



## Lesson 1: Thank You!

Shukran شكرًا

### LESSON NOTES

Wherever your destination maybe, manners are a must! And in this respect, Morocco is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be taking a look at a phrase there is no excuse not to bring with you to Morocco. Again, I'll stress this over and over, a little bit of the language can go such a long way!

In Arabic "Thank you" is "Shukran" (شكرا). The word "Shukran" literally means "thanks." This is rather casual and can be used in restaurants, at shops, and about everywhere else.

Now in Arabic there is a more formal way to express one's gratitude. Let's take a look at it.

The equivalent of "Thank you very much" is "Shukran Jazilan" (شكرا جزيلا). The first word of the phrase "Shukran" (شكرا) means "Thanks" as we learned earlier. This is followed by "Jazilan" (جزيلا), which means "a lot." So, both words together "Shukran Jazilan" (شكرا جزيلا) mean "thanks a lot."

This phrase is quite formal and is usually used for writing "thank you" notes, or thanking someone when they invite you to their home for lunch or dinner, as well as in business contexts and other formal situations.

On the other hand, for very special occasions when someone goes above and beyond the call of being kind, when someone is extremely generous, or for any other time you're extremely grateful, we have the following phrase to express extreme gratitude: "Baaraka Allahu fik" (الله فيك بارك) and this can mean something like "Thank you very much" although the literal meaning is quite different. Let me explain. The first word "Baaraka" (بارك) means "to bless." This is followed by "Allahu" (الله), which is "God" in Arabic. The last word in this phrase is "fik" (فيك) which means "in you". The three words put together "Baaraka Allahu fik" literally mean "God bless you", which in many situations can be used to say "thank you very much."

### PHRASES

Arabic	Romanization	English
بارك الله فيك	Baaraka Allahu fik	God bless you / Thank you very much
شكرا جزيلا	Shukran Jazilan	Thanks a lot

## VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English
شكرا	Shukran	Thanks
بارك	Baaraka	To bless
الله	Allahu	God
فيك	Fik	In you

## QUICK TIP

In instances when Moroccans want to express extreme gratitude, they usually place their right hand on their chest while saying thank you. This gesture indicates that it's really coming from the heart. It's not required, and don't think about it if it doesn't come out naturally, but if you see people doing it, that's what it means.

## QUICK TIP 2

Since this is your very first encounter with Arabic, here is a quick info on this rich language and on what else is spoken in Morocco. Classical Arabic is Morocco's official language, but the country's distinctive Arabic dialect (also called Moroccan Arabic) is the most widely spoken in Morocco. You'll find me juggling between both Classical and Moroccan Arabic to offer you the most relevant Survival Phrases. In addition, about 10 million Moroccans, mostly in rural areas, speak Berber either as a first language or bilingually with the spoken Arabic dialect. French which remains Morocco's unofficial third language, is taught universally and still serves as Morocco's primary language of commerce, science and economics; it is also widely used in education and government. Many Moroccans in the northern part of the country speak Spanish. English, while still far behind French and Spanish in terms of number of speakers, is rapidly becoming the foreign language of choice among educated youth.