

‘Amiyya lesson one – conversation



Word/Phrase	Transliteration	Arabic
- Hello	Marḥaba	مرحبا
- Hello	Marḥaba	مرحبا
- How are you?	Kīf ḥālak/ek? ¹	كيف حالك؟
- Praise Allah, and you?	Al-ḥamdilla, u-enta/enti? ²	الحمد لله، وانت؟
- Praise Allah	Al-ḥamdilla	الحمد لله
- Bye	Ma‘ as-salāmeḥ	مع السلامة
- Bye	Ma‘ as-salāmeḥ	مع السلامة

¹ use ḥālak when speaking to a male, ḥālek when speaking to a female.

² use enta when speaking to a male, enti when speaking to a female.

In this first dialogue we learned some of Levantine Arabic’s most essential words and phrases.

marḥaba	مرحبا
---------	-------

Marḥaba means hello. It is used the same as in English. When someone says marḥaba to you, you can respond by saying marḥaba back. If you’re feeling extra fancy, you can respond to Marḥaba by saying marḥabtēn which means “hello two times”.

Kīf ḥālak/ek?	كيف حالك؟
---------------	-----------

The phrase kīf ḥālak (or ḥālek) is the most common way in Levantine Arabic to ask how someone is doing. It literally means “how is your status?”.

It is made up of the word kīf, which means how, ḥāl, which means status, and the attached pronoun “ak” which means “your” directed to a male.

If you are speaking to a female you need to change the attached pronoun to “ek”.

ex. kīf ḥālek?

al-ḥamdilla	الحمد لله
-------------	-----------

The phrase al-ḥamdilla, and others evoking God (Allah) are incredibly common in Levantine Arabic. It literally means praise be to Allah and is probably the most often used response when someone asks how you are.

ma‘ as-salāmeh	مع السلامة
----------------	------------

ma‘ as-salāmeh is the most common way to say goodbye. It literally means “with well-being”, wishing you a safe journey to wherever you are leaving to. The correct response is to repeat ma‘ as-salāmeh or to use a plethora of other ornate phrases that we will touch on in later lessons.