

Lesson Four: The Present Tense Verb

[الْفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ]

The *present tense verb* (الْفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ) describes actions or events that are ongoing.¹⁵ *Present tense verbs* are conjugated using prefixes and suffixes.

PRINCIPLE ONE

The pattern *يَفْعَلُ* (*he does*) is used as a model for the *active voice* of the *present tense verb*. Depending on the particular conjugation, one of four letters (*yā'*, *tā'*, *nūn*, or *hamzah*) is always prefixed to the three base letters (*table 4.1*).

PRINCIPLE TWO

The *active voice* of the *present tense verb* is conjugated by adding designated letters to the end of the verb. Like the *past tense*, these conjugations reflect three aspects of the verb's subject: person, gender, and plurality. Carefully study *table 4.1*, noting the differences between the various conjugations.

PRINCIPLE THREE

The *present tense verb* may express either the *active* or the *passive voice*. The pattern for the *passive voice* of the *present tense verb* is formed from the *active voice* by (1) changing the vowel of the first letter to a *dammah* and (2) changing the vowel of the second to last letter to a *fathah*.¹⁶ Thus *يَفْعَلُ* (*he does*) becomes *يُفْعَلُ* (*it is being done*).

¹⁵ The *present tense verb* includes both the continuous present tense (e.g., he is doing) and the habitual present tense (e.g., he does).

¹⁶ This second step is only necessary if the *active voice* of the *present tense verb* has a *dammah* or a *kasrah* on its second to last letter. Such patterns are covered in *Lesson Sixteen*.

صِيغة	الضَّمِيرُ	فِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعِ	Prefix	Suffix	الْفَاعِلُ
1	هُوَ	يَفْعَلُ	يَ	ُ	المُسْتَرِ
2	هُمَا	يَفْعَلَانِ	يَ	َانِ	ا
3	هُمْ	يَفْعُلُونَ	يَ	ُونَ	و
4	هِيَ	تَفْعَلُ	تَ	ُ	المُسْتَرِ
5	هُمَا	تَفْعَلَانِ	تَ	َانِ	ا
6	هُنَّ	يَفْعَلْنَ	يَ	َنْ	نَ
7	أَنْتَ	تَفْعَلُ	تَ	ُ	المُسْتَرِ
8	أَنْتُمَا	تَفْعَلَانِ	تَ	َانِ	ا
9	أَنْتُمْ	تَفْعُلُونَ	تَ	ُونَ	و
10	أَنْتِ	تَفْعَلِينَ	تَ	ِينَ	ي
11	أَنْتُمَا	تَفْعَلَانِ	تَ	َانِ	ا
12	أَنْتُنَّ	تَفْعَلْنَ	تَ	َنْ	نَ
13	أَنَا	أَفْعَلُ	أَ	ُ	المُسْتَرِ
14	نَحْنُ	نَفْعَلُ	نَ	ُ	المُسْتَرِ

الفعل المضارع المعروف المثبت

Meaning	Person	Gender	Word-Form	Verb
He is opening or he .will open	3 rd person	masc.	singular	يَفْتَحُ
They 2 are opening or they will open			dual	يَفْتَحَانِ
They are opening or they will open			plural	يَفْتَحُونَ
She is opening or she will open		fem.	singular	تَفْتَحُ
They 2 f. are opening or will open			dual	تَفْتَحَانِ
They f. are opening or will open			plural	يَفْتَحْنَ
You are are opening or will open	2 nd person	masc.	singular	تَفْتَحُ
You 2 are opening or will open			dual	تَفْتَحَانِ
You (all) are opening or will open			plural	تَفْتَحُونَ
You f. are opening or will open		fem.	singular	تَفْتَحِينَ
You 2 f. are opening or will open			dual	تَفْتَحَانِ
You (all f.) are opening or will open			plural	تَفْتَحْنَ
I am are opening or will open	1 st person	m/f	singular	أَفْتَحُ
We are are opening or will open		m/f	dual/ plural	نَفْتَحُ

The Imperfect Verb

الفعل المضارع

The past tense verb is referred to as the perfect verb because the action has already taken place. The imperfect verb, on the other hand, is called such because the action has not yet completed. This tense alone is indicative of the present tense, the present continuous, and the future tense. Context will determine which of the three is intended.

Let's take the base letters ع، م، س، which afford the sense of "hearing". The imperfect verb is constructed by placing these letters on the pattern **يَفْعَلُ**; we get **يَسْمَعُ**. This verb can mean "he is hearing", "he hears", and "he will hear".

Just as with the past tense verb, this pattern also has three variations. The pattern can be **يَفْعَلُ**, **يَفْعَلِينَ**, or **يَفْعَلُونَ**. For our purposes, we will simply work with **يَفْعَلُ** and ignore the other variations.

The conjugation table is given below. Notice that the imperfect verb has both a prefix and a suffix. The prefix is one of ي، أ، ت، or ن. Study the table below.

Conjugation			Conjugation and Translation
3 rd person	Masculine	Singular	يَسْمَعُ (he hears)
		Dual	يَسْمَعَانِ (they hear)
		Plural	يَسْمَعُونَ (they hear)
	Feminine	Singular	تَسْمَعُ (she hears)
		Dual	تَسْمَعَانِ (they hear)
		Plural	يَسْمَعْنَ (they hear)
2 nd person	Masculine	Singular	تَسْمَعُ (you hear)
		Dual	تَسْمَعَانِ (you hear)
		Plural	تَسْمَعُونَ (you hear)
	Feminine	Singular	تَسْمَعِينَ (you hear)
		Dual	تَسْمَعَانِ (you hear)
		Plural	تَسْمَعْنَ (you hear)
1 st person	Masculine & Feminine	Singular	أَسْمَعُ (I hear)
		Plural	نَسْمَعُ (we hear)

Active & Passive

The active verb is rendered passive by applying the following pattern.

- The prefix of the imperfect verb will be given a dhammah.
- The very last letter will be left as is.
- All the letters in between that have vowels will have their vowels changed to fathah.

So يَسْمَعُ, for example, will become يُسْمَعُ. And this pattern applies despite the variation in the middle letter that was mentioned before.

Conjugation			Conjugation and Translation
3 rd person	Masculine	Singular	يُسْمَعُ (he is heard)
		Dual	يُسْمَعَانِ (they are heard)
		Plural	يُسْمَعُونَ (they are heard)
	Feminine	Singular	تُسْمَعُ (she is heard)
		Dual	تُسْمَعَانِ (they are heard)
		Plural	يُسْمَعْنَ (they are heard)
2 nd person	Masculine	Singular	تُسْمَعُ (you are heard)
		Dual	تُسْمَعَانِ (you are heard)
		Plural	تُسْمَعُونَ (you are heard)
	Feminine	Singular	تُسْمَعِينَ (you are heard)
		Dual	تُسْمَعَانِ (you are heard)
		Plural	تُسْمَعْنَ (you are heard)
1 st person	Masculine & Feminine	Singular	أُسْمَعُ (I am heard)
		Plural	نُسْمَعُ (we are heard)

TABLE 4.2

THE PRESENT TENSE VERB

PASSIVE VOICE NEGATION	ACTIVE VOICE NEGATION	PASSIVE VOICE	ACTIVE VOICE
لَا يُفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) is not being done	لَا يَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) does not do	يُفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) is being done	يَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) does
لَا يُفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) are not being done	لَا يَفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) do not do	يُفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) are being done	يَفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) do
لَا يُفْعَلُونَ They (P/M) are not being done	لَا يَفْعَلُونَ They (P/M) do not do	يُفْعَلُونَ They (P/M) are being done	يَفْعَلُونَ They (P/M) do
لَا تُفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) is not being done	لَا تَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) does not do	تُفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) is being done	تَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) does
لَا تُفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) are not being done	لَا تَفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) do not do	تُفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) are being done	تَفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) do
لَا يُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) are not being done	لَا يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) do not do	يُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) are being done	يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) do
لَا تُفْعَلُ You (S/M) are not being done	لَا تَفْعَلُ You (S/M) do not do	تُفْعَلُ You (S/M) are being done	تَفْعَلُ You (S/M) do
لَا تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) are not being done	لَا تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) do not do	تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) are being done	تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) do
لَا تُفْعَلُونَ You (P/M) are not being done	لَا تَفْعَلُونَ You (P/M) do not do	تُفْعَلُونَ You (P/M) are being done	تَفْعَلُونَ You (P/M) do
لَا تُفْعَلِينَ You (S/F) are not being done	لَا تَفْعَلِينَ You (S/F) do not do	تُفْعَلِينَ You (S/F) are being done	تَفْعَلِينَ You (S/F) do
لَا تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) are not being done	لَا تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) do not do	تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) are being done	تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) do
لَا تُفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) are not being done	لَا تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) do not do	تُفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) are being done	تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) do
لَا أَفْعَلُ I am not being done	لَا أَفْعَلُ I do not do	أَفْعَلُ I am being done	أَفْعَلُ I do
لَا نَفْعَلُ We are not being done	لَا نَفْعَلُ We do not do	نَفْعَلُ We are being done	نَفْعَلُ We do

M=Masculine

F=Feminine

S=Singular

D=Dual

P=Plural

TABLE 4.3
THE FUTURE TENSE

PASSIVE VOICE FUTURE	ACTIVE VOICE FUTURE	PASSIVE VOICE FUTURE	ACTIVE VOICE FUTURE
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) will be done	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) will do	سَيُفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) will be done	سَيَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) will do
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) will be done	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) will do	سَيُفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) will be done	سَيَفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) will do
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلُونَ They (P/M) will be done	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلُونَ They (P/M) will do	سَيُفْعَلُونَ They (P/M) will be done	سَيَفْعَلُونَ They (P/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) will do	سَتُفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) will be done	سَتَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) will do	سَتُفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) will be done	سَتَفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) will do
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will be done	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will do	سَيُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will be done	سَيَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلُ You (S/M) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلُ You (S/M) will do	سَتُفْعَلُ You (S/M) will be done	سَتَفْعَلُ You (S/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) will do	سَتُفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) will be done	سَتَفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلُونَ You (P/M) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلُونَ You (P/M) will do	سَتُفْعَلُونَ You (P/M) will be done	سَتَفْعَلُونَ You (P/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلِينَ You (S/F) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلِينَ You (S/F) will do	سَتُفْعَلِينَ You (S/F) will be done	سَتَفْعَلِينَ You (S/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) will do	سَتُفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) will be done	سَتَفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will do	سَتُفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will be done	سَتَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will do
سَوْفَ أَفْعَلُ I will be done	سَوْفَ أَفْعَلُ I will do	سَأُفْعَلُ I will be done	سَأَفْعَلُ I will do
سَوْفَ نَفْعَلُ We will be done	سَوْفَ نَفْعَلُ We will do	سَنُفْعَلُ We will be done	سَنَفْعَلُ We will do

M=Masculine

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D=Dual

P=Plural