

CultureTalk Iraqi Arabic Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Transportation Options

English Translation:

The transportation in Iraq...Transportations is very easy and smooth. One can find it almost everywhere. Iraqis depend on what we call *nafarat*¹ which represent a number of minibuses gathering in garages, big garages, where cars go to different directions. The gathering [of cars] starts after dawn prayers usually. You find cars gather because most people leave early especially if they have a far ride. For instance, if I want to go to college, I use the *nafarat* as we say from my neighborhood to the garage; then from the garage, I go to the university or college. Sometimes cars drop you in front of universities or colleges and other times they don't; so you have to walk for few minutes. But generally the transportation system is very comfortable.

We don't have things called trains. I mean we have trains but they are not used for [passenger] transportation. In other words, they are not used for travelers inside the cities because Iraqi cities are not designed to use the subway.

Taxis are abundantly available. I can also say that taxis have changed. I mean before the first Gulf War honestly, taxis used to be yellow or orange, or orange and white. These [yellow] cars were only taxis. But people's financial situations worsened after the first Gulf War in '91 and the economic embargo was imposed against us, and people stopped painting their cars. You can stop any private car, we call a sedan car a private one, and a taxi is painted as a taxi; so people stopped distinguishing after the first Gulf War as I said and they started to hire any car they see [for a ride].

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¹ *Nafarat*: private transportation minibuses.