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Meyya Meyya is divided into 3 sections.

1. The alphabet, a pronunciation guide and use of phonetics, and a huge base of vocabulary.
2. A step by step guide to the grammar of Egyptian Colloquial Arabic.
3. Useful conversations, which include essential vocabulary.

The book is accompanied by a CD which helps with pronunciation, stress and intonation.

It takes in consideration the different levels of knowledge which each student will bring to it.

Let’s get started and good luck!
# The Arabic Alphabet

## Arabic Letters with Unfamiliar Sounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letters</th>
<th>Transcription</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Name of Letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ٌ ٍ ِ َ</td>
<td>أ – ى – أ’ – ً</td>
<td>A glottal stop, like ‘a’ in apple 'i' in ink or the first 'u' in umbrella.</td>
<td>Alif (or Hamza)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٢</td>
<td>٢</td>
<td>A strongly aspirated h, giving the sound of clearing the throat.</td>
<td>٢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٣</td>
<td>٣</td>
<td>Like ‘J’ in the Spanish word Joya or in the German word acht, but more emphasised from the throat.</td>
<td>٣</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٤</td>
<td>٤</td>
<td>An s, produced more from the throat setting a larger part of the tongue against the palate. The S in sword approaches this sound.</td>
<td>٤</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٥</td>
<td>٥</td>
<td>A d produced more from the throat, setting the tongue against the palate and upper left teeth. The d in dark somewhat resembles this sound.</td>
<td>٥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters</td>
<td>Transcription</td>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>Name of Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ط</td>
<td>Ţ</td>
<td>A t produced more from the throat setting a greater part of the tongue against the palate. The t in But is nearly like this sound.</td>
<td>Ṭah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ظ</td>
<td>ظ</td>
<td>Like “th” in this, but produced more from the throat, setting the tongue below the upper front teeth more emphatically.</td>
<td>Ṣah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>غ</td>
<td>غ</td>
<td>Produced by compressing the throat and exhaling strongly.</td>
<td>Ṣein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ئ</td>
<td>ئ</td>
<td>It is nearly like French r, with a more gargling sound.</td>
<td>Ghein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ق</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>A K, produced more emphatically from the throat, like c in “cow”.</td>
<td>Qāf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most often in Egyptian Colloquial the Q changes to a hamza, and a hamza in a word will be Omitted.
**Important tips**

**To have**

Since we started learning verbs, we haven’t seen the verb “to have” in Arabic. In English, the verb “to have” has the meaning of possession; “I have a car”, or it’s used as an auxiliary verb, “I have been working all day”.

- In Arabic “to have” doesn’t exist as a verb, but, of course, its meaning exists.
- Let’s learn the story of the verb “to have” in Egyptian Colloquial.
- This story starts from **ءاند**.

ءاند means “at” when it comes by itself. So it refers to a location or a place.

Ex. 1 Ana ءاند super market Metro. : I am at Metro supermarket.

2 Howwa ءاند eldoctor. : He’s at the doctor’s.

3 Salma ءاند Isabel. : Salma is at Isabel’s.

In Examples 2 and 3, the English translation is incomplete, the name of the place (clinic-home) are missing. Also in Example 3, Salma is at Isabel’s what? Home or office? In Arabic, this problem doesn’t exist. Automatically it means the doctor’s place (clinic or home) or Isabel’s place (office or home). The sentence in Arabic is complete. We don’t need to mention the place as in English.
Another Example:

Ahmad ٢٤١٤٠测绘. ( ( ) is the reflexive pronoun.)
Ahmad is at my place. ( office / home - anywhere that I own or belongs to me)
Conclusion : ٢٤١٤٠测绘 means “at”. It refers to a place. It must be followed by a definite noun ( definite person - definite place - definite profession ) or a reflexive pronoun.
٢٤١٤٠测绘 + reflexive pronoun + indefinite nouns (objects or animals, feelings, states etc.) = to have (possession)

Ex. Ana ٢٤١٤٠测绘 ٤تا. : I have a cat.
Enta ٢٤١٤٠测绘 ٤ت felūs keteer. : You have lots of money.
Enti ٢٤١٤٠测绘 ٤ت arabeyya : You have a car.
Howwa ٢٤١٤٠测绘 ٤ت bard. : He has a cold.
Heyya ٢٤١٤٠测绘 ٤ت ha alam gedeed.: She has a new pen.
٢٤١٤٠测绘 ٤ت ٤ت na ekte'āb. : We have depression.
Entu ٢٤١٤٠测绘 ٤ت o ko shoghl. : You have work.
Homma ٢٤١٤٠测绘 ٤ت hom ٤ت hāb. : They have friends.

Conclusion

Possession
1. ( ٢٤١٤٠测绘 + reflexive pronoun ) + indefinite noun
   Ex. ٢٤١٤٠测绘 kalb.
   ٢٤١٤٠测绘 ٤ت ha oṭṭa.

Location
1. definite noun + ( ٢٤١٤٠测绘 + reflexive pronoun )
   Ex. Monica ٢٤١٤٠测绘 ٤ت fil beit.
   Ketābak ٢٤١٤٠测绘.
2. َع and + definite noun  
   Ex. Ana َع and Diana.  
      Heyya َع and eldoctōr.  
      Homma َع and maḥāṭṭet elmetro.  

**Negation of “possession” (don’t have)**

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ma</td>
<td>( َع and + reflexive pronoun )</td>
<td>+ sh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ana</td>
<td>َع.andish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enta</td>
<td>َع.andaksh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enti</td>
<td>َع.andekīsh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>howwa</td>
<td>َع.andōsh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heyya</td>
<td>َع.andahāsh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eñna</td>
<td>َع.andenāsh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entu</td>
<td>َع.andokōsh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homma</td>
<td>َع.andohomsh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Netation of “location” (not at)**

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mesh</td>
<td>َع and or ( َع and + reflexive pronoun )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Mona</td>
<td>mesh َع vàndi.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ana</td>
<td>mesh َع and eldoctōr.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meyya Meyya – can be used with or without a teacher.

Meyya Meyya – is a simple and easy guide to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic. It will assist any English speaking student, native or otherwise.

Meyya Meyya – is for anyone completely new to Arabic. This book will guide the reader step by step from beginner to upper intermediate level.

Meyya Meyya – presents Egyptian colloquial in transcription, as well as an introduction to the Arabic alphabet.

Meyya Meyya – is divided into 3 sections
1. It gives a huge base of vocabulary related to daily life in a systematic and logical way
2. It introduces grammar
3. Useful conversations needed by a foreigner, eg. Meeting people, in a taxi ……… etc

Meyya Meyya – explains the “roots” of words, to help in understanding where they come from. There is no need to memorize long lists of words.

Meyya Meyya – includes a CD that contains a spoken version of the text in the book. Listening to pronunciation by a native speaker is essential for learning correct pronunciation.

Meyya Meyya – doesn’t contain any exercises as it is about Egyptian Colloquial language, which is also called the SPOKEN LANGUAGE, but it is full of examples. So, the only exercise the students should do is repeating aloud the words they study, after hearing them from the CD, and practice with friends if possible.

Osama A. Hegazi was born in 1966 in Cairo, Egypt. He graduated from Cairo University in 1987. Meyya Meyya is his first published book, which he has compiled from his 16 years of teaching Egyptian Colloquial Arabic as a foreign language.

Also available in bookstores