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الدَّرْسُ الْخَامِسُ وَالْعِشْرُونَ - Lesson 25

المُعْرَبُ وَالْمَبْنِيُّ - The Declinable and the non-Declinable

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مُقَدِّمَةٌ - Introduction

- In this lesson we will learn the difference between the declinable and the non-declinable words, In-Shaa'-Allaah (God willing).
- We will study how the vowel endings in the declinable nouns are changeable according to the grammatical case and according to the position in the sentence. I.e. you can see a noun like /kitābun/ كِتَابٌ signed with /ḍammah/ on its end in a certain situation كِتَابٌ, and signed with /fathah/ in another situation كِتَابًا, and signed with /kasrah/ in a third situation كِتَابٍ. This change in the ending of the word (according to its position in the sentence) means that the word is declinable. Consider the declension of the noun /kitābun/ in the following examples (please read from right to left):

Explanation	Declension		Sentence	
	Case	Sign	English	Arabic
The word /kitābun/ is a predicate, so it is in the nominative case signed with ḍammah on its end	Nominative	ḍammah	This is a book.	هَذَا كِتَابٌ.

<p>The word /kitāban/ is a direct object, so it is in the accusative case signed with fathah on its end</p>	Accusative	Fathah	I took a book.	أَخَذْتُ كِتَابًا.
<p>The word /al kitābi/ is Muḍāf ilaihi, so it is in the genitive case signed with kasrah on its end</p>	Genitive	Kasrah	The color of the book is beautiful.	لَوْنُ الْكِتَابِ جَمِيلٌ.

- We will also learn the indeclinable words, i.e. the words which do not change according to their position in the sentence. The indeclinable words have constant endings whatever their position in the sentence is. Consider the ending of the demonstrative noun /dhālika/ in the following three sentences:

Explanation	Indeclension		Sentence	
	Place of (case)	Sign	English	Arabic
<p>Although the word /dhālika/ is a subject in the nominative case, but it is signed with fathah as a</p>	Nominative	<p>Fathah</p> <p>(always indeclinable on the fathah)</p>	That's right.	ذَلِكَ صَحِيحٌ.

constant ending.				
The word /dhālika/ is a direct object in the accusative case; it is signed with fathah as a constant ending.	Accusative		I know that.	أَعْلَمُ ذَلِكَ.
Although the word /dhālika/ is a Maḥrur noun in the genitive case, but it is signed with fathah as a fixed ending.	Genitive		I doubt about that.	أَشْكُ فِي ذَلِكَ.

- We will also learn the types of indeclinable words (verbs, nouns, and articles) and the different signs of indeclensoin for each.

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- Any Arabic word is either declinable or indeclinable. The declinable words are the words that have the feature of changing their endings according to their grammatical position in the sentence. The indeclinable words are those words that do not have that feature (i.e. their vowel endings never change whatever their grammatical position is). Arabic language (like most Semitic languages) is classified as a declension language. The declension language is the language in which we distinguish the position of each word by the use of certain signs for each position, while in the non-declension languages (e.g.: English) we guess the position of each word in the sentence from the word form and the word order in the sentence.
- Consider the following two English sentences:
 - The man killed the snake.
 - The snake killed the man.
- In the first sentence, we understand that the killer is the man, while he is the one killed in the second sentence. We understand this meaning from the word order (i.e. the doer comes before the direct object).
- In Arabic the doer is that which is in the nominative case (i.e. signed originally with dammah) regardless of its order in the sentence, and the direct object is that which is in the accusative case (i.e. signed originally with fathah) regardless its order in the sentence. Consider the following two sentences:

Explanation	English meaning	Arabic sentence

<p>The killer here is the man</p> <p>because the noun is signed</p> <p>with the ḍammah</p> <p>(nominative case)</p>	<p>The man killed the snake.</p>	<p>قَتَلَ الرَّجُلُ الشَّعْبَانَ.</p>
<p>The killer here is the snake</p> <p>because its noun is signed</p> <p>with the ḍammah</p> <p>(nominative case) while the</p> <p>man is signed with fathah</p> <p>(direct object)</p>	<p>The snake killed the man.</p>	<p>قَتَلَ الشَّعْبَانُ الرَّجُلَ.</p>

- This means that you have to learn the declension cases and signs in order to speak and to understand the Arabic Language. In these lessons we will help you learn the different grammatical cases of words and the signs related to each case In-Shaa'-Allaah (God willing).
- In spite of this, there are some types of Arabic words which have constant (fixed) endings without consideration to their position in the sentence. These are called **الكَلِمَاتُ الْمَبْنِيَّةُ** the indeclinable words.
- Arabic words are divided into three categories: nouns, verbs and articles. The general rule of the nouns is that they experience declension, so the indeclinable nouns are an exception to the rule. The general rule of the verbs is one of indeclension, so a few cases of verbs are declinable. The articles are all indeclinable (without exception).
- In the next part (part 3) we will learn the declinable nouns and in part 4 we will learn the indeclinable nouns.
- The declinable and the indeclinable verbs will be studied in part 6 of this lesson.
- And finally the indeclension of the articles we be studied in part 8.

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الأَسْمَاءُ الْمُعْرَبَةُ - The declinable nouns

- The majority of Arabic nouns are declinable. The general rule of the nouns is that they experience declension, so the indeclinable nouns are an exception to the rule. We will learn in this part the rules related to the declinable nouns In-Shaa'-Allaah (God willing).
- Any declinable noun has many possible changes (declensions) in its ending according to its grammatical case and to its position in the sentence. There are many positions that the noun can occupy in the sentence. There are also many forms that affect the sign (vowel ending) of the noun. Let's first study the grammatical cases of the noun and then we can study the different signs of each case.

A. The grammatical cases of the noun:





- To understand the vowel ending of a declinable noun you first have to know the grammatical case of the noun. The grammatical case of any noun can be nominative, accusative or genitive depending on the position which the noun occupies in the sentence. In this language course we learn which nouns are in the nominative case, which are in the accusative case and which are in the genitive case.
- Some examples of nouns in the nominative case (which will be studied in later lessons) are:

Picture	Example	Will be detailed in	The type of noun / position in the sentence which causes it


			lesson no.:	to be the nominative case	
	English	Arabic		English	Arabic
	The teacher explained the lesson	شَرَحَ الْمُدْرَسُ الدَّرْسَ.	Lesson 64	The doer (of the verbal sentence)	الْفَاعِلُ
	The cat is beautiful.	الْقِطُّ جَمِيلٌ	Lesson 58	The subject (of the nominal sentence)	الْمُبْتَدَأُ
	The stone is heavy.	الْحَجَرُ ثَقِيلٌ	Lesson 58	The predicate (of the nominal sentence)	الْخَبَرُ
	The bag was stolen.	سُرِقَتِ الْحَقِيْبَةُ.	Lesson 65	The pro-agent (of the passive voice verb)	نَائِبُ الْفَاعِلِ


- Some examples of nouns in the accusative case (that will also detailed in later lessons):

Picture	Example		Will be detailed in lesson no.:	The type of noun / position in the sentence which causes the nominative case	
	English	Arabic		English	Arabic

	The teacher explained the lesson	<p>شَرَحَ الْمُدْرَسُ الدَّرْسَ.</p>	Lesson 66	The direct object (of the verbal sentence)	<p>الْمَفْعُولُ بِهِ</p>
	Indeed, the cat is beautiful.	<p>إِنَّ الْقَطَّ جَمِيلٌ</p>	Lesson 60	The noun of /inna/ and its sisters	<p>اسْمُ إِنَّ وَأَخَوَاتُهَا</p>
	The stone became heavy.	<p>أَصْبَحَ الْحَجَرُ ثَقِيلًا.</p>	Lesson 59	The predicate (of the nominal sentence)	<p>خَبَرُ كَانَ وَأَخَوَاتُهَا</p>
	The boy stayed lonely.	<p>جَلَسَ الْوَلَدُ وَحِيدًا</p>	Lesson 71	The status	<p>الْحَالُ</p>

◦ Some examples of nouns in the genitive case (that will also detailed in later lessons):


Picture	Example		Will be detailed in lesson no.:	The position in the sentence which causes the nominative case	
	English	Arabic		English	Arabic
	The teacher stood in	<p>وَقَفَ الْمُدْرَسُ فِي الْفَصْلِ.</p>	Lesson 76	The noun after the preposition	<p>الاسْمُ بَعْدَ حَرْفِ الْجَرِّ</p>

	the class.			(Maġrūr)	
	This is the cat of the girl.	هَذِهِ قِطَّةُ الْبِنْتِ.	Lesson 05	The annexed noun (al muḍāf ilaihi)	الْمُضَافُ إِلَيْهِ

- From the above mentioned examples we understand clearly that the noun's position in the sentence determines its grammatical case and the different positions of the nouns will be the main topics of the coming lessons In-Shaa'-Allaah (God willing).
- Once we distinguish the noun's position and grammatical case, we can automatically think about the sign of the ending of the noun. This will be detailed in the next point:

B. The sign of the ending of the declinable noun:

- The nominative noun is originally signed with ḍammah on its end, the accusative is originally signed with fathah and the genitive is originally signed with kasrah. The original signs occur when the noun is in the basic form. If the noun is not in the basic form (i.e. dual, sound plural etc.) we have to use the secondary signs. Therefore we will have many signs for each case (original signs and secondary signs).
- The following table summarizes the ending signs of the nouns according to the grammatical cases and different reasons for taking the original sign or secondary sign in each case:

الصُّورَةُ Picture	مِثَالُ Example		السَّبَبُ Reason	الْعَلَامَةُ Sign	الْحَالَةُ Case
	English	عَرَبِيٌّ			
	The book is beautiful	الْكِتَابُ جَمِيلٌ	Main sign	١- الضَّمَّةُ (ُ)	الرَّفْعُ Nominative

	The two doctors are clever	الطَّبِيبَانِ مَاهِرَانِ.	الْمُثَنَّى Dual	٢ - الألفُ (ا)	
	The employees attended (came).	حَضَرَ الْمُوظَّفُونَ.	جَمْعُ الْمَذَكَّرِ السَّالِمِ Sound masculine plural	٣ - الواوُ (و)	
	Your father came.	جَاءَ أَبُوكَ.	الْأَسْمَاءُ الْخَمْسَةُ Five nouns		
	I read the book.	قَرَأْتُ الْكِتَابَ	Main sign	١ - الفَتْحَةُ ()	
	I saw the two teachers.	رَأَيْتُ الطَّبِيبَيْنِ	الْمُثَنَّى Dual	٢ - الياءُ (ي)	التَّصْبُ Accusative
	These are not employees.	هَؤُلَاءِ لَيْسُوا مُوظَّفِينَ	جَمْعُ الْمَذَكَّرِ السَّالِمِ Sound	٣ - الياءُ (ي) Long vowel	

			masculine plural		
	I do not have a moustache.	لَسْتُ ذَا شَارِبٍ	الْأَسْمَاءُ الْخَمْسَةُ Five nouns	٤ - الْأَلِفُ (ا)	
	I saw the clever female doctors.	رَأَيْتُ الطَّبِيبَاتِ الْمَاهِرَاتِ	جَمْعُ الْمُؤَنَّثِ السَّالِمِ Sound feminine plural	٥ - الْكَسْرَةُ (ِ)	
	In the book, there is a beautiful lesson.	فِي الْكِتَابِ دَرْسٌ جَمِيلٌ	Main sign	١ - الْكَسْرَةُ (ِ)	
	This is the house of the two Egyptian men.	هَذَا بَيْتُ الرَّجُلَيْنِ الْمِصْرِيِّينِ.	الْمُثَنَّى Dual	٢ - الْيَاءُ (يَ)	الْجَرُّ Genitive
	I talked to the employees.	تَحَدَّثْتُ مَعَ الْمُوظَّفِينَ	جَمْعُ الْمُذَكَّرِ السَّالِمِ	٣ - الْيَاءُ (يَ) Long vowel	

			Sound masculine plural	
	Go to your brother.	اذهبْ إِلَى أَخِيكَ.	الْأَسْمَاءُ الْخَمْسَةُ Five nouns	
	This woman is from Damascus.	هَذِهِ الْمَرْأَةُ مِنْ دِمَشْقٍ.	الْمَمْنُوعُ مِنَ الصَّرْفِ diptotes	٤ - الْفَتْحَةُ ()

- Please remember that the above mentioned secondary signs and their reasons will be studied in detail in later lessons In-Shaa'-Allaah (God willing). This summary is supposed to be a guide to the coming lessons and to show you that the declinable nouns have many forms (of declension) based on many factors.

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الأَسْمَاءُ الْمَبْنِيَّةُ - The indeclinable nouns

- We learnt earlier that the majority of Arabic nouns are declinable and the indeclinable nouns are an exception to the general rule. We also learnt that the indeclinable noun is the noun which has a constant (fixed) ending regardless of its position or grammatical case in the sentence. Following are the types of the indeclinable nouns:

1. الضَّمَائِرُ - The pronouns

- The pronouns are considered nouns in the Arabic grammar, because the words in Arabic are divided into only three categories; nouns, verbs and articles. Therefore the pronouns, the demonstratives and the relatives are subdivisions of nouns.
- All pronouns (detached or attached) are indeclinable. Therefore each pronoun will remain in its original form irrespective of whether it is in place of nominative, accusative or genitive.
- We will not study the pronoun divisions in detail right now; this will be detailed in many lessons ([lesson 44](#) to [lesson 48](#)). Here we will learn some examples which will help us to understand the rules above. Consider the following examples:

Picture	Vowel ending of the pronoun	Pronoun	Sentence	
			English	Arabic

	Fathah	كَ	This is your friend speaking with you	هَذَا صَدِيقُكَ يَتَحَدَّثُ مَعَكَ.
	Sukūn	هُمْ	They are hardworking workers. They indeed work in the field (farm).	هُمْ عَمَّالٌ مُجْتَهِدُونَ، إِنَّهُمْ يَعْمَلُونَ فِي الْحَقْلِ.
	Fathah (for the attached form) and ḍammah for the detached form	هُوَ هُ	He is Omar and this is his father whom he likes.	هُوَ عُمَرُ، وَهَذَا أَبُوهُ الَّذِي يُحِبُّهُ.
	Ḍammah for the detached and long alif for the attached	نَحْنُ نَا	We study our lessons.	نَحْنُ نُذَاكِرُ دُرُوسَنَا.

2. The demonstrative pronouns اِسْمَاءُ الْإِشَارَةِ:

- The demonstratives such as (هَذَا this), (هَذِهِ this; for feminine), (هَذَانِ these; for dual masculine), (هَاتَانِ these; for dual feminine), (هؤُلَاءِ these; for plural), (ذَلِكَ that), (تِلْكَ that; for feminine), (ذَانِكَ those; for dual masculine), (تَانِكَ those; for dual feminine), (أُولَئِكَ those; for plural) are considered below. These demonstratives are studied in detail in [lesson 24](#).
- All demonstrative pronouns are indeclinable except for the dual masculine and feminine forms which are declinable as detailed in the declension of the dual ([lesson 18](#) and [lesson 55](#)). Consider the following examples:

English	Arabic
Do you know this? This is Muhammad.	هَلْ تَعْرِفُ هَذَا؟ هَذَا مُحَمَّدٌ.
I passed by this man yesterday.	مَرَرْتُ بِهَذَا الرَّجُلِ أَمْسٍ.


- In the above mentioned examples we notice that the demonstrative pronoun (hādhā) falls in different positions (direct object, subject, and Muḥrūr) but it still has the same ending (long vowel ā).
- More examples:

English	Arabic
Do you know these (people)? These are the new employees.	هَلْ تَعْرِفُ هَؤُلَاءِ؟ هَؤُلَاءِ الْمُوظَّفُونَ الْجَدُّدُ.

- You will notice that /hā'ulā'i/ above is indeclinable on kasrah on its ending regardless its grammatical position (direct object or subject as above).

3. Relative pronouns الأَسْمَاءُ الْمَوْصُولَةُ:

- The Arabic relative pronouns such as (الَّذِي who/which), (الَّتِي who/which for feminine), (الَّذَانِ who/which for dual), (الَّتَانِ who/which for the dual feminine), (الَّذِينَ who/which for plural), (اللاتي - اللاتي who/which for plural feminine) are considered below. Please note that we have already learnt the relative nouns in [lesson 24](#).
- All relative nouns are indeclinable except for the dual masculine and feminine which follow the general declension of the dual nouns (as detailed in [lesson 18](#) and [lesson 55](#)). Consider the following examples:

Picture	English	Arabic
	The workers who are in the field	الْعُمَّالُ الَّذِينَ فِي الْحَقْلِ

I saw (those) who are in the field.	رَأَيْتُ الَّذِينَ فِي الْحَقْلِ.
I passed by (those) who are in the field.	مَرَرْتُ بِالَّذِينَ فِي الْحَقْلِ.

- In the above mentioned examples, the relative noun **الَّذِينَ** has a constant ending (fathah) whether it is in place of nominative (in the first example), accusative (in the second example) or genitive (in the third example).

4. **Interrogative (questioning) nouns** **أَسْمَاءُ الاسْتِفْهَامِ**:



- All the interrogative nouns as (مَاذَا؟ what?), (مَنْ؟ who?), (أَيْنَ؟ where?), (كَيْفَ؟ how?) etc. are indeclinable. These will be learnt in [lesson 41](#) and [lesson 42](#) In-Shaa'-Allaah (God willing). Consider the following examples:

Picture	English	Arabic
	Where is Airport street?	أَيْنَ شَارِعُ الْمَطَارِ؟
	Where are you (both) from?	مِنْ أَيْنَ أَنْتُمَا؟

- You may notice that the interrogative (questioning) noun **أَيْنَ** is indeclinable, as it has a constant ending whether it is in the place of nominative (in the first example) or in the place of genitive (in the second example).

5. **Conditional nouns** **أَسْمَاءُ الشَّرْطِ**:


- The conditional nouns such as (مَنْ؟ whoever), (مَهْمَا؟ whatever), (أَيَّانَ؟ whenever), (أَيْنَمَا؟ wherever) etc. are all indeclinable nouns. These will be learnt in detail in [lesson 49](#) In-Shaa'-Allaah (God willing). Consider the following examples:

Picture	English	Arabic
	Whenever you feel pain, you visit the doctor.	أَيَّانَ تَشْعُرُ بِالْأَلَمِ ؛ تَذْهَبُ إِلَى الطَّيِّبِ //ayyāna tashʿuru bil-alamī, tadhhab ilā at-ṭabīb-i//
	Wherever Muhammad meets his teacher, he greets him.	أَيْنَمَا يَجِدُ مُحَمَّدٌ أُسْتَاذَهُ ؛ يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْهِ. //aynamā yaʿjid muhammadun ustādhahu, yusallim ʿalayh-i//

- In the above mentioned examples the conditional nouns are indeclinable.

6. Verbal nouns أَسْمَاءُ الْأَفْعَالِ:

- We will learn in [lesson 50](#) that the verbal nouns are the nouns which have the meaning of verbs and forms of nouns (i.e. they are not conjugated as verbs), e.g.: (هَشْ هush), (أَهْ ah, or I feel pain) etc.
- All the verbal nouns are indeclinable. Consider the following examples:

Picture	English	Arabic
	I suffer from this pain	أَهْ مِنْ هَذَا الْأَلَمِ /āhi min hādhā al-al'ami/
	Stop releasing (releasing) malicious rumors.	مَهْ عَنْ إِطْلَاقِ الشَّائِعَاتِ الْحَبِيثَةِ /mah ʿan itlāqi ash-shā'iḡāti

		<i>al-khabīthati/</i>
--	--	-----------------------

- The verbal nouns in the above mentioned examples are indeclinable, i.e. they have their own constant ending regardless their position in the sentence.
- In addition to the six types of indeclinable nouns mentioned above there are some indeclinable adverbs (e.g. **مُنْذُ** since), and some allusive nouns that are indeclinable (e.g.: **كَيْتَ** in such a way).
- There are also some nouns which are occasionally indeclinable (i.e. they are originally declinable, but they are indeclinable in some situations) as follows:
 - 1- The single person addressed by the call ([lesson 82](#)), e.g. **يَا رَجُلُ** (oh man).
 - 2- The composite numbers from eleven to nineteen (except the first part of twelve as it is dual) detailed in [lesson 26](#), e.g.: **خَمْسَةَ عَشَرَ** (fifteen).
 - 3- The noun of (lā) of the generic negation when the noun is singular indefinite and not annexed (detailed in [lesson 61](#)), e.g.: **لَا شَكَّ فِي هَذَا** (No doubt in this).
- With this we end the declinable and the indeclinable nouns. After the exercises we will start the declinable and indeclinable verbs.

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تَدْرِيبٌ - Exercise

- In this section we will have multiple questions to test your understanding of the principles we have learnt In-Shā'-Allāh (God willing).
- Click (✓) under the correct option related to each of the following sentences. Upon completing all the questions, click on the Mark button to see the correct answers and obtain your mark.

أَيُّ الْكَلِمَاتِ الْآتِيَةِ مُعْرَبٌ وَأَيُّهَا مَبْنِيٌّ؟

- The sentence above says: "Which words of the following are declinable and which are indeclinable?"

[Mark](#) [Reset](#)

Options		Nouns
Indeclinable	Declinable	
مَبْنِيٌّ	مُعْرَبٌ	
		مُعَلِّمٌ Tutor
		نَحْنُ We
		هَذَانِ These (dual)

		كَمْ How many/how much	
		الَّتِي Who/which (f.pl.)	
		بُيُوت Homes	
		أَسْتَاذٌ Professor/Mister	
		أَنْتُمَا You (dual)	
		مَاذَا؟ What?	
		هَؤُلَاءِ These	

Mark

Reset

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الأَفْعَالُ الْمُعْرَبَةُ وَالْأَفْعَالُ الْمَبْنِيَّةُ - The declinable and the indeclinable verbs

- The general rule is that the verb should be indeclinable and the declinable verbs are an exception to the rule.
- The verbs in Arabic are divided into three types; past, present and imperative.
- The past and the imperative verbs are always indeclinable. The present verbs are generally declinable except for two situations; when the verb is attached to the /nūn/ of the feminine plural **تُونُ النِّسْوَةِ** or attached directly to the /nūn/ of confirmation (the emphatic suffix); in these two situations the present verb is indeclinable.
- Let's now study each of the three types of verbs:

1- The past verb **الفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي** (will be studied in detail in [lesson 39](#)):

- Originally, the past verb is indeclinable with a fathah on its end, e.g.: **وَصَلَ** he arrived - **كَتَبَ** he wrote (e.g.: **تَحَدَّثَ** he talked). If the past tense verb is ended with a vowel, we consider it indeclinable on a virtual (supposed) fathah on its end, e.g.: **رَمَى** he threw, **دَعَا** he invited.
- When the past verb is attached to a pronoun, it may be indeclinable on another sign according to the suffixed pronoun as follows:

◦ **Indeclinable on sukūn when attached to the following pronouns:**

a) The tā' of the doer **تَاءُ الْفَاعِلِ**:

- E.g. **كَتَبْتُ** I wrote - **كَتَبْتَ** you (masculine) wrote - **كَتَبْتِ** you (feminine) wrote - **كَتَبْتُمْ** you (plural) wrote - **كَتَبْتُنَّ** you (feminine plural) wrote.

b) The nā of the (first person) doers **نَا الْفَاعِلِينَ**:

■ E.g.: **كَتَبْنَا** we wrote.

c) The /nūn/ of the feminine third person plural **نُونُ النِّسْوَةِ**:

■ E.g.: **كَتَبْنَ** they (feminine) wrote.

○ **Indeclinable on dammah when attached to wāw of the plural masculine** **وَأَوُ الْجَمَاعَةِ**:

■ E.g.: **كَتَبُوا** they wrote.

- Other than the above mentioned situations, the past verb should be indeclinable with a fatḥah.
- Consider the following examples:

Picture	English	Arabic
	Have you written the homework, Marwan?	هَلْ كَتَبْتَ الْوَاجِبَ يَا مَرَوَانُ؟ /hal katabta al-wājiba ya Marawan?/
	The employees completed the work.	الْمُوظَّفُونَ أَكْمَلُوا الْعَمَلَ. /Al-muwadhaffūn akmalū al-ʿamal/
	Nurses helped patients much	الْمُمَرِّضَاتُ سَاعَدْنَ الْمَرَضَى كَثِيرًا /al-mumarriḍātu sāʿad-na al-marḍā kāthīran/



The teacher explained the new lesson.

شرح المُدرِّسُ الدَّرْسَ
الجديد.

2- The imperative verb **فَعْلُ الْأَمْرِ** (will be detailed in [lesson 40](#)):

- The imperative verb is always indeclinable. The imperative verb is to be addressed only to the second person (i.e. **أَنْتَ** - **أَنْتِ** - **أَنْتُمَا** - **أَنْتُمْ** - **أَنْتُنَّ**). The ending sign on which the imperative is indeclinable depends on the attached pronoun which is suffixed to the verb as follows:
 - If the imperative is addressed to **(أَنْتَ)** it will not be suffixed to a doer pronoun, so it will be indeclinable on sukūn, e.g. **اَكْتُبْ** write.
 - If the imperative is addressed to **(أَنْتِ)** you feminine), **(أَنْتُمَا)** you both) or **(أَنْتُمْ)** you plural), it will be indeclinable on the elimination of the final nūn **مَبْنِيٌّ عَلَى حَذْفِ** **النُّونِ**, e.g.: **اَكْتُبِي** - **اَكْتُبَا** - **اَكْتُبُوا** respectively.
 - If the imperative is addressed to the feminine plural **(أَنْتُنَّ)** it will be indeclinable on the sukūn **مَبْنِيٌّ عَلَى السُّكُونِ**, e.g.: **اَكْتُبْنَ**.
- The Arabic grammarians says that in order to memorize these signs of the indeclension of the imperative you have to match them with the jazm case of the present conjugation (see [lesson 36 part 6](#)).
- Consider the following examples:

English	Transliteration	Arabic
Oh Muhammad, write your lesson.	<i>Yā Muḥammadu uktub darsaka</i>	يَا مُحَمَّدُ اَكْتُبْ دَرْسَكَ
Write your lesson, oh Fatimah!	<i>Yā Fātimatu uktub-ī darsak-i</i>	يَا فَاطِمَةُ اَكْتُبِي دَرْسَكَ.
Write your lesson, oh both of you	<i>Yā ṭālibān-i uktub-ā darsakumā</i>	يَا طَالِبَانِ اَكْتُبَا

[two] students!		دَرْسَكُمَا
Write your lesson, oh students!	<i>Yā tullāb-u uktub-ū darsakum</i>	يَا طُلَّابُ اكْتُبُوا دَرْسَكُم

3- The present verb **الفعل المضارع**:

- As a rule the present verb is declinable. Exceptionally, it is indeclinable in two following situations:
 - When it is attached to the /nūn/ of the feminine plural **تُونُ النَّسْوَةِ**.
 - When it is attached directly to the /nūn/ of confirmation **تُونُ التَّوَكِيدِ**.
- Therefore we will learn the declinable present verb first and then its two indeclinable cases:

a- The declension of the present verb **إِعْرَابُ الْفِعْلِ الْمُضَارِعِ**

(this topic will be detailed in [lesson 36](#))

- The present verb is originally declinable, i.e. its vowel ending is changeable according to its position in the sentence as follows:
 - If it is not preceded by an accusative or jussive article, it should be in the indicative case **حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ**.
 - If it is preceded by an accusative article **أداة نصبٍ** as (لَنْ - to أَنْ) it will be in the accusative case **حَالَةُ النَّصْبِ**.
 - If the present verb is preceded by a jussive article **أداة جزمٍ** such as (لَمْ not - لا النَّاهِيَةُ - don't), it will be in the jussive case **حَالَةُ الْجَزْمِ**.
- Consider the following examples:

Notes	Translation	Example
The present verb is not preceded by an accusative or jussive article, so it is regularly in the indicative	Will you live in Egypt?	هَلْ سَتَسْكُنُ فِي مِصْرٍ؟

case signed with ḍammah on its end.		
The present verb is preceded by an accusative article, so it is in the accusative case signed with fathah on its end.	No, I will not live in Egypt but I just want to visit it.	لا ، لَنْ أَسْكُنَ فِي مِصْرَ وَلَكِنْ أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَزُورَهَا فَقَطْ
The present verb is preceded by a jussive case, so it is in the jussive case signed with sukūn on its end.	Muhammad has not drunk the milk	لَمْ يَشْرَبْ مُحَمَّدٌ اللَّبَنَ.
The present verb is preceded by a jussive case, so it is in the jussive case signed with sukūn on its end.	Do not stay up long at night.	لا تَسْهَرْ كَثِيرًا.

- As you notice in the above mentioned examples, there are three cases for the present declinable verb; the indicative (nominative), the accusative, and the jussive case. For each case there is a main sign (vowel ending); the ḍammah for the indicative, the fathah for the accusative, and the kasrah for the jussive case. These original signs should be replaced by secondary signs if the verb is attached to some pronouns (as detailed in [lesson 37](#) named the five verbs). Consider the secondary signs in the following examples of the so-called five verbs:

Jussive case	Accusative case	English meaning	Arabic verb in the indicative case
لَمْ يَشْرَبُوا	أَنْ يَشْرَبُوا	They (plural) drink	يَشْرَبُونَ
لَمْ تَشْرَبُوا	أَنْ تَشْرَبُوا	You (plural) drink	تَشْرَبُونَ

لَمْ يَشْرَبَا	أَنْ يَشْرَبَا	They (dual) drink	يَشْرَبَانِ
لَمْ تَشْرَبَا	أَنْ تَشْرَبَا	You (dual) drink	تَشْرَبَانِ
لَمْ تَشْرَبِي	أَنْ تَشْرَبِي	You (feminine) drink	تَشْرَبِينَ

- In the above mentioned table we notice that the five verbs are those that are attached to the pronoun of the plural masculine third person, the plural masculine second person, the dual third person, the dual second person, and the feminine second person. In the indicative case they are signed with the firmness of the final /nūn/, and in the accusative and jussive case they are signed with the elimination of the /nūn/. Again we remind you that this will be repeated with more details and examples in [lesson 37](#) In-Shaa'-Allaah (God willing).

b- The indelension of the present verb **بِنَاءُ الْفِعْلِ الْمُضَارِعِ**:

- We learnt earlier that the present verb is indeclinable in two situations:
 - The first situation of the indeclinable present verb is when it is attached to the /nūn/ of the feminine plural **تُونُ النَّسْوَةِ**. In this situation the present verb will be indeclinable on the sukūn regardless of the grammatical case or the preceding articles. Consider the following examples:

Jussive case	Accusative case	Arabic verb in the indicative case
لَمْ يَكْتُبْنَ	لَنْ يَكْتُبْنَ	يَكْتُبْنَ
They (feminine) did not write	They (feminine) will not write	They (feminine) write
لَمْ تَكْتُبْنَ	لَنْ تَكْتُبْنَ	تَكْتُبْنَ
They (feminine) did not	They (feminine) will not	They (feminine) write

write	write	
-------	-------	--

- In the above mentioned examples, you may notice the equality of the form of the present verb in the three cases. This is because it is indeclinable, i.e. it has a constant ending.

2- The second situation in which the present verb is indeclinable is that when it is attached directly to the /nūn/ of confirmation (emphatic article) **نُونُ التَّوَكِيدِ**. In this situation the present verb is indeclinable on fathah. This will be detailed in [lesson 97](#) In-Shaa'-Allaah (God willing). Consider the following examples:

Jussive case	Accusative case	Arabic verb in the indicative case
<p>لا تَحْسَبَنَّ الْأَمْرَ سَهْلًا.</p> <p>Do not think that the matter is so easy.</p>	<p>لَنْ أَذْهَبَنَّ مَعَ رِفَاقِ السُّوءِ.</p> <p>I will never go with bad companions.</p>	<p>سَأَزُورَنَّ صَدِيقِي غَدًا.</p> <p>I will visit my friend tomorrow (for sure)</p>

- In the above mentioned examples, you may notice that the present verb is indeclinable with a fathah (regardless of whether it is in the indicative, accusative or jussive case).
- To apply this rule on the the present verb, the attachment to the emphatic /nūn/ has to be a direct attachment (i.e. without separation). If there is a separating pronoun in the middle, the verb returns back to its original declension (as detailed in [lesson 97](#)).

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تَدْرِيبٌ - Exercise













- In this section we will have multiple questions to test your understanding of the principles we have learnt In-Shā'-Allāh (God willing).
- Click (✓) under the correct option related to each of the following sentences. Upon completing all the questions, click on the Mark button to see the correct answers and obtain your mark.

أَيُّ الْأَفْعَالِ الْآتِيَةِ مُعْرَبٌ وَأَيُّهَا مَبْنِيٌّ، وَمَا عَلَامَةُ الْبِنَاءِ؟

- The sentence above says: "Which verbs of the following are declinable and which are indeclinable, and what is the sign of indeclension?"

[Mark](#) [Reset](#)

Options					Verbs
Declinable	Indeclinable on Kasrah	Indeclinable on Fathah	Indeclinable on Dammah	Indeclinable on Sukun	
مُعْرَبٌ	مَبْنِيٌّ عَلَى الْكَسْرِ	مَبْنِيٌّ عَلَى الْفَتْحِ	مَبْنِيٌّ عَلَى الضَّمِّ	مَبْنِيٌّ عَلَى السُّكُونِ	
					كَتَبْتُ You (f) wrote
					هُوَ يَقُولَنَّ

					He (indeed) says	
					جَلَسَ	
					He sat	
					نَعْرِفُ	
					We know	
					ادْفَعْ	
					Pay	
					وَصَلُّوا	
					They arrived	
					يَقْرَأُونَ	
					They read	
					تَفَضَّلَا	
					Please	
					كَتَبْنَا	
					We wrote	
					هُنَّ يَذْهَبْنَ	
					They (f) go	
					أَعْرِفُهُمْ	
					I know them	
					لَمْ تَكُونِي	
					You have never been	
					أَنْ تَكْتُبِي	
					That you (s.f.) write	
					أَنْ يَدْرُسَ	
					To study	

Mark Reset

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الحُرُوفُ - Articles

- All articles In Arabic are indeclinable without any exception.
- We cannot study all the Arabic articles in one lesson; rather we will learn each type of article in its own grammatical topic and lesson. Here we will gain a general idea about how they are indeclinable.
- There is no rule for the vowel ending on which the article is indeclinable (some of them are indeclinable on fathah, others on sukūn, others on long vowel, etc.) Therefore you have to memorize the vowel ending of each new article you learn. The following table contains some examples of each type of article and their sign of indeclension:

Category	Sign of indeclension	Meaning	Article
Preposition حَرْفُ جَرٍّ	Sukūn	From	مِنْ
	Sukūn	About	عَنْ
	Sukūn of long vowel	To	إِلَى
	Sukūn of long vowel	On	عَلَى

	Sukūn of long vowel	In	فِي
	Kasrah	With	بِ
	Kasrah	For	لِ
Coordinating articles حَرَفُ عَطْفٍ	Fathah	And	وَ
	Sukun	Or	أَوْ
	Sukun	Rather, but	بَلْ
	Sukun	But	لَكِنْ
Annular article (sisters of /inna/) حَرَفُ نَاسِخٍ	Fathah	Indeed	إِنَّ
	Fathah	If only! (Would that!)	لَيْتَ
	Fathah	But	لَكِنَّ
	Fathah	I hope (it is hoped)	لَعَلَّ
Interrogative Article حَرَفُ اسْتِفْهَامٍ	Sukun	Is...?	هَلْ؟
	Fathah	Is...?	أَ؟
Conditional article حَرَفُ شَرْطٍ	Sukūn	If	لَوْ
	Sukūn	If	إِنْ

Accusative article حَرْفُ نَصْبٍ	Sukūn	To	أَنَّ
Jussive article حَرْفُ جَزْمٍ	Sukūn	Will not	لَنْ
Answering article حَرْفُ جَوَابٍ	Sukūn	Did not	لَمْ
Negating article حَرْفُ نَفْيٍ	Sukūn of long vowel	Yes	نَعَمْ
		No	لَا

- N.B.: Exceptionally, the vowel ending of some articles may change when followed by a sukūn on the first letter of the following word as in the following examples:

Note	Example	
	English	Arabic
The vowel ending of /minn/ is changed from sukūn into fathah, because the following sound is sukūn	From home	مِنَ الْبَيْتِ
The vowel ending of /ʕann/ is changed from sukūn into kasrah, because the following sound is sukūn	About the moon	عَنِ الْقَمَرِ
The vowel ending of /Aw/ is changed from sukūn into kasrah, because the following sound is sukūn	The night or the day	اللَّيْلُ أَوِ النَّهَارُ

The vowel ending of /hal/ is changed from sukūn into kasrah, because the following sound is sukūn

Is the square
far?

هَلِ الْمَيْدَانُ
بَعِيدٌ؟

- In the above mentioned examples the articles are indeclinable with virtual signs which were found on the single article before the structure and the vowel ending is changed (for phonetic reasons).

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الدَّرْسُ الْخَامِسُ وَالْعِشْرُونَ - Lesson 25

المُعْرَبُ وَالْمَبْنِيُّ - The Declinable and the non-Declinable

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مُرَاجَعَةٌ - Revision

- In this lesson we have learnt the following:
 - The declinable nouns which are changeable in their vowel endings according to their grammatical positions in the sentence.
 - The indeclinable nouns which have constant endings regardless their positions, cases or grammatical functions in the sentence.
 - The indeclinable nouns are divided into 6 main categories:
 1. Pronouns الضَّمَائِرُ.
 2. Demonstrative pronouns أَسْمَاءُ الْإِشَارَةِ.
 3. Relative pronouns الْأَسْمَاءُ الْمَوْصُولَةُ.
 4. Interrogative nouns أَسْمَاءُ الاسْتِفْهَامِ.
 5. Conditional nouns أَسْمَاءُ الشَّرْطِ.
 6. Verbal nouns أَسْمَاءُ الْأَفْعَالِ.
 - The declinable and the indeclinable verbs.
 - Examples of the Arabic articles (many types). We also learnt that all articles are permanently indeclinable.
 - Several new words as summarized in the following table:

Vocabulary Revision - مُرَاجَعَةُ الْمُفْرَدَاتِ

English	Arabic	English	Arabic
Declinable	المُعْرَبُ	Indeclinable/structured	المَبْنِيُّ
Right/true	صَحِيحٌ	I doubt	أَشْكُ
It has been stolen	سُرِقَتْ	The snake	الثَّعْبَانُ
Pro-agent	نَائِبُ الْفَاعِلِ	He explained	شَرَحَ
Damascus	دِمَشْقُ	Diptote	المَمْنُوعُ مِنَ الصَّرْفِ
The field	الحَقْلُ	Yesterday	أَمْسٍ
I passed by	مَرَرْتُ بِـ	The employees	المُوظَّفُونَ
Active (pl.)	نَشِيطُونَ	Conditional nouns	أَسْمَاءُ الشَّرْطِ
Whenever	أَيَّانَ	Wherever	أَيِّمًا
Hush	صَهْ	The pain	الأَلَمُ
Releasing	إِطْلَاقٍ	Rumors	الشَّائِعَاتُ
In a such way	كَيْتَ	Malicious	الحَبِيْثَةُ
Since	مُنْذُ	The nūn of plural feminine	نُونُ النِّسْوَةِ
The tā' of the doer	تَاءُ الْفَاعِلِ	Nā of the plural doers	نَا الْفَاعِلِينَ

Wāw of the third person plural	وَإِوُ الْجَمَاعَةِ	Emphatic nūn	نُونُ التَّوَكِيدِ
Bad companions	رِفَاقِ السُّوءِ	If only	لَيْتَ
It is hoped that	لَعَلَّ	But	لَكِنْ

- Now that you have covered this lesson, please also try some of the additional features we have including:
 - o [Discussion Forum](#)– Discuss the grammatical topics learnt and any areas of confusion.
 - o [Vocabulary Flashcards](#)– Practice your vocabulary by category.
 - o [Questions Flashcards](#)– Practice questions related to the grammatical topics covered in the lessons.
- We will be updating the features above to help you throughout the course In-Shā'-Allāh (God willing).

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