

## POEMS FROM IRAQ INTERMEDIATE

## السؤال باللهجة العراقية

In Step 3, we saw the poet Sargon Boulus talking with his friends about poetry, cooking, and childhood memories. Let's listen to him as he asks his friends about these topics in his Iraqi dialect:



سركون: ها؟ تذكر أمهاتنا؟ تذكر أمك صموئيل؟ شلون جان (كان) تطبخ؟

In this sentence, Sargon used three different ways of asking questions:

These are:

### 1. ها

A question particle used to denote two functions:

#### a. Requesting confirmation. Examples

- هذا الثوب حلو، ها؟

- إي كلش\* حلو.

\*كلش is an intensifier; it means 'very'

Sometimes, confirmation is an act of invitation to join the conversation. Example:

- تعلمنا الطبخ بعد الهجرة، ها؟

- إي لأن بالبيت أمهاتنا كانوا يطبخون بس أنا تعلمت الطبخ من زمان.

#### b. Requesting repetition. Example:

- قرأت قصيدة عدنان الصائغ الجديدة؟

- ها؟

- سألتك إذا قرأت قصيدة عدنان الجديدة.

- لا بعد.

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## 2. Intonation

Just like in English, an affirmative sentence can be verbalized with a gradual rising intonation to indicate a question rather than a statement.

Example:  
 أ - تعرف طبخ الرز على الطريقة العراقية؟  
 ب - تحب قصائد أحمد مطر؟

## 3.

Using the word شلون which means 'how'. شلون is a question word that consists of two parts:

## A

ش: it is attached to the front of verbs to mean what. Examples:

شتاكل؟

شدرس؟

It could also be added to the front of nouns to ask about the names of people or things. Example:

- شسمك؟

- شسم الكتاب ألي (الذي) بيدك؟

If it prefixes the word وقت -pronounced as وكت in the Iraqi dialect-, it forms a question to ask about the time of events or actions. Examples:

شوكت تبدأ المدارس بالعراق؟

شوكت يصير الفطور؟

## B

The second part is the word لون (color), it forms a question equivalent to كيف (how) in MSA when joined with ش. Examples:

- شلون تطبخ الرز العراقي؟

- شلون صار إبنك؟

## C

The word شلون can be attached with pronouns to form greetings. As explained in the عامية ٢ section.