

Index to Intermediate Arabic

Note about transliteration

This course teaches you Egyptian spoken Arabic. The Arabic words are transliterated so that you can read them even if you don't know the Arabic script. To show some sounds that don't exist in English we've had to use some extra symbols:

- c This represents the sound called *‘ain*. It's like a deep 'aah' sound, that comes from the stomach rather than the throat.
- ' This shows that a 'q' sound has been omitted. It's like the sound a Cockney makes when s/he says 'butter,' leaving out the 'tt': 'bu'er.'
- D, S, T, Z We use these capital letters to represent the back versions of these sounds. Arabic distinguishes between pairs of sounds such as the English 's' of 'sorry' and the 's' of 'silly'. The 's' of 'sorry' is said at the back of the mouth, while the 's' of 'silly' is said at the front. In English these don't represent separate letters but in Arabic they do, and in this track listing we show them by using the capital letters.
- H We use this capital letter to represent the breathy version of the 'h' sound. Arabic distinguishes between the 'h' sound as in the English 'hotel' and a breathier version, a little like the sound made when you're breathing on glasses to clean them. In Arabic these are separate letters.

Common Arabic signs

toilets

دورات المياه

entry

دخول

exit

خروج

no entry

ممنوع الدخول

police

الشرطة

ambulance

سيارة الإسعاف

hospital

مستشفى

tickets

تذاكر

information

استعلامات