

خلينا نتكلم بالعامية!

Do you know the song "I'm a little teapot?" Did you ever sing it as a child?
Do you remember the motions that go with the song? **Let's recall the lyrics:**

*I'm a little teapot,
short and stout*

*here is my handle,
here is my spout*

*when I get all steamed up,
hear me shout*

*just tip me over
and pour me out*

Now, consider the first 30 seconds of the following children's program, featuring the Egyptian comedian and actor Sayed El-Malah. What do you think the song is about?
Can you make out any words you already recognize?

Let's watch and pay attention to the children's motions as they sing:



أنا أبريق الشاي

ana abrii' ish-shaay "I'm a teapot"

Sung by Sayed El-Malah

SOURCE



Yes, you guessed correctly! Just like in the English song, this Arabic version of “I’m a little teapot” allows children to sing along and model the different parts, specifically the “handle” and “spout,” with their hand motions. Before moving forward, let’s recall these vocabulary items:



Now, let’s have one more listen, focusing on the words ‘iid and buuz. Can you figure out how the children say the equivalent of “**here** is my handle” and “**here** is my spout?”

If you listened closely, you should have heard the word kida كِدا. This is a very common word in the Egyptian dialect that means “like this.” When it’s combined with the above vocabulary, we can come up with phrases that match the children’s motions, as in:

إيدي كِدا 'iidi kida 'my handle's like this'

بوزي كِدا buuzi kida 'my spout's like this'

Now, let’s follow along with the words below and see if we can understand the full chorus, in context:

أنا أبريق الشاي

ana abrii' ish-shaay “I’m a teapot”

Sung by Sayed El-Malah

SOURCE

I, I, I am a teapot	ana ana ana abrii' is-shaay	أنا أنا أنا أبريق الشاي
My handle's like this	'iidi kida	إيدي كده
My spout's like this	buuzi kida	بوزي كده
I pour out tea	aSubb ish-shaay	أصب الشاي
And I return like this!	wa arga3 kida	وارجع كده!

Before we wrap up, **let's take a minute to think about pronunciation.** Egyptian Arabic shares the same sounds with most other Arabic varieties, including Standard Arabic. But take a moment to re-listen to the song, focusing on the words for "teapot" and "I return." Can you make out anything unique about the pronunciation, especially in comparison to the Arabic spelling?

Both of these words exist in both standard and Egyptian Arabic, and they're even written the same. But both also contain letters that whose pronunciation can shift from one variety to the next. In the case of "teapot," notice that many Egyptians pronounce the Arabic letter ق as a glottal stop (hamza), not as a "q" sound. Meanwhile, notice that in the word "return," Egyptians use a hard "g" instead of the "j" of Standard Arabic.

With this in mind, use your knowledge of these small differences to **guess at the Egyptian pronunciation** of the following additional words, and complete the chart!

Meaning	Arabic Script	Standard Pronunciation	Egyptian Pronunciation
teapot	إبريق	ibriiq	abrii'
I return	أرجع	arji3	arga3
coffee	قهوة	qahwa	
university	جامعة	jaami3	
Beautiful	جميل	jamiil	
I say	أقول	aquul	
Pencil	قلم	qalam	
Star	نجمة	najma	