

Let's take a look at the simple tenses in Levantine Arabic. This cheat sheet can be a helpful resource as you study Arabic when you change verb tenses.

First, remember that Arabic is a root word system. Verbs are found already conjugated in the singular masculine past tense ('He' form). These root words are usually 3 letters but can be 2 or even 4 letter root words. From the root word, you can add letters to conjugate for different verb tenses. (All other word derivatives will use the root word as well.)

Let's begin with the present tense in Levantine Arabic. For all examples, we will use the root verb (كتب - kataba). *I write, we write, he writes, etc.*

أنا	+ ب	بكتب	أنتَ	+ بت	بتكتب
I		biktob	You (m.)		btiktob
نحن	+ بن	بنكتب	أنتِ (انتي)	+ بت ... ي	بتكتبي
We		bniktob	You (f.)		btiktobi
هو	+ بي	بيكتب	أنتم	+ بت ... و	بتكتبو
He		byektob	You (pl.)		btiktubu
هي	+ بت	بتكتب	هم / هن	+ بي ... و	بيكتبو
She		btiktob	They		byektubu

In the simple present, you will be able to talk about things you usually do, general actions, and, depending on the context, you can talk about future actions.

To make the present progressive (-ing) form, you will replace (ب) with (عم) as a separate word. *I am writing, we are writing, etc.*

أنا عم	+ ا	اكتب	أنتَ عم	+ ت	تكتب
I am		iktob	You (m.) are		tiktob
نحن عم	+ ن	نكتب	أنتِ (انتي) عم	+ ت ... ي	تكتبي
We are		niktob	You (f.) are		tiktobi
هو عم	+ ي	يكتب	أنتو عم	+ ت ... و	تكتبو
He is		yektob	You (pl.) are		tiktobu
هي عم	+ ت	تكتب	هم / هن عم	+ ي ... و	يكتبو
She is		tiktob	They are		yektubu

When making longer sentences, if you have a second verb it also needs to *match* conjugations.

For example:

He goes to buy tomatoes from the store.

هو بيروح بيشتري طماطم من المخل

In this example, *goes* is conjugated in the present tense. The second verb *to buy* also needs to match the subject and only takes the **ي** letter to match the subject.

Another example:

You guys are walking and seeing the view.

انتو عم تمشو وتشوفو المنظر. (انتو عم تمشو وعم تشوفو المنظر. Both sentences are correct)

To make the past tense, instead of adding prefixes to the beginning of the root verb, you will add suffixes to the end of the root verb. The endings in parentheses indicate variations in spelling you might see.

I wrote, we wrote, etc.

أنا	+ ت	كُتِبْتَ	أَنْتَ	+ ت	كُتِبْتَ
I		katabit	You (m.)		katabit
نحن	+ نا	كُتِبْنَا	أَنْتِ (انتي)	+ تِ (تي)	كُتِبْتِ / تِي
We		katabna	You (f.)		katabti
هو	- - -	كُتِبَ	أَنْتُمْ	+ تُو	كُتِبْتُمْ
He		katab	You (pl.)		katabtu
هي	+ ت	كُتِبَتْ	هَمْ / هُنَّ	+ و	كُتِبُوا
She		katbit	They		katabu

To make the future tense, you simply add **ح** or **رح** before the present tense (look at the -ing chart) to make it future tense. *I will write, we will write, etc.*

أنا رح	+ ا	اكتب	أنت رح	+ ت	تكتب
I will		iktob	You (m.) will		tiktob
نحن رح	+ ن	نكتب	أنت رح	+ ت ... ي	تكتبي
We will		niktob	You (f.) will		tiktobi
هو رح	+ ي	يكتب	أنتو رح	+ ت ... و	تكتبو
He will		yektob	You (pl.) will		tiktobu
هي رح	+ ت	تكتب	هم / هن رح	+ ي ... و	يكتبو
She will		tiktob	They will		yektubu