wayn taskun?*	I am from the UAE. Where do you live?
RAVI	أَسْكُنْ هِنَا فِي الْعِمَارَة.	*askun hina fi al-imaara.*	I live here in this building.
AHMAD	زِينْ. حَيَّاكْ اللّٰهْ.	*zeen. hayyaak Allah.*	Good. Welcome.

Conversation: A new colleague

MARIA	صَبَاحْ الْخَيْرْ.	*sabaah al-khayr.*	Good morning.
SARA	صَبَاحْ النُّورْ. شْلُونِكْ؟	*sabaah an-noor. shloonik?*	Good morning. How are you?
MARIA	الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهْ، بِخَيْرْ. أَنَا مَارِيَا.	*al-hamdu lillah, bi-khayr. ana Maria.*	Thank God, I am well. I am Maria.
SARA	أَهْلًا مَارِيَا. شُو تَشْتَغِلِينْ؟	*ahlan Maria. shu tashtaghileen?*	Welcome, Maria. What work do you do?
MARIA	أَشْتَغِلْ فِي الْحِسَابَاتْ. أَتَكَلَّمْ عَرَبِي شْوَيْ.	*ashtaghil fi al-hisaabaat. atkallam arabi shwayy.*	I work in accounts. I speak a little Arabic.
SARA	مَا فِي مُشْكِلَة. مُمْكِنْ أُسَاعِدِكْ.	*ma fi mushkila. mumkin usaa'idik.*	No problem. I can help you.
MARIA	مَشْكُورَة!	*mashkoora!*	Thank you!

Vocabulary

رَجُلْ	*rajul*	Man
مَرَا	*mara*	Woman
اِسْمْ	*ism*	Name
بَلَدْ	*balad*	Country
جِنْسِيَّة	*jinsiyya*	Nationality
مَدِينَة	*madeena*	City
عَرَبِي	*arabi*	Arabic
إِنْجْلِيزِي	*injleezi*	English
هِنْدِي	*hindi*	Indian
بَاكِسْتَانِي	*baakistaani*	Pakistani
فِلِبِّينِي	*filibbeeni*	Filipino
مِصْرِي	*misri*	Egyptian
جَارْ	*jaar*	Neighbour

زَمِيلْ / زَمِيلَة	*zameel / zameela*	Colleague, man / woman
صَدِيقْ / صَدِيقَة	*sadeeg / sadeega*	Friend, man / woman
شَرِكَة	*sharika*	Company
شُغُلْ	*shughul*	Work
بَيْتْ	*bayt*	House
عِمَارَة	*imaara*	Building
لُغَة	*lugha*	Language
تِلِفُونْ	*tilifoon*	Phone
اِسْمِي	*ismi*	My name
أَهْلًا	*ahlan*	Welcome
زِينْ	*zeen*	Good, fine
شْوَيْ	*shwayy*	A little

Check yourself. Where is Ravi from, and where does he live? What work does Maria do? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 2: Cafe and Restaurant

Your mission. Ask for the menu, order drinks and food, say what you cannot eat, and ask for the bill.

Culture tip. In many cafes you order at the counter and pay first. In a restaurant, wait to be seated and ask for the bill when you are ready, because it is not brought automatically. Say shukran or tislam to the staff, and use your right hand to take food and drinks. If you are invited to someone's home, accepting a coffee or dates is polite.

Ask and order a drink

مُمْكِنْ الْقَائِمَة؟	*mumkin al-gaa'ima?*	Can I have the menu?
أَبِي... / أَبْغَى...	*abi... / abgha...*	I would like... (UAE / Saudi)
أَبِي قَهْوَة	*abi gahwa*	I would like a coffee
شَايْ بِحَلِيبْ	*shaay bi-haleeb*	Tea with milk
عَصِيرْ بُرْتُقَالْ	*aseer burtugaal*	Orange juice
مَيَّة بَارْدَة	*mayya baarda*	Cold water
بِدُونْ سُكَّرْ	*bidoon sukkar*	Without sugar
شْوَيْ سُكَّرْ	*shwayy sukkar*	A little sugar

Order food

شُو عِنْدَكُمْ؟	*shu indakum?*	What do you have?
شُو تَنْصَحْنِي؟	*shu tansahni?*	What do you recommend?
أَبِي دَجَاجْ مَعَ رُزّ	*abi dajaaj ma-a ruzz*	I would like chicken with rice
مَا أَبِي حَارّ	*ma abi haarr*	I do not want it spicy
عِنْدِي حَسَاسِيَّة	*indi hasaasiyya*	I have an allergy
أَنَا نَبَاتِي أَنَا نَبَاتِيَّة	*ana nabaati* to a woman: ana nabaatiyya	I am vegetarian

During the meal

مُمْكِنْ مَيَّة زِيَادَة؟	*mumkin mayya ziyaada?*	Can I have more water?

هَذَا مَا طَلَبْتَهْ هَذَا مَا طَلَبْتِهْ	*haatha ma talabtah* to a woman: haatha ma talabtih	This is not what I ordered
لَذِيذْ!	*ladheedh!*	Delicious!
تِسْلَمْ تِسْلَمِينْ	*tislam* to a woman: tislameen	Thank you (to staff or a host)

Pay the bill

الْحِسَابْ مِنْ فَضْلَكْ الْحِسَابْ مِنْ فَضْلِكْ	*al-hisaab min fadhlak* to a woman: al-hisaab min fadhlik	The bill, please
كَمْ الْحِسَابْ؟	*kam al-hisaab?*	How much is the bill?
تَقْبَلُونْ بِطَاقَة؟	*tagbaloon bitaaga?*	Do you accept cards?
أَدْفَعْ كَاشْ	*adfa kaash*	I will pay cash
الْبَاقِي لَكْ	*al-baagi lak*	Keep the change

Conversation: Ordering at a cafe

WAITER	هَلَا وَغَلَا. شُو تَبِي؟	*hala wa ghala. shu tabi?*	Welcome. What would you like?
CUSTOMER	أَبِي قَهْوَة بِدُونْ سُكَّرْ.	*abi gahwa bidoon sukkar.*	I would like a coffee without sugar.
WAITER	زِينْ. وَشُو تَبِي مَعَاهَا؟	*zeen. wa shu tabi ma-aha?*	Okay. And what would you like with it?
CUSTOMER	شُو تَنْصَحْنِي؟	*shu tansahni?*	What do you recommend?
WAITER	عِنْدِنَا كِيكْ لَذِيذْ.	*indina keek ladheedh.*	We have a delicious cake.
CUSTOMER	زِينْ، أَبِي وَاحِدْ.	*zeen, abi waahid.*	Good, I would like one.
WAITER	تِسْلَمْ. دَقِيقَة وَيَجِيكْ.	*tislam. dageega wa yijeek.*	Thank you. One minute and it comes.

Conversation: At the restaurant

CUSTOMER	مُمْكِنْ القَائِمَة مِنْ فَضْلَكْ؟	*mumkin al-gaa'ima min fadhlak?*	Can I have the menu, please?
WAITER	تْفَضَّلْ.	*tfadhdhal.*	Here you are.
CUSTOMER	أَبِي دَجَاجْ مَعَ رُزّ. مَا أَبِي حَارّ.	*abi dajaaj ma-a ruzz. ma abi haarr.*	I would like chicken with rice. Not spicy.
WAITER	أَبْشِرْ. وَتَشْرَبْ شُو؟	*abshir. wa tashrab shu?*	Right away. And what do you drink?
CUSTOMER	مَيَّة بَارْدَة.	*mayya baarda.*	Cold water.
CUSTOMER	الْحِسَابْ مِنْ فَضْلَكْ. تَقْبَلُونْ بِطَاقَة؟	*al-hisaab min fadhlak. tagbaloon bitaaga?*	The bill, please. Do you accept cards?
WAITER	إِي، طَبْعًا.	*ee, tab-an.*	Yes, of course.

Vocabulary

قَهْوَة	*gahwa*	Coffee
شَايْ	*shaay*	Tea
حَلِيبْ	*haleeb*	Milk
مَيَّة	*mayya*	Water
عَصِيرْ	*aseer*	Juice
سُكَّرْ	*sukkar*	Sugar
خُبْزْ	*khubz*	Bread
رُزّ	*ruzz*	Rice
دَجَاجْ	*dajaaj*	Chicken
لَحْمْ	*lahm*	Meat
سَمَكْ	*samak*	Fish
سَلَطَة	*salata*	Salad
فَاكِهَة	*faakiha*	Fruit
حَلَا	*hala*	Dessert

قَائِمَة	*gaa'ima*	Menu
طَاوْلَة	*taawla*	Table
مَطْعَمْ	*mat-am*	Restaurant
كَافِيهْ	*kaafeeh*	Cafe
حِسَابْ	*hisaab*	Bill
كَاشْ	*kaash*	Cash
بِطَاقَة	*bitaaga*	Card
جُوعَانْ	*joo-aan*	Hungry
عَطْشَانْ	*atshaan*	Thirsty
حَارّ	*haarr*	Spicy, hot
حُلْو	*hilw*	Sweet

Check yourself. What drink does the first customer order, and what does the second customer ask the waiter at the end? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 3: Shopping and Prices

Your mission. Ask the price, say numbers, ask for another size, bargain politely and pay.

Culture tip. In malls prices are fixed. In a souq or a small shop you can ask for a better price, but do it with a smile and never rush. If the seller offers tea or coffee, accept politely. Counting in Arabic is easiest when you learn 1 to 10 first, then the tens.

Ask about things

بِكَمْ هَذَا؟	*bikam haatha?*	How much is this?
كَمْ سِعْرُهُ؟	*kam si-ruh?*	What is its price?
أَبِي أَشُوفْ هَذَا	*abi ashoof haatha*	I want to see this
عِنْدَكُمْ مَقَاسْ أَكْبَرْ؟	*indakum magaas akbar?*	Do you have a bigger size?
عِنْدَكُمْ مَقَاسْ أَصْغَرْ؟	*indakum magaas asghar?*	Do you have a smaller size?
عِنْدَكُمْ لَوْنْ ثَانِي؟	*indakum lawn thaani?*	Do you have another colour?

Numbers

وَاحِدْ، اِثْنَيْنْ، ثَلَاثَة، أَرْبَعَة، خَمْسَة	*waahid, ithnayn, thalaatha, arba-a, khamsa*	One, two, three, four, five
سِتَّة، سَبْعَة، ثَمَانِيَة، تِسْعَة، عَشَرَة	*sitta, sab-a, thamaanya, tis-a, ashara*	Six, seven, eight, nine, ten
عِشْرِينْ، ثَلَاثِينْ، أَرْبَعِينْ، خَمْسِينْ	*ishreen, thalaatheen, arba-een, khamseen*	Twenty, thirty, forty, fifty
مِيَّة، مِيَتَيْنْ، أَلْف	*miyya, miyatayn, alf*	One hundred, two hundred, one thousand

Bargain and decide

هَذَا غَالِي	*haatha ghaali*	This is expensive
مُمْكِنْ تَنَزِّلْ السِّعْرْ؟ مُمْكِنْ تَنَزِّلِينْ السِّعْرْ؟	*mumkin tanazzil as-si-r?* to a woman: mumkin tanazzileen as-si-r?	Can you lower the price?
آخِرْ سِعْرْ؟	*aakhir si-r?*	What is your last price?
أَخَذْتَ هَذَا	*akhadt haatha*	I will take this
خَلِّنِي أَفَكِّرْ	*khallini afakkir*	Let me think

Pay and return

كِيسْ مِنْ فَضْلَكْ	*kees min fadhlak*	A bag, please
أَبِي فَاتُورَة	*abi faatoora*	I want a receipt
أَبِي أُرَجِّعْ هَذَا	*abi uraj-ji haatha*	I want to return this
عِنْدِي الْفَاتُورَة	*indi al-faatoora*	I have the receipt

Conversation: At a clothes shop

CUSTOMER	مَسَاءْ الْخَيْرْ. بِكَمْ هَذَا الْقَمِيصْ؟	*masaa al-khayr. bikam haatha al-gameesh?*	Good evening. How much is this shirt?
SELLER	مَسَاءْ النُّورْ. بِخَمْسِينْ دِرْهَمْ.	*masaa an-noor. bi-khamseen dirham.*	Good evening. For fifty dirhams.
CUSTOMER	هَذَا غَالِي. مُمْكِنْ تَنَزِّلْ السِّعْرْ؟	*haatha ghaali. mumkin tanazzil as-si-r?*	This is expensive. Can you lower the price?
SELLER	لِأَجْلَكْ، بِأَرْبَعِينْ.	*li-ajlak, bi-arba-een.*	For you, forty.
CUSTOMER	عِنْدَكُمْ مَقَاسْ أَكْبَرْ؟	*indakum magaas akbar?*	Do you have a bigger size?
SELLER	إِي، لَحْظَة. تْفَضَّلْ.	*ee, lahdha. tfadhdhal.*	Yes, one moment. Here you are.
CUSTOMER	زِينْ، أَخَذْتَهْ.	*zeen, akhadtah.*	Good, I will take it.

Conversation: At the till

CASHIER	الْمَجْمُوعْ مِيَّة وَعِشْرِينْ رِيَالْ.	*al-majmoo-a miyya wa ishreen riyaal.*	The total is one hundred and twenty riyals.
CUSTOMER	تَقْبَلُونْ بِطَاقَة؟	*tagbaloon bitaaga?*	Do you accept cards?
CASHIER	إِي، طَبْعًا.	*ee, tab-an.*	Yes, of course.
CUSTOMER	كِيسْ مِنْ فَضْلَكْ.	*kees min fadhlak.*	A bag, please.
CASHIER	تْفَضَّلْ. وَهَذِي الْفَاتُورَة.	*tfadhdhal. wa hadhi al-faatoora.*	Here you are. And this is the receipt.
CUSTOMER	أَبِي أُرَجِّعْ شَيْ لَاحِقًا.	*abi uraj-ji shay laahigan.*	I may want to return something later.
CASHIER	مَا فِي مُشْكِلَة، خَلِّ الْفَاتُورَة مَعَكْ.	*ma fi mushkila, khalli al-faatoora ma-ak.*	No problem, keep the receipt with you.

Vocabulary

سُوقْ	*soog*	Market
مَحَلّ	*mahall*	Shop
مَوْلْ	*mool*	Mall
سِعْرْ	*si-r*	Price
غَالِي	*ghaali*	Expensive
رَخِيصْ	*rakheesh*	Cheap
خَصْمْ	*khasm*	Discount
فَاتُورَة	*faatoora*	Receipt, invoice
كِيسْ	*kees*	Bag
مَقَاسْ	*magaas*	Size
لَوْنْ	*lawn*	Colour
كَبِيرْ	*kabeer*	Big
صَغِيرْ	*sagheer*	Small
جَدِيدْ	*jadeed*	New

قَمِيصْ	*gameesh*	Shirt
بَنْطَلُونْ	*bantaloon*	Trousers
جِزْمَة	*jizma*	Shoes
فُلُوسْ	*filoos*	Money
رِيَالْ	*riyaal*	Riyal
دِرْهَمْ	*dirham*	Dirham
دِينَارْ	*deenaar*	Dinar
بَايِعْ	*baa-i*	Seller
زَبُونْ	*zaboon*	Customer
عَرْضْ	*ardh*	Offer
مَجْمُوعْ	*majmoo-a*	Total

Check yourself. What is the price of the shirt at first, and what is the price after the customer asks? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 4: Taxi, Directions and Delivery

Your mission. Tell a driver where to go, understand simple directions, ask the way and receive a delivery.

Culture tip. Use ride apps or licensed taxis and say the area first, then the landmark, because many places are known by a landmark more than by a street name. It is polite to greet the driver with as-salaam alaykum. For deliveries, share your location pin and keep your phone close, since the driver may call you.

Tell the driver where to go

أَبِي أَرُوحْ لِـ...	*abi arooh li...*	I want to go to...
وَدِّينِي لِـ...	*waddini li...*	Take me to...
تَعْرِفْ هَالْمَكَانْ؟	*ta-rif hal-makaan?*	Do you know this place?
مِنْ فَضْلَكْ شَغِّلْ الْعَدَّادْ	*min fadhlak shaghghil al-addaad*	Please turn on the meter
كَمْ تَاخُذْ لِـ...؟	*kam taakhudh li...?*	How much do you take to...?

Give directions

يَمِينْ	*yameen*	Right
يَسَارْ	*yasaar*	Left
عَلَى طُولْ	*ala tool*	Straight ahead
بَعْدْ الْإِشَارَة	*ba-d al-ishaara*	After the traffic light
عِنْدْ الدَّوَّارْ	*ind ad-dawwaar*	At the roundabout
وَقِّفْ هِنَا مِنْ فَضْلَكْ	*waggif hina min fadhlak*	Stop here, please

Ask the way

وَيْنْ الْمَحَطَّة؟	*wayn al-mahatta?*	Where is the station?
كَيْفْ أَرُوحْ لِلْمَطَارْ؟	*kayf arooh lil-mataar?*	How do I get to the airport?
هُوَّ بَعِيدْ؟	*huwwa ba-eed?*	Is it far?
كَمْ دَقِيقَة؟	*kam dageega?*	How many minutes?
هُوَّ قُرْبْ مِنْ هِنَا؟	*huwwa gurb min hina?*	Is it near here?

Receive a delivery

أَنَا قُرْبْ الْبَوَّابَة	*ana gurb al-bawwaaba*	I am near the gate
الْبِنَايَة وَالطَّابِق الثَّانِي	*al-binaaya wa at-taabig ath-thaani*	The building, second floor
اِتَّصِلْ بِي إِذَا وَصَلْتْ اِتَّصِلْ بِي إِذَا وَصَلْتِ	*ittasil bi idha wasalt* to a woman: ittasil bi idha wasalti	Call me when you arrive
اُتْرُكْهُ عِنْدْ الْبَابْ	*utrukhu ind al-baab*	Leave it at the door
شُكْرًا، تِسْلَمْ	*shukran, tislam*	Thank you

Conversation: In a taxi

PASSENGER	السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. أَبِي أَرُوحْ لِلْمَطَارْ.	*as-salaam alaykum. abi arooh lil-mataar.*	Hello. I want to go to the airport.
DRIVER	وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. تْفَضَّلْ.	*wa alaykum as-salaam. tfadhdhal.*	Hello. Please get in.
PASSENGER	مِنْ فَضْلَكْ شَغِّلْ الْعَدَّادْ. كَمْ دَقِيقَة؟	*min fadhlak shaghghil al-addaad. kam dageega?*	Please turn on the meter. How many minutes?
DRIVER	تَقْرِيبًا ثَلَاثِينْ دَقِيقَة.	*tagreeban thalaatheen dageega.*	About thirty minutes.
PASSENGER	زِينْ. وَقِّفْ هِنَا مِنْ فَضْلَكْ.	*zeen. waggif hina min fadhlak.*	Good. Stop here, please.
DRIVER	تْفَضَّلْ.	*tfadhdhal.*	Here you are.
PASSENGER	شُكْرًا، تِسْلَمْ.	*shukran, tislam.*	Thank you.

Conversation: A delivery

DRIVER	السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. أَنَا قُرْبْ الْبِنَايَة.	*as-salaam alaykum. ana gurb al-binaaya.*	Hello. I am near the building.
CUSTOMER	وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. أَنَا فِي الطَّابِقْ الثَّانِي.	*wa alaykum as-salaam. ana fi at-taabig ath-thaani.*	Hello. I am on the second floor.
DRIVER	وَيْنْ الْبَابْ بِالضَّبْطْ؟	*wayn al-baab bidh-dhabt?*	Where exactly is the door?
CUSTOMER	يَمِينْ بَعْدْ الْمِصْعَدْ.	*yameen ba-d al-mis-ad.*	Right after the lift.
DRIVER	زِينْ، شُفْتَهْ.	*zeen, shuftah.*	Good, I can see it.
CUSTOMER	اُتْرُكْهُ عِنْدْ الْبَابْ مِنْ فَضْلَكْ.	*utrukhu ind al-baab min fadhlak.*	Leave it at the door, please.
DRIVER	أَبْشِرْ.	*abshir.*	Right away.

Vocabulary

سَيَّارَة	*sayyaara*	Car
تَكْسِي	*taksi*	Taxi
سَوَّاقْ	*sawwaag*	Driver
شَارِعْ	*shaari-*	Street
دَوَّارْ	*dawwaar*	Roundabout
إِشَارَة	*ishaara*	Traffic light
مَحَطَّة	*mahatta*	Station
مَطَارْ	*mataar*	Airport
فُنْدُقْ	*funduq*	Hotel
مَوْقِفْ	*mawgif*	Parking, stop
بَعِيدْ	*ba-eed*	Far
قَرِيبْ	*gareeb*	Near
سَرِيعْ	*saree-*	Fast
عُنْوَانْ	*unwaan*	Address

رَقْمْ	*ragm*	Number
طَلَبْ	*talab*	Order
تَوْصِيلْ	*tawseel*	Delivery
بَابْ	*baab*	Door
بِنَايَة	*binaaya*	Building
طَابِقْ	*taabig*	Floor
شَقَّة	*shagga*	Apartment
مِصْعَدْ	*mis-ad*	Lift, elevator
يَمِينْ	*yameen*	Right
يَسَارْ	*yasaar*	Left
عَلَى طُولْ	*ala tool*	Straight ahead

Check yourself. How long does the driver say the trip to the airport takes, and where does the customer ask the driver to leave the delivery? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 5: Work and Appointments

Your mission. Introduce your job, book and change an appointment, and handle a meeting politely.

Culture tip. In the Gulf, punctuality is valued but meetings often start a little late. Always confirm an appointment by message the day before. Say "in sha Allah" when you promise something in the future, and use "if you please" (law samaht) to be polite when you ask for a change.

Talk about work

أَنَا أَشْتَغِلْ فِي شَرِكَة	*ana ashtaghil fi sharika*	I work in a company
شُغْلِي فِي الْمَبِيعَاتْ	*shughli fil-mabee-aat*	My job is in sales
أَشْتَغِلْ مِنْ الثَّمَانْيَة إِلَى الخَمْسَة	*ashtaghil min ath-thamaanya ila al-khamsa*	I work from eight to five
عِنْدِي اجْتِمَاعْ الْيَوْمْ	*indi ijtimaa-a al-yawm*	I have a meeting today
مُدِيرِي مَوْجُودْ؟	*mudeeri mawjood?*	Is my manager here?

Make an appointment

أَبِي أَحْجِزْ مَوْعِدْ	*abi ahjiz maw-id*	I want to book an appointment
مَتَى عِنْدَكُمْ وَقْتْ؟	*mata indakum wagt?*	When do you have time?
يَوْمْ الثُّلَاثَاءْ الْعَصْرْ	*yawm ath-thulaathaa al-asr*	Tuesday afternoon
الْمَوْعِدْ السَّاعَة عَشَرَة وَنُصّ	*al-maw-id as-saa-a ashara wa nuss*	The appointment is at half past ten

Change or cancel

أَبِي أُأَجِّلْ الْمَوْعِدْ	*abi u-ajjil al-maw-id*	I want to postpone the appointment
مَا أَقْدَرْ أَجِي	*ma agdar aji*	I cannot come
مُمْكِنْ يَوْمْ ثَانِي؟	*mumkin yawm thaani?*	Is another day possible?
أَبِي أَلْغِي الْمَوْعِدْ	*abi algi al-maw-id*	I want to cancel the appointment
آسِفْ عَلَى التَّأْخِيرْ آسِفَة عَلَى التَّأْخِيرْ	*aasif ala at-ta-kheer* to a woman: aasifa ala at-ta-kheer	Sorry for the delay

In a meeting

نَبْدَأْ؟	*nabda?*	Shall we start?

مُمْكِنْ تُعِيدْ مِنْ فَضْلَكْ؟	*mumkin tu-eed min fadhlak?*	Can you repeat, please?
أَرْسِلْ لِي الْإِيمِيلْ	*arsil li al-imeel*	Send me the email
نَتَّفِقْ عَلَى هَذَا	*nattafig ala haatha*	We agree on this

Conversation: Booking an appointment

RECEPTIONIST مَرْحَبًا، كَيْفْ أَقْدَرْ أَخْدُمَكْ؟	*marhaban, kayf agdar akhdumak?*	Hello, how can I help you?
CLIENT أَبِي أَحْجِزْ مَوْعِدْ مَعَ الْمُدِيرْ.	*abi ahjiz maw-id ma-al-mudeer.*	I want to book an appointment with the manager.
RECEPTIONIST يَوْمْ الثُّلَاثَاءْ مُنَاسِبْ؟	*yawm ath-thulaathaa munaasib?*	Is Tuesday suitable?
CLIENT إِي، السَّاعَة كَمْ؟	*ee, as-saa-a kam?*	Yes, what time?
RECEPTIONIST السَّاعَة عَشَرَة وَنُصّ.	*as-saa-a ashara wa nuss.*	At half past ten.
CLIENT زِينْ، شُكْرًا. وَإِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهْ أَكُونْ هِنَا.	*zeen, shukran. wa in shaa Allah akoon hina.*	Good, thank you. And God willing I will be here.
RECEPTIONIST الْعَفْوْ. فِي أَمَانْ اللَّهْ.	*al-afw. fi amaan Allah.*	You are welcome. Goodbye.

Conversation: Postponing a meeting

COLLEAGUE	السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. اجْتِمَاعْنَا الْيَوْمْ السَّاعَة ثَلَاثَة.	*as-salaam alaykum. ijtimaa-ana al-yawm as-saa-a thalaatha.*	Hello. Our meeting is today at three.
YOU	وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. آسِفْ، مَا أَقْدَرْ أَجِي.	*wa alaykum as-salaam. aasif, ma agdar aji.*	Hello. Sorry, I cannot come.
COLLEAGUE	مَا فِي مُشْكِلَة. مُمْكِنْ بُكْرَة؟	*ma fi mushkila. mumkin bukra?*	No problem. Is tomorrow possible?
YOU	بُكْرَة الصُّبْحْ مُنَاسِبْ.	*bukra as-subh munaasib.*	Tomorrow morning is suitable.
COLLEAGUE	السَّاعَة تِسْعَة؟	*as-saa-a tis-a?*	At nine?
YOU	إِي، نَتَّفِقْ عَلَى هَذَا.	*ee, nattafig ala haatha.*	Yes, we agree on this.
COLLEAGUE	أَرْسِلْ لَكْ رِسَالَة تَأْكِيدْ.	*arsil lak risaala ta-keed.*	I will send you a confirmation message.

Vocabulary

شُغْلْ	*shughl*	Work
شَرِكَة	*sharika*	Company
مُدِيرْ	*mudeer*	Manager
مُوَظَّفْ	*muwazzaf*	Employee
زَمِيلْ	*zameel*	Colleague
مَكْتَبْ	*maktab*	Office
اجْتِمَاعْ	*ijtimaa-*	Meeting
مَوْعِدْ	*maw-id*	Appointment
وَقْتْ	*wagt*	Time
سَاعَة	*saa-a*	Hour, o'clock
نُصّ	*nuss*	Half
رُبُعْ	*rub-*	Quarter
الْيَوْمْ	*al-yawm*	Today

بُكْرَة	*bukra*	Tomorrow
أَمْس	*ams*	Yesterday
صُبْح	*subh*	Morning
عَصْر	*asr*	Afternoon
مَسَاء	*masaa*	Evening
أُسْبُوع	*usboo-*	Week
شَهْر	*shahr*	Month
إِيمِيل	*imeel*	Email
رِسَالَة	*risaala*	Message
عَقْد	*agd*	Contract
رَاتِب	*raatib*	Salary
إِجَازَة	*ijaaza*	Holiday, leave

Check yourself. What day and time does the receptionist offer in the first dialogue, and what does the colleague send at the end of the second dialogue? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 6: Family and Home

Your mission. Talk about your family, invite a guest, host politely and describe your home.

Culture tip. Family is at the centre of life in the Gulf. People often ask "how is the family?" as a greeting, and it is polite to ask without asking directly about wives or daughters. When you visit a home, accept coffee and dates, and take your shoes off if others do.

Your family

هَذَا أَبُويْ وَهَذِي أُمِّي	*haatha abooy wa hadhi ummi*	This is my father and this is my mother
عِنْدِي أَخْ وَأُخْتْ	*indi akh wa ukht*	I have a brother and a sister
أَنَا مُتَزَوِّجْ أَنَا مُتَزَوِّجَة	*ana mutazawwij* to a woman: ana mutazawwija	I am married
عِنْدِي وَلَدْ وَبِنْتْ	*indi walad wa bint*	I have a son and a daughter
عَائِلَتِي فِي بَلَدِي	*aa-ilati fi baladi*	My family is in my country

Welcome a guest

تْفَضَّلْ، اِدْخُلْ تْفَضَّلِي، اُدْخُلِي	*tfadhdhal, udkhul* to a woman: tfadhdhali, udkhuli	Please, come in
حَيَّاكْ اللَّهْ حَيَّاكِ اللَّهْ	*hayyaak Allah* to a woman: hayyaaki Allah	Welcome
اِجْلِسْ، خُذْ رَاحَتَكْ اِجْلِسِي، خُذِي رَاحَتِكْ	*ijlis, khudh raahtak* to a woman: ijlisi, khudhi raahtik	Sit, make yourself comfortable
تَشْرَبْ قَهْوَة أَوْ شَاهِي؟ تَشْرَبِينْ قَهْوَة أَوْ شَاهِي؟	*tashrab gahwa aw shaahi?* to a woman: tashrabeen gahwa aw shaahi?	Do you drink coffee or tea?
شَرَّفْتُونَا	*sharraftoona*	You honoured us

Describe your home

بَيْتِي قَرِيبْ مِنْ هِنَا	*bayti gareeb min hina*	My house is near here
الشَّقَّة فِيهَا غُرْفَتَيْنْ	*ash-shagga feeha ghurfatayn*	The apartment has two rooms
الْمَطْبَخْ صَغِيرْ بَسْ نَظِيفْ	*al-matbakh sagheer bas nadheef*	The kitchen is small but clean
أَسْكُنْ فِي الطَّابِقْ الرَّابِعْ	*askun fi at-taabig ar-raabi-*	I live on the fourth floor

Say goodbye

شُكْرًا عَلَى الضِّيَافَة	*shukran ala adh-dhiyaafa*	Thank you for the hospitality
اللَّهْ يَعْطِيكْ الْعَافِيَة	*Allah ya-teek al-aafya*	May God give you strength
نِتْشَرَّفْ بِزِيَارَتْكُمْ	*nitsharraf bi-ziyaaratkum*	We would be honoured by your visit
فِي أَمَانْ اللَّهْ	*fi amaan Allah*	Goodbye

Conversation: A friend visits

HOST	حَيَّاكْ اللَّهْ! تْفَضَّلْ، اِدْخُلْ.	*hayyaak Allah! tfadhdhal, udkhul.*	Welcome! Please, come in.
GUEST	اللَّهْ يَحْيِيكْ. شُكْرًا عَلَى الدَّعْوَة.	*Allah yahyeek. shukran ala ad-da-wa.*	God keep you. Thank you for the invitation.
HOST	اِجْلِسْ، خُذْ رَاحَتَكْ. تَشْرَبْ قَهْوَة؟	*ijlis, khudh raahtak. tashrab gahwa?*	Sit, make yourself comfortable. Will you drink coffee?
GUEST	إِي، شُكْرًا. بَيْتَكْ حِلْو.	*ee, shukran. baytak hilw.*	Yes, thank you. Your house is nice.
HOST	اللَّهْ يَسْلَمَكْ. شَلُونْ الْأَهْلْ؟	*Allah yaslamak. shloon al-ahl?*	Thank you. How is the family?
GUEST	بِخَيْر، الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهْ.	*bi-khayr, al-hamdu lillah.*	Well, praise be to God.
HOST	الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهْ. شَرَّفْتُونَا.	*al-hamdu lillah. sharraftoona.*	Praise be to God. You honoured us.

Conversation: Talking about family

NEIGHBOUR	السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. أَنْتَ جَدِيدْ فِي الْعِمَارَة؟	*as-salaam alaykum. anta jadeed fil-i-maara?*	Hello. Are you new in the building?
YOU	إِي، أَسْكُنْ فِي الطَّابِقْ الرَّابِعْ.	*ee, askun fi at-taabig ar-raabi-.*	Yes, I live on the fourth floor.
NEIGHBOUR	أَهْلًا. عِنْدَكْ عَائِلَة؟	*ahlan. indak aa-ila?*	Welcome. Do you have a family?
YOU	إِي، زَوْجَتِي وَوَلَدْ وَبِنْتْ.	*ee, zawjati wa walad wa bint.*	Yes, my wife, a son and a daughter.
NEIGHBOUR	مَا شَاءَ اللَّهْ، اللَّهْ يَحْفَظْهُمْ.	*ma shaa Allah, Allah yahfadhhum.*	God has willed it, may God protect them.
YOU	آمِينْ. وَأَنْتَ؟	*aameen. wa anta?*	Amen. And you?
NEIGHBOUR	عِنْدِي ثَلَاثَة أَوْلَاد. نِتْشَرَّفْ بِزِيَارَتْكُمْ.	*indi thalaatha awlaad. nitsharraf bi-ziyaaratkum.*	I have three children. We would be honoured by your visit.

Vocabulary

أَبْ	*ab*	Father
أُمّ	*umm*	Mother
أَخْ	*akh*	Brother
أُخْتْ	*ukht*	Sister
وَلَدْ	*walad*	Boy, son
بِنْتْ	*bint*	Girl, daughter
زَوْجْ	*zawj*	Husband
زَوْجَة	*zawja*	Wife
جَدّ	*jadd*	Grandfather
جَدَّة	*jadda*	Grandmother
عَمّ	*amm*	Paternal uncle
خَالْ	*khaal*	Maternal uncle
عَائِلَة	*aa-ila*	Family
أَهْلْ	*ahl*	Family, relatives

بَيْتْ	*bayt*	House
شَقَّة	*shagga*	Apartment
غُرْفَة	*ghurfa*	Room
مَطْبَخْ	*matbakh*	Kitchen
حَمَّامْ	*hammaam*	Bathroom
صَالَة	*saala*	Living room
بَابْ	*baab*	Door
شُبَّاكْ	*shubbaak*	Window
ضَيْفْ	*dhayf*	Guest
جَارْ	*jaar*	Neighbour
قَهْوَة	*gahwa*	Coffee

Check yourself. What does the host offer the guest to drink, and how many children does the neighbour have? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 7: At the Pharmacy

Your mission. Say what hurts, ask for medicine, understand how to take it and ask for help.

Culture tip. Pharmacies in the Gulf are easy to find and pharmacists can help with small problems. For strong medicine you need a doctor's prescription. Always say if you have an allergy, and in an emergency call 999 in the UAE or 997 for an ambulance in Saudi Arabia.

Say what is wrong

عِنْدِي صُدَاعْ	*indi sudaa-*	I have a headache
عِنْدِي حَرَارَة	*indi haraara*	I have a fever
بَطْنِي يُوجِعْنِي	*batni yoojii-ni*	My stomach hurts
عِنْدِي كُحَّة وَزُكَامْ	*indi kuhha wa zukaam*	I have a cough and a cold
حَلْقِي يُوجِعْنِي	*halgi yoojii-ni*	My throat hurts
أَحِسّ بِدُوخَة	*ahiss bi-dookha*	I feel dizzy

Ask for medicine

أَبِي دَوَا لِلصُّدَاعْ	*abi dawa lis-sudaa-*	I want medicine for a headache
عِنْدَكُمْ بَنَادُولْ؟	*indakum banaadool?*	Do you have paracetamol?
هَلْ يَحْتَاجْ وَصْفَة؟	*hal yahtaaj wasfa?*	Does it need a prescription?
عِنْدِي حَسَاسِيَّة مِنْ الْبَنِسِلِينْ	*indi hasaasiyya min al-banisileen*	I have an allergy to penicillin
أَنَا حَامِلْ	*ana haamil*	I am pregnant

How to take it

كَمْ مَرَّة فِي الْيَوْمْ؟	*kam marra fil-yawm?*	How many times a day?
مَرَّتَيْنْ بَعْدْ الْأَكْلْ	*marratayn ba-d al-akl*	Twice after food
حَبَّة وَحْدَة كُلْ ثَمَانْ سَاعَاتْ	*habba wahda kull thamaan saa-aat*	One tablet every eight hours
لَا تَشْرَبْهُ عَلَى بَطْنْ فَاضِي	*la tashrabhu ala batn faadhi*	Do not take it on an empty stomach

Ask for help

أَحْتَاجْ دُكْتُورْ	*ahtaaj duktoor*	I need a doctor

وَيْنْ أَقْرَبْ مُسْتَشْفَى؟	*wayn agrab mustashfa?*	Where is the nearest hospital?
اِتَّصِلْ بِالْإِسْعَافْ	*ittasil bil-is-aaf*	Call the ambulance
هَذَا مُسْتَعْجِلْ	*haatha musta-jil*	This is urgent

Conversation: Cold and cough

CUSTOMER السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. عِنْدِي كُحَّة وَزُكَامْ.	*as-salaam alaykum. indi kuhha wa zukaam.*	Hello. I have a cough and a cold.
PHARMACIST وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. عِنْدَكْ حَرَارَة؟	*wa alaykum as-salaam. indak haraara?*	Hello. Do you have a fever?
CUSTOMER لَا، بَسْ حَلْقِي يُوجِعْنِي.	*la, bas halgi yoojii-ni.*	No, but my throat hurts.
PHARMACIST عِنْدَكْ حَسَاسِيَّة مِنْ شَيْ؟	*indak hasaasiyya min shay?*	Do you have an allergy to anything?
CUSTOMER لَا، الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهْ.	*la, al-hamdu lillah.*	No, praise be to God.
PHARMACIST خُذْ هَذَا مَرَّتَيْنْ بَعْدْ الْأَكْلْ.	*khudh haatha marratayn ba-d al-akl.*	Take this twice after food.
CUSTOMER شُكْرًا، اللَّهْ يَعْطِيكْ الْعَافْيَة.	*shukran, Allah ya-teek al-aafya.*	Thank you, may God give you strength.

Conversation: Asking about a prescription

CUSTOMER أَبِي هَالدَّوَا. هَلْ يَحْتَاجْ وَصْفَة؟	*abi hal-dawa. hal yahtaaj wasfa?*	I want this medicine. Does it need a prescription?
PHARMACIST إِي، هَذَا يَحْتَاجْ وَصْفَة مِنْ الدُّكْتُورْ.	*ee, haatha yahtaaj wasfa min ad-duktoor.*	Yes, this needs a prescription from the doctor.
CUSTOMER عِنْدِي وَصْفَة. تَفَضَّلْ.	*indi wasfa. tfadhdhal.*	I have a prescription. Here you are.
PHARMACIST زِينْ. حَبَّة وَحْدَة كُلْ ثَمَانْ سَاعَاتْ.	*zeen. habba wahda kull thamaan saa-aat.*	Good. One tablet every eight hours.
CUSTOMER كَمْ يَوْمْ؟	*kam yawm?*	How many days?
PHARMACIST خَمْسَة أَيَّامْ. لَا تَشْرَبْهُ عَلَى بَطْنْ فَاضِي.	*khamsa ayyaam. la tashrabhu ala batn faadhi.*	Five days. Do not take it on an empty stomach.
CUSTOMER مَفْهُومْ، شُكْرًا.	*mafhoom, shukran.*	Understood, thank you.

Vocabulary

صَيْدَلِيَّة	*saydaliyya*	Pharmacy
صَيْدَلِي	*saydali*	Pharmacist
دَوَا	*dawa*	Medicine
حَبَّة	*habba*	Tablet, pill
شَرَابْ	*sharaab*	Syrup
وَصْفَة	*wasfa*	Prescription
دُكْتُورْ	*duktoor*	Doctor
مُسْتَشْفَى	*mustashfa*	Hospital
عِيَادَة	*iyaada*	Clinic
صُدَاعْ	*sudaa-*	Headache
حَرَارَة	*haraara*	Fever
كُحَّة	*kuhha*	Cough
زُكَامْ	*zukaam*	Cold
وَجَعْ	*waja-*	Pain
بَطْنْ	*batn*	Stomach
حَلْقْ	*halg*	Throat
رَاسْ	*raas*	Head
حَسَاسِيَّة	*hasaasiyya*	Allergy
حَامِلْ	*haamil*	Pregnant
تَعْبَانْ	*ta-baan*	Tired, unwell
مَرِيضْ	*mareedh*	Ill
بَعْدْ الْأَكْلْ	*ba-d al-akl*	After food
قَبْلْ الْأَكْلْ	*gabl al-akl*	Before food
مَرَّة	*marra*	Once, a time
إِسْعَافْ	*is-aaf*	Ambulance

Check yourself. What symptoms does the first customer have, and how often must the second customer take the tablet? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 8: Phone, SIM and Internet

Your mission. Buy a SIM card, ask about a package, fix a connection problem and make a polite phone call.

Culture tip. To buy a SIM card in the Gulf you need your Emirates ID or residence ID, or a passport as a visitor. Packages are usually prepaid or monthly. When you answer the phone, say "hello" or "yes, please". People often ask "who is speaking?" and it is polite to say your name first.

Buy a SIM

أَبِي شَرِيحَة جَدِيدَة	*abi shareeha jadeeda*	I want a new SIM card
أَبِي بَاقَة إِنْتَرْنِتْ	*abi baaga internet*	I want an internet package
كَمْ سِعْرْ الْبَاقَة الشَّهْرِيَّة؟	*kam si-r al-baaga ash-shahriyya?*	What is the price of the monthly package?
تَحْتَاجْ هُوِيَّة	*tahtaaj huwiyya*	You need an ID
هَذَا رَقْمِي	*haatha ragmi*	This is my number

Fix a problem

الْإِنْتَرْنِتْ بَطِيءْ	*al-internet batee-*	The internet is slow
مَا فِي شَبَكَة	*ma fi shabaka*	There is no signal
رَصِيدِي خَلَصْ	*raseedi khalas*	My balance has finished
أَبِي أَشْحَنْ رَصِيدْ	*abi ashhan raseed*	I want to top up my balance
الْوَايْ فَايْ مَا يَشْتَغِلْ	*al-wai fai ma yashtaghil*	The WiFi does not work

On the phone

أَلُو، مَنْ مَعَايْ؟	*aloo, man ma-aay?*	Hello, who is speaking?
مَعَكْ أَحْمَدْ	*ma-ak ahmad*	This is Ahmed speaking
مُمْكِنْ أَكَلِّمْ الْمُدِيرْ؟	*mumkin akallim al-mudeer?*	Can I speak to the manager?
الْخَطّ مَشْغُولْ	*al-khatt mashghool*	The line is busy
اِتَّصِلْ بِي بَعْدَيْنْ اِتَّصِلِي بِي بَعْدَيْنْ	*ittasil bi ba-dayn* to a woman: ittasili bi ba-dayn	Call me later

Messages

أَرْسِلْ لِي وَاتْسَابْ	*arsil li whatsaab*	Send me a WhatsApp
مَا وَصَلَتْنِي الرِّسَالَة	*ma wasalatni ar-risaala*	The message did not reach me
اِرْسِلْ لِي مَوْقِعَكْ اِرْسِلِي لِي مَوْقِعِكْ	*irsil li mawgi-ak* to a woman: irsili li mawgi-ik	Send me your location

Conversation: Buying a SIM card

CUSTOMER	السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. أَبِي شَرِيحَة جَدِيدَة.	*as-salaam alaykum. abi shareeha jadeeda.*	Hello. I want a new SIM card.
EMPLOYEE	وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. تَحْتَاجْ هُوِيَّة.	*wa alaykum as-salaam. tahtaaj huwiyya.*	Hello. You need an ID.
CUSTOMER	تْفَضَّلْ، هَذِي الْهُوِيَّة.	*tfadhdhal, hadhi al-huwiyya.*	Here you are, this is the ID.
EMPLOYEE	تَبِي بَاقَة إِنْتَرْنِتْ؟	*tabi baaga internet?*	Do you want an internet package?
CUSTOMER	إِي. كَمْ سِعْرْ الْبَاقَة الشَّهْرِيَّة؟	*ee. kam si-r al-baaga ash-shahriyya?*	Yes. How much is the monthly package?
EMPLOYEE	مِيَّة دِرْهَمْ.	*miyya dirham.*	One hundred dirhams.
CUSTOMER	زِينْ، خُذْ هَذِي الْبَاقَة.	*zeen, khudh hadhi al-baaga.*	Good, I will take this package.

Conversation: Internet problem

CUSTOMER	السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. الْإِنْتَرْنِتْ بَطِيءْ فِي الْبَيْتْ.	*as-salaam alaykum. al-internet batee- fil-bayt.*	Hello. The internet is slow at home.
SUPPORT	وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. مُمْكِنْ تَعْطِينِي رَقْمَكْ؟	*wa alaykum as-salaam. mumkin ta-teeni ragmak?*	Hello. Can you give me your number?
CUSTOMER	إِي، رَقْمِي صِفْرْ خَمْسَة.	*ee, ragmi sifr khamsa.*	Yes, my number is zero five.
SUPPORT	مَا فِي شَبَكَة أَوْ بَطِيءْ بَسْ؟	*ma fi shabaka aw batee- bas?*	Is there no signal or just slow?
CUSTOMER	بَطِيءْ بَسْ.	*batee- bas.*	Just slow.
SUPPORT	أَطْفِي الْجِهَازْ وَشَغِّلْهُ مَرَّة ثَانِيَة.	*atfi al-jihaaz wa shaghghilhu marra thaanya.*	Turn off the device and turn it on again.
CUSTOMER	زِينْ، شُكْرًا.	*zeen, shukran.*	Good, thank you.

Vocabulary

تِلِفُونْ	*tilifoon*	Phone
جَوَّالْ	*jawwaal*	Mobile phone
رَقْمْ	*ragm*	Number
شَرِيحَة	*shareeha*	SIM card
بَاقَة	*baaga*	Package
رَصِيدْ	*raseed*	Balance, credit
إِنْتَرْنِتْ	*internet*	Internet
وَايْ فَايْ	*wai fai*	WiFi
شَبَكَة	*shabaka*	Network, signal
سُرْعَة	*sur-a*	Speed
بَطِيءْ	*batee-*	Slow
سَرِيعْ	*saree-*	Fast
شَاحِنْ	*shaahin*	Charger

شَاشَة	*shaasha*	Screen
بَطَّارِيَّة	*battaariyya*	Battery
رِسَالَة	*risaala*	Message
وَاتْسَابْ	*whatsaab*	WhatsApp
مُكَالَمَة	*mukaalama*	Call
خَطّ	*khatt*	Line
مَشْغُولْ	*mashghool*	Busy
هُوِيَّة	*huwiyya*	ID card
شَحَنْ	*shahan*	Top up, charge
يَشْتَغِلْ	*yashtaghil*	Works
أَطْفِي	*atfi*	Turn off
شَغِّلْ	*shaghghil*	Turn on

Check yourself. How much is the monthly package, and what does the support agent tell the customer to do? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 9: Bank and Government Services

Your mission. Open an account, ask about transfers, handle a form and deal with an office or a ticket queue.

Culture tip. Bring the original documents and a copy of each: passport, residence ID, and a recent address or contract paper. Most offices use a ticket number system and many have apps. Be patient and polite, and say "if you please" when you ask the employee to check again.

At the bank

أَبِي أَفْتَحْ حِسَابْ	*abi aftah hisaab*	I want to open an account
أَبِي أُحَوِّلْ فُلُوسْ	*abi uhawwil filoos*	I want to transfer money
كَمْ رُسُومْ التَّحْوِيلْ؟	*kam rusoom at-tahweel?*	What are the transfer fees?
بِطَاقَتِي مَا تَشْتَغِلْ	*bitaagati ma tashtaghil*	My card does not work
أَبِي أَعْرِفْ رَصِيدِي	*abi a-rif raseedi*	I want to know my balance

Documents and forms

هَذَا جَوَازِي وَهُوِيَّتِي	*haatha jawaazi wa huwiyyati*	This is my passport and my ID
أَبِي نُسْخَة مِنْ الْعَقْدْ	*abi nuskha min al-agd*	I want a copy of the contract
مُمْكِنْ تُسَاعِدْنِي فِي الْفُورْمْ؟ مُمْكِنْ تُسَاعِدِينِي فِي الْفُورْمْ؟	*mumkin tusaa-idni fil-form?* to a woman: mumkin tusaa-ideeni fil-form?	Can you help me with the form?
وَيْنْ أَوَقِّعْ؟	*wayn uwaggi-?*	Where do I sign?

In a government office

أَيْشْ الْأَوْرَاقْ الْمَطْلُوبَة؟	*aysh al-awraag al-matloobah?*	What papers are required?
أَبِي أَجَدِّدْ الْإِقَامَة	*abi ajaddid al-igaama*	I want to renew the residence
خُذْ رَقْمْ وَانْتَظِرْ	*khudh ragm wa intadhir*	Take a number and wait
مَتَى يَكُونْ جَاهِزْ؟	*mata yakoon jaahiz?*	When will it be ready?

Follow up

مُمْكِنْ تَتَأَكَّدْ مَرَّة ثَانِيَة؟ مُمْكِنْ تَتَأَكَّدِينْ مَرَّة ثَانِيَة؟	*mumkin tata-akkad marra thaanya?* to a woman: mumkin tata-akkadeen marra thaanya?	Can you check again?

عِنْدِي رَقْمْ الطَّلَبْ	*indi ragm at-talab*	I have the request number
أَبِي أَتَكَلَّمْ مَعَ مَسْؤُولْ	*abi atakallam ma-a mas-ool*	I want to speak with someone in charge
شُكْرًا عَلَى مُسَاعَدَتَكْ	*shukran ala musaa-adatak*	Thank you for your help

Conversation: Opening a bank account

CUSTOMER السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. أَبِي أَفْتَحْ حِسَابْ.	*as-salaam alaykum. abi aftah hisaab.*	Hello. I want to open an account.
EMPLOYEE وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. عِنْدَكْ جَوَازْ وَهُوِيَّة؟	*wa alaykum as-salaam. indak jawaaz wa huwiyya?*	Hello. Do you have a passport and an ID?
CUSTOMER إِي، تْفَضَّلْ.	*ee, tfadhdhal.*	Yes, here you are.
EMPLOYEE وَرَقَة الْعَقْدْ أَوْ عُنْوَانْ السَّكَنْ؟	*waraqat al-agd aw unwaan as-sakan?*	The contract paper or the address of residence?
CUSTOMER عِنْدِي الْعَقْدْ. وَيْنْ أَوَقِّعْ؟	*indi al-agd. wayn uwaggi-?*	I have the contract. Where do I sign?
EMPLOYEE هِنَا وَهِنَا.	*hina wa hina.*	Here and here.
CUSTOMER زِينْ. كَمْ رُسُومْ الْحِسَابْ؟	*zeen. kam rusoom al-hisaab?*	Good. What are the account fees?

Conversation: Renewing the residence

CUSTOMER السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. أَبِي أَجَدِّدْ الْإِقَامَة.	*as-salaam alaykum. abi ajaddid al-igaama.*	Hello. I want to renew the residence.
OFFICER وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. خُذْ رَقْمْ وَانْتَظِرْ.	*wa alaykum as-salaam. khudh ragm wa intadhir.*	Hello. Take a number and wait.
CUSTOMER أَيْشْ الْأَوْرَاقْ الْمَطْلُوبَة؟	*aysh al-awraag al-matloobah?*	What papers are required?
OFFICER الْجَوَازْ وَالصُّورَة وَالْعَقْدْ.	*al-jawaaz wa as-soora wa al-agd.*	The passport, the photo and the contract.
CUSTOMER عِنْدِي كُلّ الْأَوْرَاقْ. مَتَى يَكُونْ جَاهِزْ؟	*indi kull al-awraag. mata yakoon jaahiz?*	I have all the papers. When will it be ready?
OFFICER بَعْدْ ثَلَاثَة أَيَّامْ.	*ba-d thalaatha ayyaam.*	After three days.
CUSTOMER شُكْرًا عَلَى مُسَاعَدَتَكْ.	*shukran ala musaa-adatak.*	Thank you for your help.

Vocabulary

بَنْكْ	*bank*	Bank
حِسَابْ	*hisaab*	Account
بِطَاقَة	*bitaaga*	Card
تَحْوِيلْ	*tahweel*	Transfer
رُسُومْ	*rusoom*	Fees
رَصِيدْ	*raseed*	Balance
فُلُوسْ	*filoos*	Money
جَوَازْ	*jawaaz*	Passport
إِقَامَة	*igaama*	Residence
هُوِيَّة	*huwiyya*	ID card
وَرَقَة	*waraga*	Paper, document
أَوْرَاقْ	*awraag*	Papers
فُورْمْ	*form*	Form
تَوْقِيعْ	*tawgee-*	Signature
نُسْخَة	*nuskha*	Copy
طَلَبْ	*talab*	Request
مَكْتَبْ	*maktab*	Office
مُوَظَّفْ	*muwazzaf*	Employee
دُورْ	*door*	Queue, turn
رَقْمْ	*ragm*	Number
جَاهِزْ	*jaahiz*	Ready
مَطْلُوبْ	*matloob*	Required
جَدِّدْ	*jaddid*	Renew
اِنْتَظِرْ	*intadhir*	Wait
مَسْؤُولْ	*mas-ool*	Person in charge

Check yourself. Which documents does the employee ask for at the bank, and how long until the residence renewal is ready? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 10: A Problem at Home

Your mission. Report a repair, describe what is wrong, agree a time and deal with a neighbour or landlord politely.

Culture tip. For repairs, contact the building management or landlord first and send photos by WhatsApp. Say what is wrong, then when you are free. Be polite even if you are upset, because a calm and respectful tone gets a faster answer. If it is an emergency like water or electricity, say "it is urgent".

Report a problem

عِنْدِي مُشْكِلَة فِي الشَّقَّة	*indi mushkila fish-shagga*	I have a problem in the apartment
الْمَيْ مَا يِجِي	*al-may ma yiji*	The water does not come
الْكَهْرَبَا مَقْطُوعَة	*al-kahraba magtoo-a*	The electricity is cut off
الْمُكَيِّف خَرْبَانْ	*al-mukayyif kharbaan*	The air conditioner is broken
فِي تَسْرِيبْ مَيْ	*fi tasreeb may*	There is a water leak

Ask for a repair

مُمْكِنْ تُرْسِلْ فَنِّي؟	*mumkin tursil fanni?*	Can you send a technician?
هَذَا مُسْتَعْجِلْ	*haatha musta-jil*	This is urgent
مَتَى يِجِي الْفَنِّي؟	*mata yiji al-fanni?*	When will the technician come?
أَنَا فِي الْبَيْتْ بَعْدْ السَّاعَة خَمْسَة	*ana fil-bayt ba-d as-saa-a khamsa*	I am home after five o'clock

Explain and agree

أَرْسِلْ لَكْ صُورَة	*arsil lak soora*	I will send you a photo
اِنْكَسَرْ هَذَا مِنْ أُسْبُوعْ	*inkasar haatha min usboo-*	This broke a week ago
مَنْ يَدْفَعْ؟	*man yadfa-?*	Who pays?
عَلَى الْمَالِكْ	*ala al-maalik*	On the landlord

Talk to a neighbour

آسِفْ عَلَى الْإِزْعَاجْ آسِفَة عَلَى الْإِزْعَاجْ	*aasif ala al-iz-aaj* to a woman: aasifa ala al-iz-aaj	Sorry for the disturbance
الصَّوْتْ عَالِي شْوَيَّة	*as-sawt aali shwayya*	The noise is a bit loud

مُمْكِنْ تُخَفِّفْ الصَّوْتْ؟	*mumkin tukhaffif as-sawt?*	Can you lower the noise?
إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهْ	*in shaa Allah*	God willing

Conversation: Calling building management

TENANT السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. عِنْدِي مُشْكِلَة فِي الشَّقَّة.	*as-salaam alaykum. indi mushkila fish-shagga.*	Hello. I have a problem in the apartment.
MANAGER وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. أَيْشْ الْمُشْكِلَة؟	*wa alaykum as-salaam. aysh al-mushkila?*	Hello. What is the problem?
TENANT فِي تَسْرِيبْ مَيْ فِي الْحَمَّامْ.	*fi tasreeb may fil-hammaam.*	There is a water leak in the bathroom.
MANAGER مُنْذُ مَتَى؟	*mundhu mata?*	Since when?
TENANT مِنْ أَمْسْ. أَرْسِلْ لَكْ صُورَة.	*min ams. arsil lak soora.*	Since yesterday. I will send you a photo.
MANAGER زِينْ، نُرْسِلْ فَنِّي الْيَوْمْ.	*zeen, nursil fanni al-yawm.*	Good, we will send a technician today.
TENANT شُكْرًا. أَنَا فِي الْبَيْتْ بَعْدْ السَّاعَة خَمْسَة.	*shukran. ana fil-bayt ba-d as-saa-a khamsa.*	Thank you. I am home after five o'clock.

Conversation: Speaking to a neighbour

NEIGHBOUR السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. آسِفْ عَلَى الْإِزْعَاجْ.	*as-salaam alaykum. aasif ala al-iz-aaj.*	Hello. Sorry for the disturbance.
YOU وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. تْفَضَّلْ، فِي شَيْ؟	*wa alaykum as-salaam. tfadhdhal, fi shay?*	Hello. Please, is there something?
NEIGHBOUR الصَّوْتْ عَالِي شْوَيَّة اللَّيْلَة.	*as-sawt aali shwayya al-layla.*	The noise is a bit loud tonight.
YOU آسِفْ جِدًّا.	*aasif jiddan.*	Very sorry.
NEIGHBOUR مُمْكِنْ تُخَفِّفْ الصَّوْتْ؟	*mumkin tukhaffif as-sawt?*	Can you lower the noise?
YOU إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهْ، الْحِينْ.	*in shaa Allah, al-heen.*	God willing, now.
NEIGHBOUR شُكْرًا، اللَّهْ يَعْطِيكْ الْعَافِيَة.	*shukran, Allah ya-teek al-aafya.*	Thank you, may God give you strength.

Vocabulary

مُشْكِلَة	*mushkila*	Problem
فَنِّي	*fanni*	Technician
تَصْلِيحْ	*tasleeh*	Repair
خَرْبَانْ	*kharbaan*	Broken
مَقْطُوعْ	*magtoo-*	Cut off
مَيْ	*may*	Water
كَهْرَبَا	*kahraba*	Electricity
مُكَيِّفْ	*mukayyif*	Air conditioner
ثَلَّاجَة	*thallaaja*	Fridge
غَسَّالَة	*ghassaala*	Washing machine
تَسْرِيبْ	*tasreeb*	Leak
بَابْ	*baab*	Door
مِفْتَاحْ	*miftaah*	Key
قُفْلْ	*gufl*	Lock
مَالِكْ	*maalik*	Landlord, owner
إِيجَارْ	*eejaar*	Rent
صُورَة	*soora*	Photo
إِزْعَاجْ	*iz-aaj*	Disturbance
صَوْتْ	*sawt*	Sound, noise
عَالِي	*aali*	Loud, high
مُسْتَعْجِلْ	*musta-jil*	Urgent
الْحِينْ	*al-heen*	Now
شْوَيَّة	*shwayya*	A little
جِدًّا	*jiddan*	Very
أَمْسْ	*ams*	Yesterday

Check yourself. What problem does the tenant report in the first dialogue, and what does the neighbour ask in the second dialogue? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 11: Travel, Airport and Hotel

Your mission. Check in, pass the airport desks, book a room and ask the hotel for what you need.

Culture tip. Arrive at least three hours early for an international flight. Keep your passport, boarding pass and phone in one bag. At hotels, ask for the Wi-Fi password and breakfast time at check-in. If something is wrong in the room, say it politely at the desk and ask for a different one.

At the airport

أَبِي أَسَجِّلْ	*abi asajjil*	I want to check in
هَذَا جَوَازِي وَالتَّذْكِرَة	*haatha jawaazi wa at-tadhkira*	This is my passport and the ticket
شَنْطَة وَحْدَة بَسْ	*shantah wahda bas*	Only one bag
وَيْنْ الْبَوَّابَة رَقْمْ خَمْسَة؟	*wayn al-bawwaaba ragm khamsa?*	Where is gate number five?
الرِّحْلَة تَأَخَّرَتْ؟	*ar-rihla ta-akharat?*	Is the flight delayed?

Passport control and bags

زِيَارَة سِيَاحِيَّة	*ziyaara siyaahiyya*	A tourist visit
أَبْقَى أُسْبُوعَيْنْ	*abga usboo-ayn*	I will stay two weeks
وَيْنْ الشُّنَطْ؟	*wayn ash-shunat?*	Where are the bags?
شَنْطَتِي مَا وَصَلَتْ	*shantati ma wasalat*	My bag did not arrive

At the hotel

عِنْدِي حَجْزْ بِاسْمِي	*indi hajz bi-ismi*	I have a booking in my name
أَبِي غُرْفَة لِشَخْصَيْنْ	*abi ghurfa li-shakhsayn*	I want a room for two people
كَمْ سِعْرْ اللَّيْلَة؟	*kam si-r al-layla?*	How much is it per night?
السَّاعَة كَمْ الْفُطُورْ؟	*as-saa-a kam al-futoor?*	What time is breakfast?
وَيْنْ الْمِصْعَدْ؟	*wayn al-mis-ad?*	Where is the lift?

Ask for help

مَا يَشْتَغِلْ الْمُكَيِّفْ	*ma yashtaghil al-mukayyif*	The air conditioner does not work
أَبِي غُرْفَة ثَانِيَة	*abi ghurfa thaanya*	I want another room

أَبِي مَنَاشِفْ زِيَادَة	*abi manaashif ziyaada*	I want extra towels
أَبِي أَطْلُعْ الْحِينْ	*abi atla- al-heen*	I want to check out now

Conversation: Airport check-in

PASSENGER السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. أَبِي أَسَجِّلْ.	*as-salaam alaykum. abi asajjil.*	Hello. I want to check in.
AGENT وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. الْجَوَازْ مِنْ فَضْلَكْ.	*wa alaykum as-salaam. al-jawaaz min fadhlak.*	Hello. The passport, please.
PASSENGER تْفَضَّلْ. وَهَذِي التَّذْكِرَة.	*tfadhdhal. wa hadhi at-tadhkira.*	Here you are. And this is the ticket.
AGENT كَمْ شَنْطَة عِنْدَكْ؟	*kam shantah indak?*	How many bags do you have?
PASSENGER شَنْطَة وَحْدَة بَسْ.	*shantah wahda bas.*	Only one bag.
AGENT زِينْ. الْبَوَّابَة رَقْم خَمْسَة.	*zeen. al-bawwaaba ragm khamsa.*	Good. Gate number five.
PASSENGER شُكْرًا. الرِّحْلَة تَأَخَّرَتْ؟	*shukran. ar-rihla ta-akharat?*	Thank you. Is the flight delayed?

Conversation: Hotel check-in

GUEST مَسَاءْ الْخَيْرْ. عِنْدِي حَجْزْ بِاسْمِي.	*masaa al-khayr. indi hajz bi-ismi.*	Good evening. I have a booking in my name.
RECEPTIONIST مَسَاءْ النُّورْ. جَوَازَكْ مِنْ فَضْلَكْ.	*masaa an-noor. jawaazak min fadhlak.*	Good evening. Your passport, please.
GUEST تْفَضَّلْ. السَّاعَة كَمْ الْفُطُورْ؟	*tfadhdhal. as-saa-a kam al-futoor?*	Here you are. What time is breakfast?
RECEPTIONIST مِنْ السَّاعَة سَبْعَة إِلَى عَشَرَة.	*min as-saa-a sab-a ila ashara.*	From seven to ten.
GUEST وَيْنْ الْمِصْعَدْ؟	*wayn al-mis-ad?*	Where is the lift?
RECEPTIONIST يَمِينْ بَعْدْ الْبَابْ. غُرْفَتَكْ فِي الطَّابِقْ الثَّالِثْ.	*yameen ba-d al-baab. ghurfatak fi at-taabig ath-thaalith.*	Right after the door. Your room is on the third floor.
GUEST شُكْرًا. أَبِي مَنَاشِفْ زِيَادَة.	*shukran. abi manaashif ziyaada.*	Thank you. I want extra towels.

Vocabulary

مَطَارْ	*mataar*	Airport
رِحْلَة	*rihla*	Flight
تَذْكِرَة	*tadhkira*	Ticket
جَوَازْ	*jawaaz*	Passport
شَنْطَة	*shantah*	Bag
شُنَطْ	*shunat*	Bags
بَوَّابَة	*bawwaaba*	Gate
تَأَخَّرَ	*ta-akhar*	Was delayed
تَسْجِيلْ	*tasjeel*	Check-in
تَأْشِيرَة	*ta-sheera*	Visa
فُنْدُقْ	*funduq*	Hotel
حَجْزْ	*hajz*	Booking
غُرْفَة	*ghurfa*	Room
لَيْلَة	*layla*	Night
فُطُورْ	*futoor*	Breakfast
مِفْتَاحْ	*miftaah*	Key
مِنْشَفَة	*minshafa*	Towel
مَنَاشِفْ	*manaashif*	Towels
مِصْعَدْ	*mis-ad*	Lift
سِيَاحِيَّة	*siyaahiyya*	Tourist
سَفَرْ	*safar*	Travel
خُرُوجْ	*khuroog*	Exit, check-out
دُخُولْ	*dukhool*	Entrance
زِيَادَة	*ziyaada*	Extra
وَصَلَ	*wasal*	Arrived

Check yourself. How many bags does the passenger have, and what time does breakfast start at the hotel? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Lesson 12: Plans, Invitations and Social Life

Your mission. Invite someone, accept or decline politely, make plans for the weekend and enjoy a social visit.

Culture tip. Invitations in the Gulf are warm and generous. If you decline, say it kindly and give a reason. After you accept, arrive near the time and bring a small gift such as dates, sweets or flowers. Say "in sha Allah" when you plan something, because plans belong to God's will.

Invite someone

عِنْدَكْ وَقْت يَوْم الْجُمْعَة؟ عِنْدِكْ وَقْت يَوْم الْجُمْعَة؟	*indak wagt yawm al-jum-a?* to a woman: indik wagt yawm al-jum-a?	Do you have time on Friday?
أَبِي أَعْزِمَكْ عَلَى الْغَدَا أَبِي أَعْزِمِكْ عَلَى الْغَدَا	*abi a-zimak ala al-ghada* to a woman: abi a-zimik ala al-ghada	I want to invite you for lunch
تِجِي مَعَانَا؟ تِجِين مَعَانَا؟	*tiji ma-aana?* to a woman: tijeen ma-aana?	Will you come with us?
نَبِي نِطْلَعْ فِي الْعُطْلَة	*nabi nitla- fil-utla*	We want to go out on the weekend

Accept or decline

أَكِيد، يَسْعِدْنِي	*akeed, yas-idni*	Of course, it would make me happy
تَسْلَمْ عَلَى الدَّعْوَة	*taslam ala ad-da-wa*	Thank you for the invitation
آسِف، مَا أَقْدَرْ آسِفَة، مَا أَقْدَرْ	*aasif, ma agdar* to a woman: aasifa, ma agdar	Sorry, I cannot
عِنْدِي ظَرْف	*indi dharf*	I have something urgent
إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهْ مَرَّة ثَانْيَة	*in shaa Allah marra thaanya*	God willing another time

Make plans

وَيْن نِتْلَاقَى؟	*wayn nitlaaga?*	Where shall we meet?
نِتْلَاقَى السَّاعَة سَبْعَة	*nitlaaga as-saa-a sab-a*	We meet at seven
أَنَا أَجِي بِسَيَّارَتِي	*ana aji bi-sayyaarati*	I will come by my car
خَلِّنَا نِتَّصِلْ قَبْلْ	*khallina nittasil gabl*	Let us call before

At the visit

شَكْلْ الْمَكَانْ حِلْوْ	*shakl al-makaan hilw*	The place looks nice
الْأَكْلْ لَذِيذْ	*al-akl ladheedh*	The food is delicious
مَا شَاءَ اللَّهْ عَلَيْكْ	*ma shaa Allah alayk*	God bless you
نِتْلَاقَى قَرِيبْ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهْ	*nitlaaga gareeb in shaa Allah*	We will meet soon, God willing

Conversation: An invitation

FRIEND	السَّلَامْ عَلَيْكُمْ. عِنْدَكْ وَقْتْ يَوْمْ الْجُمْعَةْ؟	*as-salaam alaykum. indak wagt yawm al-jum-a?*	Hello. Do you have time on Friday?
YOU	وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامْ. إِي، لَيْشْ؟	*wa alaykum as-salaam. ee, laysh?*	Hello. Yes, why?
FRIEND	أَبِي أَعْزِمَكْ عَلَى الْغَدَا.	*abi a-zimak ala al-ghada.*	I want to invite you for lunch.
YOU	تَسْلَمْ عَلَى الدَّعْوَةْ. أَكِيدْ، يَسْعِدْنِي.	*taslam ala ad-da-wa. akeed, yas-idni.*	Thank you for the invitation. Of course, it would make me happy.
FRIEND	نِتْلَاقَى السَّاعَةْ وَحْدَةْ.	*nitlaaga as-saa-a wahda.*	We meet at one.
YOU	وَيْنْ نِتْلَاقَى؟	*wayn nitlaaga?*	Where shall we meet?
FRIEND	فِي بَيْتِي. أَرْسِلْ لَكْ الْمَوْقِعْ.	*fi bayti. arsil lak al-mawgi-.*	At my house. I will send you the location.

Conversation: Declining politely

COLLEAGUE	نَبِي نِطْلَعْ الْعُطْلَة. تِجِي مَعَانَا؟	*nabi nitla- al-utla. tiji ma-aana?*	We want to go out on the weekend. Will you come with us?
YOU	تَسْلَمْ عَلَى الدَّعْوَة. آسِف، مَا أَقْدَرْ.	*taslam ala ad-da-wa. aasif, ma agdar.*	Thank you for the invitation. Sorry, I cannot.
COLLEAGUE	لَيْش؟ فِي شَيْ؟	*laysh? fi shay?*	Why? Is something wrong?
YOU	عِنْدِي ظَرْف فِي الْبَيْت.	*indi dharf fil-bayt.*	I have something urgent at home.
COLLEAGUE	مَا فِي مُشْكِلَة.	*ma fi mushkila.*	No problem.
YOU	إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهْ مَرَّة ثَانْيَة.	*in shaa Allah marra thaanya.*	God willing another time.
COLLEAGUE	إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهْ. اللَّهْ يُوَفِّقَكْ.	*in shaa Allah. Allah yuwaffigak.*	God willing. May God grant you success.

Vocabulary

دَعْوَة	*da-wa*	Invitation
عَزِيمَة	*azeema*	Invitation, treat
غَدَا	*ghada*	Lunch
عَشَا	*asha*	Dinner
فُطُورْ	*futoor*	Breakfast
عُطْلَة	*utla*	Weekend, holiday
جُمْعَة	*jum-a*	Friday
سَبْتْ	*sabt*	Saturday
أَحَدْ	*ahad*	Sunday
مَوْقِعْ	*mawgi-*	Location
مَكَانْ	*makaan*	Place
وَقْتْ	*wagt*	Time
ظَرْفْ	*dharf*	Urgent matter
صَاحِبْ	*saahib*	Friend

صَدِيقْ	*sadeeg*	Friend
هَدِيَّة	*hadiyya*	Gift
تَمْر	*tamr*	Dates
حَلَا	*hala*	Sweets
قَهْوَة	*gahwa*	Coffee
لَذِيذْ	*ladheedh*	Delicious
حِلْوْ	*hilw*	Nice, sweet
نِتْلَاقَى	*nitlaaga*	We meet
يَسْعِدْنِي	*yas-idni*	It makes me happy
مَرَّة ثَانْيَة	*marra thaanya*	Another time
قَرِيبْ	*gareeb*	Soon, near

Check yourself. What day does the friend ask about, and what reason does the colleague hear for declining? (The answers are in the conversations above.)

Keep going

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