

Language

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Arabic is the official language of Egypt. However, the Arabic spoken on the streets differs greatly from the standard Arabic written in newspapers and spoken on the radio (which is known as Modern Standard Arabic or MSA). MSA is the written and spoken lingua franca that is common to all Arabic-speaking countries.

Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (ECA) is fun, but difficult to learn. It's basically a dialect of the standard language, but it's different in so many respects that it's virtually another language. As with most dialects, it's the everyday language that differs the most from that of Egypt's other Arabic-speaking neighbours. More specialised or educated language tends to be pretty much the same across the Arab world, although pronunciation may vary considerably. An Arab from, say, Jordan or Iraq will have no problem having a chat about politics or literature with an Egyptian, but might have more trouble making themselves understood in a Cairo bakery.

There is no official written form of the Egyptian Arabic dialect, although there is no practical reason for this – Nobel Prize-winning author Naguib Mahfouz has no trouble writing out whole passages using

predominantly Egyptian (or Cairene) slang. For some reason, though, foreigners who specifically want to learn Egyptian Arabic instead of MSA are told that it can't be written in script, and are then presented with one system or other of transliteration – none of them totally satisfactory. If you're getting a headache now, you'll have some idea of why few non-Arabs and non-Muslims embark on the study of the language.

Nevertheless, if you take the time to learn even a handful of words and phrases, you'll discover and experience much more while travelling through the country. If you'd like a more comprehensive guide to the language, pick up a copy of Lonely Planet's *Egyptian Arabic Phrasebook*, which includes script for Egyptian Arabic (not MSA) throughout.

Arabic uses masculine and feminine forms, which are indicated in this language guide by (m) and (f) respectively, or separated by a slash (m/f) if both forms are given.

TRANSLITERATION

Converting what for most outsiders is just a bunch of squiggles into meaningful words (ie those written using the Roman alphabet) is a tricky business – in fact, no satisfactory system of transliteration has been established, and probably never will be. For this book, an attempt has been made to standardise some spellings of place names and the like.

There is only one article in Arabic: *al* (the). It's also sometimes written as 'il' or 'el' and sometimes modifies to reflect the first consonant of the following noun. For example, in Saladin's name, *Salah ad-Din* (righteousness of the faith), the 'al' has been modified to 'ad' before the 'd' of 'Din'. The article *el* is used only in a few instances in this book, such as well-known places (El Alamein, Sharm el-Sheikh) or where locals have used it in restaurant and hotel names.

The whole business of transliteration is fraught with pitfalls, and in a way there are no truly 'correct' systems. The locals themselves can only guess at how to make the conversion – often with amusing results. The fact that French and English have had a big

THE STANDARD ARABIC ALPHABET

Final	Medial	Initial	Alone	Transliteration	Pronunciation
ا			ا	ā/aa	as in 'father'/as the long 'a' in 'ma'am'
ب	ب	ب	ب	b	as in 'bet'
ت	ت	ت	ت	t	as in 'ten'
ث	ث	ث	ث	th	as in 'thin'
ج	ج	ج	ج	g	as in 'go'
ح	ح	ح	ح	H	a strongly whispered 'h', like a sigh of relief
خ	خ	خ	خ	kh	as the 'ch' in Scottish <i>loch</i>
د			د	d	as in 'dim'
ذ			ذ	dh	as the 'th' in 'this'
ر			ر	r	a rolled 'r', as in the Spanish word <i>caro</i>
ز			ز	z	as in 'zip'
س	س	س	س	s	as in 'so', never as in 'wisdom'
ش	ش	ش	ش	sh	as in 'ship'
ص	ص	ص	ص	ṣ	emphatic 's'
ض	ض	ض	ض	ḍ	emphatic 'd'
ط	ط	ط	ط	ṭ	emphatic 't'
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ẓ	emphatic 'z'
ع	ع	ع	ع	'	the Arabic letter 'ayn'; pronounce as a glottal stop – like the closing of the throat before saying 'Oh-oh!' (see p543)
غ	غ	غ	غ	gh	a guttural sound like Parisian 'r'
ف	ف	ف	ف	f	as in 'far'
ق	ق	ق	ق	q	a strongly guttural 'k' sound; in Egyptian Arabic often pronounced as a glottal stop
ك	ك	ك	ك	k	as in 'king'
ل	ل	ل	ل	l	as in 'lamb'
م	م	م	م	m	as in 'me'
ن	ن	ن	ن	n	as in 'name'
ه	ه	ه	ه	h	as in 'ham'
و			و	w	as in 'wet'; or
				oo	long, as in 'food'; or
				ow	as in 'how'
ي	ي	ي	ي	y	as in 'yes'; or
				ee	as the 'e' in 'ear', only softer; or
				ai/ay	as in 'aisle'/as the 'ay' in 'day'

Vowels Not all Arabic vowel sounds are represented in the alphabet. For more information on the vowel sounds used in this language guide, see p543.

Emphatic Consonants To simplify the transliteration system used in this book, the emphatic consonants have not been included.

influence (though the latter has all but conquered the former in modern Egypt) has led to all sorts of interesting ideas on transliteration. Egypt's high rate of illiteracy doesn't help either. Don't be taken aback if you start noticing half a dozen different spellings for the same thing.

For some reason, the letters **q** and **k** have caused enormous problems, and have been interchanged willy-nilly in transliteration. For a long time, Iraq (which in Arabic is spelled with what can only be described in English using its nearest equivalent: 'q') was written, even by scholars, as 'Irak'. Other examples of an Arabic **q** receiving such treatment are *souq* (market), often written 'souk'; *qasr* (castle), sometimes written 'kasr'; and the Cairo suburb of Doqqi, often written 'Dokki', although the Egyptian habit of swallowing 'q' and pronouncing the place name 'Do'i' is a dead giveaway. It's a bit like spelling English 'as she is spoke' – imagine the results if Australians, Americans, Scots and Londoners were all given free rein to write as they pronounce!

PRONUNCIATION

Pronunciation of Arabic can be somewhat tongue-tying for someone unfamiliar with the intonation and combination of sounds. Pronounce the transliterated words and phrases slowly and clearly.

The following guide should help, but it isn't complete because the myriad rules governing pronunciation and vowel use are too extensive to be covered here.

Vowels

a	as in 'had' (sometimes very short)
aa	like the long 'a' sound in 'ma'am'
ā	as the 'a' in 'father'
e	as in 'bet' (sometimes very short)
ee	as in 'beer', only softer
i	as in 'hit'
o	as in 'hot'
ō	as the 'o' in 'four'
oo	as in 'food'
u	as in 'put'

Diphthongs

ow	as in 'how'
ai	as in 'aisle'
ay	as in 'day'

Consonants

Pronunciation of all Arabic consonants is covered in the alphabet table, p542. Note that when double consonants occur in transliterations, each consonant is pronounced. For example, *il-Hammām* (bath-house) is pronounced 'il-ham-maam'.

Other Sounds

Arabic has two sounds that are very tricky for non-Arabs to produce: the 'ayn and the glottal stop. The letter 'ayn represents a sound with no English equivalent that comes even close – it is similar to the glottal stop (which is not actually represented in the alphabet) but the muscles at the back of the throat are gagged more forcefully and air is allowed to escape, creating a sound that has been described as reminiscent of someone being strangled! In many transliteration systems 'ayn is represented by an opening quotation mark, and the glottal stop by a closing quotation mark. To make the transliterations in this language guide (and throughout the rest of the book) easier to use, we have not distinguished between the glottal stop and the 'ayn, using the closing quotation mark to represent both sounds. You'll find that Arab speakers will still understand you.

ACCOMMODATION

I'm looking for a ...	<i>a-na ba-dow-war 'a-la ...</i>
pension	<i>ban-syon</i>
hotel	<i>fun-du'</i>
youth hostel	<i>bait sha-bāb</i>

Where can I find a cheap hotel?

a-la'-ee fun-du' ra-khees fayn?

What is the address?

il'un-waan ey?

Could you write the address, please?

mum-kin tik-tib/tik-ti-bee il' un-waan min fad-lak? (m/f)

Do you have rooms available?

'an-dak/'an-dik ghu-raf fad-ya? (m/f)

I'd like (a) ... *a-na 'aiz/'ai-za ... (m/f)*

I'd like to book (a) ... *'aiz aH-gaz ... low sa-maHt (m)*
'ai-za aH-gaz ... low
sa-maH-tee (f)

bed	<i>si-reer</i>
single room	<i>ghur-fa li waa-Hid</i>
double room	<i>ghur-fa bi si-reer muz-dow-ag</i>
room with two beds	<i>ghur-fa bi si-reer-ain</i>

room with a bathroom	<i>ghur-fa bi Ham-mām khās</i>
room with air-con/ fan	<i>ghur-fa bi tak-yeef/mar-wa-Ha</i>
bed in a dorm	<i>ghur-fa mush-ta-ri-ka</i>
in the name of ...	<i>bi 'ism ...</i>
date	<i>ta-reekh</i>
from (date) to (date)	<i>min yom (...) li yom (...)</i>
credit card ...	<i>kre-dit kard ...</i>
number	<i>ra-qm</i>
expiry date	<i>ta-reekh al-'in-ti-ha'</i>

How much is it ...?	<i>bi-kam ...?</i>
per night	<i>li lai-la waa-Hid-a</i>
per person	<i>lil fard</i>

Do you have any cheaper rooms?*fee ghur-raf ar-khas?***May I see it?***mum-kin a-shuf-ha?***Where is the bathroom?***fayn il Ham-mām?***I'm/We're leaving today.***(a-na Ham-shi/iH-na Ha-nim-shi) inn-har-da.***CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS**

Arabic is more formal than English, especially with greetings; thus even the simplest greetings, such as 'hello', vary according to when and how they're used. In addition, each greeting requires a certain response that varies according to whether it is being said to a male, female or group of people.

Hello.	<i>sa-lām 'a-lay-kum</i>
(response)	<i>wa 'a-lay-kum es sa-lām</i>
Hello/Welcome.	<i>ah-lan wa sah-lan</i>
(response)	<i>ah-lan beek (to a man)</i>
	<i>ah-lan bee-kee (to a woman)</i>
	<i>ah-lan bee-kum (to a group)</i>
Good morning.	<i>sa-bāH al-khayr</i>
(response)	<i>sa-bāH an-noor</i>
Good evening.	<i>mi-sa' al-khayr</i>
(response)	<i>mi-sa' an-noor</i>
Good night.	<i>tis-baH 'a-la khayr (to a man)</i>
	<i>tis-baH-ee 'a-la khayr (to a woman)</i>
	<i>tis-baH-u 'a-la khayr (to a group)</i>
(response)	<i>wen-ta bi-khayr (to a man)</i>
	<i>wen-tee bi-khayr (to a woman)</i>
	<i>wen-too bi-khayr (to a group)</i>
Goodbye.	<i>ma'as sa-laa-ma</i>
Yes.	<i>ai-wa (or na-'am – more formal)</i>
No.	<i>la'</i>

Please.

min fad-lak/fad-lik/fad-lu-kum (to man/woman/group; used when asking for something in a shop)
low sa-maHt/sa-maH-tee/sa-maH-tu (to man/woman/group; similar, but more formal)
tfad-dal/tfad-da-lee/tfad-da-loo (to man/woman/group; used when offering something or inviting someone)
it-fad-dal/it-fad-da-lee/it-fad-da-loo (to man/woman/group; similar, or can mean 'Please, go ahead and do something')

Thank you (very much).*shu-kran (ga-zee-lan)***Excuse me.***'an iz-nak, es-maH-lee (to man)**'an iz-nik, es-ma-Hee-lee (to woman)**'an iz-nu-kum, es-ma-Hoo-lee (to group)***That's fine/You're welcome.***'af-wan (or al-'aff-u)***Sorry. (ie forgive me)***'as-sif***What's your name?***is-ma key? (to man)**is-mi key? (to woman)***My name is ...***is-mee ...***Pleased to meet you.***(when first meeting)**ta-shar-raf-na (pol)**fur-sa sa-'eed-a (inf)***How are you?***iz-zay-yak? (to a man)**iz-zay-yik? (to a woman)**iz-za-yu-kum? (to a group)***I'm fine.***kway-yis il-Ham-du lil-lah**(to a man)**kway-yi-sa il-Ham-du lil-lah**(to a woman)**kway-seen il-Ham-du lil-lah**(to a group)*

(On their own, *kwayyis/a'een* literally mean 'good' or 'fine', but they are rarely heard alone in response to 'How are you?')

Where are you from?*en-ta/en-tee min-ain? (m/f)***I'm from ...***a-na min ...***I like/don't like ...***a-na ba-Hibb/ma-ba-Hib-bish***Just a minute.***da-'ee-'a waa-Hid-a*

A useful word to know is *imshee*, which means 'Go away'. Use this at the Pyramids or at other tourist sites when you are being besieged by children. Don't use it on adults; instead, just say, *la' shukran* (No thanks).

DIRECTIONS**Where is ...?***fayn ...?***Go straight ahead.***'a-la tool*

SIGNS

Entrance	مدخل
Exit	خروج
Open	مفتوح
Closed	مغلق
Prohibited	ممنوع
Information	معلومات
Hospital	مستشفى
Police	شرطة
Men's Toilet	حمام للرجال
Women's Toilet	حمام للنساء

Turn left.	<i>How-id shi-māl</i>
Turn right.	<i>How-id yi-meen</i>
at the (next) corner	<i>'al-al nas-ya (il-li gai-ya)</i>
at the traffic lights	<i>'and il i-shā-ra</i>
behind	<i>wa-ra</i>
in front of	<i>'ud-daam</i>
far (from)	<i>ba-'eed ('an)</i>
near (to)	<i>'u-ra-yib (min)</i>
opposite	<i>'u-sād</i>

here	<i>hi-na</i>
there	<i>hi-naak</i>
this address	<i>al-'an-waan da</i>
north	<i>shi-maal</i>
south	<i>ga-noob</i>
east	<i>shark</i>
west	<i>gharb</i>

beach	<i>al blaaj/ash-shā-ti</i>
bridge	<i>ku-bri</i>
castle	<i>al-'a'a</i>
my hotel	<i>il fun-duq be-taa-'ee</i>
island	<i>ga-zee-ra</i>
main square	<i>al-mai-daan ar-ra-'ee-si</i>
mosque	<i>al-gaa-me'</i>
museum	<i>al-mat-Haf</i>
old city	<i>al-me-dee-na al-'a-dee-ma</i>
palace	<i>al-'asr</i>
pyramids	<i>ah-ra-māt</i>
The Pyramids (of Giza)	<i>al-ah-rām</i>
ruins	<i>a-sār</i>
sea	<i>baHr</i>
square	<i>mi-daan</i>
street	<i>ash-shaa-ri'</i>
tower	<i>burg</i>
university	<i>al-ga-m'a</i>
village	<i>al-qar-ya</i>

HEALTH

I'm ill.	<i>a-na 'ai-yaan/a (m/f)</i>
My friend is ill.	<i>sa-dee-qi 'ai-yaan</i>
It hurts here.	<i>bi-yuw-ga-'ni hi-na</i>

I'm ...	<i>'an-dee ...</i>
asthmatic	<i>az-mit ra-boo</i>
diabetic	<i>is suk-kar</i>
epileptic	<i>sa-ra'</i>

I'm allergic ...	<i>'an-dee Ha-sa-siy-ya ...</i>
to antibiotics	<i>min mu-dād Hai-o-wi</i>
to aspirin	<i>min as-bi-reen</i>
to penicillin	<i>min bi-ni-si-leen</i>
to bees	<i>min naHl</i>
to nuts	<i>min mu-kas-sar-āt</i>

antiseptic	<i>mu-tah-hir</i>
aspirin	<i>as-bir-een</i>
condoms	<i>'aa-zil za-ka-ry (ka-boot, slang)</i>
contraceptive	<i>wa-sā-'il man-a' il HamI</i>
diarrhoea	<i>is-haal</i>
fever	<i>su-khoo-na</i>
headache	<i>su-dā'</i>
hospital	<i>mus-tash-fa</i>
medicine	<i>dow-a</i>
pharmacy	<i>ag-za-khaa-na or sai-da-liy-ya</i>
pregnant	<i>Haa-mel</i>
prescription	<i>ro-shet-ta</i>
sanitary napkins	<i>fu-wat sa-Hiy-ya</i>
stomach ache	<i>wa-ga' fil bātān</i>
sunblock cream	<i>kreyim di dish-shams</i>
tampons	<i>tam-bax</i>

EMERGENCIES

Help!	<i>el-Ha'neel</i>
There's been an accident.	<i>fee Had-sa!</i>
I'm lost.	<i>a-na tā-yih/tāy-ha (m/f)</i>
Go away!	<i>im-sheel!</i>
Call a doctor!	<i>i-tas-sal bi-dok-toor! (m)</i>
	<i>i-tas-sal-ee bi-dok-toor! (f)</i>
Call the police!	<i>i-tas-sal bil-bo-les!</i>
I've been robbed.	<i>a-na it-sa-ra't</i>
Where are the toilets?	<i>fayn at-twa-let?</i>

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

Do you speak English?

en-ta bi-tit-kal-lim in-glee-zee? (to a man)
en-tee bi-tit-kal-li-mee in-glee-zee? (to a woman)

Does anyone here speak English?

fee Hadd bi-yit-kal-lim in-glee-zee?

How do you say ... in Egyptian Arabic?

iz-zai a-'ool ... bil 'a-ra-bee?

What does ... mean?

ya-'ni ... ey?

I understand.

a-na faa-hem/fah-ma (m/f)

I don't understand.*a-na mish faa-hem/fah-ma (m/f)***Please write it down.***mum-kin tik-ti-buh/tik-ti-beeh? (m/f)***Can you show me (on the map)?***mum-kin ti-war-ree-ni ('al-al kha-ree-ta)?***NUMBERS**

Arabic numerals are simple to learn and, unlike the written language, run from left to right. Pay attention to the order of the words in numbers from 21 to 99. When followed by a noun, the pronunciation of *miyya* changes to *meet* for the numbers 100 and 300–900, and the noun is always used in its singular form.

0	sifr	٠
1	waa-Hid	١
2	it-nayn	٢
3	ta-laa-ta	٣
4	ar-ba'a	٤
5	kham-sa	٥
6	sit-ta	٦
7	sa-b'a	٧
8	ta-man-ya	٨
9	ti-s'a	٩
10	'ash-a-ra	١٠
11	Hid-'ash-ar	١١
12	it-n'ash-ar	١٢
13	ta-lat-t'ash-ar	١٣
14	ar-ba'-t'ash-ar	١٤
15	kha-mas-t'ash-ar	١٥
16	sit-t'ash-ar	١٦
17	sa-ba'-t'ash-ar	١٧
18	ta-man-t'ash-ar	١٨
19	ti-sa'-t'ash-ar	١٩
20	'ish-reen	٢٠
21	waa-Hid wi 'ish-reen	٢١
22	it-nayn wi 'ish-reen	٢٢
30	ta-la-teen	٣٠
40	ar-ba'een	٤٠
50	kham-seen	٥٠
60	sit-teen	٦٠
70	sab'een	٧٠
80	ta-ma-neen	٨٠
90	tisa'een	٩٠
100	miyy-ya (meet before a noun)	١٠٠
200	mi-tayn	٢٠٠
1000	'alf	١٠٠٠
2000	'alf-ayn	٢٠٠٠

How many? kam waa-Hid?

PAPERWORK

name	ism
nationality	gin-siy-ya
date/place of birth	ta-reekh/ma-Hal il mi-laad
sex (gender)	gins
passport	bas-boor or gow-aaz is sa-far
visa	ta'-shee-ra

QUESTION WORDS

Who?	meen?
What?	ey?
When?	im-ta?
Where?	fayn?
How?	iz-zay?
Which?	ayy?

SHOPPING & SERVICES

I'd like to buy ...	'aiz/'ai-za ash-ti-ri ... (m/f)
How much is it?	bi-kam da?
I don't like it.	mish 'a-gib-ni
May I look at it?	mum-kin a-shoo-fu?
I'm just looking.	bat-far-rag bas
It's cheap.	da ra-khees
It's too expensive.	da ghaa-lee 'ow-ee
No more than ...	mish ak-tar min ...
I'll take it.	'a-khud-ha

Can you give me ...?	mum-kin tid-dee-ni ...?
a discount	takh-feed
a good price	sa'r kway-yis

Do you accept ...?	bi-ta-khud ...? (m)
	bi-ta-khu-dee ...? (f)
credit cards	kre-dit kard
traveller cheques	sheek si-yaa-Hi

more	ak-tar
less	a'-all
smaller	as-ghar
bigger	ak-bar

I'm looking for ...	a-na ba-dow-war 'a-la
a bank	bank
the bazaar/market	as-sooq
the city centre	wust al-ba-lad
the (...) embassy	as-si-fa-ra (...)
the post office	al-boos-ta/mak-tab al-ba-reen
the telephone centre	sen-traal it-te-li-fo-naat
the tourist office	mak-tab as-si-yaa-Ha

I want to change ...	a-na 'aiz/'ai-za u-sar-raf ... (m/f)
money	fu-loos
travellers cheques	shee-kaat si-ya-Hiy-ya

TIME & DATES**What time is it?****It's (8) o'clock.****in the morning****in the afternoon****in the evening****today****tomorrow****yesterday****day****month****week****year****early****late****daily***saa-'a kam?**saa'a (ta-man-ya)**sa-ba-Han**ba'-d id duhr**bil layl**inn-har-da**bo-kra**im-be-riH**yom**shahr**us-bu-'a**sa-na**ba-dree**mit-'akh-ar**kull yom***Monday***(yom) al- it-nayn***Tuesday***(yom) at-ta-laaf***Wednesday***(yom) al-ar-ba'a***Thursday***(yom) al-kha-meess***Friday***(yom) al-gu-m'a***Saturday***(yom) as-sabt***Sunday***(yom) al-Hadd***January***ya-nay-ir***February***fi-bra-yir***March***maa-ris***April***ab-reel***May***ma-yu***June***yun-yu***July***yul-yu***August***a-ghus-tus***September***sib-tim-bir***October***'uk-too-bir***November***nu-fim-bir***December***di-sim-bir***TRANSPORT****Public Transport****When does the ...***im-ta qi-yaam/wu-suul ...?***leave/arrive?****boat***al-mar-kib***bus***al-o-to-bees***ferry***ma'a-diy-ya***plane***al-tay-yā-ra***train***al-'atr***I'd like a ... ticket.***'ayz/'ayz-a ... taz-kar-it (m/f)***one-way***zi-haab***return***'ow-da***1st-class***da-ra-ga oo-la***2nd-class***da-ra-ga tan-ya***I want to go to ...***a-na 'aiz/'ai-za a-rooH ... (m/f)***The train has been cancelled/delayed.***il-'atr it-'akh-khar/it-la-gha***Which bus goes to ...?***o-to-bees nim-ra kam ye-rooH ...?***Does this bus go to ...?***al-o-to-bees da ye-rooH ...?***Please tell me when we arrive in ...***min fad-lak, 'ul-lee em-ta Ha-noo-sel ...***What is the fare to ...?***bi-kam at-taz-ka-ra li ...?***Stop here, please.***wa-'if hi-na, min fad-lak***Wait!***is-tan-na!***the first***il aw-wil/oo-la (m/f)***the last***il aa-khir***the next***il-li gayy***airport***ma-tār***bus station***ma-Hat-tat a-lo-to-bees***bus stop***maw-'if a-lo-to-bees***city***al-me-dee-na***platform number***ra-seef nim-ra***station***al-ma-Hat-ta***ticket office***mak-tab at-taz-ker***timetable***gad-wal***train station***ma-Hat-tat al-'atr***Private Transport****I'd like to hire***'aiz/'ai-za a-'ag-gār ... (m/f)***a/an ...****car***say-yā-ra/'a-ra-biy-ya***4WD***'a-ra-biy-yet gharz/jeep***motorbike***mu-tu-sikl***bicycle***'a-ga-la***camel***ga-mal***donkey***Hu-mār***horse***Hu-sān***Is this the road to ...?***i-ta-ree' da yi-was-sil li ...?***(How long) Can I park here?***mum-kin ar-kin hi-na (ad-di ay)?***Where do I pay?***ad-fa'a fayn?***I need a mechanic.***miH-taag/miH-taa-ga me-ka-nee-ki (m/f)***The car/motorbike has broken down (at ...)***il 'a-ra-biy-ya/mu-tu-sikl 'i-til 'and ...***The car/motorbike won't start.***il 'a-ra-biy-ya/mu-tu-sikl mish bit-door*

I have a flat tyre.

il ka-witsh nay-im

I've run out of petrol.

il ben-zeen khi-lis

I've had an accident.

kaan 'an-dee Had-sa

Where's a service station?

fayn ma-Hat-tet ben-zeen?

Please fill it up.

faw-wil-ha, low sa-maHt

I'd like (30) litres.

'aiz/'ai-za (ta-la-teen) litr (m/f)

diesel

so-lār

leaded petrol

ta-ma-noon (regular)

ti-sa-'een (super)

unleaded petrol

min ghair ru-sās or

kham-sa wa ti-sa-'een

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN**Is there a/an ...?**

fee ...?

I need a/an

'aiz/'ai-za ... (m/f)

car baby seat

kur-si 'a-ra-biy-ya li tifi

child-minding

khi-d-mat ra-'ai-it tifi

service**children's menu**

me-nai lil at-fāl

nappies/diapers

bam-bers (brand name)

formula (milk)

la-ban mu-ga-faf lil bay-bi

(English-speaking)

ga-lis-at at-fāl (bi-tit-kall-im

babysitter

in-gee-zee)

highchair

kur-si lil at-fāl

potty

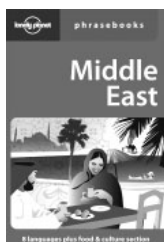
as-riy-ya

Do you mind if I breastfeed here?

mum-kin a-rad-da-'a hi-na?

Are children allowed?

mas-mooH bis-ti-Haab il at-fāl?



Also available from Lonely Planet:
Egyptian Arabic and Middle East Phrasebook

Glossary

For a glossary containing Pharaonic terms, see p60, and for food and drink terms, see p100.

abd – servant of

abeyya – woman's gown

abu – father, saint

ahwa – coffee, coffeehouse

ain – well, spring

al-jeel – a type of music characterised by a hand-clapping rhythm overlaid with a catchy vocal; literally 'the generation'

ba'al – grocer

bab – gate or door

baksheesh – alms, tip

baladi – local, rural

bawwab – doorman

beit – house

bey – term of respect

bir – spring, well

burg – tower

bustan – walled garden

calèche – horse-drawn carriage

caravanserai – merchants' inn

careta – donkey cart

dahabiyya – houseboat

darb – track, street

deir – monastery, convent

domina – dominoes

effendi – gentleman

eid – Islamic feast

emir – Islamic ruler, military commander or governor; literally 'prince'

fellah – (plural: fellaheen) peasant farmer or agricultural worker who makes up the majority of Egypt's population; 'fellah' literally means ploughman or tiller of the soil

filoos – money

galabiyya – man's full-length robe

gebel – mountain

gezira – island

ghawazee – cast of dancers who travelled with storytellers and poets; they performed publicly or for hire

guinay – pound (currency)

haikal – altar area

haji – a man who has made the *hajj* to Mecca (female: *hajja*)

hajj – pilgrimage to Mecca; all Muslims should make the journey at least once in their lifetime

hammam – bathhouse

hantour – horse-drawn carriage

haram – anything forbidden by Islamic law

hegab – woman's headscarf

Hejira – Islamic calendar; Mohammed's flight from Mecca to Medina in AD 622

ibn – son of

iconostasis – screen with doors and icons set in tiers, used in Eastern Christian churches

iftar – breaking the fast after sundown during the month of *Ramadan*

iwan – vaulted hall, opening into a central court in a *madrassa* or a mosque

kershef – building material made of large chunks of salt mixed with rock and plastered in local clay

khamsin – a dry, hot wind from the Western Desert

khan – another name for a *caravanserai*

khanqah – *Sufi* monastery

khedive – Egyptian viceroy under Ottoman suzerainty

khwaga – foreigner

kineesa – church

kuttab – Quranic school

leila kebira – 'big night'; climax of a *moulid*

lokanda – basic, cheap place to doss

ma'abad – temple

madrassa – school, especially one associated with a mosque

mahattat – station

makwagee – laundry man

malqaf – angled wind catchers on the roof that direct the prevailing northerly breezes down into the building

mammisi – birthhouse

maristan – hospital

mashrabiyya – ornate carved wooden panel or screen; a feature of Islamic architecture

mastaba – mud-brick structure in the shape of a bench above tombs that was the basis for later pyramids; Arabic word for 'bench'

matar – airport

mawladiyya – people who provide the infrastructure for *moulids*

midan – town or city square
mihrab – niche in the wall of a mosque that indicates the direction of Mecca
minbar – pulpit in a mosque
Misr – Egypt (also means ‘Cairo’)
moulid – festival
muezzin – mosque official who calls the faithful to prayer
mufti – Muslim legal expert or leader of the religious community
mugzzabin – *Sufi* followers who participate in *zikrs*
muqarnas – stalactite-like stone carving used to decorate doorways and window recesses

nahr – river
nai – reed pipe

oud – a type of lute

piastre – Egyptian currency; one Egyptian pound consists of 100 piastres

qa’a – reception room
qala’a – fortress
qasa’id – long poems
qasr – castle or palace

Ramadan – the ninth month of the lunar Islamic calendar during which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset
ras – headland

sabil – public drinking fountain
sakia – water wheel
sandale – modified felucca
servees – service taxi
shaabi – music of the working class
shadouf – water wheel used for irrigation purposes
sharia – road or street
sharm – bay
sheesha – water pipe
sig – a game played in the dirt with clay balls or seeds
souq – market
speos – rock-cut tomb or chapel
Sufi – follower of any Islamic mystical order that emphasises dancing, chanting and trances to attain unity with God

tabla – small hand-held drum
tahtib – male dance performed with wooden staves
tarboosh – the hat known elsewhere as a fez
tasreeh – permit for camping
towla – backgammon

ulema – group of Muslim scholars or religious leaders; a member of this group
umm – mother of

wadi – desert watercourse, dry except in the rainy season
waha – oasis
wikala – another name for a *caravanserai*

zkr – long sessions of dancing, chanting and swaying usually carried out by *Sufi mugzzabin* to achieve oneness with God