

Main Dialect Points–التجهيز للسفر

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 ث and ظ) 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.

After that

The phrase for “after that” can mark whether a speaker is using dialect or MSA.

MSA	Multiple Dialects
بعد ذلك	بعدين

Also, as well

The word for “also, as well” can mark whether a speaker is using dialect or MSA.

MSA	Multiple Dialects	Multiple Dialects
أَيْضاً	كَمَان	برضو

Because

The word for “because” is also a common dialect marker. Here are some common variants.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
لَأَنَّ	حيب	عَشَان	مِنْشَان مِشَان	عَشَان

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

Thing

The word for thing also varies. Here are some common variants for thing.

MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf
شَيْئ	حاجة	حاجة	شي	شي

Active Participles as Verbs

In addition to verbs, Arabic has active and passive participles from the verbs. While technically nouns, in Arabic dialects these can act more like verbs. Be ready to recognize both forms.

English	MSA	Egyptian
I live	أَسْكُنْ أَعِيشْ	ساكِن (male) ساكِنَة (female) عايش (male) عايشَة (female)
I'm traveling	أَسَافِرْ	مُسَافِرْ مُسَافِرَة

Possession

In MSA, the إضافة is used to show relationships between nouns. In Arabic dialects, there is also what is called an analytic genitive, or a word that can be used to show possession. Although the word itself varies across dialects, the construct is the same. Some of these words have masculine and feminine versions

English	MSA	Moroccan	Egyptian	Levantine	Gulf	Iraqi
		ديال	بتاعة بتاعة	تبع	حق	مال
Gym Clothes	ملابس الجيم	الملابس ديال الجيم	الملابس بتاعة الجيم	الملابس تبع الجيم	الملابس حق الجيم	الملابس مال الجيم

My bag	حقيبتى	الفاليزة ديالى	الشنطة بتاعتى	الشنطة تبعى	الشنطة حقى	الشنطة مالى
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