

Bayt Bushra Teaches Arabic

Level 1 - Lesson 1 : Hello 🖐️ السلام عليكم وعليكم السلام

There are many ways to greet each other in Arabic and today we will go over the two most common ways you will hear 'hello' in Arabic.

The first most common greeting is السلام عليكم (Assalamu alaikum). Literally translates to 'peace on you'.

The word سلام (salam) means 'peace'. The Arabic language is very often poetic in its phrases and utilizes this word to greet others.

This phrase can be shortened to سلام (salam) for more casual friends but for more professional settings it is better to use the full السلام عليكم (assalamu alaikum).

The response to this greeting is to invert the words and say وعليكم السلام (wa alaikum assalam) literally meaning 'and on you peace'.

Sample dialogue:

A: السلام عليكم يا بشرى

B: وعليكم السلام يا عبير

A: Assalamu alaikum ya Bushra

B: Wa alaikum assalam ya Abier

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The second most common way to greet someone in Arabic is to say **مرحبا (marhaba)**. This can also mean ‘welcome’ so you hear it often when entering a shop.

Finally, the common response to **مرحبا (marhaba)** is **أهلا (ahlan)** or **أهلين (ahleyn)** which comes from the word **أهل (ahil)** which means family. You can also respond with **مرحبتين (marhabtayn)** which means two marhabas or simply with the same greeting: **مرحبا (marhaba)**.

QUIZ:

What is the response to **السلام عليكم**?

What is one response to **مرحبا**?

١. وعليكم السلام
٢. أهلين