


The Arabic language in the State of Israel



The State of Israel is known to be a Jewish state but in reality, Israel has a diverse population and is considered a Holy land for many different religions.



Today, Israel is home to almost two million Arabs. Accordingly, many Israeli citizens speak Arabic as their main language. Additionally, the Jewish population of Israel mostly moved there from other countries around the world in order to make Aliyah. Many of these countries were also in the Middle East and North Africa, where Arabic was their main language.

In Israel different languages have different official statuses. Ivrit has the status as "Official Language", with six and a half million speakers, the Arabic language is categorised as a language with "Special Status".

In Israel many road signs, public and hospital signs you see, will be in Ivrit as well as Arabic, English and sometimes Russian.

With Israel being a state in the Middle East surrounded by Arabic-speaking countries, some Arabic words have integrated into the Ivrit language and are used as official or slang words in modern Ivrit.





Arabic Word	→	Literal Meaning	→	Hebrew Word	→	Hebrew Meaning
سَلَامٌ (Salaam)	→	Peace	→	שְׁלוֹמַם	→	Peace, hello, goodbye
أصُولِي (Usuly)	→	Authentic, rooted, primary	→	אֲדָלִי	→	Real, authentic, original
أخوك (Achuk)	→	"Your brother"	→	אָחִי	→	Soul brother, like a brother to me, good friend
أحلى (Achla)	→	Sweet, high quality	→	אֲחֻלָּה	→	Great, good, sure
بَسْطَة (Basta)	→	Closed space	→	בִּסְטָה	→	Market booth, market stall
دغري (Dua'g'ri)	→	Straight	→	דוֹגְרִי	→	Straight forward, with no beating around the bush
خمسة (Hamsa)	→	The number five (5)	→	חֲמִשָּׁה	→	Against evil eye, shape of the palm (five fingers)
صَحْتين (Tzachtin)	→	Wishing health, wholeness	→	סִחְתִּין	→	Good job, great job (as feedback to another person)
فَضِيحَة (Fadihah)	→	Scandal, shame	→	פְּדִיחָה	→	An embarrassing story or interaction
يَوْمَ عَسَلٍ وَيَوْمَ بَصَلٍ (Yum asal wayum basal)	→	Honey day and onion day	→	יּוֹם עֶסֶל וְיּוֹם בָּסַל	→	Everyone has some good days and some bad days (said to someone having a bad day)

