

Arabic-speaking regions around the world

المناطق الناطقة باللغة العربية حول العالم

**ONE LANGUAGE,
DIFFERENT DIALECTS!**

Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is used for writing, news, and formal situations, BUT each country has its own dialect used in everyday conversation.

Maghrebi Arabic

Spoken in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and parts of Mauritania.

While each region has its version, it's rooted in Classical Arabic but heavily influenced by Berber languages, as well as French, Spanish, and Italian.

***FUN FACT:** Maghrebi Arabic is not understood by speakers from the Gulf or the Levant.*

Egyptian Arabic

It's spoken across Egypt, and it's the most widely understood dialect in the Arab world. Rooted in Classical Arabic but heavily influenced by Coptic (ancient Egyptian), Turkish, French, Italian, and English. Each region of Egypt has its version of it.

Levantine Arabic

Spoken across Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine, and widely understood. Rooted in Classical Arabic but influenced by Aramaic, Turkish, French (especially in Lebanon), and English.

Iraqi Arabic

Spoken in Iraq, it has unique sounds and vocabulary influenced by Aramaic, Turkish, and Persian. It's distinct and sometimes hard for outsiders to understand.



Gulf Arabic

Spoken in the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, eastern Saudi Arabia, and Oman. Bedouin speech, Persian, and English influence it.

Najdi Arabic

Spoken in central Saudi Arabia (Riyadh and Qassim). It's known for its Bedouin roots, unique pronunciation, and conservative grammar.

Hejazi Arabic

Spoken in western Saudi Arabia (Jeddah, Mecca, and Medina). It's more urbanised and easier to understand than Najdi.

Yemeni Arabic

Spoken across Yemen, it's one of the most conservative dialects as it preserves features of Classical Arabic. Some versions can be hard to understand due to unique sounds and vocabulary.

Hassaniya Arabic

It's the main spoken dialect in Mauritania and some parts of southern Morocco.

It's strongly influenced by Berber and has a distinct vocabulary and pronunciation.

Chadian Arabic

Widely spoken dialect in Chad. It's a native language for many and serves as a common spoken language in everyday life. Rooted in Sudanese and Bedouin Arabic, but shaped by African languages, it's quite distinct from other Arabic dialects.

Sudanese Arabic

Spoken in Sudan, influenced by African languages, and sounds softer with unique words. It's quite different and can be hard for other Arabs to understand.

Arabic in Somalia and Djibouti is mainly formal and religious, not a native spoken dialect. People mostly use MSA.



Countries	Population	% of Arabic – speakers
Morocco	38.4 million	~92.7%
Algeria	47.4 million	~83%
Tunisia	12.3 million	~99%
Mauritania	5.3 million	~70–80%
Libya	7 million	~90–95%
Egypt	116.3 million	~93%

African countries where Arabic is the official language

Countries	Population	% of Arabic – speakers
Somalia	19.7 million	~20–30%
Djibouti	1.05 million	~20–30%
Chad	21 million	~40–60%
Sudan	51.7 million	~70–80%

Middle Eastern countries where Arabic is the official language

Countries	Population	% of Arabic - speakers	Countries	Population	% of Arabic - speakers
Saudi Arabia	38.7 million	~95–100%	Lebanon	5.8 million	~95–100%
Syria	25.3 million	~90–95%	Yemen	41.8 million	~99%
Qatar	3.1 million	~40–50%	Iraq	47.5 million	~80–85%
Oman	5.5 million	~85–90%	Bahrain	1.8 million	~50–60%
UAE	11.35 million	~10–15%			