

دردشة

بالعربي اللبناني

Lebanese Arabic Dardashi

*25 Immersive 'Podcast' Episodes with
Transcripts, Vocabulary, and Questions*



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lingualism

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Sample

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Sample

Introduction

Welcome to **Lebanese Arabic Dardashi**! The word ‘dardashi’ (دردشة) means ‘chitchat’ or ‘casual conversation,’ and that’s exactly what this book is all about—light, everyday dialogues that will help you learn Lebanese Arabic in a fun, relaxed way. Each episode is designed like a mock podcast: while these recordings aren’t published as real podcasts, they’re structured in that same conversational, back-and-forth style you’d expect from a friendly talk show.

The dialogues in **Lebanese Arabic Dardashi** explore a variety of topics that mix culture and personal life, giving you a glimpse into Lebanon’s rich heritage and everyday experiences. From learning about **Lebanese wine** and **famous artists**, to practical advice for **foreigners considering moving to Lebanon**, each episode offers a window into different aspects of life in Lebanon. Other topics include **hobbies**, **first jobs**, and even the unique experience of **shared taxis** in Beirut. The conversations are light-hearted and engaging, with no focus on heavy or political subjects, making this the perfect resource for enjoyable, stress-free learning.

This book has been designed with flexibility in mind to suit different learning styles and goals. Each episode includes:

An English Introduction to set the stage for the dialogue.

Vocabulary Lists to help you understand key words and phrases used in each conversation.

Transcripts in Lebanese Arabic, complete with diacritics, so you can see the words as they’re spoken.

English Translations of the dialogue for you to check your comprehension.

Comprehension and Discussion Questions to engage you in deeper reflection, conversation, and language production.

Whether you prefer to focus on listening, reading, or speaking, the book offers multiple ways to approach the material. You can tailor your learning experience based on your preferences and pace, using the audio tracks, vocabulary, and transcripts to sharpen your skills in a way that works best for you.

A special thank you goes out to **Charbel** and his friends **Omar** and **Farah**, whose friendly voices and natural conversations bring the dialogues to life. They generously recorded all the audio for the episodes, making the learning experience as immersive as possible. A huge thanks especially to Charbel for editing the texts and helping write the questions.

How to Use This Book

Lebanese Arabic Dardashi is designed to help you build your Lebanese Arabic listening, reading, speaking, and vocabulary skills through engaging dialogues and real-life conversation topics. The 25 episodes in this book follow Charbel as he chats with his friends Omar or Farah in natural, conversational Lebanese Arabic.

Each unit is packed with tools to help you dive deep into the language, so whether you're studying solo, with a teacher, or in a group, here's how to make the most of this book:

1. Start with the Introduction

Each unit begins with a brief introduction in English. This sets the scene for the dialogue, giving you an idea of what the conversation will be about. If you prefer to ease into the material, you can read the introduction first to get a sense of what to expect. On the other hand, if you like to challenge yourself, skip the intro and dive right into the audio. After your first listen, come back and read the introduction to check your understanding.

2. Listen to the Dialogue



Every episode has a corresponding audio track, available for free download on our website at www.lingualism.com/audio. These dialogues are the heart of the book, showcasing the language as it's spoken in everyday conversations. Depending on your learning style, you can approach the audio in different ways:

Intensive Listening: Listen to the dialogue multiple times, focusing on how words and phrases sound. After each listen, try to pick out new words or phrases you didn't catch the first time.

Listening with the Transcript: Once you've listened a few times, move to the transcript. The Lebanese Arabic dialogue is written with diacritics to help you connect what you hear with what you see.

Interactive Listening: Pause the audio after each line or exchange and try to repeat what you hear. This helps with pronunciation and retention.

3. Study the Vocabulary

Before or after listening, spend some time with the vocabulary list. These keywords are taken directly from the episode, so learning them will help you better understand the dialogue when you listen. You can approach vocabulary learning in different ways:

Before Listening: Study the vocabulary first to familiarize yourself with key words and concepts.

After Listening: Listen first, and then study the vocabulary. Afterward, listen again to see if you can now hear and understand the words you've learned.

Anki Flashcards: The vocabulary lists are also available as **Anki flashcards** (sold separately), providing an efficient tool to help you memorize and retain the words more effectively.

4. Use the Transcript and Translation

Once you've listened to the dialogue and studied the vocabulary, it's time to work through the **transcript** in Lebanese Arabic and its **English translation**. This will solidify your understanding of both the meaning and structure of the language. You might choose to:

Read Along with the Audio: Follow along with the transcript as you listen to the dialogue, connecting the sounds of Lebanese Arabic with the written words.

Compare the Translation: After you've listened and read the transcript, go through the English translation to check your comprehension. This step helps you pick up nuances in the conversation and clarify anything you may have missed.

5. Answer the Comprehension Questions

Each unit includes **comprehension questions** in both Lebanese Arabic and English. These questions are designed to test your understanding of the dialogue. You can use them to:

Self-Test: Answer the questions out loud or write down your answers. Try to use full sentences, mimicking the style of the dialogue.

Practice with a Teacher or Partner: If you're learning with a teacher or study partner, use these questions to practice forming sentences and speaking more naturally. This will help you improve your language production and fluency in real-time conversations.

6. Engage with the Discussion Questions

After the comprehension questions, you'll find **discussion questions** to prompt more personal conversations. These are designed to help you talk about your own life, opinions, and experiences. Feel free to:

Speak Freely: Answer the questions out loud, practicing using new vocabulary and expressions.

Write It Down: If you prefer writing, use the questions as prompts for short essays or journal entries. This will help you practice both writing and reflecting in Lebanese Arabic.

Suggested Learning Paths

Everyone learns differently, so here are some flexible ways to approach this book depending on your style and goals:

For the Listening-Centered Learner:

If listening comprehension is your main focus, you might:

- Start by listening to the audio without reading anything.
- After several listens, go through the transcript to reinforce what you've heard.
- Answer the comprehension questions orally to practice speaking.
- Review the vocabulary only after you've fully engaged with the audio.

For the Vocabulary-First Learner:

If you like to focus on building your word bank first:

- Study the vocabulary list before listening to the dialogue.
- Listen to the audio and try to spot the words you've studied.
- Go back and forth between the transcript and translation to expand your vocabulary.
- Use the discussion questions to apply the new words in personalized conversations.

For the Reading-Focused Learner:

If you prefer reading over listening:

- Start with the transcript and translation to familiarize yourself with the dialogue.
- Study the vocabulary list.
- Listen to the audio while following along with the transcript.
- Use the comprehension and discussion questions as writing prompts.

For the Speaking-Oriented Learner:

If your goal is to improve your speaking:

- After listening to the audio, repeat lines from the dialogue out loud, trying to match the speakers' pronunciation and rhythm.
- Answer the comprehension and discussion questions orally, focusing on full sentences and fluency.
- Practice shadowing the dialogue, speaking along with the audio as closely as possible.

Make It Your Own

The beauty of **Lebanese Arabic Dardashi** is its flexibility. You can go through the episodes in order or focus on topics that interest you most. Take your time with each unit, and don't hesitate to revisit episodes to track your progress. Whether you're focusing on listening, reading, or speaking, this book gives you the tools to improve all aspects of your Lebanese Arabic. Enjoy the journey, and have fun with Charbel, Omar, and Farah!

Episode 1

الحلقة 1

صناعة التبيد اللبناي

The Lebanese Wine Industry



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar take a look at the Lebanese wine industry. They discuss the centuries-old vineyards of the Bekaa Valley and renowned wineries like Château Ksara and Château Musar. You'll learn about the unique flavors of Lebanese wines and how the country's ideal climate and rich winemaking traditions have contributed to its growing international recognition. Additionally, they touch on the rise of wine tourism in Lebanon, making it a destination for wine enthusiasts from around the world.

Vocabulary

accommodation	إِقَامَة
ancient history	تَارِيخ عَرِيق
soil	تُرْبَة
traditional	تَقْلِيدِي
modern technology	تَكْنُولُوجِيَا حَدِيثَة
roots	جُزُور
quality	جُودَة
tourism	سِيَاحَة
village	ضَيْعَة (ضَيْع)
grapes	عِنَب
harvest (by hand), collecting	قَطَاف
vineyard	كِرْم (كُرُوم)
alcoholic beverage	مَشْرُوب رُوحِي
temple	مَعْبَد (مَعَابِد)
winery; press	مَعْصَرَة (مَعَاصِر)
special, outstanding; unique, distinctive	مُمَيِّز
discussion	مُنَاقِشَة
view, landscape	مَنْظَر (مَنَاظِر)
wine	نَبِيذ
flavor, taste	نَكْهَة

Transcript

شربل: هاي، كيفن اليوم؟ تمام؟ اليوم رح نستكشف موضوع ممتع، special بصدنا نحكي عن النبيد اللبناني. أنا شربل ومعني صديقي عمر. كيفك اليوم يا عمر؟

Charbel: Hi, how are you all today? Doing well? Today we're going to explore an interesting topic, something special: we're going to talk about Lebanese wine. I'm Charbel, and with me is my friend Omar. How are you today, Omar?

عمر: والله يا شربل، أنا هلاً صرت منيح لأنو موضوع النبيد اللبناني كثير كثير بيهمني ومع إنو هو أقل شهرة من مثلاً العرق وغير مشروبات روحية بلبنان بس فعلاً فعلاً موضوع يستحق المناقشة.

Omar: Honestly, Charbel, I'm feeling great now because the topic of Lebanese wine really interests me a lot. Even though it's less famous than, for example, arak and other spirits in Lebanon, it's definitely a topic worth discussing.

شربل: ليك أكيد، لبنان عندو تاريخ عريق وغني بصناعة النبيد. وعنا كثير معاصر منتشرة بكل أنحاء البلد وبالبقاع خصوصاً يلي مشهور بكرومو، بمساحتو، وبصناعة النبيد.

Charbel: For sure, Lebanon has a long and rich history in wine production. We have many wineries spread across the country, especially in the Bekaa Valley, which is famous for its vineyards, its vastness, and its wine production.

عمر: إنت بتعرف يا شربل إنو البقاع مثلاً موقع مثالي لصناعة النبيد الطقس هونيك ممتاز، بالصيف، الشمس، الهوى، التربة اللي عندن يها مثالية لتعطيك أجود وأحسن أنواع العنب.

Omar: You know, Charbel, the Bekaa Valley is an ideal location for wine production—the weather there is excellent, with the summer sun, the air, and the soil they have being perfect for producing the best and highest quality grapes.

شربل: واو! عنجد! ومعبد... إنت بتعرف إنو بعلبك فيا معبد باخوس هو مخصص هيدا الإله للنبيد الروماني. بيدل قديش كانت المنطقة مهمة تاريخياً لصناعة النبيد، ومن الرائع جداً إنو نشوف جزور هالتقاليد العميقة.

Charbel: Wow! Really! And the temple... You know that Baalbek has a temple dedicated to Bacchus, the Roman god of wine. This shows how important the region was historically for wine production, and it's amazing to see the deep roots of these traditions.

عُمر: يَلِيَّ عَمِ تَقُولُو شَرِبِلْ كَثِيرَ مَظْبُوط. وَهَيْدَا بِيَوْضَحْ إِنْو الرَّاِبِطِ التَّارِيخِي مَوْجُودَ مِنْ زَمَانِ وَإِنْو صِنَاعَةُ النَّبِيدِ بِلِيبَانِ مَنُو شِي جَدِيدٌ وَهُوَ فِعْلًا جِزَاءٌ لَا يَتَجَزَأُ مِنْ ثِقَافَتِنَا مِنْ زَمَنٍ طَوِيلٍ. المَعَاصِرِ اللِّبْنَانِيَةِ اليَوْمِ بَتَنْتَجُ نَبِيدٌ مُمْتَازٌ بِالْجُودَةِ، بِالطَّعْمَةِ، وَصِرَاحَةً بِمَعَايِيرِ دَوْلِيَّةٍ بِاعْتِرَافِ الْجَمِيعِ، مِشْ حَتَّى بَسِ اللِّبْنَانِيَّةِ بَسِ يَلِيَّ يِعْمَلُوا نَبِيدَ مِنْ كُلِّ أُنْحَاءِ الْعَالَمِ.

Omar: What you're saying, Charbel, is absolutely right. This highlights that the historical connection has existed for a long time and that wine production in Lebanon isn't something new; it's truly an integral part of our culture from way back. Today, Lebanese wineries produce excellent wine in terms of quality and taste, and honestly, to international standards recognized by everyone, not just the Lebanese but also wine producers from all over the world.

شَرِبِل: صَحَّ، مِئْصَدَّرِ النَّبِيدِ لَعَدَّةِ دَوْلِ وَالنَّبِيدِ اللِّبْنَانِيِّ عَمِ بِيَصِيرِ أَكْثَرَ وَأَكْثَرَ مَشْهُورَ عَالَمِيًّا. المَعَاصِرِ عِنَّا مِثْلِ شَاتُو كَسَارَةَ، شَاتُو كَفْرِيَا، شَاتُو مَوْزَارِ أَسْمَاءِ مَعْرُوفَةٍ وَكَثِيرٍ مِّنْ يَعْني يَبْرِفَعُوا الرَّاَسِ.

Charbel: Exactly. We export wine to many countries, and Lebanese wine is becoming more and more famous globally. Our wineries, like Château Ksara, Château Kefraya, and Château Musar, are well-known names, and many of them make us proud.

عُمر: صَحَّ، وَبَتَعْرِفِ شَرِبِلْ إِنْو النَّبِيدِ اللِّبْنَانِيِّ بَتَقْدَرِ تَمَيِّزُو دِغْرِي لِأَنَّو عِنْدُو نَكْهَةً فَرِيدَةً وَجُودَةً عَالِيَةً بِتَمَيِّزُو عَنْ غَيْرِ نَبِيدِ بَغَيْرِ مَنَاطِقِ بِالْعَالَمِ. وَالسَّرُّ إِنْو هُوَ جَمْعُ بَيْنِ طُرُقِ تَقْلِيدِيَّةِ بِصِنَاعَةِ النَّبِيدِ وَتَكْنُولُوجِيَّةِ... تَكْنُولُوجِيَا حَدِيثَةً سَاعَدَتْ إِنْو تَرْفَعُ مَسْتَوِي هَيْدَا النَّبِيدِ وَتَمَيِّزُو عَنْ عَلَى الْأَقْلِ الدُّوَلِ المَنْطَقَةِ.

Omar: True, and you know, Charbel, you can recognize Lebanese wine right away because it has a unique flavor and high quality that sets it apart from wine produced in other regions around the world. The secret is that it combines traditional winemaking methods with modern technology, which has helped elevate this wine and set it apart, at least in the region.

شربل: أكيد الكروم بلبنان بتستفيد من تنوع التربة وهيذا يعطي النبيذ خصائص مميزة حتى يعني إن كان نبيد أحمر قوي أو نبيد أبيض وهيك ينشرب بالصيف. في كثير إشي تقدر بالنبيد اللباني!

Charbel: Indeed, the vineyards in Lebanon benefit from the diverse soil, which gives the wine unique characteristics, whether it's a strong red wine or a white wine that's perfect for summer. There's so much to appreciate about Lebanese wine!

عمر: صح! وع فكرة شربل، مش بس تزوق النبيذ اللباني هو تجربة بحد ذاتو، بس إنك تروح وتزور معامل النبيذ والمعاصر والكافات هو شي ممتع جدا. صراحة أنا زرت عدد كبير من هالمعاصر بيروت... بلبنان وع طول بيقدمو جولات تتعرف فيا عن طريقة تصنيع النبيذ وين ينحط، قدي بيتخمر، شو الأنواع وهيك بتأخذ فكرة عامة عن الطريقة وهيذا شيء جدا جدا تجربة مميزة.

Omar: Right! And by the way, Charbel, not only is tasting Lebanese wine an experience in itself but visiting the wineries and cellars is also very enjoyable. Honestly, I've visited a lot of these wineries in Beirut... in Lebanon, and they always offer tours where you can learn about the wine-making process, where it's stored, how long it ferments, and what types there are. It gives you a general idea of the process, and it's truly a unique experience.

شربل: بوافقك الرأي يا عمر. عنجد سياحة النبيذ عم تكبر بلبنان وهي تجربة كثير حلوة لتروح وتستكشف الضيع وتستمتع بالمناظر الحلوة وأكد إذا اللي بدو بحب يدوق النبيذ المميز عنا.

Charbel: I agree with you, Omar. Honestly, wine tourism is growing in Lebanon, and it's a great experience to explore the villages, enjoy the beautiful scenery, and of course, for those who want to, taste the unique wine we have.

عمر: على فكرة شربل! سمعت إنو في كثير من معاصر النبيذ بلبنان صاروا حتى عم يقدموا إقامة. يعني فيك تروح تقضي عندن ويك أند بتعمل تجربة مثالية وخاصة للأشخاص اللي يحبوا النبيذ، ياخدوك على كروم العنب وخاصة بمواسم القطاف بتساعد الشباب والصبايا يلي يقطفوا العنب بتأخدون على المعاصر، وهيك صراحة

بِتُكُونُ تَجْرِبَةً كَثِيرَةً حَلْوَةً وَمِتْكَامَلَةً. خَاصَّةً إِنَّوْ أَعْظَمَ الْمَعَاصِرِ بِلِبْنَانِ هِيَ مَوْجُودَةٌ
بِمَنَاطِقٍ طَبِيعِيَّةٍ جِدًّا حَلْوَةٍ جِدًّا مُمَيِّزَةٍ وَفِعْلًا تَجْرِبَةً بِتُكُونُ غَيْرَ عَنِ كُلِّ التَّجَارِبِ.

Omar: By the way, Charbel! I've heard that many of the wineries in Lebanon are even offering accommodations now. So, you can go spend time there and have a perfect experience, especially for those who love wine. They take you to the vineyards, especially during the harvest season, where young men and women help pick the grapes, then they take you to the wineries. Honestly, it's a wonderful and complete experience, especially since most of the wineries in Lebanon are located in very beautiful and unique natural areas, making the experience truly different from all others.

شُرْبِل: عِنْدَ، مِيرْسِي لَأَلْكَ يَا عُمَرُ عَلَى هَيْدَا الْحَدِيثِ الْمَمْتَعِ عَلَى النَّبِيدِ اللَّبْنَانِيِّ.
وَشُكْرًا لِّلِّي كُلِّ عَمْرٍ بِيَسْمَعُنَا وَبِتَأْمَلُ إِنَّوْ تُكُونُوا كَثِيرًا نُبَسُطُوا وَأَخَذْتُوا فِكْرَةً عَنِ النَّبِيدِ
عِنَّا، وَتَعَرَّفْتُوا أَكْثَرَ عَلَى صِنَاعَةِ النَّبِيدِ اللَّبْنَانِيِّ هَيْكُ لِنُوْ فِكْرَةٍ صَغِيرَةٍ.

Charbel: Really, thank you, Omar, for this enjoyable talk about Lebanese wine. And thanks to everyone who is listening. I hope you had fun and got an idea about our wine and learned more about Lebanese wine production, even if just a small insight.

عُمَرُ: مِيرْسِي شُرْبِلِ لَأَلْكَ وَمِتِلْ مَا بِنَقُولُ بِاللَّبْنَانِيِّ كَاسُكُنْ وَدَائِمَةً.

Omar: Thank you, Charbel. And as we say in Lebanese, 'cheers and always full.'

شُرْبِل: بَصِحَّتْ كَمَانِ أَوْ CHEERS أَوْ اللِّي بَدُّكَ يَا! نَشَالَلَهُ تَضَلُّوا بِخَيْرٍ وَأَكِيدُ
سَتَمْتَعْتُوا بِهِدَا التَّسْجِيلِ أَوْ الـaudio.

Charbel: Cheers to you too, or whatever you prefer to say! I hope you all stay well and enjoyed this recording, or audio.

Comprehension Questions

1. وِينِ مِنتَشَرِينَ المَعَاصِرِ بِلِيبَانِ، وَخَاصَّةً وِينِ؟
2. لِيَشِ البِقَاعِ مَوْقِعِ مِثَالِي لِصِنَاعَةِ النَّبِيدِ؟
3. شُو هُوَ مَعْبَدُ بَاخُوسِ وَشُو عِلَاقَتُو بِصِنَاعَةِ النَّبِيدِ؟
4. كَيْفِ بِنَجْمَعِ المَعَاصِرِ اللِّبَانِيَّةِ بَيْنِ الطَّرُقِ التَّقْلِيدِيَّةِ وَالتَّكْنُولُوجِيَا الحَدِيثَةِ؟
5. شُو يَمَيِّزُ النَّبِيدَ اللِّبَانِيَّ عَنِ غَيْرِ نَّبِيدِ بَالْعَالَمِ؟
6. شُو الأَنْوَاعِ المَشْهُورَةِ مِنَ المَعَاصِرِ اللِّبَانِيَّةِ؟
7. لِيَشِ سِيَاحَةَ النَّبِيدِ عَمِ تَكْبَرِ بِلِيبَانِ؟
8. كَيْفِ بَتَكُونِ التَّجْرِبَةُ بِزِيَارَةِ مَعَاصِرِ النَّبِيدِ بِلِيبَانِ؟ شُو الأَشْيَاءِ الَّتِي بَتَشُوفَا وَبَتَجْرَبَا هُونِيكَ؟

1. Where are wineries spread across Lebanon, and especially where?
2. Why is the Bekaa Valley an ideal location for winemaking?
3. What is the Bacchus Temple, and what is its connection to winemaking?
4. How do Lebanese wineries combine traditional methods with modern technology?
5. What distinguishes Lebanese wine from other wines in the world?
6. What are the famous Lebanese wineries?
7. Why is wine tourism growing in Lebanon?
8. What is the experience like when visiting wineries in Lebanon? What do you see and experience there?

Discussion Questions

1. بِتَحِبُّ النَّبِيدَ؟ شو النَّوْعُ الْمَفْضَلُ عِنْدَكَ؟
2. كَيْفَ صِنَاعَةُ النَّبِيدِ بِبِلْدِكَ؟ عِنْدَكَ مَنَاطِقٌ مَشْهُورَةٌ بِزِرَاعَةِ الْعِنَبِ؟
3. شو رَأْيُكَ بِدَمَجِ الطَّرِيقِ التَّقْلِيدِيَّةِ مَعَ التَّكْنُولُوجِيَا الْحَدِيثَةِ بِصِنَاعَةِ النَّبِيدِ؟
4. زَرْتِ مَعَاصِرِ نَبِيدٍ مِنْ قَبْلِ؟ خَبَرْنَا عَنْ تَجْرِبَتِكَ.
5. شو هُوَ مَشْرُوبُكَ الرَّوْحِيِّ الْمَفْضَلُ وَلَيْشَ؟
6. كَيْفَ بَتَأْتُرُ الظُّرُوفَ الْجَوِّيَّةَ وَالتَّرْبَةَ عَلَى جُودَةِ النَّبِيدِ بِبِلْدِكَ؟
7. عِنْدَكَ شَيْءٌ مَهْرَجَانَاتٍ أَوْ فَعَالِيَّاتٍ مِتَعَلِّقَةٌ بِالنَّبِيدِ؟ شَارِكْنَا تَجْرِبَتَكَ.
8. إِذَا زَرْتِ لِبْنَانَ، بِتَحِبُّ تَرْوِجَ جَوْلَةٍ سِيَّاحِيَّةٍ بِالْمَعَاصِرِ؟ لَيْشَ أَوْ لَيْشَ لَا؟

1. Do you like wine? What is your favorite type?
2. How is the wine industry in your country? Do you have regions famous for growing grapes?
3. What do you think about combining traditional methods with modern technology in winemaking?
4. Have you ever visited wineries before? Tell us about your experience.
5. What is your favorite alcoholic beverage and why?
6. How do weather conditions and soil quality affect the quality of wine in your country?
7. Do you have festivals or events related to wine? Share your experience.
8. If you visit Lebanon, would you like to go on a wine tour? Why or why not?

Episode 2

الحلقة ٢

نصائح للأجانب اللي عم يفكروا بالإنْتِقَال لِلْبَنَان

Tips for Foreigners Considering Moving to Lebanon



In this episode...

Charbel and Farah share practical advice for foreigners thinking about moving to Lebanon. They cover key topics like adapting to the local culture, learning some Arabic, finding housing, and navigating transportation. You'll also hear about Lebanon's economic challenges, healthcare options, and its vibrant cultural scene. Whether you're planning a move or just curious, this episode provides useful insights for settling into life in Lebanon.

Episode 3

الحلقة ٣

الموسيقى والفنانين اللبنانيين المشهورين

Music and Famous Lebanese Artists



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar discuss the vibrant world of Lebanese music and its legendary artists. From the iconic voice of Fairouz and the musical masterpieces of the Rahbani brothers to the powerful performances of Wadi' al-Safi and the revolutionary works of Ziad Rahbani, they explore the timeless music that has shaped Lebanon's cultural identity. They also reflect on the new generation of stars like Nancy Ajram and Wael Kfoury, whose talents continue to carry Lebanese music to global audiences. Tune in for a nostalgic journey through Lebanon's rich musical heritage.

شو تفعل بالصيفية بلبنان

What to Do in the Summer in Lebanon



In this episode...

Charbel and Farah share exciting ideas for making the most of summer in Lebanon. From enjoying the stunning beaches of Batroun and paragliding over Jounieh, to hiking around hidden gems like Chouwen Lake, they cover a variety of activities. They also highlight Lebanon's vibrant nightlife, summer festivals, and popular tourist spots like Byblos and Baalbek. Whether you're into adventure, culture, or simply relaxing by the sea, this episode is packed with great tips for an unforgettable Lebanese summer.

Episode 5

الحلقة ٥

ذكريات حلوة ومضحكة من المدرسة

Sweet and Funny School Memories



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar take a fun trip down memory lane as they share amusing and heartwarming school memories. From forgotten lines during school plays to mischievous science experiments gone wrong, they recall the moments that made their school days so memorable. They also reminisce about field trips, schoolyard games, and the friendships they built along the way. Join them for a lighthearted conversation full of laughter and nostalgia about the unforgettable experiences of growing up in Lebanon.

الهوايات ووسائل الترفيه

Hobbies and Entertainment



In this episode...

Charbel and Farah discuss popular hobbies and leisure activities in Lebanon. From sports like Pilates and hiking in nature to enjoying local food festivals and music events, they explore how people unwind and stay active. They also touch on other beloved pastimes like reading, biking, and even fishing. Whether it's exploring the beautiful outdoors or enjoying a quiet coffee with friends, this episode offers great ideas on how to make the most of your free time in Lebanon. Tune in for some fun suggestions and inspiration for your next hobby!

التاكسيّات الجماعية ببيروت

Shared Taxis in Beirut



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar explore a unique aspect of transportation in Beirut: shared taxis, known locally as “service.” They explain how these collective taxis work, providing an affordable and social way to get around the city. The duo shares funny and memorable experiences from their rides, touching on how this system has become an integral part of daily life in Beirut. Whether you’re a local or visiting the city, riding in a “service” is more than just a trip—it’s a glimpse into the heart of Beirut’s culture. Tune in for tips and stories about navigating the city with this iconic mode of transport!

Vocabulary

economic crisis	أَزْمَةٌ إِقْتِصَادِيَّةٌ
sometimes	أَوْقَاتٌ
gasoline, petrol	بَنْزِينٌ
I agree with you	بُؤَافِقُكَ بِالرَّأْيِ
collective taxi	تَاكْسِيٌّ جَمَاعِيٌّ
transportation	تَنْقُلٌ
line, route [for buses]	خَطٌّ (خَطُوطٌ)
passengers	رَاكِبٌ (رِكَّابٌ)
symbol	رَمْزٌ (رَمُوزٌ)
to fill a gap	سَدٌّ (يَسِدُّ) فِرَاغٌ
smooth, easy	سَلِسٌ
“service” [colloquial term for a collective taxi]	سِيرْفَيْسٌ
driver	شُوفُورٌ (شُوفُورِيَّةٌ)
honestly	صِرَاحَةً
traffic jam	عَجْجَةٌ
expensive	غَالِيٌّ
trip, journey	مِشْوَارٌ (مِشَاوِيرٌ)
trend, fashion	مَوْضَةٌ
transportation system	نِظَامُ نَقْلِ
license plate	نَمْرَةٌ

Transcript

شربل: مرحباً! اليوم رح نحكي عن جزء مميّز من وسائل النقل بيروت: التاكسيات الجماعية، أو متل ما منسميا هون "السيرفيس". أنا شربل، ومعني صديقي عمر. كيفك يا عمر؟

Charbel: Hello! Today we're going to talk about a unique part of transportation in Beirut: shared taxis, or as we call them here, "service." I'm Charbel, and with me is my friend Omar. How are you, Omar?

عمر: أهلاً شربل! حمدلله، كيفك إنت؟

Omar: Hello Charbel! Thank God, how are you?

شربل: منيح، ميرسي. التاكسيات الجماعية جزء مهم من حياتنا بيروت. عنا بيروت باصات وتاكسيات عادية، بس ما عنا ترانات. ومع هيك، التاكسيات الجماعية طريقة مميّزة ورخيصة للتنقل بالمدينة.

Charbel: I'm good, thank you. Shared taxis are an important part of our life in Beirut. We have buses and regular taxis in Beirut, but we don't have trains. However, shared taxis are a unique and cheap way to get around the city.

عمر: مضبوط. التاكسيات الجماعية بنتشغل بها الطريقة: بتوقف عالطريق وبتقشر بالإيد لتاكسي بنمرة حمراء. الشوفور يسألك لوين رايح؟ وإذا كنت على طريقو، يياخدك. ممكن تركب مع ناس تانيين رايمين بنفس الإتجاه، والرحلة أرخص لأنو هيك فكرتا وأوقات ما يياخدك لأنو مثلاً إنت رايح لمحل بعيد و ما معو ركاب.

Omar: That's right. Shared taxis work like this: you stand on the road and wave to a taxi with a red license plate. The driver asks you where you're going, and if it's on his route, he'll take you. You might ride with other people going in the same direction, and the trip is cheaper because that's the idea. Sometimes he won't take you if you're going somewhere far or if he doesn't have any passengers.

شربل: قبل الأزمة الإقتصادية، كان ركوب السيرفيس كثير رخيص. المشوار كان يكلف بين الألفين لثلاث آلاف ليرة لبنانية. وكان سعر كثير منيح للبناني!

Charbel: Before the economic crisis, taking a "service" was very cheap. The fare was between 2,000 and 3,000 Lebanese pounds—a very good price for the Lebanese!

التسوق والموضة بلبنان

Shopping and Fashion in Lebanon



In this episode...

Charbel and Farah talk about the vibrant world of fashion and shopping in Lebanon. From the high-end boutiques and international brands in Beirut to the local designers like Elie Saab and Zuhair Murad, Lebanon has established itself as a hub for fashion lovers. They also explore the lively street markets, where unique handmade items and traditional Lebanese garments can be found. With a strong fashion culture and a growing beauty industry, shopping in Lebanon offers something for everyone, from luxury seekers to those looking for hidden gems at affordable prices.

تأثير الثقافات على لبنان

The Influence of Cultures on Lebanon



In this episode...

Omar and Charbel discuss the rich cultural influences that have shaped Lebanon throughout its history. From the Ottoman rule, which left its mark on language, cuisine, and infrastructure, to the French mandate, which introduced new educational systems, legal frameworks, and architectural styles, Lebanon's cultural tapestry is a diverse blend. They also touch on the impact of Syria, both politically and culturally, and how Lebanon's strategic location has made it a crossroads for many civilizations. Together, these influences have created a unique and resilient cultural identity for the Lebanese people.

صناعة الصّابون العضويّ في لبنان

Organic Soap Making in Lebanon



In this episode...

Charbel and Farah discuss the growing industry of organic soap and shampoo production in Lebanon. Rooted in traditional methods, Lebanese artisans have been crafting natural soaps using olive oil, laurel leaves, and other local ingredients for generations. Charbel and Farah explore how these handmade products are gaining popularity today, not only for their benefits to skin and hair but also for their eco-friendly and sustainable nature. The episode also highlights the economic boost this industry provides to small businesses and local farmers, making it both a cultural and environmental win for Lebanon.

مؤسم الزيتون وزيت الزيتون

The Olive Season and Olive Oil



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar talk about the beloved tradition of olive harvesting and olive oil production in Lebanon. They reminisce about family gatherings during the olive harvest season, which runs from October to December, and the important role it plays in Lebanese culture. They also discuss the process of pressing olives to produce high-quality olive oil, a staple in Lebanese cuisine. Through their stories, you'll get a glimpse of how this tradition brings communities together and how olive oil continues to be a symbol of heritage and pride for Lebanon.

الجّيل الجديد ووسائل التّواصل الاجتماعي

The New Generation and Social Media



In this episode...

Charbel and Farah explore how the new generation is growing up in a world dominated by social media and technology. They discuss how children today spend more time on screens—watching YouTube videos, playing games, and scrolling through TikTok—compared to the outdoor, social activities of the past. Charbel and Farah also reflect on the impact this shift has on children’s mental and physical health, while emphasizing the importance of balance between technology use and real-life interactions. They highlight how parents can guide their children toward a healthier relationship with technology.

كُرَّةُ السَّلَّةِ وَالرِّيَاضَةُ بِلِيبْنَانِ

Basketball and Sports in Lebanon



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar dive into a topic close to the hearts of many Lebanese: basketball and sports in Lebanon. They talk about how basketball has become the country's most popular sport, with the national team and local clubs achieving impressive milestones. From the success of Lebanon's top teams like Al Riyadi to the incredible talents such as Wael Arakji, they highlight the impact these achievements have on the nation. The conversation also touches on the importance of developing young talent and the role sports play in promoting health, teamwork, and national pride in Lebanon.

العصر الذهبي للبنان

The Golden Age of Lebanon



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar discuss Lebanon's golden age, spanning from the 1950s to the mid-1970s. During this period, Lebanon was known as the "Switzerland of the Middle East" and Beirut as the "Paris of the East." They explore the country's cultural and economic growth, highlighting Beirut's role as a financial hub and a center for the arts. Learn about Lebanon's thriving tourism, banking sector, and cultural icons like Fairouz and the Rahbani brothers. While the episode touches on the nostalgia of this era, it also reflects on the challenges that followed and the hope for a return to prosperity.

Episode 15

الحلقة 15

الزّواج وتكوين القيلة

Marriage and Starting a Family



In this episode...

Charbel and Farah discuss the essential topic of marriage and starting a family. They reflect on the joys and challenges of building a life together, from balancing work and family responsibilities to raising children. You'll hear about the cultural importance of family in Lebanon, including the support from extended families, and how they help make the journey a little easier. Charbel and Farah also share their personal experiences, offering insight into the rewards of marriage and parenthood, and how love, patience, and support are key to making it all worthwhile.

Episode 16

الحلقة ١٦

إتجاه الطّاقة الشّمسية والتنقّل الكهربائي بلبنان

*The Shift Towards Solar Energy and
Electric Transportation in Lebanon*



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar explore the rise of solar energy and electric vehicles in Lebanon. They discuss how the country's energy crisis has led many to adopt solar power as a practical solution, reducing reliance on unreliable electricity. They also touch on the growing popularity of electric cars, which offer both cost savings and environmental benefits. Learn how these innovations are beginning to reshape daily life in Lebanon.

Episode 17

الحلقة ١٧

الإشياء اللي بتستفزنا

Pet Peeves



In this episode...

Charbel and Farah dive into the everyday annoyances that get under our skin, commonly known as “pet peeves.” From traffic violations like running red lights to inconsiderate behaviors in public spaces, they discuss the little things that frustrate them and many others in Lebanon. They share personal stories of people being loud on their phones, cutting in line, and playing music too loudly. It’s a light-hearted conversation about the challenges of dealing with these irritations and how to stay calm despite them.

أوّل وظيفّة

First Jobs



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar share funny and memorable stories from their first jobs. They reminisce about the awkward and sometimes embarrassing moments that come with entering the workforce for the first time. From Charbel's mishaps at a fastfood chain to Omar's experience selling electronics, they reflect on how these early jobs taught them valuable lessons. Tune in for some laughs as they talk about the challenges and surprises of starting a first job and how those experiences shape us for the future.

جبران خليل جبران وكتابو النبي

Gibran Khalil Gibran and His Book “The Prophet”

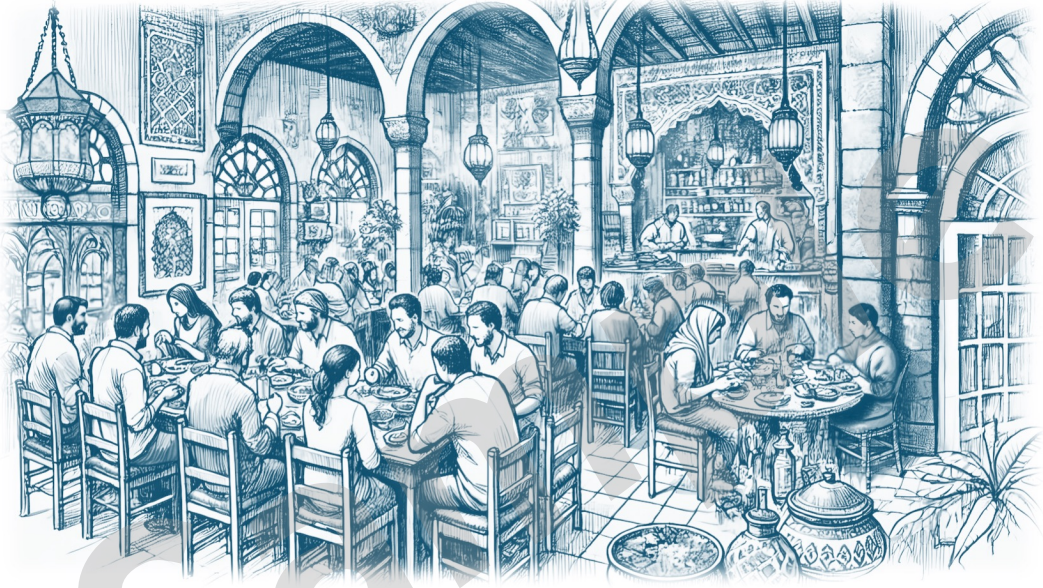


In this episode...

Charbel and Farah discuss the legendary Lebanese author and philosopher Gibran Khalil Gibran and his famous book, *The Prophet*. They explore Gibran's life, from his roots in Lebanon to his literary success in America, and the profound impact his work has had on readers worldwide. They reflect on the timeless themes of *The Prophet*, including love, work, and freedom, and share their favorite passages from the book. Whether you're already familiar with Gibran or discovering him for the first time, this episode offers an inspiring look into his wisdom and legacy.

الأكل اللبناني

Lebanese Cuisine



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar talk about the delicious world of Lebanese food. From mezze to shawarma, they discuss the wide variety of dishes that make Lebanese cuisine so special. They share funny personal stories, including how guests new to the cuisine often underestimate the sheer amount of food served at Lebanese meals. The episode highlights not only the flavors of traditional dishes like hummus, tabbouleh, and grilled meats but also how Lebanon's hospitality industry is rooted in its culture. Whether you're familiar with Lebanese food or new to it, this conversation will definitely leave you craving a bite!

بناء المُستقبل والتّعليم الجامعي

Building a Future and University Education



In this episode...

Charbel and Farah discuss the importance of building a successful future through education and career development. They highlight how discovering one's passion early on can guide students in choosing the right academic and career paths. Parents, schools, and hands-on experience play a key role in shaping these decisions. They also emphasize that university education is not only about academics but personal growth and gaining practical skills through internships or part-time jobs, all of which are crucial for long-term success.

التزلج بلبنان

Skiing in Lebanon



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar dive into the exciting winter activity of skiing in Lebanon. They explore how Lebanon, known for its beaches and rich history, is also a prime destination for skiing in the Middle East. From the popular slopes of Faraya Mzaar to the scenic Cedars resort, they share personal stories and highlight the unique experience of skiing in the country. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, skiing in Lebanon offers breathtaking views, from snowy mountains to the Mediterranean Sea. Tune in to discover why Lebanon is a hidden gem for winter sports enthusiasts!

صناعة الفخار التقليدية بلبنان

Traditional Pottery Making in Lebanon

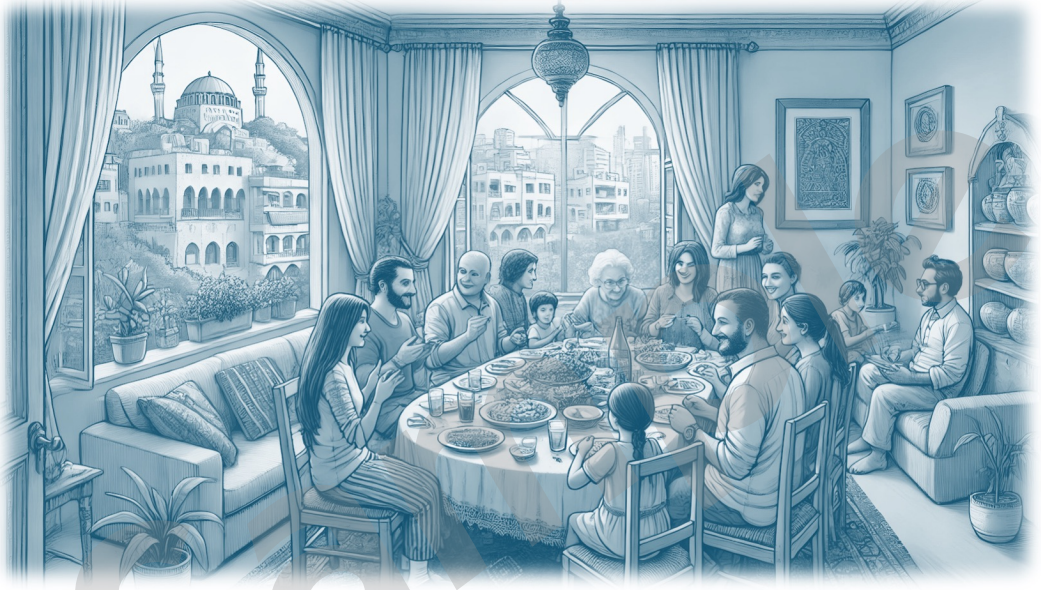


In this episode...

Charbel and Farah explore the traditional craft of pottery making in Lebanon, a skill that has been passed down through generations and remains an important part of the country's heritage. They discuss how pottery has been integral to daily life in Lebanon for thousands of years, with regions like Beit Shabab, Rachaiya, and Tripoli being renowned for their unique styles and techniques. Charbel and Farah share personal stories about owning handcrafted pottery and emphasize the importance of supporting artisans to preserve this cultural tradition for future generations. Tune in to learn more about the artistry and history behind Lebanese pottery!

التجمُّعات العائلية

Family Gatherings



In this episode...

Charbel and Omar reminisce about family gatherings, a cherished part of Lebanese culture. They discuss the laughter, awkward moments, and funny memories that come from these large get-togethers, especially during holidays and special occasions. From being asked about marriage by an eager relative to funny slip-ups during speeches, they share stories that highlight the warmth and humor found in family gatherings. Whether it's sharing meals or telling stories, these moments create lasting memories that bring families closer together. Join them as they celebrate the importance of family and the joy of togetherness.

Episode 25

الحلقة ٢٥

كسر الصور النمطية: واقع الحياة في لبنان

Breaking Stereotypes: The Reality of Life in Lebanon



In this episode...

Charbel and Farah discuss the common stereotypes about Lebanon and the broader Arab world, breaking down misconceptions to reveal the reality of life in Lebanon. They highlight the country's unique blend of Eastern and Western influences, its cultural diversity, and the vibrant, multifaceted nature of Lebanese society. From the dynamic fashion scene and nightlife in Beirut to the progressive educational system and the evolving role of women, Lebanon defies many of the typical expectations. Join them as they explore how Lebanon is a land of contrasts, rich traditions, and modern outlooks, challenging the stereotypes often associated with the region.

Vocabulary

media	إِعْلَام
the Middle East	الشَّرْقُ الأَوْسَط
coexistence	تَعَايُش
diversity	تَنوع
personal freedoms	حُرِّيَّاتِ شَخْصِيَّة
background	خَلْفِيَّة
although	رَغْمَ اِنِّو
behaviors	سُلُوكِيَّات
stereotype	صُورَةٌ نَمْطِيَّة (صُورَ نَمْطِيَّة)
customs, traditions	عَادَات
open mind	عَقْلٍ مَفْتُوح
channel	قَنَاةٌ (قَنَاوَات)
conservative	مُحَافِظ
complex	مُعَقَّد
concept, notion	مَفْهُوم (مَفَاهِيم)
urban areas	مَنَاطِقُ حَضَارِيَّة
open-minded	مِنْفَتِح
curriculum, approach	مَنْهَج (مَنْهَاج)
fabric, tapestry (used metaphorically for rich diversity)	نَسِيج
reality	وَأَقِع

Transcript

شربل: مرحباً! اليوم رح نحكي عن موضوع كثير بيتكرر لما نحكي عن الشرق الأوسط: الصُور النمطية عن العرب والواقع بلبنان. أنا شربل ومعِي رُفِقتي فرح. كيفك فرح؟

Charbel: Hello! Today, we're going to talk about a topic that comes up a lot when we talk about the Middle East—the stereotypes about Arabs and the reality in Lebanon. I'm Charbel, and with me is my friend Farah. How are you, Farah?

فرح: أهلاً شربل! أنا منيحة، الحمد لله. هيدا موضوع مهم كثير. في كثير مفاهيم خاطئة عن كيف الحياة بتكون بالدول العربية، ولبنان مثال ممتاز عن كيف ثقافتنا متنوعة ومعقدة.

Farah: Hi, Charbel! I'm good, thank you. This is a very important topic. There are many misconceptions about what life is like in Arab countries, and Lebanon is a great example of how our culture is diverse and complex.

شربل: أكيد. كثير من الناس عندن صور نمطية أو فكرة عن العرب إنو كلن نفس الثقافة ومُحافظين جداً، مثل ما يشوفوا مثلاً بالدول مثل السعودية أو اليمن. بس لبنان بيقدم صورة غير كلياً كثير مختلفة. هو بلد بتلتي في الشرق مع الغرب، وهيدا الشي بينعكس بثقافتنا، نمط حياتنا، وحتى بلبسنا.

Charbel: Definitely. Many people have stereotypes or a single idea about Arabs, thinking they all share the same culture and are very conservative, similar to what they see in countries like Saudi Arabia or Yemen. But Lebanon presents a completely different picture. It's a country where the East meets the West, and this is reflected in our culture, our lifestyle, and even in the way we dress.

فرح: مية بالمية. لبنان معروف بتنوعو. عنا خليط من الأديان، هني المسيحية، الإسلام، الدرُوز. هالتنوع منعكس بالعادات والسلوكيات الإجتماعية. بتلاقي ناس كثير مُحافظين وبتلاقي كمان ناس كثير منفتحين.

Farah: Absolutely. Lebanon is known for its diversity. We have a mix of religions, including Christianity, Islam, and Druze. And this diversity is reflected in our customs and social behaviors. You'll find people who are very conservative, and you'll also find people who are very open-minded.