

أخبار الطقس حول العالم—Main Dialect Points

Here are some items you will hear in this video that vary between dialects. Remember, at this point in your Arabic career, you are just working to understand and predict variation—you don't need to be able to say these phrases in every dialect!

The letter ق

This letter has three common variants in Arabic that you should get used to hearing: q (like k but farther back in your throat), ʔ (glottal stop), and g (like the g in get). This is an approximate geographic distribution, but there is significant variation.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
q	q/g	ʔ	ʔ/g	g

The letter ج

This letter has four common variants in Arabic that you should get used to hearing: dʒ (like the j in judge), ʒ (like the z in azure), g (like the g in get), and y (like the y in yellow). This is an approximate geographic distribution, but there is significant variation.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
dʒ	ʒ	g	dʒ	ʒ/y

The letter ذ

This (along with other interdental sounds you make putting your tongue between your teeth such as ظ and ث) tends to become an alveolar sound (hitting the alveolar ridge behind your teeth), either d or z. This is an approximate geographic distribution, but there is significant variation.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
ð	d	z	z	z/ð

The letter ث

This (along with other interdental sounds you make putting your tongue between your teeth such as ذ and ظ) tends to become an alveolar sound (hitting the alveolar ridge behind your teeth), either t or s. This is an approximate geographic distribution, but there is significant variation.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
ث	t	s/t	s/t	s/θ

The letter ظ

This (along with other interdental sounds you make putting your tongue between your teeth such as ذ and ث) tends to become a pharyngealized alveolar sound (hitting the alveolar ridge behind your teeth), either dʕ or zʕ. This is an approximate geographic distribution, but there is significant variation.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
ظ	dʕ	zʕ	zʕ	zʕ/θʕ

Hamza

The glottal stop is dropped in most dialects (or represents the sound of ق). So, الصحراء in MSA becomes الصحرا in many dialects.

Now

The phrase for now also varies. Here are some common variants for now.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf	Yemeni	Iraqi
الآن	دابا	دالوقتي	هلق	الحين	ذلحين	هسا

This

The word for “this”, as in “This is the bedroom” varies by dialect. Here are some common variants.

	MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
Masculine Singular	هذا	هادا	دا	هادا	هذا
Feminine Singular	هذه	هذي	دي	هاي	هذي

Today

The word for “today” varies by dialect. Here are some common variants.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
اليوم	اليوم	النهار دا	اليوم	اليوم

Tomorrow

The word for “tomorrow” varies by dialect. Here are some common variants.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
غدا	غدا	بكرة	بكرة	بكرة

Very

The word for “very”, as in “very old” varies by dialect. Here are some common variants.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf	Yemen
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خيرات	وايد	كثير	قوي	بزاف	جدا
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What

What is another word that commonly varies between dialects. Here are some common varieties.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Levantine/Gulf
ما؟ ماذا؟	شنو؟	ايه؟	شو؟	ايش

Weather

There are two common words for weather:

الطقس (MSA)

الجو (MSA and dialects)

In dialects, you'll also hear **الدُّنيا** "the world" used to describe weather

Future Tense Marker

In both MSA and Arabic dialects, a word or letter is added to the present tense verb that gives a future meaning.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
سوف س	غادي	ح ه	راح رح	راح رح
سوف أطبخ سأطبخ	غادي نطيبو	حنطبخ هنطبخ	راح نطبخ	راح نطبخ

