

علم الصرف

The Present tense verb (The Imperfect verb)



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The present tense verb (الفعل المضارع)

Definition & Possible Meanings:

Is the verb that indicates the present tense, both simple and continuous, and also has the possibility of the future tense.

- Simple present means that the action is occurring as one is speaking e.g. He is helping, i.e. as we speak he is helping
- Present continuous means that the act will repeat itself e.g. he helps i.e. he helps whenever help is needed
- The future refers to an act done in the future e.g. he will help

The reason why this verb is called imperfect is because the action has not been completed.

How theses verbs are constructed?

The imperfect verb conjugation table is constructed with both **prefixes** as well as **suffixes**. The three base letters will be in between. The prefix is one of four letters. Depending on the particular conjugation the verb will begin with one of these letters نون or همزة , تاء , ياء.

If the verb has no suffix then the **لام الكلمة** i.e The third base letter will receive a dhamma

The verb can receive one of 4 suffixes. They are:

اِنْ Alif followed by a noon with a kasra (3rd and 2nd person dual forms)

يَنْ Yaa followed by noon with a fatha (2nd person feminine singular)

نْ Noon with a fatha (3rd and 2nd person feminine plurals)

وَنْ Waaw followed by noon with a fatha (for 3rd and 2nd person masculine plurals)

Present tense verb table

Person	Gender	Plurality	English Equivalent	Arabic	صيغه
3 rd	Masculine	Singular	He	يَفْعَلُ	1
		Dual (2)	They (M2)	يَفْعَلَانِ	2
		Plural (>2)	They (M>2)	يَفْعَلُونَ	3
	Feminine	Singular	She	تَفْعَلُ	4
		Dual (2)	They (F2)	تَفْعَلَانِ	5
		Plural (>2)	They (F>2)	يَفْعَلْنَ	6
2 nd	Masculine	Singular	You (M)	تَفْعَلُ	7
		Dual (2)	You (M2)	تَفْعَلَانِ	8
		Plural (>2)	You (M>2)	تَفْعَلُونَ	9
	Feminine	Singular	You (F)	تَفْعَلِينَ	10
		Dual (2)	You (F2)	تَفْعَلَانِ	11
		Plural (>2)	You (F>2)	تَفْعَلْنَ	12
1 st	Masculine and Feminine	Singular	I (M/F)	أَفْعَلُ	13
		Plural (≥ 2)	We (M/F ≥ 2)	نَفْعَلُ	14

How to construct the passive voice

The passive voice for the imperfect verb is made from the active by

a) changing the vowelling of the second to last letter to a فتحة, if it is not already فتحة, and

b) giving the sign of مضارع i.e. the prefix ا. Thus يفتح will become يُفتح (it is opened, being opened, or will be opened), ينصر will become يُنصر (he is helped, is being helped, or will be helped), and يضرب will become يُضرب (he is hit, is being hit, or will be hit).

How to negate the present tense

Adding the particle لا to the beginning of both active and passive voice conjugations of this verb will make them negative.