

Tunisian Arabic for Students of MSA

(In progress)

This guide provides an overview of key grammatical structures and vocabulary that varies between [Modern Standard Arabic](#) and [Tunisian Arabic](#).

Verbal Conjugation

Present Tense

I... I drink coffee	أ... أشرب قهوة	ن... نشرب قهوة
You (m)... You (m) drink coffee	ت... تشرب قهوة	ت...* تشرب قهوة*
You (f)... You (f) drink coffee	ت...ين تشربين قهوة	ت...* تشرب قهوة*
He... He drinks coffee	ي... يشرب قهوة	ي... يشرب قهوة
She... She drinks coffee	ت... تشرب قهوة	ت... تشرب قهوة
We... We drink coffee	ن... نشرب قهوة	ن...و نشربو قهوة
You (pl m)... You (pl m) drink coffee	ت...ون تشربون قهوة	ت...و* تشربو قهوة*
They (pl m)... They (pl m) drink coffee	ي...ون يشربون قهوة	ي...ون* يشربون قهوة*

Note:

- Plural forms are formed by adding **و** at the end of the verb.
- (*)Tunisian Arabic does not distinguish between male and female for the second person (singular or plural) or the third person (plural), unlike MSA.
- There is no dual conjugation in Tunisian Arabic. Use the plural form.

Future Tense

The future is conjugated by adding **باش** (the equivalent of **سَـ** or **سوف**) in front of the present tense.

I will drink coffee tomorrow:

باش نشرب قهوة غدوة .

سوف أشرب قهوة غداً

Past Tense

I... I drank coffee	أَشْرَبْتُ قَهْوَةً	شَرِبْتُ قَهْوَةً
You (m)... You (m) drank coffee	شَرِبْتَ قَهْوَةً	شَرِبْتَ قَهْوَةً*
You (f)... You (f) drank coffee	شَرِبْتِ قَهْوَةً	شَرِبْتَ قَهْوَةً*
He... He drank coffee	شَرَبَ قَهْوَةً	شَرَبَ قَهْوَةً
She... She drank coffee	شَرَبَتْ قَهْوَةً	شَرَبَتْ قَهْوَةً
We... We drank coffee	شَرَبْنَا قَهْوَةً	شَرَبْنَا قَهْوَةً
You (pl m)... You (pl m) drank coffee	شَرَبْتُمْ قَهْوَةً	شَرَبْتُمْ قَهْوَةً*
They (pl m)... They (pl m) drank coffee	شَرَبُوا قَهْوَةً	شَرَبُوا قَهْوَةً*

Notes:

- As with the present tense, Tunisian Arabic does not distinguish between genders for second person (singular or plural) or the third person (plural), unlike MSA.
- Tunisian Arabic does not pronounce the final vowel for the first person singular second person singular (masculine and feminine) so these sound identical. Additionally, the final َ (fatha) is not pronounced for the third person masculine singular instead there is a ْ (sukun).

Question Words

Who	مَنْ؟	شَكُونُ؟
What (+verb)	مَاذَا؟	أَشْ؟
What (without verb)	مَا؟	شُنُو؟* شَنِية؟
When	متى؟	وَقْتَانُ
Where	اين؟	وين؟ فين؟
Why	لماذا؟	عَلَانُ؟ لَوَانُ؟
How	كيفاش؟	...تو* شربتو قهوة*
How much	كم؟	قَدَاشُ؟

Notes:

- While شُنُو is technically meant to be used with masculine words and شَنِية with feminine words this distinction is not always followed.