

Arabic Sign Language

Arabic Sign Language (ArSL) is a form of non-verbal communication for Arabic speakers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Like the Arabic language itself, ArSL has many variations based on region or dialect. Until 2004, there was no standardized ArSL across the Arab world, so the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs compiled a common dictionary with vocabulary from various dialects. Today, standardized ArSL appears in the media, much like Modern Standard Arabic, but regional ArSL dialects remain in use day-to-day. Please note that the examples in this infographic may differ from region to region because of varying ArSL dialects.



مرحبيا
Marhaba
Hello
The right hand makes a "salute" motion from the forehead outward.

كيف حالك؟
Kayf haluk?
How are you?
The right hand moves across the chest and extends outward in a "thumbs up" gesture.



آسف
Asif
Sorry
The fingers of one hand touch the palm of the other in an "L" shape.



شوي شوي
Shway shway
Slow down
The right palm faces outward then turns inward and moves down as all five fingers meet.



مبروك
Mabrūk
Congratulations
Both hands touch the forehead in a "salute" shape and extend outward. Repeat once.

شكر
Shukran
Thank you
The right hand makes a "salute" motion from the forehead outward. It is similar to مرحبيا (Marhaba) but is differentiated in context.