

عامية مصرية: بس

In the comic الاتفاق that we looked at, the 3ammiyya word **بس** appeared a couple of times:

- It's true that I am still paying the installments for the truck, but once I am done paying those off, things are going to be great.

- صحيح لِسَه بادفع أقساط العربية، بس أول ما الأقساط تخلص المسائل حتمشي كويس

Three different meanings

1. In Egyptian dialect **بس** can be used in a couple of different ways. The most common use is the one in the sentence above that is a conjunction that signals that what comes after **بس** contrasts what came before it, like the English but/however and like لكن in MSA. In this case it is often used in the middle of the sentence.

- أنا عايزة أكل بس مش جعانة.
- أنا عندي امتحان بكره بس ما ذاكرتش!

- I want to eat, but I am not hungry.

- I have an exam tomorrow, but I haven't studied.

2. If you add **بس** prior to and end your sentence or your conversation with it, it usually signals that you have finished what you wanted to say.

- إمبارح أنا رحت الجامعة للصفوف و بعد كده رحت للبيت وذاكرت و أكلت و بس.

- Yesterday, I went to classes at university, and then I went home, studied, ate and that is about it.

بس can also mean “and nothing else” in the sense of “only” like with this example from the comic:

- أنا كمان مش باحب السفن، بيبسي وميراندا و بس

- I don't like Seven up too, I only like Pepsi and Mirinda.

3. It can also be used to silence someone or stop someone from arguing like an interjection and in this case can stand on its own. Note that the tone of this can be forceful depending on your intonation and would be considered impolite- although there are stronger words to silence people- if said in a formal setting. You might hear it said by an annoyed mother to her children or a teacher to students in class if they won't sit still or be quiet. It can also be used playfully with a friend.

- افففف بس يا ولاد، أنا تعبانة!!!!

- Ughhhhh...Stop it kids! I am so tired