



MARA7BÉ FI TUNIS

Welcome to Tunisia

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Live2Learn would like to give credit to Arabaphone Language School for this curriculum. Arabaphone is a language school in Fes, Morocco. With their permission, Live2Learn has adapted their work to teach students Tunisian Arabic.

Introduction

The following pages are not intended to be a full Tunisian Arabic course, but rather serve as an introduction that will help you to get around just a bit more easily. You will find that Tunisians are very hospitable and appreciate it if you show enough interest in their culture and language to actually try and speak a few words.

We trust that you will be able to use the following phrases in any café in Tunisia and on the streets. And, if you develop a taste for more, we will be pleased to help you.

SPECIAL SOUNDS

The phonetic transcription can only be a vague reminder of what the language is supposed to sound like. Concentrate on listening to your teacher before you refer to the written words. We have made audio recordings which we encourage you to listen to repetitively. Traditionally, the most difficulties are with the following constants:

ق	9 (q)	A 'k' sound that comes from the back of the throat.
ع	3 (aa)	A throaty moan. Try to pronounce ann 'a' as far back in the throat as possible. Imitate a motor that won't start.
غ	8 (gh)	The sound of a 'French r.' Practice saying 8odwa, which means 'tomorrow' in Tunisian Arabic.
ه	h	A soft blowing, like when you clean your glasses.
ح	7 (h)	Deep, rough sigh, like after eating a very hot pepper or playing a fire-spitting dragon.
خ	5 (kh)	Imagine clearing our throat after swallowing a cockroach.

Lesson 1: 3ASSLÉMA! Hello!

عَالْسَلَامَة	Youssef: 3assléma!	Hello!
عَالْسَلَامَة	Tiffany: 3assléma!	Hello!
شَنْحَوَالِك؟	Youssef: Shna7wélik?	How are you?
لَابَس الْحَمْدُ اللَّهِ. وَإِنْتِي؟	Tiffany: Lebess hamdullah. Wenti?	Fine, praise God. And you?
لَابَس، يُعَيِّشِك.	Youssef: Lebess, y3ayshek.	Fine, thanks.
إِسْمِي يُوسُف. إِنْتِي شَنْوَا إِسْمِك؟	Youssef: Esmi Youssef. Enti shnua esmik?	My name is Youssef. What's your name?
إِسْمِي تِيفَانِي.	Tiffany: Esmi Tiffany.	My name is Tiffany.
نَتَشَرَّفُو	Youssef: Nitcharfou.	Nice to meet you.
وُ بِيك أَكْثَر	Tiffany: Wubeek ak-thur.	Nice to meet you, too.
إِنْتِي مْنِين؟	Youssef: Enti mineen?	Where are you from?
أَنِي مِّنْ أَمْرِيكَ	Tiffany: Eni min Amreeka.	I'm from America.
مَرْحَبَا	Youssef: Mara7bé!	Welcome!
يُعَيِّشِك. بِالسَّلَامَة	Tiffany: Y3ayshek. Bissléma.	Thanks. Good-bye.
بِالسَّلَامَة	Youssef: Bissléma.	Bye.

DISCOVER THE LANGUAGE 1

أني من أمريكا.	Eni min Amreeka.	I (am) from America.
إنت من تونس.	Enti min Tounes.	You (are) from Tunisia.
هو مزيان.	Huwa mizyen.	He/it (is) beautiful.
هي مزيانة.	Hiyya mizyena.	She/it (is) beautiful.
أحنا من أمريكا.	Ahna min Amreeka.	We (are) from America.
إنثوما من تونس.	Entouma min Tounes.	Y'all (are) from Tunisia.
هو ما مزيانين.	Houma mizyeneen.	They (are) beautiful.