

Past Events

Objective: By the end of the chapter, you will be able to:

- talk about past activities with regular and irregular verbs
- talk about what you did *not* do using negative sentences
- ask about past experiences (Have you ever...) and respond (I've never...)
- use object pronouns with verbs
- ask varied questions with different question words

Time Vocabulary

Before we begin the past tense, let's learn some words that will help us describe when past events took place. Then we will be ready to talk about some of our past activities.

Days of the Week

day	yum / nhar	يوم / نهار	Tuesday	t-tlat	الثلاثاء (الثلاث)
week	simana	سيمانة	Wednesday	l-arb ع	ا ربعاء (الربع)
Sunday	l-hdd	ا حد (الحدّ)	Thursday	l-xmis	الخميس
Monday	l-tnin	ا تنين (التنين)	Friday	j-jm عا	الجمعة
			Saturday	s-sbt	السبت

Months of the Year

month	šhr	شهر	June	yunyu	يونيو
year	عام	عام	July	yulyuz	يوليوز
January	yanayr	يناير	August	ğušt	غُشت
February	fbrayr	فبراير	September	šutnbir	سُتنبير
March	mars	مارس	October	oktobr	أكتوبر
April	abril	أبريل	November	nuwanbir	نُونبر
May	may	ماي	December	dujanbir	دُجنبر

The Seasons

season	faşl	فصل	summer	ş-şif	الصيف
seasons	foşul	فصول	fall	l-xrif	الخريف
spring	r-rbi ع	الربيع	winter	š-šta	الشتا

For information about the months of the Islamic calendar and some of the major religious events of the year, see "Moroccan Holidays" on page 160.

Time Expressions

this year	had l-εam	هذ العام
last year	l-εam lli fat	العام اللي فات
last month	š-šhr lli fat	الشهر اللي فات
last week	s-simana lli fatt	السيمانية اللي فات
yesterday	l-barH	البارح
today	l-yum	اليوم
on (+ day of the week)	nhar	نهار...
on Friday	nhar j-jmεa	نهار الجمعة
in (+ month)	f šhr	ف شهر...
in August	f šhr ġušt	ف شهر غُشت
	f šhr tmnya	ف شهر تمنية
at (+ time)	f	ف
at 9:00	f t-tsεud	ف التسعود
at dawn	f l-fjr	ف الفجر
in the morning	f š-šbah	ف الصباح
in the afternoon / evening	f l-εšiya	ف العشية
at night	f l-lil	ف الليل
at midnight	f nš l-lil	ف نص الليل

Past Tense - Regular Verbs

Verbs in General

When learning verbs in a foreign language, we usually learn the “infinitive” form of the verb (e.g. to eat), and then learn how to “conjugate” from that infinitive (I eat, he eats, they eat). In Arabic, there are not infinitives for verbs in this way. Rather, we learn the “**he**” form of the verb (i.e. third person masculine singular) in the **past tense**, and then learn how to conjugate the other forms (I, you, she, etc.) from the “he” form. Because we use this past tense “he” form *like* an infinitive for the purposes of learning verbs, if you see something referred to as an “infinitive,” it is this form. Some examples:

past tense “he” form: like an infinitive	he drank	šrb	شرب
	he hit	ḍrb	ضرب
	he sat	ġls	جلس

Whenever you are given a new verb in this book or by your teacher, it will be given to you in this form. You will be able to conjugate verbs in the past or present tense based upon this “infinitive” form.

The vast majority of Darija (Moroccan Arabic) verbs are made up of **three letters** (see the verbs above). To these “stems” we can add prefixes (letters that we attach to the beginning of a word) and suffixes (letters we attach to the end of a word) in order to conjugate the verb. Stems with a vowel in the middle and stems with a vowel at the end will differ from verbs with three consonants.

Regular Verbs in the Past Tense

When we say “regular verb,” we mean a verb that is conjugated according to rules that the large majority of verbs in the language use. An “irregular verb” is conjugated according to different rules. There are regular and irregular verbs for both the past and present tense in Darija. However, irregular verbs that are similar in the past may be different in the present. So, you need to realize that the groups of verbs categorized together for the past tense may not always correspond to the groups in the present tense.

In general, “regular verb” refers to:

- All 3-letter verbs *without* the long vowel “a” (ا / آ) in the middle or end position (i.e. 3-letter verbs made up only of consonants)
- All verbs with more than 3 letters and not ending in “a” (ا / آ)

To conjugate a regular verb in the past tense, we add the following suffixes (endings):

Remember that the “infinitive” is the same as the past tense “he” form.	“to write”	ktb	كتب
	I wrote	ktbṭ	كتبت
	you wrote (masc. sing.)	ktbṭi	كتبتي
	you wrote (fem. sing.)	ktbṭi	كتبتي
	he wrote	ktb	كتب
	she wrote	ktbaṭ	كتبت
	we wrote	ktbna	كتبنا
	you wrote (plur.)	ktbṭu	كتبتم
	they wrote	ktbu	كتبوا

In the past tense, **you (masc.)** and **you (fem.)** are the same. In the present tense, they will be different.

Some Regular Verbs

to drink	šrb	شرب	to understand	fhm	فهم
to know	ʕrf	عرف	to work	xdm	خدم
to play	lʕb	لعب	to hit	ḍrb	ضرب
to draw	rsm	رسم	to stop / stand up	wqf	وقف
to sleep	nʕs	نعمس	to arrive	wšl	وصل
to wear	lbs	لبس	to hear / listen	smʕ	سمع
to stay / sit	gls	جلس	to ask	suwl	سأل
to enter	dxl	دخل	to travel	safr	سافر
to go out	xrj	خرج	to help	ʕawn	عاون
to return	rjʕ	رجع	to send	šifṭ	صيفت
to watch	tfrrj	تفرّج	to wash	ḡsl	غسل

to use	st _ε ml	ستعمل	to speak	tkllm	تكلم
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Some examples:

Yesterday, I drank tea without sugar.	l-barH, šrbt atay bla skkar.	البارح، شربت أناي بلا سكر.
Last week, Said wrote a letter to his friend.	s-simana lli fatt, Said ktb bra l saHbu.	السيمانية اللي فات، سعيد كتب برا ل صاحبو.
Last year, we traveled to New York.	l-εam lli fat, safrna l New York.	العام اللي فات، سافرنا ل نيويورك.

Exercise: Put the verbs in parentheses in the correct form.

Mohamed: weš (nεs) bkri l-barH?	واش (نعس) بكري البارح؟	محمد:
Hassan: lla	لا.	حسن:
Mohamed: εlaš?	علاش؟	محمد:
Hassan: (gls) mεa l-εa'ila dyali u (tkllm) mεahum šwiya. mn bεd, {Hna} (xrj). mlli (rjε), (lεb) l-karṭa u (tfrrj) f t-tlfaza. mn bεd {ana} (dxl) l l-bit dyali u (nεs).	(گلَس) مع العائلة ديالي و (تكلم) معهُم شوية. من بعد، {حنا} (خرج). مَلِّي (رجع)، (لعب) الكارطة و (تفرج) ف التلفزة. من بعد، {أنا} (دخل) ل البيت ديالي و (نعس).	حسن:

l-Hdd lli fat, (εawn) xti f l-kuzina: الحدّ اللي فات، (عاون) ختي ف الكوزينة: (غسل) الماعن و (ḡsl) l-mmaεn u (ṭiyb) l-ḡda. (طيبّ) الغدا.

Past Tense - Irregular Verbs

When we speak about irregular verbs for the *past tense*, we refer to three categories: 1. three-letter verbs with the long vowel “a” (ا) in the middle position, 2. any verb with the long vowel “a” (ا / آ) at the end, and 3. two-letter verbs.

1st Category: long vowel “a” (ا) in the middle position

To conjugate a three-letter verb in the past tense with the long vowel “a” in the middle position, remove the long vowel “a” for the **I, you (sing.), we, and you (plur.)** forms before adding the past tense endings. For the **she** form, only add a “t.” The **he** and **they** forms are like regular verbs.

In these forms, we remove the middle “a” and then add the endings.

“to be”	kan	كان
I was	knṭ	كنت
you were (masc. sing.)	knṭi	كنتي
you were (fem. sing.)	knṭi	كنتي
he was	kan	كان
she was	kanṭ	كانت
we were	kna	كانّا

In these forms, we keep the middle “a” and then add the endings.

you were (plur.)	knt <u>u</u>	كنتو
they were	kan <u>u</u>	كانو

Some Irregular Verbs with long vowel “a” (ا) in the middle position

to see	šaf	شاف	to get up / stand up	naḍ	ناض
to do / make	dar	دار	to throw	lan	لاح
to swim	εam	عام	to pass / pass by	ḍaz	داز
to sell	baε	باع	to pass	fat	فات
to bring	jab	جاب	to love / be dying for	mat εla	مات على
to say	gal	قال	to increase	zaḍ	زاد
to fast	šam	صام	to be scared	xaf	خاف
to drive	šag	صاغ	to live	εaš	عاش

Some examples:

- This morning I got up at 7:00. had š-šbaḥ nḍt f s-sbεa. هَد الصبَاح نَضت ف السبِعة.
- What did you do yesterday? šnu drti l-barḥ? شنو درتي البارح؟
- What’s done is done. (proverb) lli fat mat. اللي فات مات.

Exercise: Put the verbs in parentheses in the correct form.

- s-simana lli fatt, ana u šhabi (εam) f la-ppisin. السبِمانَة اللي فاتت، أنا و صحابي (عام) ف لاڤيسين.
- Sara (εaš) f mirikan εamayn. سارة (عاش) ف مريكان عامين.
- nhar s-sbt f l-εšiya, ana u šhabati (kan) f l-hmmam. mlli xrjna (daz) l l-qhwa. نهار السبت ف العشيَة، أنا و صحاباتي (كان) ف الحمام. ملي خرجنا (داز) ل القهوة.

2nd Category: long vowel “a” (ا / آ) at the end

To conjugate a verb with the long vowel “a” at the end, change the vowel to “i” for the **I, you (sing.), we, and you (plur.)** forms, then add the normal endings. For the **she** form, only add a “t.” The **he** and **they** forms are like regular verbs.

In these forms, we change the final “a” to “i” then add the endings.

“to eat”	kla	كلى
I ate	klit	كليت
you ate (masc. sing.)	kliti	كليتِي
you ate (fem. sing.)	kliti	كليتِي
he ate	kla	كلى

In these forms, we keep the final “a” and then add the endings.

she ate	kl <u>a</u> t	كلات
we ate	kl <u>i</u> na	كلينا
you ate (plur.)	kl <u>i</u> tu	كلينو
they ate	kl <u>a</u> u	كلاو

Some Irregular Verbs with the long vowel "a" (ا / آ) at the end

to go	mša	مشى	to rent	kra	كرى
to start	bda	بدى	to run	jra	جرى
to buy	šra	شرى	to finish	sala	سالى
to sing	ğna	غنى	to have lunch	tğdda	تغدى
to give	εṭa	عطى	to have dinner	tεšša	تعشى
to forget	nsa	نسى	to hope	tmna	تمنى
to cry	bka	بكى	to wait	tsna	تسنى
to want	bğa	بغى	to read / study	qra	قرى
to take	xda	خدى	to meet	tlaqa	تلاقى
			to come	ja	جا

Some examples:

Last Sunday, I went to the medina and bought a jellaba. l-ħdd lli fat, mšit l medina u šrit jllaba. الحدّ اللي فات، مشيت ل المدينة و شريت جلابة.

They sang at the party on Saturday. huma ġnnau f l-ħfla nhar s-sbt. هُما غنّوا ف الحفلة نهار السبت.

Exercise: Put the verbs in parentheses in the correct form.

John u Amy (kra) ḍar zwina f Marrakech. دجون و أيمي (كرى) دار زوينة ف مراكش.

l-barħ ana u Paul (tlaqa) mεa šhabna f r-riṣtora u (tğdda) mjmuεin. البارح أنا و پول (تلاقى) مع صحابنا ف الريسطورة و (تغدى) مجموعين.

s-simana lli fatt, huma (sala) l-xdma dyalhum f l-mğrib. السيمانة اللي فاتت، هُما (سالى) الخدمة ديالهم ف المغرب.

Moroccan Wisdom: اللي بغى العسل يصبر ل قريس

النحل.

l-li bġa l-ʿsɫ y-ṣbr l qris n-nħl.

The one who wants honey must tolerate bee stings.



3rd Category: two-letter verbs

When we say “two-letter verbs,” some confusion can arise. When we write them in Arabic, they have only two letters. However, there is a “shedda” on the second letter (see pages 3 and 159), so in the transcription we double the second letter, making them look like three-letter verbs. In this case, you can still recognize them because the second and third letters are the same. Or, look at the Arabic script and you can be sure of the fact that they are, indeed, two-letter verbs.

To conjugate this type of verb, we add the long vowel “i” to the **I, you (sing.), we, and you (plur.)** forms, then add the normal endings. The **he, she, and they** forms are like regular verbs.

In these forms, we add “i” to the verb, then add the normal endings.	“to open”	ħll	حَلَّ	A two-letter verb with “shedda” on the second letter.
	I opened	ħllit	حَلَّيت	
	you opened (masc. sing.)	ħlliti	حَلَّيتي	
In these forms, we simply add the normal endings.	you opened (fem. sing.)	ħlliti	حَلَّيتي	
	he opened	ħll	حَلَّ	
	she opened	ħllat	حَلَّات	
	we opened	ħllina	حَلَّينا	
	you opened (plur.)	ħllitu	حَلَّيتو	
	they opened	ħllu	حَلَّو	

Some two-letter verbs

to close	sdd	سَدَّ	to be able	qdd	قَدَّ
to smell	šmm	شَمَّ	to pick up	hzz	هَزَّ
to hand	mdd	مَدَّ	to think	ḡnn	ضَنَّ
to answer / return back	rdd	رَدَّ	to be bored	mll	مَلَّ
to pour	kbb	كَبَّ	to take / catch	šdd	شَدَّ
to feel	ħss	حَسَّ	to pull / drag	jrr	جَرَّ

to put

ḥṭṭ

حَطَّ

Some examples:

I opened the window and I
closed the doorḥllit s-srjm u sddit
l-bab.

حَطَّيت السرجم و سَدَّيت الباب.

I felt cold

ḥssit b l-brd.

حَسَّيت ب البرد.

Exercise: Put the verbs in parentheses in the correct form.l-barḥ f ṣ-ṣbah, Mary (rdd) l-ktab l
l-xizana.

البارح ف الصباح، ماري (رَدَّ) الكتاب ل الخزانة.

mlli kan l-عجاج, {ana} (sdd) s-srajm.

مَلِّي كان العجاج، {أنا} (سَدَّ) السراجم.

{ḥna} (ḥṭṭ) l-ḥwayj f l-makina d
ṣ-ṣabun.

{حنا} (حَطَّ) الحوايج ف المكينة د الصابون.

Negation**Normal Negative Form**

In order to express the negative of a verb (i.e. “didn’t,” or “don’t,” or “doesn’t”), we add the prefix **ma** (ما) to the beginning of a verb and the suffix **š** (ش) to the end of a verb.

We drank.

šrbna

شربنا

We didn’t drink.

ma-šrbna-š

ما شربناش

Exercise: Conjugate the verbs in parentheses in the negative form.

huwa (safr) s-simana lli fatt.

هُوَ (سافر) السيمانة اللي فاتَّ.

l-barḥ f l-lil (qra) l-ktab dyali
hit knt عيyan.

البارح ف الليل (قَرَى) الكتاب ديايالي حيث كنت عيان.

hiya (gls) mḥana hit (sala) l-xdma
dyaḥa.

هيَ (كَلَس) معانا حيث (سَالَى) الخدمة دياياليها.

ḥna (nḥs) bkri hit (tḥšša) bkri.

حنا (نَحَس) بكري حيث (تَحَشَّى) بكري.

Kari (lbs) l-kswa j-jdida f l-ḥfla
hit (kan) ḥndha l-wqt.

كاري (لَبَس) الكسوة الجديدة ف الحفلة حيث (كان) عندها الوقت.

mlli ja l l-mḡrib (ṣift) bra l
l-walidin dyaḥu.

مَلِّي جا ل المغرب (صِيفت) برا ل الوالدين ديايالي.

kant l-brd u {ana} (ḥll) s-srajm.

كانت البرد و {أنا} (حَلَّ) السراجم.

Additional Negative Forms

The following negative forms replace the **š** (ش) we use for the normal negative form. We still use **ma** (ما) before the verb, but we use these forms after the verb or, sometimes, before the verb (and thus before **ma**).

nothing	walu	والو
nothing	ḥtta ḥaja	حَتَّى حاجة

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nothing	htta ši	حتّى شي
no one	htta waḥd	حتّى واحد
no one	(htta) ḥdd	(حتّى) حد
neither ... nor	la ... wala	لا ... ولا
only / just	ġir	غير

Some examples:

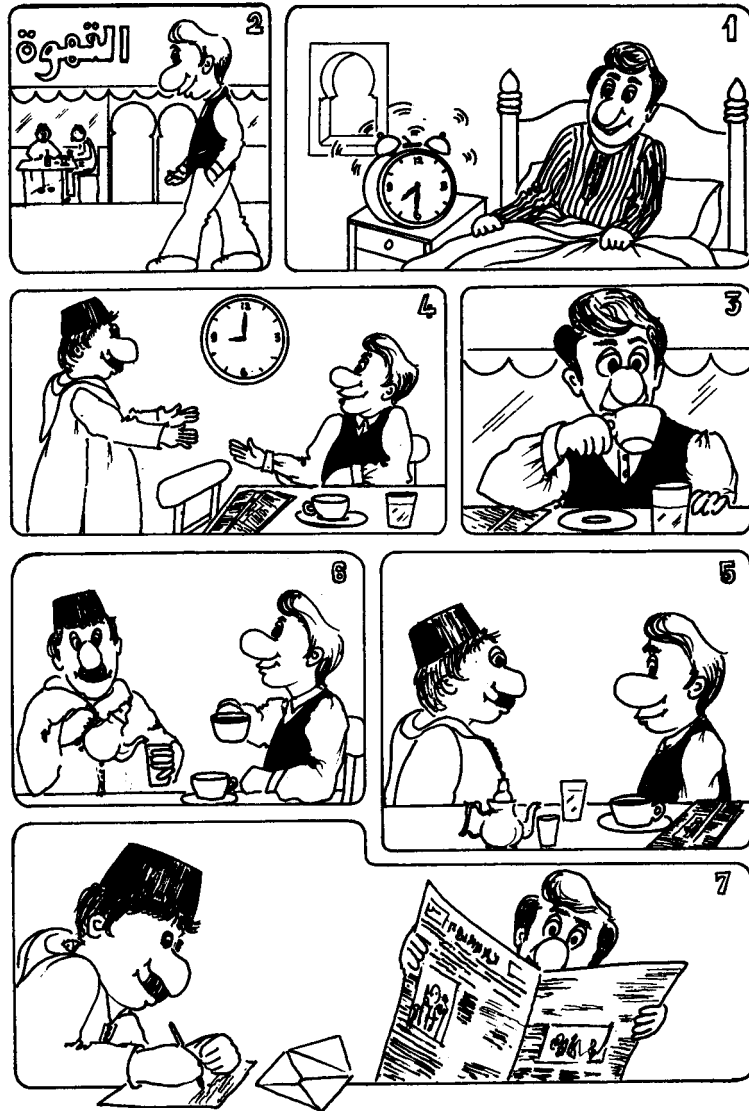
I knew nothing.	ma-ḡrft walu.	ما عرفت والو.
I ate nothing.	ma-kleet htta najja.	ما كلّيت حتّى حاجة.
No one came.	htta waḥd ma-ja.	حتّى واحد ما جا.
He saw no one.	ma-šaf htta waḥd / ḥdd.	ما شاف حتّى واحد / حدّ.
I met neither Mohamed nor Amber.	ma-laḡit la Mohamed wala Amber.	ما لاقيت لا محمد ولا أمبر.
I drank only water.	ma-šrbt ġir l-ma.	ما شربت غير الماء.

Exercise: Put the verbs in parentheses in the proper form.

l-ḥdd lli fat (ḡls) f ḍ-ḍar,
 (xrj negative) علحقّاش (kan) š-šta.
 f l-ḡšiya ṣaḥbi (ja) u (mša) l
 s-siber bjooj. mn bḡd (mša) l
 s-sinima. (šaf) waḥd l-film zwin.
 mlli (xrj), (daz) l s-suḡ. (šra)
 l-xodra. mn bḡd (šdd) ṭobis u (rjḡ)
 l ḍ-ḍar.

الحدّ اللي فات (كّلس) ف الدار، (خرج) علحقّاش (كان) الشتا. ف
 العشيّة صاحبي (جا) و (مشى) ل السبير بجوج. من بعد (مشى) ل
 السينما. (شاف) واحد الفيلم زوين. مّلي (خرج)، (داز) ل السوق.
 (شرى) الخضرة. من بعد (شدّ) الطوبيس و (رجع) ل الدار.

Exercise: Write a paragraph from these pictures.



Have you ever... / I've never...

Have you ever...?

We can use the word **عمّر** (emr) to express the English equivalent of the present perfect tense: "Have you ever...?" and "I have never..." We "conjugate" it as follows:

Have I ever...	weš <u>emrni</u> / <u>emrni</u>	واش عمّري / عمّرتني
Have you (sing.) ever...	weš <u>emrk</u>	واش عمّرك
Has he ever...	weš <u>emru</u>	واش عمّرو
Has she ever...	weš <u>emrha</u>	واش عمّرها

her / it	ha	ها
us	na	نا
you (plur.)	kum	كُمْ
them	hum	هُم

These pronouns are the same as the possessive pronouns, with the exception of “me.” The “him” form uses **u** after consonants and **h** after vowels, exactly like the possessive pronoun form. Some examples:

Omar gave a book to Mohamed.	εomar εta wahd l-ktab l Mohamed.	عَمَر عطى واحد الكتاب ل مُحَمَّد.
Omar gave it to Mohamed.	εomar εtah l Mohamed.	عَمَر عطاه ل مُحَمَّد.
Did you write the letter to Hassan?	weš ktbti l-bra l Hassan?	واش كتبتني البرا ل حسن؟
Yes, I wrote it to Hassan.	iyeh, ktbtha l Hassan.	ايه، كتبتها ل حسن.
Why did you leave us with him?	εlaš xllitina mεah?	علاش خليتينا معاه؟
She saw me at the movie theater.	šaftni f s-sinema.	شافتني ف السينيما.

As you can see, these pronouns are attached **directly to the verb**. As a result, when a verb with an object pronoun is made **negative**, the **š** (ش) is used **after** the pronoun. Some examples:

You saw me .	šftini	شفتيني
You didn't see me .	ma-šftini-š	ما شفيتنيش
Did you see Hakima and Karim?	weš šfti Hakima u Karim?	واش شفتي حكيمه و كريم؟
No, I didn't see them .	lla, ma-šfthum-š.	لا، ما شفتهمش.

Exercise: Replace the underlined nouns by the corresponding pronouns.

1. qrit <u>dik l-jarida</u> l-barh f ş-şbah.	قريت ديك الجريدة البارح ف الصباح.
2. nsau <u>s-sarut dyalhum</u> f q-dar.	نساو الساروت ديالهم ف الدار.
3. zrt <u>duk n-nas</u> f Fes l-barh.	زرت دوك الناس ف فاس البارح.
4. ddau <u>wldhum</u> mεahum l s-sinema.	دأو ولدهم معاهم ل السينيما.
5. wqqfna <u>šffar</u> f z-znqa.	وقفنا شفار ف الزنقة.
6. bba εawn <u>xuk</u> f l-hsab.	با عاون خوك ف الحساب.

Question Words

Some of these you already know. Some will be new for you.

who	škun	شكون
Who are you?	škun nta / nti?	شكون نت / نت؟

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what	aš / šnu / ašnu	أش / شنو / أشنو
What did you do yesterday?	šnu drti l-barḥ?	شنو درتي البارح؟
which	ašmn	أشمن
Which bus did you take?	ašmn ṭobis xditi?	أشمن طوبيس خديتي؟
where	fin / fayn	فين / فاين
Where did you eat pizza?	fin kliti l-ppitza?	فين كليتي الپيتزا؟
how	kifaš	كيفاش
How did you get to the hotel?	kifaš wšlti l l-oṭil?	كيفاش وصلتني ل لوڤيل؟
from where	mnin	منين
Where did you come from?	mnin jiti?	منين جيتي؟
when	fuqaš / imta	فوقاش / إنتي
When did you sleep yesterday?	fuqaš nḡsti l-barḥ?	فوقاش نغستي البارح؟
When did you arrive?	imta wšlti?	إنتي وصلتني؟
why	ḡlaš	علاش
Why did you come late?	ḡlaš jiti mḡṭṭl?	علاش جيتي معطل؟
Because I didn't get up early.	ḡlaḥqqaš ma-nḡt-š bkri.	علاش ما نغتش بكري.

The word **mn** (من) is used after some prepositions to create question words.

with whom	mḡa mn	مع من
With whom did you travel to Rabat? (In the US: Who did you travel to Rabat with?)	mḡa mn safrti l Rabat?	مع من سافرتني ل الرباط
whose	dyaḷ mn	ديال من
how many / how much	šḥal	شحال

The question word **šḥal** (شحال) may be followed by either **d** (د) or **mn** (من), depending upon the noun following it. Uncountable nouns are nouns that do not have a plural because they speak about something that can be “measured,” but not “counted” (e.g. tea, air). Countable nouns are nouns that have plural forms and, therefore, nouns with which we use numbers (e.g. 5 cats, 3 books). With **šḥal**:

šḥal + d + singular uncountable noun

OR

šḥal + d + plural countable noun

OR

šḥal + mn + singular countable noun

How much time?

šḥal d l-wqt?

شحال د الوقت؟

How many books? šnal d l-ktub? شحال د الكتوب؟

How many books? šnal mn ktab? شحال من كتاب؟

In referring to prices, šnal is almost always preceded by the preposition b (ب).

How much is this shirt? bšnal hađ l-qamiya? بشحال هد القميجة.

How much did you pay for them? bšnal šritihum? بشحال شريتيهُم؟

Exercise: Write your time line of activities for last Sunday. Use the following time expressions and verbs to write as many sentences as you can.

e.g. f l-weekend tεššit mεa šnabi f r-risṭora.

ف الويكند تعشيت مع صحابي ف الريسطورة.

Time Expressions	
f l-weekend	ف الويكند
f ṣ-ṣbaḥ bkri	ف الصباح بكري
f l-εšiya	ف العشية
f l-lil	ف الليل
mn bεd	من بعد
l-ḥdd lli fat	الحدّ اللي فات
f (time)	ف (وقت)

Verbs			
tfrrj	تفرّج	tεšša	تعشّى
dar	دار	safr	سافر
εawn	عاون	tsnna	تسنّى
ṣam	صام	ja	جا
kbb	كبّ	mša	مشى
dqq	دقّ	tlaqa	تلاقى
xaf	خاف	wṣl	وصل
šaf	شاف	qra	قرى
duwš	دوش	tkllm	تكلم
lbs	ليس	ṣift	صيفت