



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION TERMS AND TRANSLATIONS ENGLISH-ARABIC

<u>ENGLISH</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>	<u>ARABIC</u>	<u>TRANSLITERATION</u>
<u>SURFACES/SOILS:</u>		الأسطح/ التربة	alastuh, al turbah
clay	Sticky and malleable dirt	صلصال	silsaal
marl	A crumbly earth deposit	مارل، طين جيرى	marl, teen jerry
mud	Wet dirt	طين، وحل	teen/ wahill
pebble/gravel	Small stones	حصي	hassah
sand	Fine grained rocks	رمل	ramill
soil/earth	Dirt used as fill	تربة	turba
stratum/layer	A distinct level of archaeological context	طبقة جيولوجية	ṭabaqa geologiyah
surface	The top of a layer	سطح	saṭteh
<u>FEATURES:</u>		خصائص	khasaiss
arch	A curved architectural feature	قوس	qaws
<i>bothros</i>	An artificial hole or pit		
corner	The place where two walls meet	ركن، زاوية	rukun, zawyyah
crack	A small gap between two surfaces	شق، صدع	shiq, ssadei
curve	A rounded surface	منحني	moonhani
deposit	Anything placed in the	ترسب، رواسب	tarasub, rawasib

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	ground		
drain	A trench or pipe used to take water out of an area	مصرف	misraf
dump	A place for discarded material, ancient or modern	مكب، مقلب، مزبلة	makab, maqlab, mazbala
edge/border	The boundary between two things	حافة، حد	haffah, Hud
floor	The lowest surface of a room	أرضية	Ardiah
foundation	Stones used as a base of a building	أساس، ركيزه	asās, rakīzah
fill	Dirt or material put into a space in the ground	حشو	hashoo
garbage	Trash, waste	نفاية، قمامة، مخلفات	nufaya, qumāma, mukhalafāt
grave	A burial place in the ground	قبر	kabir
hole	A void in the ground		hofrah
joint (building)	The point where building elements meet	مفصل بناء	mafassal binaae
kiln	An oven used to bake pottery	فرن، قمين، فرن خزف، فرن فخار	foaron, qamīn, foaron khazuf, foaron fukhar
layer	A distinct level of archaeological context	طبقة	ṭabaqa
line	The shortest distance between two points	خط	khatt
pipe (clay)	A gutter	مزراب	mizzraab
pipe (water)	A modern piece of plastic irrigation material	أنبوبة، ماسورة	unbuba, masura
space, interval	An area between two things	فراغ، مسافة	farahg, masafa
threshold	The passable boundary between two areas	حد، حاجز، عتبة	Hud, hahjezz, attabaa
wall	A vertical structure that divides or encloses an area	حائط، جدار	hā'iṭṭ, jidār
dividing wall	A wall used to separate	جدار فاصل، جدار فصل	Jidar fasil, jidar fusil

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	two areas		
retaining wall	A wall used to hold up earth	جدار إستنادي	jidar estinady
enclosure wall	A wall used to block off an area (keep things inside)	جدار محيط، سور محيط	jidaar muheat, soor muheat
defensive wall	A wall used as a defensive fortification of a town or settlement	سور التحصين، متراس	soor tahhseen, meetraass
well	A deep hole in the ground to access water	بئر	biear
well-head	The top of a well, usually made of stone	فوهة البئر	fowahatt al biear
MATERIALS/FINDS:		المواد/ المكتشفات	mawaadd/ maktashahfat
Bone	The calcified material that forms an animal's skeleton	عظمة	əazhama
brick	A small rectangular block typically made of fired or sun dried clay, used in building	قالب طوب، طوبة	qalab toob, toobah
bronze	A yellowish brown alloy of copper and tin	برونز	brunz
cement	A powdery substance made with calcined lime and clay	أسمنت	issmantt
figurine	Small or tiny statues	تمثال صغير	timthal saghir
find/discovery	An object found in an archaeological context	كشف، اكتشاف	kashff, iktishaaff
fragment	A broken piece of pottery; potsherd	شقفة، كسرة	shqfah, kissrah
fresco	A painting done on wet plaster which locks the colors in as it dries	لوحة جصية	lawhah jeasyiah
glass	Hard and brittle material, usually transparent	زجاج	zujaj
gold	A yellowish precious metal used in jewelry, coins, and art	ذهب	zahhab

iron	A strong dark metal used for tools	حديد	hadead, hadeed
ivory	Animal tusks used in art	عاج	aej
lead	A somewhat soft silvery metal	رصاص	rasas
lime mortar	A cement-like mixture of calcium calcium oxide and another medium, such as sand, with water	ملاط الجير	mallaat aljeer
plaster (wall)	A smooth lime-based cement used for making the surfaces of walls and ceilings	جص	jess
plaster (of Paris)	A lightweight cement-like mixture of gypsum and another medium, such as sand, and water	جيس باريس	jess pareess
potsherd	A broken piece of ceramic material	شقة فخار	shuqfat fakhaar
rock	A naturally occurring piece of solid mineral	صخرة	sakhraa
rubble	Debris or pile of broken segments of buildings, walls, waste, etc.	انقاض، ركام	anqaad, rowkaam
silver	A grayish precious metal often used in making coins	فضة	feddah
terracotta	Unglazed, brownish-red earthenware	تيراكوتا، طين نضيج	terracotta, teen nadij
tile (roof)	Thin slabs of material used to cover buildings	قرميد	karmeed
wood	Hard, fibrous material from the trunks of trees	خشب	khashab
vessel	A hollow container	إناء، وعاء	innah, wyaa
<u>DRAWING/ MEASURING:</u>		رسم/قياس	rassim/qiaas
centimeter	A metric unit of measure equaling one hundredth of a meter	سنتيمتر	santimitr

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depth	The distance between the top and bottom of something	عمق	ohmmok
elevation	The height of a given level	علو	oulu
ground plan	The general outline of a building as viewed from above	تصميم الدور الأرضي	tasmeem l door l arddy, tasmeem assaassy
height	The measurement from the base of something to its top	ارتفاع	eartyfah
measuring tape	A roll of thin metal marked at interval for measuring	شريط قياس	shareet qiaas
meter, meterstick	The base unit of measuring length in the metric system		mitr, ahsah qiaas
millimeter	The metric unit of length equaling one thousandth of a meter	مليمتر	millimitr
plan	A drawn record of features from an archaeological site on a horizontal plane	خطة, تخطيط	khutah, takhteet
section	A drawn record of features from an archaeological site on a vertical plane; a cross section	قسم, جزء, قطاع	qism, juzoe, qitaae
width	The measurement of something from side to side	عرض	eird
ADJECTIVES:		الأوصاف, الصفات	aloawssaf, alssifaat
burnt	Damaged by fire; charred	محروق	mahrooq
dark	A shade of black; not bright	مظلم, قاتم, معتم, غامق	muzlim, qatim, moaettim ,ghamiq

deep	Extending far down	عميق	eamiq
fine	1) Very small particles 2) high quality	دقيق، ناعم	dakeek, nahaim
glass	A brittle hard surface; glass-like	زجاج	zujaj
hard	Firm, rigid, compact	قاسي، صلب، صعب	qasi, sulb, saeb
high	Of great vertical extent, or great in quantity, size, or intensity	مرتفع، عالي	murtafie, aaly
horizontal	Parallel to the horizon	أفقي، عرضي	ufuqi, Ardi
light (color)	Not dark; pale	فاتح، لون فاتح	fateh, lawn fateh
mixed	Consisting of different qualities or elements	مخلوط، مختلط	makhloot, mukhtalitt
perpendicular	At an angle of 90° to a given line, plane, or surface	عامودي، متعامد	aemudi, mutaeamid
soft	Easy to shape, compress, or cut	لين، طري، ناعم	lahyinn, tari, naeim
thin	Not thick; sparse	رقيق، رفيع	raquque, rafiea
uneven	Irregular in pattern, quality, or shape; not smooth	غير متساوي، متفاوت	gheur mustawey, mutafawit
vertical	An alignment that is oriented upward; standing	رأسي، عامودي	rasi, aemudi
wide	broad	عريض، واسع	ahrreed, wasie
wooden	Made of wood	خشبي	khashabi
<u>COLORS:</u>		ألوان	alwan
black		أسود	assuwad
blue		أزرق	azraq
blond/yellowish		أشقر، مصفر	ashqqar, musfaarr
brown		بني	buni

gray		رمادي	ramadi
green		أخضر	akhddaar, akhdar
orange		برتقالي	burtuqali
red		أحمر	ahmar
white		أبيض	abyad
yellow		أصفر	asfar
TOOLS:		أدوات	auddawaat
basin	A bowl for washing	حوض	haowid
basket	A container for carry things, typically with handles	سلة	sallah
box	A container for holding objects	صندوق	sundooq
broom	A tool used for sweeping the floor	مكنسة	maknasa
brush (scrub)	A stick with hard bristles used for cleaning or scrubbing hard surfaces	فرشاة (تنظيف)	fursha (tanzif)
brush (paint)	A stick with soft bristles used for applying paint	فرشاة (تلوين)	fursha (talween)
compass	A tool that points toward magnetic north used for orienting directions	بوصلة	busla
drawing board	A hard, flat board on which paper may be spread for drawing	لوحة رسم	louwhatt rasm
dumpy level	An optical instrument used for verifying points along a horizontal plane; sometimes called a "surveyor's level"	جهاز الميزان، ميزان القامة، ميزان دامبي	jeahazz al meezaan, meezaan al qammah, meezaan damby
hammer	A tool with a heavy metal head used for striking nails into surfaces	مطرقة، شاكوش	matraqqah, shakoosh
knife	A sharp blade for cutting mounted on a handle	سكين	sikkeen

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ladder	A portable device of two uprights with horizontal bars used for stepping up or down	سلم	sillam
nail	A thin metal rod with a sharp end driven into a surface in order to hold something in place	مسمار	musmaar
notebook	A small book for hand-written notes or drawings	دفتر	daftar
pick	A tool with a curved metal head used for chiseling or breaking up hard ground or rock	معول	maewal
plank	A long, thin, flat board used in flooring or as a bridge over a small gap	لوح خشب	lauwh khaashab
plumb bob	A weight with a pointed tip used for marking locations	بلامب بوب، شاقول، فادن، بلوميت	plumb bob, shaqqool, fadean, bluemeet
ruler	A instrument for measuring length	مسطرة	mistarrah
scale	A device which determines an object's weight	ميزان	meezan
shovel	A broad (curved or flat) metal plate attached to a handle used for scooping dirt	جاروف، مجرفة	jaroof, majshrafah
sieve	A mesh screen used for sifting	منخل، غربال	moonkhol, gherbbaal
stadia rod	A pole used for measuring elevations; a leveling rod	مسطرة الليفل، سطرة ستاديا	mistarrah allyvill, mistarraat stadia
stake (wood)	A piece of wood driven into the ground to mark boundaries	وتد، وتد خشبي	watad, watad khashabi
string	A thin length of material	خيطة، وتر	khayt, wattar
tool	A handheld device used for a particular function	أداة	addah, ada

total station	A piece of survey equipment used for taking GPS points	جهاز التوتال إستيشن، جهاز المحطة المتكاملة	jeahazz total station, jeahazz almahatah almutakamila
trowel	A small handheld tool with a curved metal scoop for scrapping or lifting dirt	مالج، مسطرين	malejj, Musttahreen
water cooler	A container that holds chilled drinking water	براد مياه	barrad miaah
water sprayer	A device that spreads water in a fine mist	رشاش مياه	rashaash miaah
wheelbarrow	A small cart with a single wheel in the front, two support legs in the back, and two handles in the rear used for moving dirt and other objects	عربة يد	arrabitt yadd
wire	Thin metal string	سلك	silk
<u>VERBS:</u>		أفعال	
to cut	To divide something with a sharp tool	يقص، يقطع	yaqqos, yaqtta
to dig	To break up and remove earth by hand or with a tool	يحفر	yahfir
to draw	To compose a picture or sketch	يجر، يسحب	yajjor, yashabb
to go under	To move beneath	ينزل تحت، يذهب إلى أسفل	yanzill tahet, yazhab ella asffal
to lift	To raise something to a higher position	يرفع	yarffah
to lower	To put something down	يخفض، ينقص	yokhfid, yunekiss
to photograph	To take a picture with a camera	يصور	yusawir
to raise	To take something upward	يزيد، يرفع	yazzed, yarffah
to remove	To take something away	يزيل، يمحي	yozeel, yamehi
to separate	To divide into groups	يفصل	yafsill

to shovel	To move something with a shovel	يجرف	yajjrif
to sieve	To put material through a sieve	ينخل، يغربل	yunkholl, yugharrbil
to spray	To apply a liquid as a shower of tiny droplets	يرش	yiaroosh
to sweep	To clean an area with a broom or brush	يكنس	yukknoos
to throw (away)	To discard something	يرمي، يبعد	yiarmy, yobbaeid
to throw (dump)	To dispose by dropping	يلقي، يتخلص من	yulky, yatakhalus min
<u>NUMISMATICS:</u>		علم العملات	elm al ommlahtt
coin	A thin flat metal disk used as currency	قطعة نقدية، عملة نقدية معدنية	kittah naqdiaah, ommlah naqdiaah mahdaniah
metal	A solid material that is typically hard, shiny, malleable, fusible, and conducts electricity	معدن	maahdinn
hoard	Three or more coins found buried in close proximity	كنز	kinz
electrum	An alloy of gold and silver	الكتروم	electrum
gold, <i>aurum</i>	A yellowish precious metal used in jewelry, coins, and art	ذهبي، ذهب	zahhaby, zahhab
silver, <i>argentum</i>	A grayish precious metal often used in making coins	فضي، فضة	feddah, feeddy
bronze, <i>aes</i>	A yellowish brown alloy of copper and tin	البرونز الثقيل	al Bronz al thaqqil
weight	The relative mass of a coin	وزن	wazn
field	The background of a coin not used for design or image	مجال، حقل	majaal, huqill
exergue	The segment of a coin separated by a line in which the legend is placed	حاشية العملة السفلية	hashiyat ommlah soffliah

attribute	Something attached to the central image on a coin	وصف	wasif
adjunct	Something separate from the central image on a coin	ملحق، مساعد	mullhaq, mosaa'id
type	The central motif on either side of a coin	نمط	namat
legend	The main inscription on a coin	الكتابة	al kitabah
mint	The place of coin manufacture	سك، ضرب	suck, darb
casting	Pouring molten metal into a mold	الصب	al sub
striking	Hammering a softened (heated) metal flan to produce an image on the coin	طباعة العملة	teabahiet ommlah
die	A metal piece engraved with the image to be struck onto a flan	نقشة	Naqsha
anvil	A fixed metal block upon which a coin is struck	سندان	sandan
block	The metal base upon which a coin is struck	كتلة، قالب	kutla, kallib
flan	A flat metal disk to be struck into a coin	قرص السك، القرص	qurs al saak, al qurs
obverse	The front or "heads" side of a coin	وجه العملة	wajh al ommlah
reverse	The back or "tails" side of a coin	ظهر العملة	zahir al ommlah, qafah al ommlah
axis	The relative alignment between the two coin faces	محور	mehowar
module	The diameter of a coin	القطر	al qutur
fabric	The general appearance of the coin as reflects the mint's method of fabrication	المصنعية/الصنعة	al musnaeyah, al sannah

brockage	When a previously struck coin is used as a die	بروكيج	brockage
double-strike	When a coin is struck twice	السك المزدوج	al suck al muozdawajj
over-strike	When an earlier coin is reused as a flan	صك مكرر، إعادة صك	suck mookahrrar, eyaditt suck
patina	copper oxidation	الزنجار	al zinjaar
alloy	A combination of two metals	سبيكة	sabbikah
ingot	A mold-made bar of solid metal	مسكوكة	muskokah
circulation	When coins are allowed to be used for everyday transactions	تداول	tahddawul
<u>PLANTS:</u>		نباتات	nabattaat
beech		شجر الزان	shajaar zaan
oak		بلوط، سنديان	balloot, seandiaan
holm oak		السنديان الأخضر، البلوط الأخضر، بلوط هولم	assindiyaan al akhddaar, al balloot al akhddaar, balloot holm
olive tree		شجرة زيتون	shajarat zaiytoon
laurel		ورق لاورو، ورق غار، الرند	warraq lourry, warraq ghaarr, alrind
myrtle		أس	ass
cypress		السرو	assarow
daffodil		النرجس البري، نرجس	alnarjis al berry, narjis
ash tree		شجرة المران	shajarat al mmorahnn
poppy		خشخاش	khushkhaash
grapevine		كرمة عنب	kormmat eannab
cedar		أرز	arz
palm		نخلة	nakhla

apple tree		شجرة تفاح	shajarat tuffah
pine		صنوبر	sunnowbar
eucalyptus		أوكالبتوس	ohkallibtus
acacia		أكاسيا	akasia
chestnut		كستناء	kustunaa
bottle brush tree	callistemon citrinus	شجرة الفرشاة، شجرة فرشاة الزجاج	shajarat al fursha, shajarat furshatt al zujaj
cedar		أرز	arz
medlar		مشملة، زعرور	mishmallah, zauroor
jacaranda		جكرندة، الأبنوس	jikruna, abnoss
walnut		جوز، عين جمل	jowz, ean jammal
palm		نخلة	nakhla
willow		صفصاف	sufsaaf
elderberry		خمان، بيلسان	khumman , bailassan
fig tree		شجرة تين	shajarat eteen
peach tree		شجرة دراق	shajarat dorraq
wheat		قمح	qammeh
buckwheat		الحنطة السوداء	alhintah alssaodaa
durum wheat		القمح القاسي، القمح الصلب	alqammeh alqqassi , alqammeh alsullbe
einkorn wheat		قمح إينكورن، قمح بري	qammeh einkorn, qammeh baurry
emmer wheat			qammeh nashahwee, hinta nashawiah, qammeh emmer
barley		شعير	shaair
malt		المالت، شعير منبت	malt, shaair monabbatt
rice		أرز	arroz

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rye		جاودار	jawdar
sorghum		سورغم، ذرة عويجة	sorghum, dhurah euyjah
corn		ذرة	zorrah
millet		الدخن، الجاروس، البشنة	adukhoon, aejahrooss, albashnnah
cabbage		كرنب، ملفوف	korumb, malllfoof
rhizomes		ريزومات، جذامير	rehzommaat, jazameer
chayote		شايتوت، السكيوم، خيار إفرنجي	shayut, alsikyum, khiaar 'iifrinji
dates		تمر	tammer
<u>CATTLE/LIVESTOCK:</u>		مواشي، أنعام	mawashy, unaam
Ovine	Referring to sheep	غنمي	ghanam
Sheep		خروف، نعجة	kharuf
Bovine	Referring to a cow	بقري	baqari
Cow	An adult female bovine	بقرة	baqara
Ox	A castrated bull	ثور مخصي	thawr makhssy
Bull	A male cow	ثور	thawr
Steer	A male cow castrated before reaching sexual maturity	عجل مخصي	eajill makhssy
Caprine	Referring to a goat	ماعز، ماعزي	maiyezii
Goat		ماعز، عنزة	maiyez, annza
Horse		حصان	heysaan
Donkey		حمار	himaar
Mule	A cross between a donkey and a horse	بغل	baghell
Llama		اللاما	allaamah
Alpaca		ألبكة	albaka

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Pig		خنزير	khinzear
Chicken		دجاجة	dajaja
Duck		بطة	baattah
Turkey		ديك رومي، ديك حبش	deek rumi
Swan		بجعة	bajaah
Goose		وزة	waza