

POEMS FROM IRAQ INTERMEDIATE

Greeting in Iraqi Dialect

The most common greeting in the Iraqi dialect is formed by the phrase شلون plus personal attached pronouns. *Examples:*

شلونك؟ شلونج؟ شلونه؟
شلونها؟ شلونكم؟ شلونهم؟

The etymology of شلونك is not very well-known, but the story has it that it was generalized from a question about health. A pale face color might indicate sickness, but a rosey or normal color suggests a healthy individual. With over usage in times when public healthcare was not easily accessible, the phrase was generalized to denote a general question about daily condition, in other words, the common greetings, 'how are you?'

شلونك؟
أني زين، أنت شلونك؟
أني كلش زين، الحمدلله.

Traditionally, one 'how are you?' is not very common in the Iraqi culture, and it can come across as the person being unfriendly and not interested in a conversation. Many 'how are you?' turns is rather the norm in everyday interactions:

شلونك؟
أني زين، أنت شلونك؟
أني كلش زين، الحمدلله.
أهلك شلونهم؟
زينين الحمدلله. وإخوانك شلونهم؟
والله كلهم زينين،
وأنت بعد شلونك؟
والله كلشي تمام.

The greetings period may continue to ask about more people or concerns, or it may end and switch to a different topic.

POEMS FROM IRAQ INTERMEDIATE**PRACTICE**

Practice forming questions in the iraqi dialect by translating these conversations and then performing them with a friend sounding as much Iraqi as possible. Listen to Sargon's video a few times if needed:

Conversation #1

A- How are you?

B- I am good, Thanks God? And you, how are you today?

A- I am good too, but tired from studying.

B- What?

B- I said I am tired from studying.

A- Hopefully, you will feel better soon.

Conversation #2

A- Do you know how to cook Iraqi rice?

B- No, do you?

A- Yes.

B- How did you learn?

A- I learned from my mother before leaving Iraq.