

Darija in Essaouira: 30 phrases for everyday life

Your first conversations

Darija is Moroccan Arabic used in everyday life. Start by listening, then reuse one short phrase. Latin spelling is only a reading guide: it varies between speakers and does not replace listening.

Listen to these sounds with a speaker. ح and 7 represents ع In the reading guide, 3 represents .rather than reading the digits as numbers

Darija	Reading guide	Meaning
السلام عليكم	s-slam 3likum	Hello / peace be upon you
وعليكم السلام	wa 3likum s-slam	Reply to the greeting
لاباس؟	labas?	How are you?
لاباس، الحمد لله	labas, l-hamdullah	Fine, thank God
شنو سميتك؟	shnu smitk?	What is your name?
سميتي...	smiti...	My name is...
متشرفين	mtsherrfin	Pleased to meet you
عافاك	3afak	Please
شكرا	shukran	Thank you
بسلامة	bslama	Goodbye

Greet the other person first, then let them reply. A greeting and a well-timed thank you are already a useful start.

At a café or shop

Point to what you need if you lack the vocabulary. Confirm the price or order before finishing the conversation.

Darija	Reading guide	Meaning
بغيت أتاي، عافاك	bghit atay, 3afak	I would like tea, please
بغيت قهوة، عافاك	bghit qhwa, 3afak	I would like coffee, please
بغيت الماء، عافاك	bghit l-ma, 3afak	I would like water, please
بلا سكر، عافاك	bla skkar, 3afak	Without sugar, please
شحال هادا؟	sh7al hada?	How much is this? [masculine]
شحال هادي؟	sh7al hadi?	How much is this? [feminine]
الحساب، عافاك	l-7sab, 3afak	The bill, please
واخا	wakha	Okay
آه	ah	Yes
لا	la	No

Your turn

Choose a drink and make a polite order. Change the drink and try again.

Finding your way and asking for help

Darija	Reading guide	Meaning
فين كاين الباب؟	fin kayn l-bab?	Where is the door?
فين كاين السوق؟	fin kayn s-suq?	Where is the market?
ليمن	limn	Right
ليسر	lissr	Left
نيشان	nishan	Straight ahead
شوية بشوية، عافاك	shwiya b-shwiya, 3afak	Slowly, please
عاود، عافاك	3awed, 3afak	Repeat, please [to a man]
عاودي، عافاك	3awdi, 3afak	Repeat, please [to a woman]
ما فهمتش	ma fhemtsh	I did not understand
سمح ليا	sme7 liya	Excuse me / sorry [to a man]

The directions are language examples, not a verified medina route. Check your destination with the person helping you and ask again if you are unsure.

What will you need tomorrow?

Choose two workbook phrases to reuse tomorrow: a café request and a question about a place. Write them, then say them aloud.

Three conversations to practise

Situation	Darija exchange
Greeting	A: Salam 3likom. B: Wa 3likom salam. A: Labas? B: Labas, lhamdullah.
Ordering	A: Bghit atay, 3afak. B: B s-sukkar? A: Bla sukkar, 3afak. B: Wakha.
Checking a direction	A: Fin kayn l-bab, 3afak? B: Sir nishan. A: Nishan? B: Iyeh, nishan.

In these examples, "Wakha" means okay, "Iyeh" means yes, "l-bab" means the door and "B s-sukkar?" means with sugar? Pronunciation can vary.

Your first exchange

Write a four-line exchange: greet, ask for something, confirm it and say thank you. Read it with another person.

There is no single correct answer. Check that your request is understandable and that the phrases fit the situation. Ask a Darija speaker to help with pronunciation.

Explore the course and request a place