

Chapter 26

PAST CONTINUOUS

الْفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي الْإِسْتِمْرَارِي

كَانَ is a helping verb meaning “was/were”. However, when it comes before the imperfect tense it will make it a past continuous verb.

For example:

كَانَ يَفْعَلُ – He was doing.

Past continuous conjugation of كَانَ يَفْعَلُ:

	مفرد Singular	مثنى Dual	جمع Plural
مذكر غائب 3 rd person masculine	كَانَ يَفْعَلُ He was doing	كَانَا يَفْعَلَانِ They both were doing	كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ They all were doing
مؤنث غائب 3 rd person feminine	كَانَتْ تَفْعَلُ She was doing	كَانَتَا تَفْعَلَانِ They both were doing	كَانْنَ يَفْعَلْنَ They all were doing

مذكر مخاطب 2 nd person masculine	كُنْتَ تَفْعَلُ You were doing	كُنْتُمَا تَفْعَلَانِ You both were doing	كُنْتُمْ تَفْعَلُونَ You all were doing
مؤنث مخاطب 2 nd person feminine	كُنْتِ تَفْعَلِينَ You were doing	كُنْتُمَا تَفْعَلَانِ You both were doing	كُنْتُنَّ تَفْعَلْنَ You all were doing
متكلم First person (Masculine/Feminine)	كُنْتُ أَفْعَلُ I was doing	-	كُنَّا تَفْعَلُ We were doing

The conjugation for كَانَ is in the past tense though it is used along with the imperfect tense يَفْعَلُ.

Examples:

﴿ذَلِكَ بِمَا عَصَوْا وَكَانُوا يَعْتَدُونَ﴾

"That was because of their disobedience and *they were the persons who exceeded the limits.*" (2:61)

﴿وَأَنْ تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾

"And that you fast is better for you *if you know.*" (2:184)

﴿كَانَا يَأْكُلَانِ الطَّعَامَ﴾

"*They both used to eat food.*" (5:75)

﴿وَجَعَلْنَاهُ مِنَ الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي كَانَتْ تَعْمَلُ الْخَبِيثَاتِ﴾

"And We delivered him from the town *which practiced bad things.*" (21:74)

﴿وَقَالُوا لَوْ كُنَّا نَسْمَعُ أَوْ نَعْقِلُ مَا كُنَّا فِي أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ﴾

"And they will say, 'Had we *but listened* or understood, we would not have been among the inhabitants of blazing fire.'" (67:10)

الفعل الماضي الإستمراري

Meaning	Person	Gender	Word-Form	Verb
He was writing	3 rd person	masc.	singular	كَانَ يَكْتُبُ
They 2 were writing			dual	كَانَا يَكْتُبَانِ
They were writing			plural	كَانُوا يَكْتُبُونَ
She was writing		fem.	singular	كَانَتْ تَكْتُبُ
They 2 f. were writing			dual	كَانَتَا تَكْتُبَانِ
They f. were writing			plural	كَانْنَ يَكْتُبْنَ
You were writing	2 nd person	masc.	singular	كُنْتَ تَكْتُبُ
You 2 were writing			dual	كُنْتُمَا تَكْتُبَانِ
You were writing			plural	كُنْتُمْ تَكْتُبُونَ
You f. were writing		fem.	singular	كُنْتِ تَكْتُبِينَ
You 2 f. were writing			dual	كُنْتُمَا تَكْتُبَانِ
You f. were writing			plural	كُنْتُنَّ تَكْتُبْنَ
I was writing	1 st person	m/f	singular	كُنْتُ أَكْتُبُ
We were writing			dual/ plural	كُنَّا نَكْتُبُ

Note 3: The (المضارع) of (كَانَ) is (يَكُونُ). The paradigm will be as follows:

TABLE 6.1
EXPRESSING THE *STATE* OF NASB

VERB IN ORIGINAL <i>RAFA'</i>	SIGN OF <i>RAFA'</i>		PARTICLE CAUSING <i>NASB</i>	MEANS OF SHOWING <i>NASB</i>		ACTIVE VOICE IN <i>NASB</i>
يَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) does	Final <i>dammah</i>	+	لَنْ	Change final <i>dammah</i> to <i>fatbah</i>	⇒	لَنْ يَفْعَلَ He/It (S/M) will never do
يَفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) do	Final <i>nūn</i>	+	لَنْ	Drop final <i>nūn</i>	⇒	لَنْ يَفْعَلَا They (D/M) will never do
يَفْعَلُونَ They (P/M) do	Final <i>nūn</i>	+	لَنْ	Drop final <i>nūn</i>	⇒	لَنْ يَفْعَلُوا They (P/M) will never do
تَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) does	Final <i>dammah</i>	+	لَنْ	Change final <i>dammah</i> to <i>fatbah</i>	⇒	لَنْ تَفْعَلَ She/It (S/F) will never do
تَفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) do	Final <i>nūn</i>	+	لَنْ	Drop final <i>nūn</i>	⇒	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا They (D/F) will never do
يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) do	Stateless (مَبْنِي)	+	لَنْ	No change	⇒	لَنْ يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will never do
تَفْعَلُ You (S/M) do	Final <i>dammah</i>	+	لَنْ	Change final <i>dammah</i> to <i>fatbah</i>	⇒	لَنْ تَفْعَلَ You (S/M) will never do
تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) do	Final <i>nūn</i>	+	لَنْ	Drop final <i>nūn</i>	⇒	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا You (D/M) will never do
تَفْعَلُونَ You (P/M) do	Final <i>nūn</i>	+	لَنْ	Drop final <i>nūn</i>	⇒	لَنْ تَفْعَلُوا You (P/M) will never do
تَفْعَلِينَ You (S/F) do	Final <i>nūn</i>	+	لَنْ	Drop final <i>nūn</i>	⇒	لَنْ تَفْعَلِي You (S/F) will never do
تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) do	Final <i>nūn</i>	+	لَنْ	Drop final <i>nūn</i>	⇒	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا You (D/F) will never do
تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) do	Stateless (مَبْنِي)	+	لَنْ	No change	⇒	لَنْ تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will never do
أَفْعَلُ I do	Final <i>dammah</i>	+	لَنْ	Change final <i>dammah</i> to <i>fatbah</i>	⇒	لَنْ أَفْعَلَ I will never do
نَفْعَلُ We do	Final <i>dammah</i>	+	لَنْ	Change final <i>dammah</i> to <i>fatbah</i>	⇒	لَنْ نَفْعَلَ We will never do

Lesson Five: The Present Tense Verb in the State of Rafa' [رَفْع]

INTRODUCING GRAMMATICAL STATES

Like people, Arabic words experience states. Human emotional states occur as a result of our daily interactions and are indicated by our facial expressions. For example, meeting a friend makes us happy, which is then expressed on our faces by smiling.

Arabic words behave in a similar manner. In a sentence they interact with surrounding words and, as a result, experience *grammatical states*. These *grammatical states* are then expressed on the end of the word. Just as a person's face indicates his emotional state, the last letter of a word reveals its *grammatical state*. While people experience many emotional states, Arabic words experience only four *grammatical states*:

- 1) *rafa'* (رَفْع)
- 2) *nasb* (نَصْب)
- 3) *jarr* (جَرّ)
- 4) *jazm* (جَزْم)

PRINCIPLE ONE

Of the four *grammatical states*, Arabic *verbs* only experience three¹⁸:

- 1) *rafa'* (رَفْع)
- 2) *nasb* (نَصْب)
- 3) *jazm* (جَزْم)

¹⁸ The fourth state, *jarr* (جَرّ), is experienced only by nouns.

When the particle (لَنْ) is prefixed to the (المضارع), it renders (نصب) to the verb. Therefore the particle (لَنْ) is called a (حرف ناصب).

The seven (نون اعرابية) are deleted due to the (حرف جازم) or (حرف ناصب). This is the change that occurs in the word itself. As for the meaning, due to the particle (لَمْ), the (المضارع) changes to the negative perfect (الماضي المنفي). Therefore (لَمْ يَفْعَلْ - He did not do) is the same as (مَا فَعَلَ).

The particle (لَنْ) creates the meaning of negative emphasis in the (المضارع). The (المضارع) also becomes specific with the future tense, e.g. (لَنْ يَفْعَلَ) – He will never do.

Compare the following paradigms and understand well the differences in words and meanings.

الضمير	لَنْ يَنْصُرَ	لَنْ يَكْتُبَ	لَنْ يَدْخُلَ	لَنْ يَطْلُبَ	لَنْ يَسْجُدَ
	He will never help	He will never write	He entered	He will never search	He will never prostrate
هُوَ					
هُمَا					
هُمْ					
هِيَ					
هُمَا					
هُنَّ					
أَنْتَ					
أَنْتُمَا					
أَنْتُمْ					
أَنْتِ					
أَنْتُمَا					
أَنْتُنَّ					
أَنَا					
نَحْنُ					

TABLE 6.2

THE PRESENT TENSE VERB IN THE STATE OF *NASB*

PASSIVE VOICE IN <i>NASB</i>	ACTIVE VOICE IN <i>NASB</i>
لَنْ يُفْعَلَ He/It (S/M) will never be done	لَنْ يَفْعَلَ He/It (S/M) will never do
لَنْ يُفْعَلَا They (D/M) will never be done	لَنْ يَفْعَلَا They (D/M) will never do
لَنْ يُفْعَلُوا They (P/M) will never be done	لَنْ يَفْعَلُوا They (P/M) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلَ She/It (S/F) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلَ She/It (S/F) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلَا They (D/F) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا They (D/F) will never do
لَنْ يُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will never be done	لَنْ يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلَ You (S/M) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلَ You (S/M) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلَا You (D/M) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا You (D/M) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلُوا You (P/M) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلُوا You (P/M) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلِي You (S/F) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلِي You (S/F) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلَا You (D/F) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا You (D/F) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will never do
لَنْ أَفْعَلَ I will never be done	لَنْ أَفْعَلَ I will never do
لَنْ نَفْعَلَ We will never be done	لَنْ نَفْعَلَ We will never do

M=Masculine

F=Feminine

S=Singular

D=Dual

P=Plural

APPENDIX C

THE PRESENT TENSE IN NASB AND JAZM: VERB FORM I (TYPE B)

PASSIVE VOICE JAZM	ACTIVE VOICE JAZM	PASSIVE VOICE NASB	ACTIVE VOICE NASB
لَمْ يُضْرَبْ He/It (S/M) was not struck	لَمْ يَضْرِبْ He/It (S/M) did not strike	لَنْ يُضْرَبَ He/It (S/M) will never be struck	لَنْ يَضْرِبَ He/It (S/M) will never strike
لَمْ يُضْرَبَا They (D/M) were not struck	لَمْ يَضْرِبَا They (D/M) did not strike	لَنْ يُضْرَبَا They (D/M) will never be struck	لَنْ يَضْرِبَا They (D/M) will never strike
لَمْ يُضْرَبُوا They (P/M) were not struck	لَمْ يَضْرِبُوا They (P/M) did not strike	لَنْ يُضْرَبُوا They (P/M) will never be struck	لَنْ يَضْرِبُوا They (P/M) will never strike
لَمْ تُضْرَبْ She/It (S/F) was not struck	لَمْ تَضْرِبْ She/It (S/F) did not strike	لَنْ تُضْرَبَ She/It (S/F) will never be struck	لَنْ تَضْرِبَ She/It (S/F) will never strike
لَمْ تُضْرَبَا They (D/F) were not struck	لَمْ تَضْرِبَا They (D/F) did not strike	لَنْ تُضْرَبَا They (D/F) will never be struck	لَنْ تَضْرِبَا They (D/F) will never strike
لَمْ يُضْرَبْنَ They (P/F) were not struck	لَمْ يَضْرِبْنَ They (P/F) did not strike	لَنْ يُضْرَبْنَ They (P/F) will never be struck	لَنْ يَضْرِبْنَ They (P/F) will never strike
لَمْ تُضْرَبْ You (S/M) were not struck	لَمْ تَضْرِبْ You (S/M) did not strike	لَنْ تُضْرَبَ You (S/M) will never be struck	لَنْ تَضْرِبَ You (S/M) will never strike
لَمْ تُضْرَبَا You (D/M) were not struck	لَمْ تَضْرِبَا You (D/M) did not strike	لَنْ تُضْرَبَا You (D/M) will never be struck	لَنْ تَضْرِبَا You (D/M) will never strike
لَمْ تُضْرَبُوا You (P/M) were not struck	لَمْ تَضْرِبُوا You (P/M) did not strike	لَنْ تُضْرَبُوا You (P/M) will never be struck	لَنْ تَضْرِبُوا You (P/M) will never strike
لَمْ تُضْرَبِي You (S/F) were not struck	لَمْ تَضْرِبِي You (S/F) did not strike	لَنْ تُضْرَبِي You (S/F) will never be struck	لَنْ تَضْرِبِي You (S/F) will never strike
لَمْ تُضْرَبَا You (D/F) were not struck	لَمْ تَضْرِبَا You (D/F) did not strike	لَنْ تُضْرَبَا You (D/F) will never be struck	لَنْ تَضْرِبَا You (D/F) will never strike
لَمْ تُضْرَبْنَ You (P/F) were not struck	لَمْ يَضْرِبْنَ You (P/F) did not strike	لَنْ تُضْرَبْنَ You (P/F) will never be struck	لَنْ يَضْرِبْنَ You (P/F) will never strike
لَمْ أُضْرَبْ I was not struck	لَمْ أَضْرِبْ I did not strike	لَنْ أُضْرَبَ I will never be struck	لَنْ أَضْرِبَ I will never strike
لَمْ نُضْرَبْ We were not struck	لَمْ نَضْرِبْ We did not strike	لَنْ نُضْرَبَ We will never be struck	لَنْ نَضْرِبَ We will never strike