

REVIEW OF WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR

1. How many letters in the arabic language? 28

2. How many short vowels did we learn? 3

3. What are the short vowels? Fathah – فَتْحَةٌ e.g. دَخَلَ

Kasrah – كَسْرَةٌ e.g. سَمِعَ

Dhammah – ضَمَّةٌ e.g. قُلْ

Sukun – سُكُونٌ e.g. لَمْ يَلِدْ

4. A Fathah denotes the sound of 'a'.

5. A Kasrah denotes the sound of 'i'.

6. A Dhammah denotes the sound of 'u'.

7. A Sukun serves the purpose of joining two letters in pronunciation.

8. An articulation in arabic is called a Lafdh **الْفَظُّ**

9. The plural of **الْفَظُّ** is **الْفَظُّ** meaning articulations, expressions, or words.

10. Many other words in arabic become plural by adding an alif in the beginning and in the middle of the 2nd and 3rd letter. e.g. حَجَرٌ becomes أَحْجَارٌ stones.

شَجَرٌ becomes أَشْجَارٌ trees.

11. A single meaningful word in arabic is called a Mufrad – **الْمُفْرَدُ**

12. Another name for Mufrad **الْمُفْرَدُ** is Kalimah – **الْكَلِمَةُ**

13. All arabic words are of three kinds. **ثُمَّ الْكَلِمَةُ عَلَى ثَلَاثَةِ أَنْوَاعٍ**

14. Al Ism, Al fil, and al harf. Noun, verb, and particle. **إِسْمٌ وَ فِعْلٌ وَ حَرْفٌ**

The Types of Words

Term	Meaning	Example
كَلِمَةٌ	word	كِتَابٌ
اسْمٌ	noun	رَجُلٌ
فِعْلٌ	verb	فَعَلَ
حَرْفٌ	particle - it is dependent on either an (اسم) or (فعل) in conveying its meaning	مِنْ

With regards to meaning and tense, a verb is of three types:

Term	Meaning	Example
الماضي	Indicates the occurrence of an action in the past tense. It is referred to as the perfect tense in English. <i>Because action has been completed.</i>	فَعَلَ - He did.
المضارع	Indicates the occurrence of an action in the present or future tense. It is referred to as the imperfect tense in English. <i>Because action is yet to be completed.</i>	يَفْعَلُ - He is doing or he will do.
الأمر	a command	افْعَلْ - You do.

فَاعِل

ONE WHO DOES

↓ *Step One: Separate the letters
of the pattern*

فَ ا ع ل

↓ *Step Two: Replace the base letters (ف-ع-ل)
with corresponding new letters (ك-ت-ب)*

كَ ا تِ ب

↓ *Step Three: Reattach the letters
to form the new word*

كَاتِب

ONE WHO WRITES *or* A WRITER

FIGURE 2.2
FORMING WORDS FROM BASE LETTERS

Lesson Three: The Past Tense Verb

[الْفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي]

The *past tense verb* (الْفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي) describes actions or events that have already occurred.

PRINCIPLE ONE

The pattern **فَعَلَ** (*he did*) is used as a model for the *past tense verb*. In this pattern each of the base letters is vowelized with a *fathah*.⁷

PRINCIPLE TWO

Verbs in the English language are conjugated to reflect the subject⁸ of the verb. For example, “he did” and “we did.” Here, the pronouns “he” and “we” indicate the subject. Arabic verbs are conjugated in a similar manner. In particular, the Arabic verb is conjugated to reflect three aspects of its subject:

- 1) person⁹ (first, second, third)
- 2) gender¹⁰ (masculine, feminine)
- 3) plurality¹¹ (singular, dual, plural)

⁷ The pattern **فَعَلَ** is one of several patterns used for the *past tense verb*. Others are presented in *Lesson Sixteen*.

⁸ The subject denotes the *doer* of the action described by a verb.

⁹ The first person is used to refer to the *speaker*. For example, “I did” or “we did.” The second person is used to refer to the individual *spoken to*. For example, “you did.” The third person is used to refer to the individual *spoken of*. For example, “he did” or “they did.”

¹⁰ The masculine is used to refer to *male beings* or *masculine objects*. For example, “he did” or “it did.” The feminine is used to refer to *female beings* or *feminine objects*. For example, “she did” or “it did.”

¹¹ The singular is used to refer to *an individual*. For example, “he did.” The dual is used to refer to *two individuals*. For example, “both of them did.” The plural is used to refer to *a group*. For example, “they did.”

PRINCIPLE THREE

While English verbs are conjugated by placing a noun or pronoun before the verb, Arabic verbs are conjugated by adding designated letters to the end of the verb. Carefully study the *past tense verb* conjugations (*table 3.1*), noting the changes in person, gender, and plurality.

PRINCIPLE FOUR

English verbs may express either the active or the passive voice. The active voice is used when the subject of the sentence performs the action expressed by the verb. For example, "Zaid wrote a book." Here, the verb "wrote" is in the active voice because Zaid is indicated as the writer. The passive voice, on the other hand, is used when the subject of the verb is not indicated. For example, "A book was written." Here, the verb "was written" is in the passive voice because, although a book was written, the writer is not indicated.

Arabic verbs also express either the active or the passive voice. Earlier, *principle one* illustrated **فَعَلَ** as a model for the active voice of the *past tense verb*. The pattern for the passive voice of the *past tense verb* is formed from the active voice by (1) changing the vowelizing of the first letter to a *dammah* and (2) changing the vowelizing of the second to last letter to a *kasrah*. Thus **فَعَلَ** (*he did*) becomes **فُعِلَ** (*it was done*).

PRINCIPLE FIVE

Principle two established that verbs in the active voice are conjugated to reflect the *subject* of the verb. When conjugating verbs in the passive voice, each conjugation reflects the person, gender, and plurality of the *object*,¹² and not the *subject*, of the verb. For example, consider the statement **ضُرِبَ** (*he was hit*). Here, the object of the verb is stated (i.e., he), but the subject is not indicated. Therefore, the verb is conjugated to

¹² The object denotes the noun that *receives* the action of a verb.

TABLE 3.1
CONJUGATING THE *PAST TENSE VERB*

PERSON	GENDER	PLURALITY	BASE		SUFFIX		ACTIVE VOICE
3rd	Masculine	Singular	فعل			⇒	فَعَلَ He/It (S/M) did
3rd	Masculine	Dual	فعل	+	ا	⇒	فَعَلَا They (D/M) did
3rd	Masculine	Plural	فعل	+	وا	⇒	فَعَلُوا ¹³ They (P/M) did
3rd	Feminine	Singular	فعل	+	ت	⇒	فَعَلَتْ She/It (S/F) did
3rd	Feminine	Dual	فعل	+	تا	⇒	فَعَلَتَا They (D/F) did
3rd	Feminine	Plural	فعل	+	ن	⇒	فَعَلْنَ They (P/F) did
2nd	Masculine	Singular	فعل	+	تَ	⇒	فَعَلْتَ You (S/M) did
2nd	Masculine	Dual	فعل	+	تُما	⇒	فَعَلْتُمَا You (D/M) did
2nd	Masculine	Plural	فعل	+	تُمْ	⇒	فَعَلْتُمْ You (P/M) did
2nd	Feminine	Singular	فعل	+	تِ	⇒	فَعَلْتِ You (S/F) did
2nd	Feminine	Dual	فعل	+	تُما	⇒	فَعَلْتُمَا You (D/F) did
2nd	Feminine	Plural	فعل	+	تُنَّ	⇒	فَعَلْتُنَّ You (P/F) did
1st	Masculine and Feminine	Singular	فعل	+	تُ	⇒	فَعَلْتُ I did
1st	Masculine and Feminine	Plural	فعل	+	نَا	⇒	فَعَلْنَا We did

M=Masculine

F=Feminine

S=Singular

D=Dual

P=Plural

¹³ The 'alif (ا) at the end of this conjugation is not pronounced.

ذَهَبَ

he went

كَسَرَ

he broke

بَحَثَ

he searched

فَتَحَ

he opened

فَعَلَ

he did

				فَعَلَ
				فَعَلَا
				فَعَلُوا
				فَعَلْتُ
				فَعَلْنَا
				فَعَلْنِ
				فَعَلْتِ
				فَعَلْتُمَا
				فَعَلْتُمْ
				فَعَلْتِ
				فَعَلْتُمَا
				فَعَلْتُنَّ
				فَعَلْتُ
				فَعَلْنَا

فَعَلَ

he did

خَرَجَ

he left

هَرَبَ

he ran

رَقَدَ

he slept

رَجَعَ

he returned

				فَعَلَ
				فَعَلَا
				فَعَلُوا
				فَعَلْتُ
				فَعَلْنَا
				فَعَلَنْ
				فَعَلْتَ
				فَعَلْتُمَا
				فَعَلْتُمْ
				فَعَلْتِ
				فَعَلْتُمَا
				فَعَلْتُنَّ
				فَعَلْتُ
				فَعَلْنَا

Conjugation			ن، ص، ر
3 rd person	Masculine	Singular	نَصَرَ (he helped)

The rest of the conjugations are achieved by adding suffices to this most basic form. Read the table below, studying the endings in each conjugation.

Conjugation			Conjugation and Translation
3 rd person	Masculine	Singular	نَصَرَ (he helped)
		Dual	نَصَرَا (they helped)
		Plural	نَصَرُوا (they helped)
	Feminine	Singular	نَصَرَتْ (she helped)
		Dual	نَصَرَتَا (they helped)
		Plural	نَصَرْنَ (they helped)
2 nd person	Masculine	Singular	نَصَرْتَ (you helped)
		Dual	نَصَرْتُمَا (you helped)
		Plural	نَصَرْتُمْ (you helped)
	Feminine	Singular	نَصَرْتِ (you helped)
		Dual	نَصَرْتُمَا (you helped)
		Plural	نَصَرْتُنَّ (you helped)
1 st person	Masculine & Feminine	Singular	نَصَرْتُ (I helped)
		Plural	نَصَرْنَا (we helped)

Variation in the past tense verb happens in three aspects:

- voice (active and passive): when a verb is active, its subject is mentioned; when it is passive, its object takes the place of its subject. Compare, for example, "I helped" and "I was helped". In the first instance "I" is the subject while in the second "I" is the object and the subject hasn't been mentioned

Plural	Pair	Singular	
هم نَصَرُوا	هما نَصَرَا	هو نَصَرَ	Masculine 3 rd Person
They helped.	They (2) helped.	He helped.	
هن نَصَرْنَ	هما نَصَرَتَا	هي نَصَرَتْ	Feminine 3 rd Person
They helped (f).	They (2) helped (f).	She helped.	
انتم نَصَرْتُمْ	انتما نَصَرْتُمَا	انت نَصَرْتَ	Masculine 2 nd Person
You all helped.	You two helped.	You helped.	
انتن نَصَرْتُنَّ	انتما نَصَرْتُمَا	انت نَصَرْتَ	Feminine 2 nd Person
You all helped (f).	You two helped.	You helped (f).	
نحن نَصَرْنَا	انا نَصَرْتُ	متكلم 1 st Person	
We helped	I helped.		

الفعل الماضي المعروف المثبت

Meaning	Person	Gender	Word-Form	Verb
He wrote	3 rd person	masc.	singular	كَتَبَ
They 2 wrote			dual	كَتَبَا
They wrote			plural	كَتَبُوا
She wrote		fem.	singular	كَتَبَتْ
They 2 f. wrote			dual	كَتَبَتَا
They f. wrote			plural	كَتَبْنَ
You wrote	2 nd person	masc.	singular	كَتَبْتَ
You 2 wrote			dual	كَتَبْتُمَا
You wrote			plural	كَتَبْتُمْ
You f. wrote		fem.	singular	كَتَبْتِ
You 2 f. wrote			dual	كَتَبْتُمَا
You f. wrote			plural	كَتَبْتُنَّ
I wrote	1 st person	m/f	singular	كَتَبْتُ
We wrote		m/f	dual/ plural	كَتَبْنَا