عربية- إنكليزية
ل. 6. مكالوكلين
A LEARNER’S DICTIONARY OF CLASSICAL ARABIC IDIOMS

(Arabic - English)
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A LEARNER’S DICTIONARY OF CLASSICAL ARABIC IDIOMS

Arabic - English

by

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INTRODUCTION

This small collection of Arabic idioms is intended for both Arab students of English and for English-speaking students of Arabic. The aims of the compiler have been to stimulate the interest of the student of Arabic in the richness of Arabic expression and to introduce the native Arabic-speaker to varieties of idiomatic translation.

For the foreign student of Arabic it may seem daunting that modern Arabic, even the much-maligned newspaper version, draws on such a wealth of sources: the Koran, Hadith, poetry ancient and modern, proverbs and rhyming prose, etc. This small collection gives samples from these and other sources with the aim of smoothing the path of the student.

The native speaker of Arabic may find it useful to study the various possibilities for translating into idiomatic English almost any of the examples given. Much will depend, of course, on the context as to whether one chooses this piece of idiomatic English or that. There could be a world of difference, for example in rendering 'marhaba!' by
Hi!’, or ‘Hullo!’ or ‘Welcome!’, to mention only a few possibilities. This may be a good point at which to remind students that there is a vast difference between ‘He is very rich’ and ‘He is too rich’ which can be rendered in the same words in Arabic.

The selection of items for translation is based on taking the Arabic as the origin. The arrangement is alphabetical by root and it will be obvious immediately that the selection is a very subjective one. The compiler has, in choosing from many thousands of items made personal judgements about which items he has found in most common use. Postillions-and-lightning juxtapositions have been studiously avoided.

Items have been numbered consecutively irrespective of alphabetical divisions and it is hoped that this feature plus the parallel text arrangement will help students in self-testing and teachers in assigning and testing learning. Teachers will inevitably find that they wish to add to the possibilities for English idioms (which have been deliberately kept to a meaningful minimum) and may find this collection a useful mine for compiling sentences to illustrate meaning more fully.

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1. Always, and for ever.

(Suggestion of rhyming prose.)

2. For ever and ever.

3. Never.

4. Name of famous poet.

Literally, "He who made

off with evil under his arms".

5. At the time of....

(preposition).

6. A formal gathering to

commemorate the good

qualities of the deceased.
7. A matter of no importance.

8. Parents.

9. *(A characteristic handed down by)* the father from the grandfather.

10. Whether you like it or not.

11. As follows.

12. Inappropriate circumstances; unfavourable situation.

13. He was not hurt; suffered no damage; came to no harm.

14. Following; after; subsequent to *(Preposition.)*
15. Certainly! Of course!  
   By all means!

16. Indefinitely; sine die.

17. He shouldered/bore the responsibility.

18. He took the necessary steps/measures.


20. He took it seriously.

21. Life hereafter; the after life.

22. From time to time.

23. "O! Brethren!" (As in the opening address of a speech).
24. An amiable person. *(Lit: 'Like Adam').* Human, approachable, etc.

25. He performed *(the obligation of)* the Hajj *(Pilgrimage to Mecca in the month of pilgrimage).*

26. .... which will inevitably lead to....

27. ‘In thanking Mr. ...... we must not forget ......’

28. The call to prayer of: Dawn; Noontime; Late Afternoon; Sunset; Evening.

29. Announcing the end of ....
30. He was not hurt; suffered no injury.

31. The Holy Land. (*Used for* both Palestine and Mecca/Medina).

32. The situation become critical/one of crisis.

33. On the basis that...

34. There is no foundation in it of truth.

35. The main ledger (*Accounting*).

36. The whole/entire world.
37. What a great pity! It is such a share! It is so regrettable.

38. With the greatest regret.

39. In the same manner as/
    following the example of.

40. The dispute already existing (Note various ways of rendering 'already').

41. In accordance with basic principles; as is only fitting, etc.

42. For sure; no doubt about it.

43. He knows how to go about things. (Suggestion of opportunism. Lit.: 'He
knows where the shoulder is
best eaten from!"

44. Full board. (Lit.: eating and drinking and sleeping).

45. After much ado; after a good deal of beating around the bush.

46. From beginning to end; from Alpha to Omega. (Esp. in context of knowing a subject thoroughly).

47. There is no God but God.

48. God, may He be praised and exalted!

49. God, may His majesty be glorified!

50. God, may He be exalted and glorified!
51. Lit. : 'O God!' In prose often introduces 'except if', with the sense, '... or at best...'

52. God, the Most High, the Almighty.

53. God, Who hears and responds.

54. With God's permission.

55. If God wills.

56. We shall spare no effort.

57. And so on; etc.; and similar things.

58. Mecca.

59. The day before yesterday.
60. We went there in the hope that... (N.B. Use of verbal noun).

61. The feminine and the masculine. (Grammar).

62. In spite of him (Lit.: 'of his nose!')

63. In a state of complete preparedness; on full alert.

64. Going and returning; roundtrip (travel term).

65. From beginning to end.

66. Those who have charge or responsibility; guardians (of children, for example); parents.
67. Those with great power and influence. (Lit.: 'to bind and loose.').

68. The time has come.

69. Premature.

70. Hitherto; before now; already.

71. The Koran. (Lit.: 'God's clear signs')

72. He had the greatest admiration for him. (Lit.: ... what an admiration!).

73. There is no comparison between the two of them. (Lit.: 'Where is this from that?').
74. Where do you get this from? 

How did you come by this?

(proverbial phrase, 
ironical, in respect of 
suspicious affluence).
75. Including....

76. Parking strictly forbidden/prohibited.

77. By land, sea and air.

78. He must/will have to/has no choice but to...

79. To begin with.
80. It is clear/obvious/ needs no saying that....

81. Apparently.

82. Apparently.

83. Vile language.

84. He made every effort.

85. He made the most extreme efforts/he did as much as he possibly could.

86. An unjustified/unprovoked attack.

87. The good/dutiful son.

88. "Believe (even) in a stone and you will be healed". (Proverbial).
89. He came in in a towering rage.

90. He is still a wealthy man.

91. An Absurd/silly/stupid question.

92. God bless you!

93. He put the plan forward for discussion.

94. A glimmer of hope.

95. To some extent.

96. They hit each other.
97. (Some do one thing while) others (do something else).

98. Every house has a sewer/cesspool. ('Skeletons in the cupboard'). (Proverbial).

99. Give him my best wishes/ regards!

100. The situation became crystallized.

101. A decent chap.

102. A man of good family.

103. Lit. : 'a girl of yesterday.'

Suggestion of: (nouveauriche', 'arriviste'; of no standing or background.
104. A word. *(Frequently in contexts such as ‘...and he didn’t say a single word’)*.

105. In accordance with the instructions of...

106. He has no idea what is going on/doesn’t understand a thing. *(Lit.: ‘does not know the bend from his elbow’)*.

107. Patient, long-suffering.

108. He paid no attention to what I was saying.

109. He did me credit *(e.g. ‘by his performance’)*. *(Lit.: ‘He whitened my face’)*.
110. In succession.
111. Follow-up committee.
112. Satellite states.
113. At your disposal.
114. Between October and November there is a second summer. (‘Indian summer’).
115. Relaxation after strenuous effort (Proverbial).
116. He has a perfect command of the language.

117. The house was built in 1948. (Note rendering of English passive).

118. Finished, praise be to God! (Frequently the closing words of a book or letter)

119. And consequently....

120. Crocodile tears.

121. He has just arrived.

122. He had the opportunity to work for....
123. Taking revenge.

124. He made his presence felt.

125. A person of heavy disposition/temperament/‘hard going’.

126. There is no doubt.

127. And hence/consequently...

128. At whatever cost.

129. Invaluable.
130. The Twelvers (in Shia Islam).

131. Interesting.
132. Self-control.

133. A corpse.

134. Something new turned up; there was a new development which affected him.

135. Lit.: ‘It is worth mentioning’. Link phrase meaning, ‘In this connection it is relevant that…’
136. Let us suppose for the sake of argument.

137. Birds of prey.

138. With the naked eye.

139. (Speaking) with objectivity.

140. Things are back to normal. (Lit.: ‘The waters have returned to their natural courses’).

141. The two sides held lengthy talks.

142. The situation was reviewed (Note rendering of English passive).

143. Because/on account of the fact that...
144. An integral part of...

145. Thank you very much.

146. Lit.: ‘From the quiver (of arrows)’. Often = ‘Oh, just something I dashed off’.

147. Much ado about nothing. (Lit.: Millstones grinding away but yet I see no grain.) (Proverbial).

148. And he began to write.

149. His Majesty.

150. God, may His majesty be glorified!
151. The whole thing is.../ in a nutshell.

152. Addition/subtraction/multiplication/division.

153. The whole/entire world.

154. A large crowd of people.

155. And he said, among other things/inter alia.

156. I have nothing to do with this (Lit. : I have in it neither a female nor a male camel).

157. Side by side.

158. Of the greatest/most extreme importance.
159. With the utmost speed. (على جناح السرعة)
160. With great effort. (بجهد جهيد)
161. Every steed has a stumble. (لكل جواد كبوة)

('Nobody's perfect!')
(Proverbial).

162. By (preposition of time). (في موعد لا يتجاوز)... (30 June).

163. Roving ambassador/ representative;
commercial traveller.

164. According to news reports from Amman...
165. The rising generation/
younger generation.
166. He makes mountains out of molehills (Lit. : ‘makes a dome out of a grain’).

(Proverbial).

167. Love of country is a part of faith. (19th century Arab nationalist motto)

168. It would be so nice if we went...

169. Black on white/in writing (Lit. : ink on paper).
170. He played a double game (Lit.: ‘on two strings’).

171. He simply has to attend/inevitably he must be present.

172. On the grounds that/using the pretext that.


174. Quarantine.

175. Up to now/so far/hitherto.

176. From all directions.
177. A spokesman for...

178. He took it in its entirety.

179. A critical situation/position; a tight corner.

180. He made no progress worth mentioning.


182. A literal translation.

183. There is blessing in movement. (Proverbial).

184. A bastard.

186. He was very apprehensive about... (Lit.: ‘took 1000 accounts of...’)

187. Not only... but also...

188. Lit.: ‘The envious one does not prevail’. Rhyming prose motto, found on back of trucks, for example.

189. What a pity!

190. Good! Fine! O.K.! Agreed!

191. It’s better to...; it would be a good thing to...
192. It was our good fortune that...


194. God forbid!

195. To give an example, but not to exclude other possibilities.

196. In summary it may be said,

197. The settled and the bedu.

198. You (Lit.: Your Honour).

199. Curfew.
200. King......, may God preserve him.

201. O noble gathering! (Opening words of speech).

202. A day full of activities; a very charged day.

203. It may be truly said that... ... إن... ...

204. You are right.

205. You are mistaken, wrong.

206. He assumed power.

207. Necessity provides its own rules.

208. The provisions of Islamic law.

209. The fear of God is the fount of wisdom, the beginning of wisdom.

211. By the beginning of Ramadan.

212. Good offices. (Diplomacy).

213. He arrived, giving praise and thanks. (Catch phrase).

214. He attributed the responsibility to him, made him responsible.


216. He did everything possible/went to the most extreme lengths in order to...
217. Wherever it was/might be:
   haphazardly, at random.

218. He is still alive and
   flourishing.

219. In commemoration of the
   40-day remembrance
   gathering for...

220. Come to prayer! *(The
   Muezzin’s call).*
221. This is all a thing of the past. 

223. The last of the prophets. (Muhammad.) The seal of the prophets.

224. Lit: ‘They destroyed his home’. They gave him a hard time, ruined him, etc.
225. For reasons beyond our control.

226. Supernatural, out of the ordinary.

227. What a pity! That's such a pity, loss!

228. There were no fatalities.

229. It is feared that...

230. And in this connection...

231. And we make special mention of...

232. The appropriate departments, authorities.
233. All long the line, right across the board, etc.

234. It never occurred to him, never crossed his mind that...

235. A person of considerable importance, significance.

236. Of his own good will.

237. May God guide your footsteps!

238. Slow down! Reduce speed!

239. Terrific reductions! (At the sales.)

240. It is hidden from no one that...; everyone knows that...
241. ... of eternal memory.

242. Yours Sincerely... (Lit.: 'And may you remain to the sincere one'.)

243. With most sincere congratulations.

244. ... which is quite different from the situation obtaining at that time.

245. Everyone agrees that... (Lit.: لا يختلفان على أن...)

two do not disagree on the fact that...

246. God's creation is wonderfully diverse. (Frequently ironic comment on something farcical).

247. Of good character.
248. Six years ago.

249. Lit.: 'It is not devoid of benefit'. It is quite useful.

250. He released him.

251. With the exception of; except for.

252. The five Pillars of Islam.

253. For fear that, lest.

254. He was disappointed.

255. All things in moderation. (Lit.: the best of things is the medium.)
256. Selections from the Arabic Press.

257. And that would be the best thing for you. (Catch phrase from the stories of Juha).

258. He imagined.
259. The moving force, mastermind.

260. Changes were made to it.

261. For the limited-income brackets.

262. The inwardness of affairs; the inside story.

263. Colloquial Arabic.

264. To such a degree that... (One way of rendering 'so... that...')
265. Gradually.

266. The age of reason or maturity.

267. Prevention is better than cure. (Lit.: 'a dirham of care rather than a qintar of treatment'). (Proverbial).

268. A man called....

269. He wished long life to him.

270. The Attorney-General/Public Prosecutor.

271. The so-called self-government/autonomy.

272. Payment in advance.

273. All at one go/at once; at one fell swoop, etc.
274. An accountant.

275. As is indicated by the fact that...

276. The best of speech is that which is short and to-the-point.

277. The undersigned.

278. There was a most frightful row/disturbance/commo- tion/uproar.

279. *(The affair)* caused endless turmoll. *(Lit.: ‘made the world rise up and did not let it settle down’).*

280. Something which gives rise to astonishment.
281. The situation is deteriorating quickly.

282. And so on/and so forth.

283. As long as I live.

284. So long as this is the situation...

285. Without a glance at...

286. To the exclusion of others.

287. Proverb: ‘The eloquent cock crows from the egg’.

(Talent appearing at an early age).

288. No Credit.
289. A creditor account, an account in credit.

290. He was found guilty.
291. On a frequency of...

292. On the grounds/pretext that...

293. The Koran.

294. The previously-mentioned, the above-mentioned.

295. Something of no significance.

296. He mentioned him in laudatory terms.

297. It was nothing worth mentioning.
298. Non-Muslim communities under Muslim rule and protection.

299. It slipped his mind that...

300. It was in vain; it all went for nothing.

301. His outlook on life, his philosophy of life.

302. He recalled to people’s minds; he reminded his listeners/readers.

303. Of some importance, significance.

304. A relative.

305. On one occasion.

306. Autarky, self-sufficiency.
307. Head over heels.

308. *Lit.*: on my head. ‘I will do it right away’, etc.

309. At the head of a sizeable delegation.

310. His birthplace.

311. I wonder......?

312. I feel myself obliged to......

313. Visibility is good.

314. The Lord of the Worlds.

315. Housewives (*Lit.*: *ladies of the houses*).
316. Employers.


318. Alphabetical order.

319. He left on a trip, never to return.

320. The credit for this must go to...

321. Please do not... (For example, in public notices.)

322. The nomadic Arabs.

323. May God have mercy on him!
324. They returned the fire. رَدَّوا عَلَى النَّارِ بِالمَعْتَلِ
325. A powerful reaction. رَدٌّ فَعَّلٌ قَوِّيٌّ
326. The addressee. المُرْسَلُ إِلَيْهِ
327. To let. (Property). بِرَسْمِ الإِبِجَارِ
328. He reached the age of maturity. بَلَغَ سِنَّ الرَّشِيدِ
329. Ministry of Information and National Guidance. وُؤُثَرَةُ الإِلْعَامِ وَالأَرْشَادِ القَوْمِيٌّ
330. Persona non grata; an undesirable. شَخْصٌ غَيْبٌ مَرَغوبٌ فِيهِ
331. In spite of the fact that... بالرَّعَمِ مِنْ أَنَّ...
332. The twin rivers (*Tigris & Euphrates*).

333. He rejected it totally, out of hand.

334. A high-level delegation.

335. He took... to court; raised a case against....

336. The attached/enclosed letter.

337. Thank you for your kind letter.

338. Decentralization.

339. He performed two prostrations in saying his prayers.
340. Work piling up.

341. The whole world.

342. In the twinkling of an eye.

343. He was executed by firing-squad.

344. In the present circumstances.

345. In order to save lives.

346. He expressed satisfaction on the part of both sides with the results of the talks.
347. Slowly.

348. Kindergarden.

349. in an appalling state.

350. Absolutely marvellous.

351. *Things* could not be better.

352. It is indisputable, there is no doubt.

353. While.

354. The proceeds of the party/ function.
355. *Proverbial*: The blows of the beloved are as raisins.

356. Please do not disturb.

357. Like a deaf man at a wedding. *Proverbial* for someone being completely unaware of what is going on.

359. I have a cold.

360. A slip of the tongue.

361. The conference due to be held.

362. The British Foreign Secretary met with his French counterpart.

363. A chronic illness.

364. Rock-bottom prices! Very low prices!

365. A storm in a tea-cup.
366. A pair of shoes.

367. Condominium. (E.g. the former ‘Anglo-Egyptian Sudan’.)

368. False testimony

369. He is still living.

370. And as an extra precaution.
371. A very important question.

372. May He be praised, who changes circumstances.

(Pious expression, often used ironically in comment on some extraordinary change.)

373. May God be praised!

(Expression of astonishment).

374. Unprecedented; incomparable.
375. He had gone previously; he... 375) سباق له أن ذهب... had already gone; he went previously.

376. The arms-race. 376) سباق التسلح

377. For example. 377) على سبيل المثال

378. The Iron Curtain. 378) السار الحديدي

379. O God! (One of God’s names: 379) يا ساتر! the Coverer, or Protector.
Used to invoke defence against some unpleasant possible or actual event.)

380. This is the most absurd/ 380) هذا من أسوأ ما يكون ridiculous thing; couldn’t be more absurd.

381. It was a complete waste of time; it was (all) in vain. 381) ذهب سدى
382. In good times and bad.

383. He released him.

384. Quickly (esp. of developments taking place.)

385. Quick-witted; quick-thinking.

386. *Lit.* : ‘He would steal the kohl from the eye’. He is an incorrigible thief.

387. It took effect: went into effect; came into force.

388. Broadcaster’s greeting to listeners/viewers: ‘May God make your times happy!’
389. (So-and-so) of blessed memory.

390. First Aid.

391. Seeking a livelihood; making a living; chasing after money. *(Lit.: striving after money/coins/qurush.)*

392. He stood aghast, bewildered.

393. The daily serial *(radio series, TV, etc.)*

394. Attention was focussed on. *(Lit.: lights were concentrated on.)*

395. An advance *(money).*
396. Give him my best wishes!

397. He took over the reins of government.

398. O God! *(Expression of surprise, using the name of God which means Peace.)*

399. They returned safely to base.

400. Audio-visual equipment/methods.

401. Something existing in name only.

402. His Royal Highness.

403. The High Commissioner.

404. The people of the Sunna.

Sunni Muslims.
405. He had an opportunity to work for...

406. Backed up by official documents.

407. Inadvertently

408. Unfortunately.

409. From bad to worse.

410. He ill-treated so-and-so.

411. He let him down, disappointed him, did not do him credit. (*Lit.*: blackened his face.)

412. On an equal footing.
413. They talked about you; your name came up.

414. The rest of the world; all other parts of the world.

415. The implementation of the project is going ahead (smoothly).
416. An unlucky number.

417. In this respect/regard he is in the same position as all his neighbours.

418. May He be exalted! (God)

419. Leave me alone, to myself.

420. Of exalted/high/grand status.

421. Proverbial. ‘He who grew up with something grows old and grey with it.’

Approximately ‘Old habits die hard’.
422. We shall never give up one inch of ground.

423. He spoke at great length on it.

424. He was suspicious about him.

425. What a difference between them!

426. From all parts of the world.

427. The doctor diagnosed the illness.

428. Because of the intensity of our joy; because we were so glad. (NB: rendering of the English 'so... that').
429. He emphasised the importance of the subject.

430. Having a counter-productive effect. (*Lit: ‘Too much stretching loosens (elastic’).*

431. Intensified security measures; stepped up security measures.

432. Proverbial. ‘Keep clear of evil and sing out to it!’

433. The lesser of two evils.

434. He drank the health of so-and-so.

435. Let him go and drink the sea! (*Proverbial for writing-off or dismissing someone).*

436. A man with moustaches.
437. With no strings attached; unconditional.

438. Our legal rights.
439. Islamic legality.
440. A draft resolution/bill.

441. From East to West; all over the world.

442. The polytheists.
443. Proverbial. 'The pot of partnership never comes to the boil.'

444. He gave him a sideways glance.
445. Proverbial. 'The people of Mecca know best its narrow streets.' (‘Far be it from me as an outsider to presume to comment.’)

446. Until further notice.

447. The Hajj rites/ceremonial.

448. Rioting, acts of civil disturbance.

449. My principal preoccupation.

450. He occupied an important post.

452. It is indisputable.

453. I am very grateful.

454. He got down to the work seriously.

455. In the act/in flagrante delicto

456. We have made great progress/ come a long way.

457. If God wills.

458. To a certain extent.

459. His body was accompanied to the grave.
460. Sweat poured from him.

461. Good morning (Formal, e.g. on radio, TV.)

462. Good morning.

463. It is rightly said of him....

464. Or, to put it more correctly;...
or, rather....

465. The host.
466. The Koran

467. Plat du jour; daily special (In a restaurant.)

468. And in this connection.

469. The subject with which we are dealing.

470. He felt (a great) relief.

471. I came across him by chance on my way.

472. Proverbial. ‘A chance meeting which is better than a thousand appointments.’
473. Almighty God has spoken truly. (Said when quoting from the Koran.)

474. Proverbial. ‘A friend in need is a friend indeed.’

475. The straight path.

476. Miscellaneous/sundry expenses.

477. Regardless of, irrespective of...

478. The past year.

479. Escalation of the crisis.

480. On the international plane; internationally; in the international arena.
481. From now on; henceforth.

482. Proverbial. ‘Learning when young is like carving in rock.’

483. ‘Just a lot of talk’.
Meaningless verbiage.

484. Empty-handed.


486. Proverbial. ‘One hand cannot applaud’. Co-operation is necessary.

487. Unserviceable; unuseable.
488. Prayertimes: Dawn; صلاة الفجر/الظهر
Noontime; Afternoon; العصر/الغروب
Sunset; Evening.
العشاء

489. From the depths of my heart. من صميم قلبي

490. You are right/correct. أنتُ على الصواب

491. Lower your voice! أخفِ صوتك!
492. Arabic.


494. Self-control; discipline; restraint.

495. Overnight (Esp. of sudden changes)

496. Exaggerating the significance of some news item.

497. (Financial) inflation.
498. Anti-aircraft artillery.
المدفعية المضادة للطائرات

499. In case of need/necessity.
عند الضرورة

500. Necessity may authorise forbidden acts.
الضرورة تبيع المحظورات

*(Proverbial)*

501. Zaid struck Amr. *(Sentence used to teach children the verb, the nominative and the accusative).*
ضرب زيد عمرا.

502. The master’s stroke/touch is worth a thousand.
ضربة المعلم بالف ضربة

*(Proverbial)*

503. He set the record. *(Sport, etc.)*
ضرب الرقم القياسي

504. Three times *(multiplication).*
ثلاثة أضعاف

E.g. 'three times the size of...’
505. Many, many times (the size) of...

506. Registered mail.

507. He wasted his time.

508. What a pity! What a waste!

509. Moreover, ... (Lit: 'Add to that, that...')
510. Being printed.

511. An exact copy; spitting image.

512. The views were in complete agreement.

513. There was no appreciable change in the situation.

514. He put a question to him.

515. And he went on to say...
516. First class; first rate.

517. The two of them were diametrically opposed.

518. The discussion led on to the subject of....

519. A hunger-strike.

520. He was of an advanced age.

521. The crew of the aircraft.

522. A dining-room set.

523. A house overlooking the sea.
524. Two are insatiable, the seeker after knowledge and the seeker after money.

(Proverbial.)

525. Public-opinion poll.

526. Reconnaissance aircraft.

527. He ran away at great speed. He shot off into the blue.

528. No, absolutely not.

529. 'I hear and obey'. (Catchphrase from 'Arabian Nights')

530. As much as possible/as you are able.
531. If you wish to be obeyed, then give orders for what is possible. (Proverbial.)

532. Beyond me; too difficult for me; beyond my ability; out of my range.

533. For a long time.

534. So long as/since (Conjunction.)

535. All over the country. (Lit.: ‘Throughout the length and breadth of the country.’)

536. Term of address: ‘May God lengthen your life’.

537. .... the penalty for which is death.
538. (Please find) enclosed.

539. Formal greeting, esp. in broadcasting: ‘May your times be good!’

540. Formal greeting, esp. in broadcasting: ‘May your evening be good!’ ‘Good evening!’

541. He went out of his mind; he was absolutely furious/livid.

542. Proverb. ‘It is a goat even if it flies!’ (Basic character is unchangeable).
543. Within two days.
544. Compelling circumstances; force-majeure.
545. He harboured hostile thoughts about him.
546. ‘Some thoughts can be a sin’. (Caution against forming hostile judgments hastily about someone.)
547. …. in my opinion; that’s what I think (at least).
548. …. since we thought that…. … ظنًا معنا أن…. 048
549. It is widely thought that…. ; it is most likely that…. 049
550. Apparently.

551. Apparently
552. It is considered unimportant.

553. The poor slave. (Deprecatory reference to oneself)

554. A kind of/sort of.

555. The inimitability of the Koran.

556. Sooner or later.

557. The count-down.
558. Polygamy.

559. Incompetence.

560. Dissatisfaction, displeasure.

561. With the exception of...

562. The Tripartite Aggression.

(Common journalistic shorthand for the Suez campaign, 1956)

563. Proverbial: 'an excuse worse than the original fault.'

564. A thought occurred to him.

565. This is not the proper place to discuss....

566. This is a difficult and involved subject.
567. Martial law.

568. The tightest bond.

569. Totally devoid of any truth.

570. In the prime of his youth.

571. The remark has been attributed to X, that...

572. Honeymoon.

573. Proverbial. 'He who lives with the tribe for forty days becomes one of them.'
574. The students staged a sit-in in the Faculty of Arts.

575. A display of muscles.

576. All good wishes (Lit.: 'perfumed wishes').

577. He looked at the request sympathetically.

578. Out of work, unemployed.

579. To be out of action.

580. King ....... (honorific epithet.)

581. I beg your pardon!
582. The imposition of economic sanctions.

583. Getting married.

584. It is believed that...

585. Of unsound mind; mentally disturbed.

586. The irrational.

587. He poisoned the atmosphere (in a relationship, for example) between them.

588. No, quite the opposite/on the contrary!

589. Cause and effect.
590. Great hopes were placed in him.

591. I know as much as you do about it! (I.e., not much.) How should I know?!

592. For your information.

593. God (only) knows!

594. Having in mind that, hoping that...

595. However.

596. And therefore...

597. Colloquial. (For example, colloquial Arabic.)

598. The elite and the general run of people.
599. He is 12 years of age.

600. In all parts of the world.

601. The provisions in force.

602. At sunset.

603. He was held in high esteem by him.

604. In the full bloom of youth.

605. Proverbial. 'The book is read from its title'. Small indications can tell you the whole story.
606. The parties concerned.

607. The tail of the dog remains crooked. Proverbial for someone who is incorrigible.

608. In accordance with custom or habit.

609. Ritual phrase. '..... that hospitality to which you have accustomed us'.

610. .... never to return.

611. A re-examination of the subject.

612. (Congratulations on day of religious or personal celebration.) Happy Feast!

613. May God Help him!
614. With the help of God.

615. Shame on you.

616. Long live the King!

617. An eye witness.
618. Clear, plain, incontestable.

619. The esteemed newspaper ...(Honourific applied by competitor.)

620. The first of the month.

621. He took him unawares.

622. Along the lines of; on the model of...

623. It is not surprising; it is no wonder that....
624. There was abundant rainfall. (Dar al-Ma'āmūr) بـغـارتة

625. Brain-washing. (Gusul Damaa)

626. He fainted. (Gusul 'Ala')

627. A heavily-populated area. (Manṭaqa Qasas) بالسكان

628. In the meantime; at the same time. (Fi Gusaun 'Dlik)

629. I beg pardon of God. (Modest disclaimer, or hearing praise of oneself, for example) (Astaghfiru'llah)

630. The late.... (al-Ma'aforu'llah)
631. Formal expression of condolence. 'May God enfold the late lamented with his abundant mercy'.

632. I seize the opportunity to......

633. There is no need to add; needless to say that....

634. It slipped my mind.

635. Only. (In commercial transactions mainly).

636. Without his knowledge.

637. He changed his mind.
638. Day after day.

639. Although......

640. As for......; however; in fact,...... ف... أ. ..... etc.

641. Cautiously optimistic.

642. Patience is the key to relief. Proverbial.

643. The ‘Fatiha’. (Opening chapter of the Koran.)
644. The first of September.

645. From time to time.

646. A general referendum.

647. From every direction.

648. Your Excellency, the President!

649. Very heavy losses.

650. King ... (with honorific epithet.)
651. The hostages were released

652. An obtuse angle

(geometric).

653. A book unique of its kind.

654. The newspaper had an exclusive in publishing the news/had a ‘scoop’.

655. He was supposed to go.

656. I shall be waiting impatiently for you.

657. Rubbish! Nonsense!

658. In your spare time.
659. Divide and rule.

660. Racial discrimination.

661. Proverb. *All the game is in the belly of the wild ass.*

Someone or thing with the right qualities relieves you of the need to have resort to others.

662. Classical Arabic.

663. 'And here is the news in detail.'

664. He was involved in a scandal.
665. A great deal is due to him; he deserves a great deal of credit.

666. Apart from; in addition to.

667. The credit for that must go to him.

668. Motto found in many public places: 'This is due to the graciousness of my Lord God'.

669. The Feast at the end of Ramadan.

670. Yes, indeed! Quite so!, etc.

671. Actually; in fact.

672. With retroactive effect.

673. Troop disengagement agreement.
674. By the way ....

675. Light entertainment programmes.

676. Come to salvation. (From the Muslim call to prayer).

677. At such-and-such a time.

678. Madness takes all forms.

679. He was totally/selflessly devoted to his work.

680. The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding.
681. Let bygones be bygones! (Lit.: What is dead has gone)

682. Immediately.

683. Extraordinary; unusual

684. A pack of lies!

685. Multiply 3 by 5!

686. According to news reports from Amman....

687. A rumour to the effect that.......

688.
688. Quotations from the local press.

689. ..... than before (after a comparative).

690. Something of this sort.

691. The situation was reviewed by...

692. Negotiable.

693. Fate and Destiny. (Pious ejaculation in comment on, for example, a death or accident.)

١٠٤
694. It is not within his power to...; he cannot.

695. Jerusalem.

696. Something irrelevant. (Neither advances nor retards).

697. Smoothly. (For example, work going on.)

698. Of great antiquity.

699. Long, long ago....

700. He imitated the example of X.

701. The view was taken that... An...

702. The apple of his eye.

703. The meeting due to be held...
704. Inductive (philosophy)

705. Near to.

706. It has absolutely no connection with the subject in any way (neither close nor far.)

707. Biting cold.

708. Alexander the Great.

709. The wife of Mr. X.

710. I swear by God!

711. A fact-finding mission.
712. Rodents.

713. If need be.

714. Unparalleled, incomparable.

715. Extracts from the foreign press.

716. Confined to the house.

717. With a few exceptions only.

718. Seldom.

719. An attempt to overthrow the regime.
720. The patient’s condition gives cause for concern.

721. Illegal.

722. The system of rationing.

723. Gossip.

724. There was a great commotion.

725. He took... to court; made a complaint against...

726. It’s an ill wind that blows no one any good. *(Proverb: 'The disasters of one tribe are the benefits of another')*

727. The work force.
728. He muzzled him; placed considerable restraints on him.

729. Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy.

730. God is Most Great!

731. He said 'God is Most Great!'

732. A Leap Year.

733. Scapegoat.
734. It was written! (Fatalism)
735. The People of the Book.
(Those religions which believe in a revealed book).

736. We shall not stand idly by.
(Diplomatic threat of retaliation.)

737. The subject was shrouded in the most complete secrecy.

738. Intense diplomatic activity.

739. I could not get to sleep.

740. The tolling masses.
741. The Ministry denied the allegations of the foreign journalist.

742. Over and over again.

743. May God enoble his face!

(Said of holy and distinguished men in Islam).

744. More generous than Hatim Tai. (Proverbial symbol of Arab hospitality).

745. The daughter of So-and-so.

746. The contents of the message were not revealed.

747. An overdrawn account.

748. A cubic metre.
749. The entire British people.

750. .... and that is enough!

751. His efforts were crowned with success.

752. We have the highest appreciation of him.

753. The whole thing is....; in a nutshell.

754. Certainly not! (Negation of immediately preceding).

755. Proverb: ‘The dogs bark and the caravan proceeds on its way’.

756. He took the trouble to...
757. It cost him a fortune/an enormous amount.

758. Someone giving himself airs; a presumptuous person.

759. How many times....

760. Perfection is God's (alone).

(Proverbial for pardoning human error).

761. The whole world.

762. Under the protection of so-and-so.

763. He knows the essence of the subject.

764. It is a kind of...
765. As soon as he arrived.....

766. Because he was/had been a former pupil. (*NB Use of verbal noun*)

767. The leading/most prominent position.

768. No one learns except from his own pocket. (*Proverbial for learning by hard experience*).

769. No matter how the situation was.

770. Just as you like.
771. There is no God but God.
772. There is no good/value/benefit in it.
773. Especially.
774. Neither.... nor.

775. The heart of the matter.
776. Proverbial. 'The wise
man understands simply
from a sign.'
(Verbum sat....)

777. The ramifications of the case.
778. We have responded to your call!

779. In response to the invitation of so-and-so.

780. The same old story. (Lit.: 'pounding and kneading' in the preparation of food).

781. From the cradle to the grave.

782. It is noticeable that...

783. Later, subsequently.

784. He joined the army.

785. The French Ambassador to the UN.
791. A radio war of words: a broadcast campaign of mutual vilification.

792. O God! (O Kindly One)

Expression of surprise.

793. Playing on words.

794. A new language is a new man.

796. It is so nice to talk to you.

786. If the situation requires that.

787. A very close male relative.

788. In case of necessity.

789. First cousin.

790. Proverbial.
794. After a lot of beating around the bush.

795. It is noticeable that...

796. He met his death.

797. The responsibilities placed on him.

798. Voluntarily, spontaneously, of his own free will.

799. Au revoir!

800. Proverbial 'Had it not been for my father I should not have known my Lord God'.

801. All kinds of food.
802. He has no idea what is going on; does not have a clue.

(Lit.: ‘does not know the snake from the water pipe’.)

803. If only he were here. ٨٠٣. لَيْتَهُ كَانَ مُنَا!
804. How beautiful he is! ما أجمله! 804
805. Expression of astonishment and admiration. ('what God wills!') 805 ما شاء الله!
806. Some day. يوما ما 806
807. Forty-five degrees 807
Centigrade. درجة مئوية
808. It has no connection with... لا يُمَت صلة... إلى...
809. On board the aircraft. 809 على متن الطائرة
810. He appeared in court.


812. Medical services are provided gratis.

813. Pure Arabic.

814. The elimination of illiteracy.

815. He put out the hand of friendship.

816. Proverb. ‘Stretch out your legs according to your carpet’. Do not live above your means.

817. Raw materials; primary materials.
818. He ignored the subject/incident as people with dignity do.
819. With the passage of time.
820. Contagious diseases.
821. The end is the best. (Lit. ‘The end is musk’)
822. In accordance with.
823. He went on to say...
824. He went on to say...
825. A year ago.
826. Although.....
827. Nonetheless....
828. He peered closely at...

829. The maximum possible.

830. (He) has excellent command of the language.

831. As much as possible.

832. I have complete freedom to....

833. No one can....

834. I saw all the books he had.

835. If what the papers say is true, to the effect that....

836. I shall be terribly grateful.
837. I accept the invitation with gratitude.

838. Since very recently.

839. Parking absolutely prohibited.

840. We wish you every success.

841. Take it easy! Go slowly!

842. Regardless of cost.

843. They put up a desperate defence of the position.

844. They saved his face.
845. We draw your attention to...
(Attendant’s announcement, for example).
846. The use of car-horns is forbidden.
847. The national team. (Soccer, for example)
848. Demilitarized zone.
849. An area in dispute.
850. A war of attrition.
851. In compliance with the wishes of those attending/the audience...

852. He agreed to forego his right(s).

853. The offence attributed to him.

854. I can never forget. (Catch phrase: 'If I forget I shall never forget...')

855. His share of that was nothing.

856. The (National) Lottery.

857. 50/50 (profit-sharing) agreement.
858. Sky-scrappers.

859. Extensively.

860. In the foreseeable future.

861. The composition of poetry.

862. In good times and bad.

863. In his youth/his tender years (When the nails were soft)

864. A man of influence.

865. The Executive Committee.

866. State of maximum alert.
867. Competition was at its most intense.

868. At the expense of so-and-so. (Lit.: 'He bore the expenses.')

869. Oil exploration operations.

870. Payment in cash.

871. More or less. (In the sense of, for example 'plus or minus 5%')

872. Radio .... says, quoting......
873. A disaster area.

874. Ingratitude.

875. They are of the same kind.

876. The developing countries.

877. Development projects.

878. He seized the opportunity to express his gratitude.

879. He rose to responsibility. (That is, he was up to it.)

880. Extremely accurate, precise, delicate.
881. They took turns at the work; they worked shifts.

882. To some extent.

883. Twenty years and some.

884. Within reach of everyone.

885. Sound asleep; fast asleep.

886. Of good intentions.

887. Difficult of attainment.

888. He detracted from his good name.
889. It was a complete waste; it went in vain.

890. A storm of applause.

891. Reduce speed! Slow down!

892. 'Engaged', committed literature.

893. A 'digestible' person. One who is very amiable.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Arabic Text</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>894</td>
<td>ِإِسْتَهِلَّ الْجَلْسَةَ بَ‌...</td>
<td>He began the session with...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>895</td>
<td>فِي مُسْتَهِلٍ إذَا غُنِيَّتَا لِهذَا الْيَوْمِ...</td>
<td>At the beginning of our broadcasting for today... (Radio announcement).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>896</td>
<td>حِسَابُ الْإِسْتَهْلَالِكِ</td>
<td>Depreciation account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>897</td>
<td>وَهُمْ جَرَا...</td>
<td>And so on and so forth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>898</td>
<td>كَانَ يَهُمْ يَرُكُوبٌ سَبَاطِهِ</td>
<td>He was just about to get into his car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>899</td>
<td>أُخْلِصُ الْتَهَانِي</td>
<td>Most sincere congratulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900</td>
<td>شَيْئًا لا يُسْتَهْنَاهُ بِهِ لِثَلَاثًا</td>
<td>Something not to be taken lightly; something of importance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>901</td>
<td>حُواَّةِ الْرَيْاضَةِ</td>
<td>Sports fans.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
902. It is not consonant with their principles.

903. He arrived while the sun was rising.

904. By God!

905. By God! (By Him in Whose hand is my soul).

906. Or else; otherwise.

907. The Bedu.

908. A flood of questions.
909. The situation is still tense.

910. A reliable source.

911. He has blind faith/confidence in him.

912. There is no thanks for what is a duty. *(Formal reply to thanks)*.

913. An action deserving of gratitude.

914. Summary of the news. The headlines.

915. To end this bulletin here again are the main points, ladies and gentlemen.
916. That is from one aspect (of the matter) but on the other hand...

917. But for my part.....

918. One-way street.

919. Those who believe in one God only.

920. The delegates arrived at the house singly.

921. I should like to...

922. We say goodbye (‘We place you in the keeping of God.’) For example at the end of broadcast transmission.

923. Goodbye, my country!
924. Standard phrase for describing dignitary's reception: 'He was seen off with the same hospitality and honour with which he had been received'.

925. We are poles apart (in our views) 'I am in one wadi and you are in another'.

926. He was not mentioned at all.

927. He is a person of no standing. ('He has no weight')

928. He is unbalanced.

929. Of medium height.
930. I cannot do other than to say...

931. I cannot....

932. Traditional phrase: 'You are most welcome'.

933. On the point of collapse.

934. (A problem) on the verge of a solution.

935. In his capacity as Chairman of the Council.

936. The two sides have not yet reached an agreement.

937. The other side requested some clarifications.
938. To put an end to the enemy’s transgressions.
939. The plan was put into execution.
940. An objective study.

941. The complete form of ‘ahlan wa sahlan!’ (You are welcome : You have come accross your own people and you have trodden on even ground.)
942. Lower your voice!

943. The National Anthem.
944. Point of weakness.

945. We took in/absorbed the idea.
946. The Balfour Declaration.
(NB. 'The Promise of Balfour')

947. By 30 April

948. He hinted to him to...

949. And his accompanying delegation.

950. Those coming from abroad.
Foreign labour (and their dependants).

951. If the necessary conditions are met.

952. My success is only from God. (Traditional pious motto).

953. And God is the one who provides success.
954. National Reconciliation.

955. Haphazardly, at random.

956. Greenwich Mean Time.

957. He fell in love with her.

958. We have been faced with a ‘fait accompli’.

959. As was expected.

960. He took a hostile attitude to him.

961. He was sentenced to a prison term, the sentence to be suspended.

962. Proverb: ‘Avoid the evil of him to whom you have done good.’
963. Proverb. 'Prevention is better than cure'

964. For sure; definitely; I can assure you! ('God is your agent!')

965. Traditional phrase: 'And place your trust in God'.

966. The Prophet's Birthday.

967. He was born in 1918.

968. As follows:

969. He took over the government.

970. The Heir-Apparent; Crown Prince (only if there is a royal family).

971. My Lord...... (Title of great respect)

972. A man of arts; a gifted man.
973. From the first moment; from the first glance.

974. Illusory illnesses.

975. Woe to you!

976. Woe to you!
977. A hopeless situation.

978. He is constipated.

979. An only goal. (Sports jargon.)


981. Through him; by his agency.

982. He has decisive influence on...

983. 'My certainty of God protects me'.
984. He took the constitutional oath.

985. At that time.
ARABIC - ENGLISH

by

L.J. McLoughlin