90 Darija phrases

The phrases Moroccans actually use, in Latin letters (the way Moroccans text) and in Arabic script, with what they mean and when they're said.

darji.ma

Expressions

3la er-ras u l-3in! — على الراس و العين!

With pleasure! (On my head and eyes)

Used to enthusiastically accept a request. Literally 'on my head and eyes': deeply respectful agreement.

bismillah — بسم الله

In the name of God

Said before eating, before starting any action, or when entering a home. Fundamental expression.

bṣe7a u ra7a! — بالصحة و الراحة!

To your health and comfort!

Said when someone eats, drinks, or gets something new. Like 'enjoy!'

el-7amdu li-llah — الحمد لله

Praise God / Thank God

Used after answering 'how are you?', after eating, or when expressing gratitude. Extremely common.

in cha Allah — إن شاء الله

God willing

Used when talking about future plans. Essential in Moroccan conversation: shows humility about the future.

lla y-khellik

Please (lit: may God keep you)

A polite 'please', more emotional than '3afak'. Used for sincere requests.

mashi mushkil — ماشي مشكل

No problem

Relaxed and friendly: very Moroccan attitude

safi! — صافي!

That's it! / Done! / Enough!

Multipurpose word: can mean 'done', 'enough', 'it's over', or 'that's settled'.

tbarek Allah! — تبارك الله!

God bless! (expressing admiration)

Said to express admiration: for a baby, a beautiful thing, good news. Also used as protection against evil eye.

3end-ek l-7e99!

You're right!

Agreeing with someone's point.

ana 3welt 3li-k أنا عولت عليك

I'm counting on you

Expressing trust and reliance on someone.

bezzaf 3li-k!

Too much for you! / You don't deserve this!

Can be playful or serious depending on tone.

btab3e! بالطبع!

Of course! / Obviously!

Used to confirm something that should be obvious.

chwiya b chwiya

Little by little / Slowly

Encouragement phrase. Also used to ask someone to speak slowly.

dak-chi 3l-ech داكشي علاش

That's why

Used to explain the reason for something.

kima gelt-i كيما گلتي

As you said

Agreement phrase referencing what someone previously stated.

ma-b9a-ch!

There's none left! / It's all gone!

When something has run out.

ma-kayn bass ما كاين باس

No problem / It's fine

Very common way to say everything is OK, no worries.

ma-kayn-ch! ما كاينش!

There isn't any! / It doesn't exist!

Emphatic way to say something is unavailable or impossible.

ma-t-9le9-ch!

Don't worry!

Reassuring someone. Very commonly used.

machi mushkil!

No problem!

Casual way to say it's all fine.

mal-k? مالك؟

What's wrong with you?

Concerned question when someone looks upset or unwell.

mezian bezzaf!

Very good! / Excellent!

Approval and encouragement.

nta lli 3aref!
You know best! / It's up to you!
Deferring to someone's judgment.

y3ni يعني
It means / I mean / Like
Filler word used constantly in conversation, like 'like' or 'I mean' in English.

zid chuya!
Add a bit more!
Common at meals or when bargaining: asking for a little more.

3la rass-ek!
On your head! (you take responsibility)
Putting responsibility on someone. Can be playful or serious.

7chuma! حشومة!
Shame! / How embarrassing!
Strong cultural word: used to express disapproval of shameful behavior.

7chuma 3li-k! حشومة عليك!
Shame on you!
Directed at someone whose behavior is inappropriate.

Allah y-3ṭi-k ṣ-ṣe77a!
God give you health! (thank you for work)
Said to someone who is working, cooking, or doing something for you. A culturally important thank you.

Allah y-chafi-k!
God heal you!
Said to someone who is sick. Standard well-wishing.

Allah yer7m-u
God rest his soul
Said when mentioning someone who passed away. Very important culturally.

ghadi y-kun khir
It will be fine / It'll work out
Reassuring someone. Very Moroccan optimism.

hanya!
Enjoy! / Bon appétit!
Said to someone who is eating. They reply 'Allah y-hannik'.

ma-t-khemmem-ch bezzaf
Don't overthink it
Advice to stop worrying and go with the flow.

tbarek Allah 3li-k!
God bless you! (admiration)
Expression of admiration: for beauty, achievement, children. Also protects against evil eye.

hadi hiya l-7ayat
That's life
Philosophical acceptance. Used after bad news or disappointment.

l-we9t ka-y-duz
Time passes / Time flies
Reflecting on how quickly time goes by.

lli 3end-ek gul!
Say what you have to say!
Encouraging someone to speak their mind, often in family discussions.

lli kay-hamm-ni اللي كيهمني
What matters to me
Used to redirect conversation to what's important.

wakhkha... واخا...
Even if... / Although...
Concessive conjunction: introduces a condition that doesn't change the outcome.

Essentials

3awed, 3afak!
Repeat, please!
Ask someone to say something again. Pairs with 'ma-fhemt-ch'.

ana men...
I'm from...
Answer to 'men fin nta?': just add your country or city.

bslama!
Goodbye!
The standard goodbye in Darija. Can also add 'Allah y-7efḍ-ek' (God protect you).

kif dayra?
How are you? (to a woman)
Feminine form of 'kif dayer?': important to use the right gender.

la-bas 3li-k?
Are you well? / Everything OK?
Very common greeting, literally 'no harm on you?'. Reply: 'la-bas, el-7amdu li-llah'.

ma-fhemt-ch!
I didn't understand!
Essential phrase when learning Darija: you'll use it often!

men fin nta?
Where are you from?
Very common question in Morocco: Moroccans love to know where you're from.

mer7ba bi-k!
Welcome!
Said when someone arrives. Very warm and common.

shukran شكرا
Thank you
Basic courtesy: always appreciated

smiytek ach?
What's your name?
The most common way to ask someone's name in Darija.

smiyti...
My name is...
Introducing yourself. Just say your name after 'smiyti'.

wakha واخا
OK / Alright
The most versatile word in Darija: agreement, acceptance, 'fine'

Courtesy

3afak عفاك
Please
Magic word in any language, especially powerful in Darija

allah y3tik ss7a الله يعطيك الصحة
May God give you health
Said to anyone who does you a favor: a Moroccan thank you plus

hak هاك
Here you go / Take it
Said when handing something to someone: short and sweet

n9dr n3awn? نقدر نعاون؟
Can I help?
Useful phrase: Moroccans love when foreigners offer help in Darija

sahha صحة
Cheers / Bless you
After a sneeze, after a meal, after a haircut: sahha fits everywhere

sme7 li سمح لي
Excuse me / I'm sorry
Works for apologies and getting attention

Everyday

ach kayn?
What's up? / What's happening?
Casual way to ask what's going on.

aji hna!
Come here!
Calling someone over. 'Aji' is the imperative of 'ja' (to come).

rah ghadi y-ji
He's coming / He'll come
Future + movement: very common construction.

wakhkha, ghadi n-dir-ha
OK, I'll do it
Agreeing to do something.

walu, ghir had-chi
Nothing much, just this and that
Common casual response to 'ach kayn?'

rah 3end-i mushkil
I have a problem
Opening phrase when confiding in a friend about a difficulty.

Shopping

bsh7al? بشحال
How much?
Essential for the souk: your most powerful word

bzzaf! بزاف
Too much / Too expensive!
Say this and watch the price drop: souk magic

floos فلوس
Money
The word you'll need at every ATM, souk, and café

ktar mn hadi كتر من هادي
More than that
Negotiation power: push for a better deal

Food

atay أتاي
Mint tea
The national drink: refusing is almost rude

b'ssa7a بالصحة

Enjoy / Bon appétit

Said before eating or after someone drinks: a blessing

bnin! بنين

Delicious!

Compliment the food: guaranteed to make the cook smile

Greetings

labas 3lik? لاباس عليك

How are you?

Casual greeting, literally 'no harm on you?'

mr7ba bik مرحبا بيك

Welcome

Used when welcoming someone: expect to hear this a LOT

salam 3likom السلام عليكم

Hello / Peace be upon you

Universal greeting: works everywhere, anytime

Proverbs

kul chi b we9t-u

Everything in its time

Patience proverb. Very Moroccan mindset: things happen when they're meant to.

l-mektub mektub

What's written is written (fate)

Fatalistic expression about destiny. Core to Moroccan worldview.

lli fat mat

What's done is done (what passed, died)

Classic Darija proverb. Accepting the past and moving on.

Social

ana mn... أنا من...

I am from...

Add your country or city after: 'ana mn fransa', 'ana mn casa'

nta mn fin? نتا من فين؟

Where are you from?

The question every traveler hears: now you can ask it back

wallah ma-3reft

I swear I didn't know

Common defense when caught off guard. 'Wallah' adds sincerity.

Directions

fin kayn...? فين كاين

Where is...?

Essential for navigation: add the place name after

wesh kayn...? واش كاين...؟

Is there...?

Ask if something exists or is available: works for places, things, people

Survival

ma fhemtsh ما فهمتش

I don't understand

Your safety net: say it without shame, Moroccans will help you

tkelem shwiya تكلم شوية

Speak slowly

Darija can sound fast: this phrase buys you time to understand

Compliments

zwina زوينة

Beautiful

Use for things AND people: 'zwina' (fem) / 'zwin' (masc)

Identity

dyal bladi ديال بلادي

From my country / local

When someone asks where you're from, or to describe something local

Love

kanhibbak كنحبك

I love you

The word that started it all: 'kanhibbak' (to male) / 'kanhibbik' (to female)

Time

daba دابا

Now

Right now, though 'daba' in Morocco can be flexible with time

Travel

yallah يالله!

Let's go / Come on

The universal motivator: use it to get things moving

Hear them in Moroccan voices: lesson 1 is free, no signup, at darji.ma