

LEARNING DARIJA الدارجة

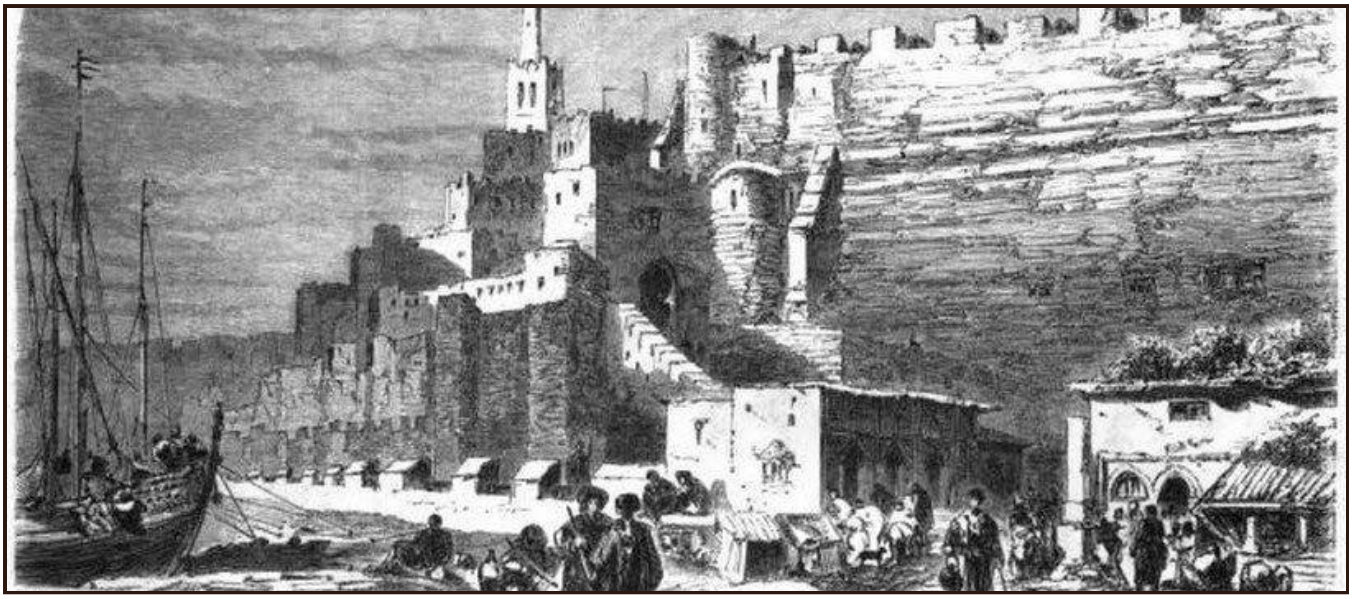
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MOROCCAN ARABIC FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Lessons 19 to 40

CONTENTS

	THE ALPHABET ON ONE PAGE	5
19	Going, running, buying	6
20	Say, see, bring	14
21	A consonant you hold	23
22	What happened yesterday	30
23	Went, said, brought	39
	Review of lessons 19 to 23	48
24	When I was little	52
25	Going to go	60
26	Knead it, don't open it	68
27	Wash them, dry them	77
28	Send it to me	85
	Review of lessons 24 to 28	93
29	I want you to come	98
30	I have to take the rubbish out	105
31	I can swim, but I can't today	113
32	Bigger than Fez	120
33	My head hurts me	128
	Review of lessons 29 to 33	135
34	A kilo of the potatoes	139
35	Turn onto the right	147
36	The house I lived in it	155
37	Sitting, standing, asleep	163
38	Before I go out	171
39	Because it rained, because of the rain	180
40	The eight o'clock news	187
	Review of lessons 34 to 40	195



The port of Tangier Le Tour du monde, vol. 1 (Paris, 1860), Jules Noël

GOING, RUNNING, BUYING

The verbs in lesson 16 had three solid consonants. Many of the most common ones do not: they end in a vowel. Go, run, buy. One rule covers them all, and it has an i that never leaves.

- Say how you get somewhere: on foot, by bus, by taxi.
- Put verbs that end in a vowel into the present.
- Spot the two real irregulars: eat and come.
- Follow a short traffic report.

1 TWENTY-ONE WORDS

Getting around town. Verbs are listed in dictionary form, which is the “he did” past. The ones in the first column that end in a vowel are the stars of this lesson.

Moving

msha مْشَى
to go; to leave

The verb of the lesson. Present: *kanmshi*, I go. The final vowel becomes i.

By what

t-tobis الطُّوبِيسْ
the bus

French *autobus* with the Arabic article stuck on front. Much of Moroccan transport talk is French underneath.

ja جَا
to come

Irregular: *kanji*, I come. The dictionary a disappears.

---

jra جْرَى
to run

Same pattern as *msha*: *kanjri*.

---

tla3 طْلَعْ
to go up; to get on

Stairs, a hill, a bus.

---

hbet هْبَطْ
to go down; to get off

kanhbet hna, I'm getting off here. Useful in a taxi.

---

wsel وْصَلْ
to arrive

---

rkeb رْكَبْ
to ride; to take (transport)

You "ride" everything: the bus, a taxi, a bike. *kanrkeb t-tobis*, I take the bus.

---

safer سَافَرْ
to travel

Four letters, long a in the middle. Its full pattern comes in lesson 42; the present is *kansafer*.

The street

t-triq الطْرِيقْ
the road; the way

---

z-z7am الزْحَامْ
traffic jam; crowd

From a root meaning "push". Works for cars and for the souk at noon.

---

d-daw الضَّوْ
traffic light; light

First it means "light", and from there the traffic light.

---

t-taksi الطَّاكْسِي
the taxi

Big ones run between towns, small ones inside a town.

---

t-tomobil الطُّومُوبِيلْ
the car

French *automobile*. Feminine: *t-tomobil jdida*, a new car.

---

l-bishklit الْبِشْكْلِيطْ
the bicycle

French *bicyclette*, reshaped by Moroccan mouths.

3la rejlih عْلَى رْجْلِيهْ
on foot

Literally "on his feet". It changes with the person: *3la rejliyya*, on foot (me).

How and where

b z-zerba بْالزَّرْبَة
quickly

b- + "the hurry": "in a hurry".

---

b shwiya بْشْوِيَّة
slowly

shwiya from lesson 16 with b- in front. You will hear *b shwiya!* as advice: take it easy.

---

qrib قْرِيبْ
near

Takes *men*: *qrib men d-dar*, near the house. Like "near from", not "near to".

---

l-karfur الْكَارْفُوز
crossroads; roundabout

French *carrefour*.

b3id بْعِيدْ
far

Also with *men*: far from.



THIS LESSON ONLINE
learningdarija.com/en/course/19/

2 THE ONES THAT END IN A VOWEL

Four sentences with verbs whose dictionary form ends in a: *msha*, *jra*, *shra*. Watch how they end in the present.

1 كَنْمْشِي لْلْخْدْمَة عْلَى رْجْلِيَّ

kanmshi l l-khedma 3la rejliyya

2 نْتِ كَتْمْشِي فْالطُّوبِيسْ؟

nti katmshi f t-tobis?

3 هُومَا كَيْجْرِيوْ بْالزَّرْبَة

huma kayjriw b z-zerba

4 حْنَا كَنْشْرِيوْ الْخُبْزْ بْكْرِي

7na kanshriw l-khobz bekri

WHICH VOWEL SHOWS UP AT THE END EVERY TIME? WHAT HAPPENS TO IT IN THE PLURAL?

The rule

Verbs whose dictionary form ends in a vowel, *msha*, *jra*, *shra*, *nsa* (forget), are called **defective**: they lack a solid third consonant.

In the present, that final vowel becomes **-i** and stays in every person: *kanmshi*, *katmshi*, *kaymshi*.

The plural does not add -u as in lesson 16. It adds a **-w** after the i: *kanmshiw*, *katmshiw*, *kaymshiw*.

Because "you, to a woman" already ends in i, nothing changes: *nta katmshi*, *nti katmshi*. With these verbs "you" is the same for both.

Two verbs break ranks: *kla*, eat, which becomes *kanakul*, *kayakul*, *kanaklu*; and *ja*, come, which becomes *kanji*, *kayji*, *kanjiw*.

The whole of msha

Person	Say it	Means
أَنَا كَنْمْشِي	*ana kanmshi*	I go
نْتَ / نْتِ كَتْمْشِي	*nta / nti katmshi*	you go (man or woman)
هُوَ كَيْمْشِي	*huwa kaymshi*	he goes
هِيَ كَتْمْشِي	*hiya katmshi*	she goes
حْنَا كَنْمْشِيوْ	*ʔna kanmshiw*	we go
نْتُومَا كَتْمْشِيوْ	*ntuma katmshiw*	you go (plural)
هُومَا كَيْمْشِيوْ	*huma kaymshiw*	they go
كَنَاكُلْ، كَنْجِي	*kanakul, kanji*	I eat, I come

Seven forms instead of eight: with these verbs, "you" does not split by gender. The last row is the two irregulars, so they do not ambush you.

What English gives you, and what it costs

Free: the loanwords. *tobis*, *taksi*, *tomobil*, *bishklit*: say bus, taxi, automobile, bicycle with a French accent and you are most of the way there.

Costly: the final i. English turns a final i into “ee” and stretches it. In *kanmshi* it is short and clipped.

Costly: *-iw*. It is not “you”. It is the i of the verb plus a quick w, one syllable: *kan-mshiw*, rhyming roughly with the end of “preview” said fast.

Your mistake, not someone else's

Lesson 16 taught you that the plural adds -u: *kanketbu*. You apply it faithfully, and with these verbs you swallow the i. The result sounds like *kanmshu*, which is not a word.

حْنَا كَنْمْشِيوْ لْلدَّارْ

“We are going home”. The i stays and w closes it.

* حْنَا كَنْمْشُو لْلدَّارْ

With -u, like *kanketbu*. The i is gone.

And with “eat”, the opposite: regularity tempts you into *kankli*. It is *kanakul*, “I eat”, with a long a that the dictionary form does not show.

3 THE MORNING TRAFFIC

A radio-style traffic report, written for this lesson. The town and the crossroads have no name: they are invented.

الطَّرِيقْ دْيَالْ الصَّبَاحْ

الزِّحَامْ كْبِيرْ فْالْكَارْفُورْ دْيَالْ الْمْدِينَة.

الطُّومُوبِيلَاتْ كَيْمْشِيوْ بْشْوِيَّة.

الضَّوْ الْأَحْمَرْ مَا خْدَّامْشْ، الْبُولِيسْ كَايْنْ.

الطُّوبِيسْ كَيْوْصَلْ مْعَ التَّمْنْيَة وْنُصّ.

الْمَحَطَّة قْرِيبَة: الطَّاكْسِي وْلَّا عْلَى رْجْلِيكْ.

The morning road

Did you follow?

1. Where is the jam?
2. Why is there a policeman?
3. When does the bus arrive?
4. What two ways to the station does it suggest?

4 CHECK

1 Match

Join each pronoun to the verb that goes with it.

1	أَنَا	a	كَتْشْرِي
2	هُومَا	b	كَنْجْرِي
3	نْتِ	c	كَنَاكُلُو
4	حْنَا	d	كَيْمْشِيوْ

2 Fill in

Use each verb in the box once.

كَنْمْشِي كَيْجِيوْ كَتْجْرِي كَيَاكُلْ

1. أَنَا ___ لْلْخْدْمَة فْالطُّوبِيسْ
2. صْحَابِي ___ لْلدَّارْ فْاللِّيلْ
3. هِيَ ___ بْالزُّرْبَة
4. هُوَ ___ الْخُبْزْ مْعَ أَتَايْ

3 Make it plural

I to we, you to you all, he and she to they. Mind the i.

1. أَنَا كَنْمْشِي بْشْوِيَّة

2. هُوَ كَيْشْرِي الطُّومُوبِيلْ

3. نْتَ كَتْجْرِي بْزَّافْ

4. هِيَ كَتْجِي بْكْرِي

4 True or false?

According to the traffic report.

1. There is heavy traffic at the crossroads.
2. The cars are moving fast.
3. There is a policeman at the crossroads.
4. The bus arrives at half past nine.

5 Write

In four sentences, say how you get to work or class and how you get home. Use at least two words from the box.

كَنْمْشِي كَنْرْكَبْ الطُّوبِيسْ قْرِيبْ بْعِيدْ