

Bayt Bushra Teaches Arabic

Level 1 - Lesson 8 : Question Words: What : شو

As you grow your vocabulary in Arabic you want to ask what is this? In Arabic you can say شو هاد **shoo had** assuming the object is masculine. You can also say شو هاي **shoo hay** if you know the object is feminine.

*In MSA this phrase is: ما هذه or ما هذا *

This lesson, although it is short, is very useful in acquiring new language constantly. Ask your friend شو هاد?

You can combine this with other vocabulary we have already learned. You can put شو before بَدَّك to ask someone what they want. Or شو بدھا which means ‘what does she want’ and mix and match them to see what everyone wants.

BONUS: You could hear شووو or شووو؟؟ نعم؟؟ as an exaggerated ‘whaaat’ when someone is in disbelief. Try it... it’s lots of fun to say. The longer the شوووووو the more confused someone is.

Sample dialogues:

A - شو بَدَّك؟

Shoo biddak?

What do you want?

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B - بدّي تفاحة.

Biddee tufaha.

I want an apple.

A - شو هاي؟

Shoo hay?

What's this?

B - هاي مقلوبة.

Hay maqloobeh

This is maqloobeh (upside down rice dish).

QUIZ:

How do you ask 'what is this' in Arabic?

How do you ask 'what does she want' in Levantine Arabic?

١. ما هذا / ما هذه / شو هاد / شو هاي

٢. (هي) شو بدها؟