

Language

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Arabic is the official language of Algeria and Berber is afforded 'national' language status. While standard Arabic (MSA) is used in both written and spoken form in the media and government, it differs significantly from the language – known as Algerian Arabic – that the vast majority of people speak in daily life. In Saharan regions, a number of other Arabic dialects are spoken. Several varieties of Berber are spoken, the most common dialect being *kabyle*, which is spoken around Kabylie. French (see p233) is still taught as a second language in schools and many Algerians still

speak it, particularly in urban areas. English is now taught in secondary schools, but speakers of any fluency will be very few and far between.

Algerian Arabic will undoubtedly be the most useful language for everyday communication, and any attempts on your part to speak it will be rewarded manifold through the warm reception and encouragement shown by those you practise on.

If you'd like to delve more deeply into the regional dialects of Arabic, including that spoken in Algeria and neighbouring countries, get a copy of Lonely Planet's *Middle East Phrasebook*. Lonely Planet's *French Phrasebook* will also prove very useful in these destinations.

ALGERIAN ARABIC

Algerian Arabic is from the group of Arabic dialects known as the Western (*Maghreb*) dialects, which also includes Moroccan and Tunisian Arabic. It's basically a dialect of the standard language, but so different in many respects as to be virtually another language. As with most dialects, it's the everyday language that differs the most from that of Algeria'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 Algerian, but might have more trouble making themselves understood in a market in Algiers.

There is no official written form of the Algerian Arabic dialect, although there is no practical reason for this; the alphabet is phonetically based and it would therefore be possible to devise a way to transfer spoken language to written language. For some reason though, foreigners who specifically want to learn Algerian 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 which are totally satisfactory. This will give

THE STANDARD ARABIC ALPHABET

Final	Medial	Initial	Alone	Transliteration	Pronunciation
ا		ا	ا	ā/aa	as in 'father'/as the long 'a' sound in 'air'
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	j	as in 'jet'
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	د	د	d	as in 'dim'
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	dh	as the 'th' in 'this'; also as d or z
ر	ر	ر	ر	r	a rolled 'r', as in the Spanish word <i>caro</i>
ز	ز	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		emphatic 's' (see below)
ض	ض	ض	ض		emphatic 'd' (see below)
ط	ط	ط	ط		emphatic 't' (see below)
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ		emphatic 'dh' (see below)
ع	ع	ع	ع	'	the Arabic letter 'ayn'; pronounce as a glottal stop – like the closing of the throat before saying 'Oh-oh!' (see Other Sounds on p229)
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; also 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	و	و	w	as in 'wet'; or
oo				oo	long, as in 'food'; or
ow				ow	as in 'how'
ي	ي	ي	ي	y	as in 'yes'; or
ee				ee	as in 'beer', only softer; or
ai/ay				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 Pronunciation on p229.

Emphatic Consonants To simplify the transliteration system used in this book, the emphatic consonants have not been differentiated from their non-emphatic counterparts.

you 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.

TRANSLITERATION

The whole business of transliteration is fraught with pitfalls, and the reality is that it simply isn't possible to devise a truly 'correct' system. The locals themselves can only guess at how to make the conversion – and the result is often amusing. The fact that French has had a big influence in Algeria has also led to many interesting ideas on transliteration. Don't be taken aback if you start noticing half a dozen different spellings for the same thing.

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', occasionally contracted to 'l' and sometimes modified to reflect the first consonant of the following noun, eg 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-Oued and El-Goléa) or where locals have used it in restaurant and hotel names.

PRONUNCIATION

Pronunciation of Arabic can be somewhat tongue-tying for those unfamiliar with the intonation and combination of sounds. 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 & Diphthongs

a	as in 'had' (sometimes very short)
aa	like the long 'a' sound in 'air'
e	as in 'bet' (sometimes very short)
ee	as in 'beer', only softer
i	as in 'hit'
o	as in 'hot'
oo	as in 'food'
u	as in 'put'
ow	as in 'how'
ai	as in 'aisle'
ay	as in 'day'

Consonants

Pronunciation of Arabic consonants is covered in the alphabet table (p228). Note that when double consonants occur in transliterations, each consonant is pronounced. For example, *il-Hammaam*, (bathroom), 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. Even though your pronunciation may be a little wide of the mark, you'll find that people will still understand you.

ACCOMMODATION

I'm looking for a ...	<i>ana inHawwas 'ala ...</i>
hotel	<i>oteel</i>
youth hostel	<i>daar ash-shabaab</i>

Where can I find a cheap hotel? *ween kayin oteel rakhees?*

What is the address? *waash l-adrees?*

Could you write the address, please? *mumkin tiktibshee l-adrees?*

Do you have rooms available? *'andkumshee shambra faarigha?*

I'd like a ...	<i>ana baghee ...</i>
I'd like to book a ...	<i>ana baghee n'erben ...</i>
bed	<i>sreer</i>
single room	<i>shambra li waaHid</i>
double room	<i>shambra doobal</i>
room with two beds	<i>shambra ma' sareerayn</i>
room with a bathroom	<i>shambra fee-ha beet ham-maam</i>
room with air-con/ fan	<i>shambra ma' mirwaha fan</i>

How much is it ...? *aash Haal ...?*
per night *aash Haal il-leela?*
per person *kul shakhs*

Do you have any cheaper rooms? *'andkumshee shambra arkhhas?*
May I see it? *mumkin inshoof-ha?*
Where is the bathroom? *ween beet Ham-maam?*
(I'm leaving/We're leaving) today. *(ana nimshi/aHna nimsheeo) il-yoom*

Making a Reservation

in the name of ... *bi 'ism ...*
date *taareekh*
from (date) to (date) *min inhaar (...) llin-haar (...)*
credit card ... *kart kredee ...*
number *noomroo*
expiry date *taareekh al-'intihaa*

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

Hello. *salaam*
 (response) *salaam*
Hello/Welcome. *marHaba beek (to one person)*
marHaba beekum (to a group)
 (response) *oo beek/beekum*
Good morning. *sbaaH al-kheer*
 (response) *sbaaH al-kheer*
Good evening. *masa' al-kheer*
 (response) *masa' al-kheer*
Good night. *leela sa'eeda*
 (response) *leela sa'eeda*
Goodbye. *bi-slaama*
 (response) *tibqa 'ala kheer*
Yes. *waaH (or na'am - more formal)*
No. *la*
Please. *min fadlek (when asking for something in a shop)*
tfaddel/tfaddelee/tfaddloo (to man/woman/group; when offering/inviting)
itfaddel/itfaddelee/itfaddloo (to man/woman/group; similar to tfaddel, etc)
Thank you. *saHHa/'ayshek*
 (response) *yeselemk*
Excuse me. *smaaH lee (to one person)*
That's fine/You're welcome. *blaa imzeeya*
Sorry/Apologies. *smaaH*
What's your name? *waash asmek?*
My name is ... *asmee ...*
Pleased to meet you. *mitsharf (m)/ mitsharfa (f)*
How are you? *kee raak? (to one person)*
kee raakum? (to a group)
I'm fine. *la baas ilHamdu lillah*

EMERGENCIES

Help! *'awen-nee!*
There's been an accident. *kayin akseedon*
I'm lost. *ana imwedder (m)*
ana imweddra (f)
Go away! *rooH qilnee khalleenee!*
Call a doctor! *jeeboolee tabeab!*
Call the police! *jeeboolee il-booleeseeya!*
I've been robbed. *sarqoolee Hwayjee*
Where are the toilets? *ween kayin it-twaaleet?*

Where are you from? *mineen inta (to a man)*
mineen intee (to a woman)
I'm from ... *ana min ...*
I like/don't like ... *ana inHebb/manHebbish*
Just a minute. *dageega waaHida*

DIRECTIONS

Where is ...? *ween kayin ...?*
Go straight ahead. *rooH deerekt*
Turn left. *door a-gosh*
Turn right. *door a-limeen*
at the (next) corner *fil kwan (illee jayy)*
behind the traffic lights *fi dhaw aHmer*
in front of *waraa*
far (from) *guddaam*
near (to) *ba'eed ('ala)*
opposite *greeb (min)*
here *mgaabil*
there *hnaa*
this address *temma*
north *haada l-adrees*
south *shmaal*
east *janoob*
west *sharq*
gharb

beach *il-bHar*
bridge *il-qantra*
castle *il-qala'*
my hotel *oteel taa'ee*
island *jazeera*
main square *is-saaHa li-kabeera*
mosque *il-jaami'*
museum *il-matHaf*
old city *limdeena ligdeema*
palace *il-qasr*
ruins *il-athaar*
sea *il-baHr*
square *is-saaHa*
street *it-treeg*
village *al-qarya*

HEALTH

I'm ill. *ana mreedh/a (m/f)*
My friend is ill. *saHbee/saHibtee mreedh/a (m/f)*
It hurts here. *yuwja'ni hinaa*

I'm ... *ana mreedh/a bi ... (m/f)*
asthmatic *il-fadda*
diabetic *Hloowa*
epileptic *l-epilepsee*

I have ... *'andee ...*
diarrhoea *kirshee tijree*
fever *skhaana*
headache *wjee'tit ir-raas*

I'm allergic ... *'andee Hasaseeya ...*
to antibiotics *min antbioteek*
to aspirin *min asbireen*
to bees *min naHl*
to nuts *min looz*
to peanuts *min kakaweeya*
to penicillin *min penisileen*

antiseptic *anteesepteeek*
aspirin *asbireen*
condoms *preservateef*
contraceptive *wasaa'il mana' il Haml*
hospital *sbeetaar*
medicine *dwa*
pharmacy *fermasyaan*
pregnant *Hebla*
prescription *warqit at-tabeeb*
sanitary napkins *alwees (brand name)*
stomachache *wjee'tit il-maada*
sunblock cream *kreema did ish-shams*
tampons *tampax*

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

Do you speak English?

titkallim ingleeziyya?

Does anyone here speak English?

skhoon yeHder feekum yitkallim ingleeziyya?

How do you say ... in Algerian Arabic?

kifaash tagooloo ... bi lahja dzayreeya?

What does ... mean?

waash ta'nee ...

I understand.

fehimt

I don't understand.

ma fehimtish

Please write it down.

mumkin tiktibhaalee

Can you show me (on the map)?

mumkin twarreenee (fi l-khareeta)?

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 *meeya* changes to *meet* for the numbers 100 and 300 to 900, and the noun is always used in its singular form.

0	<i>sifr</i>	•
1	<i>waaHid</i>	١
2	<i>zooj</i>	٢
3	<i>tlaata</i>	٣
4	<i>reb'a</i>	٤
5	<i>khamsa</i>	٥
6	<i>sitta</i>	٦
7	<i>sab'a</i>	٧
8	<i>tmaanya</i>	٨
9	<i>tis'a</i>	٩
10	<i>'ashra</i>	١٠
11	<i>Hedaash</i>	١١
12	<i>tenaash</i>	١٢
13	<i>tletaash</i>	١٣
14	<i>rbetaash</i>	١٤
15	<i>khmestaash</i>	١٥
16	<i>sittaash</i>	١٦
17	<i>sbe'taash</i>	١٧
18	<i>tmentaash</i>	١٨
19	<i>tsa'taash</i>	١٩
20	<i>'ashreen</i>	٢٠
21	<i>waaHid wi 'ashreen</i>	٢١
22	<i>teneen wi 'ashreen</i>	٢٢
30	<i>tlaateen</i>	٣٠
40	<i>reba'een</i>	٤٠
50	<i>khamseen</i>	٥٠
60	<i>sitteen</i>	٦٠
70	<i>sab'een</i>	٧٠
80	<i>tmaneen</i>	٨٠
90	<i>tis'een</i>	٩٠
100	<i>meeya (meet before nouns)</i>	١٠٠
200	<i>meeteen</i>	٢٠٠
1000	<i>alf</i>	١٠٠٠
2000	<i>alfeen</i>	٢٠٠٠

How many? *gaddaash?*

PAPERWORK

name *ism*
nationality *jinsiyya*
date/place of birth *tareekh/maHal il-milād*
sex (gender) *jins*
passport *paspor*
visa *veeza*

QUESTION WORDS

Who?	shkoon?
What?	waash?
When?	winta?
Where?	ween?
How?	keefaash?
Which?	aana Hooma?

SHOPPING & SERVICES

I'd like to buy ...	inHebb nishree ...
How much is it?	aash Haal?
I don't like it.	ma y'ajibneesh
May I look at it?	mumkin inshoofu?
I'm just looking.	ga'ad inshoof bark
It's cheap.	heeya rakheesa
It's too expensive.	heeya ghaaleeya bizaaf
No more than ...	mush akthaar min ...
I'll take it.	nishreeha

Can you give me ...?	tnajjemshee t'amelee ...?
a discount	takhfeeh
a good price	sooma mleeHa

Do you accept ...?	taakhudh ...?
credit cards	kart kredee
traveller cheques	sheekaata siyaHiyya

more	akthir
less	agall
smaller	asghar
bigger	akbar

I'm looking for ...	ana inHawwas 'ala ...
a bank	banka
the bazaar/market	is-sooq
the city centre	wist il-blaad
the (...) embassy	as-sifaara (...)
the post office	il-bosta
the telephone centre	haatif il-'umomee
the tourist office	maktab is-siyaaHa

I want to change ...	inHebb insarrif ...
money	draahem
travellers cheques	sheekaata siyaHiyya

Where is an internet café?	ween kayin internet kafay?
----------------------------	----------------------------

TIME & DATES

What time is it?	sheHaal is-saa'a drook?
It's (8 o'clock).	drook (it-temaanya)
in the morning	fi s-sbaah
in the afternoon	fi l-'asheeya

in the evening	fi l-leel
today	il-yoom
tomorrow	ghudwa
yesterday	ilbaaraH
day	yoom
month	sh-har
week	semaana
year	'aam
early	bikree
late	rotaar
daily	kull yoom

Monday	inhaar it-itneen
Tuesday	inhaar it-tlaata
Wednesday	inhaar il-arba'
Thursday	inhaar il-khmees
Friday	inhaar ij-jema'
Saturday	inhaar is-sibt
Sunday	inhaar il-Hadd

January	janfee
February	feefree
March	meghress
April	abreel
May	maayoo
June	jwaan
July	jweeyee
August	oot
September	sibtamber
October	uktoober
November	nofamber
December	deesamber

TRANSPORT
Public Transport

When does the ...	winta iqella'/tuwsil ...?
leave/arrive?	

boat	il-baboor
bus	il-kaar
ferry	il-ferry
plane	it-tayyaara
train	it-treen

I'd like a ... ticket.	ana baghee/bagheeya teekee ...
one-way	maashee
return	maashee oo jayy
1st-class	daarija oola
2nd-class	daarija taanya

I want to go to ...	inHebb inrooH ...
---------------------	-------------------

The train has been delayed.

it-treen er-rotaar

The train has been cancelled.

naHaaoo it-treen

Which bus goes to ...?

aana Hooma il-kaar yeddi li ...?

Does this bus go to ...?

Haad il-kaar yeddi li ...?

Please tell me when we arrive in ...

min fadlek gullee waqtillee nuwsiloo fi ...

What is the fare to ...?

sheHaal it-teekee li ...?

Stop here, please.

waqif hnaa min fadlek

Wait!

istanna!

the first	il-awwil/oola (m/f)
the last	il-aakhir
the next	il-qaadim
airport	layropor
bus station	is-stasyoon il-kaar
bus stop	laree
city	limdeena
platform number	noomroo raseef
ticket office	il-geeshee
timetable	jadwal awqaat
train station	lagaar

Private Transport

I'd like to hire a/an ... inHebb nikree ...

car	lowto
4WD	too terran
motorbike	mooter
bicycle	beskleet
camel	jimal
donkey	Hmaar
guide	geed
horse	Hsaan

Is this the road to ...? Haad it-treeg teddi li ...?

Where's a service station? ween il-kiyosq?

Please fill it up.	'abbeehaalee min fadlek
I'd like (30) litres.	inHebb (tlaateen) leetra
diesel	diyaysel
leaded petrol	leesans normala (regular)
	leesans sooper (super)
	leesans son plom
	mumkin inwaggif lowto hnaa
	(Hatta winta?)
	ween inkhallis?
	Haqji bi mekanisyan
	lowto taHit on pan ('and ...)

unleaded petrol	lowto mayikhdimsh
(How long) Can I park here?	il-pnou menfoosh
Where do I pay?	wfaalee leesans
I need a mechanic.	'amelt akseedon
The car has broken down (at ...)	

The car won't start.	lowto mayikhdimsh
I have a flat tyre.	il-pnou menfoosh
I've run out of petrol.	wfaalee leesans
I've had an accident.	'amelt akseedon

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN

Is there (a/an) ...?	kayin ...?
I need (a/an)	Haqji bi ...
car baby seat	kursi' taa' draaree li lowto
child-minding service	kresh
children's menu	menyoo taa' draaree
disposable nappies/diapers	koosh
infant milk formula (English-speaking)	Haleeb draaree
babysitter	babysitter (illi titkallim bi l-ingleeziyya)
highchair	kursee taa' draaree
potty	kasreeya
stroller	karoosa

Are children allowed? tiqbloo draaree?

FRENCH

While French has no official language status in Algeria, it is still widely spoken, particularly in urban areas. A few words and phrases could come in handy if you find yourself in a bind.

In French, an important distinction is made between *tu* and *vous*, which both mean 'you'. The informal *tu* is only used when addressing people you know well, or children. When addressing an adult who is not a personal friend, *vous* should be used unless the person invites you to use *tu*.

ACCOMMODATION

I'm looking for a ...	Je cherche ...	zher shersh ...
campground	un camping	un kom-peeng
guesthouse	une pension (de famille)	ewn pon-syon (der fa-mee-ler)
hotel	un hôtel	un o-tel
youth hostel	une auberge de jeunesse	ewn o-berzh der zher-nes

Where is a cheap hotel?

Où est-ce qu'on peut trouver un hôtel pas cher?
oo es-kon per troo-vay un o-tel pa shair

What is the address?

Quelle est l'adresse?
kel e la-dres

Could you write it down, please?

Est-ce que vous pourriez l'écrire, s'il vous plait?
e-sker voo poo-ryay lay-kreer seel voo play

Do you have any rooms available?

Est-ce que vous avez des chambres libres?
e-sker voo-za-vay day shom-brer lee-brer

I'd like (a) ...	<i>Je voudrais ...</i>	zher voo-dray ...
single room	<i>une chambre à un lit</i>	ewn shom-brer a un lee
double-bed room	<i>une chambre avec un grand lit</i>	ewn shom-brer a-vek un gron lee
twin room with two beds	<i>une chambre avec des lits jumeaux</i>	ewn shom-brer a-vek day lee zhew-mo
room with a bathroom	<i>une chambre avec une salle de bains</i>	ewn shom-brer a-vek ewn sal der bun
to share a dorm	<i>coucher dans un dortoir</i>	koo-sheer don zun dor-twa

How much is it ...?	<i>Quel est le prix ...?</i>	kel e ler pree ...
per night	<i>par nuit</i>	par nwee
per person	<i>par personne</i>	par per-son

May I see it?

Est-ce que je peux voir la chambre?
es-ker zher per vva la shom-brer

Where is the bathroom?

Où est la salle de bains?
oo e la sal der bun

Where is the toilet?

Où sont les toilettes?
oo-son lay twa-let

I'm leaving today.

Je pars aujourd'hui.
zher par o-zhoor-dwee

We're leaving today.

Nous partons aujourd'hui.
noo par-ton o-zhoor-dwee

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

Hello.	<i>Bonjour.</i>	bon-zhoor
Goodbye.	<i>Au revoir.</i>	o-rer-vva
Yes.	<i>Oui.</i>	wee
No.	<i>Non.</i>	no
Please.	<i>S'il vous plaît.</i>	seel voo play
Thank you.	<i>Merci.</i>	mair-see
You're welcome.	<i>Je vous en prie.</i>	zher voo-zon pree
	<i>De rien. (inf)</i>	der ree-en
Excuse me.	<i>Excuse-moi.</i>	ek-skew-zay-mwa
Sorry. (forgive me)	<i>Pardon.</i>	par-don

What's your name?

Comment vous appelez-vous? (pol)
ko-mon voo-za-pay-lay voo

Comment tu t'appelles? (inf)
ko-mon tew ta-pel

My name is ...

Je m'appelle ...
zher ma-pel ...

EMERGENCIES**Help!**

Au secours! o skoor

There's been an accident!

Il y a eu un accident! eel ya ew un ak-see-don

I'm lost.

Je me suis égaré/e. (m/f) zhe me swee-zay-ga-ray

Leave me alone!

Fichez-moi la paix! fee-shay-mwa la pay

Call ...!

Appelez ...! a-play ...
a doctor *un médecin* un mayd-sun
the police *la police* la po-lees

Where are you from?

De quel pays êtes-vous? der kel pay-ee et-voo

De quel pays es-tu? (inf) der kel pay-ee e-tew

I'm from ...

Je viens de ... zher vyen der ...

I like ...

J'aime ... zhem ...

I don't like ...

Je n'aime pas ... zher nem pa ...

Just a minute.

Une minute. ewn mee-newt

DIRECTIONS**Where is ...?**

Où est ...? oo e ...

Go straight ahead.

Continuez tout droit. kon-teen-way too drwa

Turn left.

Tournez à gauche. toor-nay a gosh

Turn right.

Tournez à droite. toor-nay a drwa

at the corner

au coin o kwun

at the traffic lights

aux feux o fer

behind

derrière dair-ryair

in front of

devant der-von

far (from)

loin (de) lwun (der)

near (to)

près (de) pray (der)

opposite

en face de on fas der

beach

la plage la plazh

castle

le château ler sha-to

island

l'île leel

main square

la place centrale la plas son-tral

mosque

la mosquée la mos-kay

museum

le musée ler mew-zay

my hotel

mon hôtel mon o-tel

old city

la vieille ville la vyay veel

ruins

les ruines lay rween

sea

la mer la mair

street

la rue la roo

village

le village ler vee-lazh

HEALTH**I'm ill.**

Je suis malade. zher swee ma-lad

It hurts here.

J'ai une douleur ici. zhay ewn doo-ler ee-see

I'm ...

Je suis ... zher swee ...

asthmatic

asthmatique (z)as-ma-teek

diabetic

diabétique dee-a-bay-teek

epileptic

épileptique (z)ay-pee-lep-teek

I'm allergic

Je suis allergique ... zher swee ... za-lair-zheek ...

to ...

aux antibiotiques o zon-tee-byo-teek

antibiotics

à l'aspirine a las-pee-reen

aspirin

aux abeilles o za-bay-yer

bees

aux noix o nwa

nuts

aux cacahuètes o ka-ka-wet

peanuts

à la pénicilline a la pay-nee-see-leen

penicillin**antiseptic**

l'antiseptique lon-tee-sep-teek

aspirin

l'aspirine las-pee-reen

condoms

des préservatifs day pray-zair-va-teef

contraceptive

le contraceptif ler kon-tra-sep-teef

diarrhoea

la diarrhée la dya-ray

medicine

le médicament ler may-dee-ka-mon

nausea

la nausée la no-zay

sunblock cream

la crème solaire la krem so-lair

tampons

des tampons day tom-pon

hygiéniques ee-zhen-eeek

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES**Do you speak English?**

Parlez-vous anglais? par-lay-voo ong-lay

Does anyone here speak English?

Y a-t-il quelqu'un qui parle anglais? ya-teel kel-kung kee

par long-glây

How do you say ... in French?

Comment est-ce qu'on dit ... en français? ko-mon es-kon

dee ... on fron-say

What does ... mean?

Que veut dire ...? ker ver deer ...

I understand.

Je comprends. zher kom-pron

I don't understand.

Je ne comprends pas. zher ner kom-pron pa

Could you write it down, please?

Est-ce que vous pouvez l'écrire? es-ker voo poo-vay

lay-kreer

Can you show me (on the map)?

Pouvez-vous m'indiquer (sur la carte)? poo-vay-voo mun-dee-kay (sewr la kart)

NUMBERS

0	<i>zero</i>	zay-ro
1	<i>un</i>	un
2	<i>deux</i>	der
3	<i>trois</i>	trwa
4	<i>quatre</i>	ka-trer
5	<i>cinq</i>	sungk
6	<i>six</i>	sees
7	<i>sept</i>	set
8	<i>huit</i>	weet
9	<i>neuf</i>	nerf
10	<i>dix</i>	dees
11	<i>onze</i>	onz
12	<i>douze</i>	dooz
13	<i>treize</i>	trez
14	<i>quatorze</i>	ka-torz
15	<i>quinze</i>	kunz
16	<i>seize</i>	sez
17	<i>dix-sept</i>	dee-set
18	<i>dix-huit</i>	dee-zweet
19	<i>dix-neuf</i>	deez-nerf
20	<i>vingt</i>	vung
21	<i>vingt et un</i>	vung tay un
22	<i>vingt-deux</i>	vung-der
30	<i>trente</i>	tront
40	<i>quarante</i>	ka-ront
50	<i>cinquante</i>	sung-kont
60	<i>soixante</i>	swa-son
70	<i>soixante-dix</i>	swa-son-dees
80	<i>quatre-vingts</i>	ka-trer-vung
90	<i>quatre-vingt-dix</i>	ka-trer-vung-dees
100	<i>cent</i>	son
1000	<i>mille</i>	meel
How many?	<i>Combien?</i>	kom-byun

PAPERWORK

name	<i>nom</i>	nom
nationality	<i>nationalité</i>	na-syo-na-lee-tay
date/place of birth	<i>date/place de naissance</i>	dat/plas der nay-son
sex/gender	<i>sexe</i>	seks
passport	<i>passport</i>	pas-por
visa	<i>visa</i>	vee-za

QUESTION WORDS

Who?	<i>Qui?</i>	kee
What?	<i>Quoi?</i>	kwa
What is it?	<i>Qu'est-ce que c'est?</i>	kes-ker say
When?	<i>Quand?</i>	kon
Where?	<i>Où?</i>	oo

Which?	<i>Quel/Quelle?</i>	kel
Why?	<i>Pourquoi?</i>	poor-kwa
How?	<i>Comment?</i>	ko-mon

SHOPPING & SERVICES**I'd like to buy ...**

Je voudrais acheter ... zher voo-dray ash-tay ...

How much is it?

C'est combien? say kom-byun

I don't like it.

Cela ne me plaît pas. ser-la ner mer play pa

May I look at it?

Est-ce que je peux le voir? es-ker zher per ler vwar

I'm just looking.

Je regarde. zher rer-gard

It's cheap.

Ce n'est pas cher. ser nay pa shair

It's too expensive.

C'est trop cher. say tro shair

I'll take it.

Je le prends. zher ler pron

Can I pay by ...? *Est-ce que je peux payer avec ...?* es-ker zher per pay-yay a-vek ...

credit card *ma carte de crédit* ma kart der kray-dee

travellers cheques *des chèques de voyage* day shek der vwa-yazh

more *plus* plew
less *moins* mwa
smaller *plus petit* plew per-tee
bigger *plus grand* plew gron

Where can I find ...? *Où est-ce qu'on peut trouver ...?* oo es-kon per troo-vay ...

I'm looking for ... *Je cherche ...* zhe shersh ...

a bank *une banque* ewn bank
the bazaar *le bazar* ler ba-zar
the ... embassy *l'ambassade de ...* lam-ba-sahd der ...

the hospital *l'hôpital* lo-pee-tal
the market *le marché* ler mar-shay
the police *la police* la po-lees
the post office *le bureau de poste* ler bew-ro der post

a public phone *une cabine téléphonique* ewn ka-been tay-lay-fo-neek

a public toilet *les toilettes* lay twa-let

TIME & DATES

What time is it? *Quelle heure est-il?* kel er e til

It's (8) o'clock. *Il est (huit) heures.* il e (weet) er

It's half past ... *Il est (...) heures et demie.* il e (...) er e day-mee

in the morning *du matin* dew ma-tun
in the afternoon *de l'après-midi* der la-pray-mee-dee
in the evening *du soir* dew swar
today *aujourd'hui* o-zhoor-dwee
tomorrow *demain* der-mun
yesterday *hier* yair
day *jour* zhoor
month *mois* mwa
week *semaine* se-men
year *année* a-nay
early *tôt* to
late *en retard* on rer-tar
daily *quotidien (m)* ko-tee-dyun
quotidienne (f) ko-tee-dyen

Monday *lundi* lun-dee
Tuesday *mardi* mar-dee
Wednesday *mercredi* mair-krer-dee
Thursday *jeudi* zher-dee
Friday *vendredi* von-drer-dee
Saturday *samedi* sam-dee
Sunday *dimanche* dee-monsh

January *janvier* zhon-vyay
February *février* fayv-ryay
March *mars* mars
April *avril* a-vreel
May *mai* may
June *juin* zhwun
July *juillet* zhwee-yay
August *août* oot
September *septembre* sep-tom-brer
October *octobre* ok-to-brer
November *novembre* no-vom-brer
December *décembre* day-som-brer

TRANSPORT**Public Transport**

What time does ... leave/arrive? *À quelle heure part/arrive ...?* a kel er par/a-reev ...
boat *le bateau* ler ba-to
bus *le bus* ler bews
plane *l'avion* la-yyon
train *le train* ler trun

I'd like a ... ticket. *Je voudrais un billet ...* zher voo-dray un bee-yay ...
one-way *simple* sum-pler
return *aller et retour* a-lay ay rer-toor
1st class *de première classe* der prem-yair klas
2nd class *de deuxième classe* der der-zyem klas

I want to go to ...

Je voudrais aller à ... zher voo-dray a-lay a ...

The train has been delayed.

Le train est en retard. ler trun et on rer-tar

The train has been cancelled.

Le train a été annulé. ler trun a ay-tay a-new-lay

the first *le premier (m)* ler prer-myay
la première (f) la prer-myair
the last *le dernier (m)* ler dair-nyair
la dernière (f) la dair-nyair
platform number *le numéro de quai* ler new-may-ro der kay
ticket office *le guichet* ler gee-shay
timetable *l'horaire* lo-rair
train station *la gare* la gar

Private Transport

I'd like to hire a/an ... car *Je voudrais louer ... une voiture* zher voo-dray loo-way ... ewn vwa-tewr
4WD *un tout-terrain* un too te-run
motorbike *une moto* ewn mo-to
bicycle *un vélo* un vay-lo

Is this the road to ...?

C'est la route pour ...? say la root poor ...

Where's a service station?

Où est-ce qu'il y a une station-service? oo es-keel ya ewn sta-syon-ser-vees

Please fill it up.

Le plein, s'il vous plaît. ler plun seel voo play

I'd like ... litres.

Je voudrais ... litres. zher voo-dray ... lee-trer

petrol/gas

essence ay-sons

diesel

diesel dyay-zel

(How long) Can I park here?

(Combien de temps) (kom-byun der tom)

Est-ce que je peux stationner ici? es-ker zher per sta-syo-nay ee-see?

Where do I pay?

Où est-ce que je paie? oo es-ker zher pay?

I need a mechanic.

J'ai besoin d'un mécanicien. zhay ber-zwun dun may-ka-nee-syun

The car/motorbike has broken down (at ...)

La voiture/moto est tombée en panne (à ...) la vwa-tewr/mo-to ay tom-bay on pan (a ...)

The car/motorbike won't start.

La voiture/moto ne veut pas démarrer. la vwa-tewr/mo-to ner ver pa day-ma-ray

I have a flat tyre.

Mon pneu est à plat. mom pner ay ta pla

I've run out of petrol.

Je suis en panne d'essence. zher swee zon pan day-sons

I had an accident.

J'ai eu un accident. zhay ew un ak-see-don

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN**I need a/an ...**

J'ai besoin ... zhay ber-zwun ...

car baby seat

d'un siège-enfant dun syezh-on-fon

child-minding service

d'une garderie dewn gar-dree

children's menu

d'un menu pour enfants dun mer-new poor on-fon

disposable nappies/diapers

de couches-culottes der koosh-kew-lot

infant milk formula

de lait maternisé de lay ma-ter-nee-zay

(English-speaking) babysitter

d'une baby-sitter (qui parle anglais) dewn ba-bee-see-ter (kee parl ong-ghlay)

highchair

d'une chaise haute dewn shay zot

potty

d'un pot de bébé dun po der bay-bay

stroller

d'une poussette dewn poo-set

Are children allowed?

Les enfants sont permis? lay zon-fon son pair-mee



Also available from Lonely Planet:
Middle East and French Phrasebooks

Glossary

Abbasids – Baghdad-based ruling dynasty (AD 749–1258) of the Arab/Islamic empire
adrar – Tuareg for mountain; see also *msak* and *tadrart*
Aghlabids – Arab dynasty based in Kairouan who ruled Tunisia (AD 800–909)
agora – main public square of ancient Greek cities
ain – well or spring
akerbai – loose-fitting Tuareg pants
akhle – haphazard network of sand dunes without discernible pattern
Al-Andalus – Muslim Spain and Portugal
Algerian War of Independence – the 1954–62 war against the French that led to Algerian independence
Allah – God
Almohads – puritanical Muslim group (1147–1269), originally Berber, that arose in response to the corrupt Almoravid dynasty
Almoravids – Muslim group (1054–1147) that ruled Spain and the *Maghreb*
Amazigh – Berbers, especially from the *Kabylie* region
aquifers – layers of rock holding underground water
ashaersh – Tuareg turban
assif – watercourse, river

bab – gate or door
bahr – ocean
Bani Hilal – tribes of Upper Egypt who invaded the *Maghreb* in the 11th century, causing great destruction and Arabising the region
banu – see *beni*
baraka – divine blessing or favour
Barbary – European term used to describe the North African coast from the 16th to the 19th centuries
barchan – crescent-shaped sand dune
basilica – court or assembly building (Roman) or church (Byzantine)
ben – son of (also *ibn*)
beni – ‘sons of’, often precedes tribal name (also *banu*)
Berbers – indigenous inhabitants of North Africa
bey – provincial governor in the Ottoman Empire
bordj – fort (literally ‘tower’)
burnous – warm over-robe worn by men and women

caliph – successor of *Mohammed*; ruler of the Islamic world
Camel Period – period of Saharan rock art from 200 BC to the present
capital – decorated top part of a column
capitol – main temple of a Roman town, usually situated in the *forum*

cardo – main road running north–south through a Roman city
casbah – fort, citadel; often also the administrative centre (also spelt *qasba*)
cavea – seating area in a Roman theatre
chergui – dry, easterly desert wind
cipolin – white marble with veins of green or grey
corniche – coastal road
corsairs – pirate bands in the 15th century and beyond
croix d’Agadez – Tuareg cross of stylised silver with filigree designs
cryptae – Roman promenade or underground corridors
curia – municipal assembly in Ancient Rome
dar – traditional town house
decumanus – main road running east–west through a Roman city
dey – the Ottoman army’s equivalent of a sergeant who assisted the *pasha*
divan – council of senior officers who advised the *pasha* in Ottoman times
djedid – new
djellaba – popular flowing garment; men’s *jellabas* are usually made from cotton or wool, women’s come in light synthetic fabrics
djemaa – mosque

eid – feast (also spelled *aid*)
erg – sand dunes or sand sea
emir – Islamic ruler, military commander or governor

Fatimids – Muslim dynasty (AD 909–1171) that rose to prominence in the 10th century
FIS – Islamic Salvation Front (Front Islamique du Salut) who won the first round of elections in 1991 and were then made illegal
foggara – underground channels leading to water
forum – open space at the centre of Roman towns
frigidarium – cold room in Roman baths complex
funduq – hotel

galabiyya – full-length loose-fitting robe worn by men
gare routière – bus station
gare terminal – ferry terminal
gîte – trekkers’ hostel, sometimes a homestay
guelta – natural springs

haram – literally ‘forbidden’; sometimes used to denote a sacred or forbidden area, eg the prayer room of a mosque
haj – pilgrimage to Mecca; one of the five pillars of Islam

hamada – plateaus of rock scoured by wind erosion
hammam – bathhouse
haram – prayer hall of mosque
High Plateaus – the 600m-long series of plateaus averaging 1200m above sea level, separating the Atlas Mountains of the coastal hinterland and the Saharan Atlas
hittists – literally those who hold up or hit the wall; used to refer to young unemployed men in Algeria
Horse Period – period of Saharan rock art from 1000 BC to AD 1

Ibadis – an offshoot of the *Kharajite* sect found only in the villages of the *M’Zab* Valley in Algeria, Jerba, Zanzibar and in Oman
ibn – son of (also *ben*)
Idrissids – Moroccan dynasty which established a stable state in northern Morocco in the 9th century
iftar – breaking of the fast at sundown during *Ramadan*; breakfast (also spelt *ftur*)
ijtihad – individual interpretation of sacred texts and traditions
imam – man schooled in Islamic law; religious leader of Muslim community

janissaries – professional soldiers committed to a life of military service who became rulers of Ottoman Libya

Kabylie – Berber (*Amazigh*) region east of Algiers
Kharajites – puritanical Islamic sect, which broke away from the mainstream Sunnis in AD 657 and inspired Berber rebellions from the 8th to the 10th century
khutba – sermon delivered by *imam*, especially at Friday noon prayers
ksar – castle, palace, fortified stronghold

laconica – sweat baths in a Roman baths complex
La Vache Qui Pleure – *Crying Cows*; famous rock-art site near Djanel

madhhab – school of Islamic law
madrassa – school of the *Quran* and Islamic law
Maghreb – (literally ‘west’) area covered by Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya
Maliki – one of four major schools of Islamic thought and the predominant one in Algeria; preaches the primacy of the *Quran* (as opposed to later teachings)
maqbara – cemetery
marabout – holy man or saint; also often used to describe the mausoleums of these men
Merenids – Moroccan dynasty (1269–1465), responsible for the construction of many of Morocco’s *medrassas*
mihrab – vaulted niche in the wall of a mosque indicating direction of Mecca
minbar – the pulpit that stands beside the *mihrab* in a mosque

Mozabites – *Ibadi* people who inhabit the *M’Zab* Valley
msak – Tuareg for mountain; also *adrar* and *tadrart*
muezzin – man who calls the faithful to prayer from the minaret
muqarna – decorative plasterwork
musée – museum
M’Zab – region of five oases centred around Ghardaïa and home to a community of *Ibadi* Muslims

nargileh – water pipe or *sheesha* for smoking
natatio – entrance hall to Roman baths complex
Numidians – tribe from present-day Algeria, once controlled Northern Tunisia; founders of the cities of Bulla Regia, Sicca (El-Kef) and Thugga (Dougga)
nymphaeum – building with fountains; dedicated to nymphs

oued – riverbed, often dry (sometimes wad or wadi) except after rains

palaestra – exercise area in Roman times
palmerie – palm grove
pasha – Ottoman governor appointed by the sultan in Constantinople
Pastoral Period – period of Saharan rock art from 5500 BC to 2000 BC, also known as the Bovidian Period
peristyle – colonnade or portico of columns surrounding a building or courtyard
petroglyphs – millennia-old rock carvings
Phoenicians – a great seafaring nation based in modern Lebanon, which dominated trade in the Mediterranean in the 1st millennium BC; founders of Carthage
pictographs – millennia-old rock paintings
pied-noir – literally ‘black foot’; name given to French settlers in Algeria and their descendants (also called *colons*)
Prophet (Mohammed), the – founder of Islam, who lived between AD 570 and AD 632
Punic – ancient Phoenician people in North Africa
Punic Wars – three wars waged between Rome and Carthage in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC, resulting in the destruction of Carthage by the Romans in 146 BC

qahwa – thick Arabic coffee
qibla – the direction of Mecca, indicated by a *mihrab*
Quran – sacred book of Islam

rai – world-famous Algerian music that originated in Oran
Ramadan – ninth month of lunar Islamic calendar, during which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset
ras – headland
Round Head Period – period of Saharan rock art from 8000 BC to 6000 BC
Rustamids – *Ibadi* dynasty that ruled much of northern Algeria from Tahirt, from AD 761 to AD 909

sahn – courtyard of mosque

scaenae frons – façade behind the stage in Roman theatre

seif – Arabic for ‘sword’; also the name for sand dunes with long, sweeping ridges

serir – basins, formed by wadies, in which salt is left after water has evaporated

sharia – street or road

sheeshah – water pipe or *nargileh* for smoking

sheikh – tribal chief

sherif – descendant of the *Prophet*

Shiites – one of two main Islamic sects, formed by those who believed the true *imams* were descended from the prophet’s son-in-law Ali (see also *Sunnis*)

Sidi – saint

souq – market or bazaar

Sufi – follower of Islamic mystical orders that emphasise dancing, chanting and trances in order to attain unity with God

Sunnis – one of two main Islamic sects, derived from followers of the Umayyad caliphate (see also *Shiites*)

suras – verses or chapters in the *Quran*

taajeelah – *Tuareg* bread cooked under hot sand

tadrart – *Tuareg* for mountain

tagine – lamb dish with tomato and paprika

taguelmoust – *Tuareg* veil

Tamashek – *Tuareg* language

Tamazigh – *Berber* language

taxiphone – an inexpensive metered phone service

taxi brousse – shared taxi

taxi collectifs – shared taxi

Tell – narrow coastal strip and mountainous hinterland of northern Algeria

tende – *Tuareg* dance

tepidarium – warm room in a Roman baths complex

tifinagh – letters of the *Tuareg* alphabet

Tuareg – nomadic *Berbers* of the Sahara, also known as the Blue Men because of their indigo-dyed robes

Umayyads – first great dynasty of Arab Muslim rulers (AD 661–750), based in Damascus

ville nouvelle – new city; town built by the French alongside existing towns

wilaya – province

Wild Fauna Period – period of Saharan rock art from 10,000 BC to 6000 BC

zawiya – religious college or monastery

zeriba – palm hut

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