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# Egyptian Arabic

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# **Egyptian Arabic**

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# acknowledgments

## about the authors

Siona Jenkins went to Cairo for six months of Arabic language study in 1989 and stayed for fourteen years. She has long ago given up the rigours of the classical language for the far more useful, and easier, 'aamiya. Her language skills have been useful in ways she could never have imagined, whether for finding locals in remote oases to dress up as Romans for National Geographic television, or when appearing on the small screen as a guide and translator for wandering American magicians and Australian chefs. Now based in London, she works as a freelance journalist and travel writer. She has also penned guidebooks to Egypt and Lebanon for Lonely Planet.

## from the authors

Writing a phrasebook sounded like an easy assignment – until I started doing it. The sheer volume of words and phrases sorely tested (but ultimately improved) my knowledge of Egyptian Arabic and meant that I had to find friends who were willing (or at least coercible) to double-check my work. Ghada Tantawi was a patient helper who put up with some blush-inducing questions about sexual vocabulary that were eventually ditched for propriety's sake. Ahmed Emad did not blush so easily and was also a great source of slang and football talk. Karima Khalil and Butros Wagih Boutros were incredibly helpful for medical terminology that I have thankfully never had to employ. My old teacher, Peter Daniel, checked through my presentation of grammar and made some extremely useful suggestions. Haya Hussein was a patient editor who bore this author's crazy schedule and late answers to queries with good humour. And finally, Leo was as sanguine as ever with his mother's long hours at the computer, for which he deserves a large kiss as well as a big thank you.

## from the publisher

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hands of Vicki Webb, who proofread, further edited and sweated over the demons of the Arabic script, and Sophie Putman had the pleasure of applying her editorial talents to the final stages of its creation. Quentin Frayne keyed in part of the Arabic script and acted as Arabic consultant throughout the project. Camilia Saad took over from sister Diana Saad, checking the Arabic script and mastering the disobedient Arabic software to key in corrections. Sarah Curry helped with editing and layout checking and all were superbly supervised by Karina Coates. On the creative side, our favourite Frenchman, Fabrice Rocher, oversaw the exquisite layout provided by Yuki Yoshi Kamimura, who also produced the inspirational inside illustrations. Last, but not least, Natasha Velleley applied her mapping talents to ensure we all know the region in which to use this book.

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