



Dialect at home, MSA in lessons — how they fit together

For families who speak Egyptian, Moroccan, Levantine, Gulf — or a mix — and wonder what their child should learn.

● Two forms, one language

Your family dialect is the warm, spoken Arabic of home. Modern Standard Arabic (MSA, or fusha) is the shared written form used in books, schools and media across the whole Arab world. They are not rivals — most Arabic speakers live comfortably with both.

● Why lessons use MSA

MSA is where reading and writing live. It gives every child the same foundation whatever their family's country of origin — and once a child reads confidently in MSA, picking up more of any dialect tends to become much easier, not harder.

● Your dialect is an asset, not interference

Keep speaking it. A child who hears Egyptian or Darija at home is building real Arabic instincts — sounds, rhythm, confidence. Children generally learn to switch between home dialect and lesson Arabic the same way they switch registers in English or French.

● If your child mixes them, relax

Mixing is a normal stage, not a mistake. Rather than correcting, simply model: repeat the sentence naturally in your dialect or let the tutor model the MSA. Our tutors work with diaspora children every day and expect dialect words to pop up.

● Mixed-dialect and mixed-heritage homes

If one parent's family says one thing and the other's says another, MSA gives your child neutral common ground — and both dialects stay welcome. Children can hold more than one way of speaking, just as they hold more than one culture.

● What you can do this week

Pick one everyday word your family uses in dialect, and ask your child what their tutor says in lessons. Comparing the two out loud — with pride, not testing — teaches the most useful lesson of all: it is all Arabic, and it is all theirs.

