

علم الصرف

The verbal noun

المَصْدَر



By Nabeel Al Khalidy

The Masdar, commonly referred to as a Verbal Noun due to the fact that it exhibits some characteristics of a verb, usually signifies an abstract meaning. Mostly, the Masdar signifies *Hadath* (الْحَدَثُ), the occurrence of an action or *Haalah* (الْحَالَةُ), the existence of a state, as in: قَتَلَ، حَسَنٌ، *killing* and *goodness*, respectively. The Non-Masdar is at variance with this, for example: قَتِيلٌ، حَسَنٌ، *killing victim* and *a good blessing or deed*.

► THE MASDAR OF THE THREE LETTER PRIMARY VERB مَصْدَرُ الْفِعْلِ الثَّلَاثِيِّ الْمُجَرَّدِ

The Masdar from which the Three Letter Primary Verb are derived can be found on numerous patterns. These patterns are known by usage and follow no set rules with regard to their creation. Here is a list of most of the well-known patterns of the three letter Masdar.

Patterns Of The Masdar Of The Three Letter Primary Verb	
الْمَصْدَرُ	الْأَمْثَلَةُ
فَعْلٌ	صَرَبٌ، قَوْلٌ، جَرِيٌّ
فَعْلٌ	فَرَحٌ، عَمَلٌ، جَوِيٌّ
فَعِلٌ	كَذِبٌ، حَلِفٌ، صَحَكٌ
فِعْلٌ	ذِكْرٌ، عِلْمٌ، حِفْظٌ
فِعْلٌ	ثِقَلٌ، كِبَرٌ، رِضَى
فُعْلٌ	شُرْبٌ، وُدٌّ، جُبِينٌ
فُعْلٌ	سُرَى، هُدَى

المَصْدَرُ	الأمثلة
فُعْلَانٌ	عُفْرَانٌ، سُكْرَانٌ، رُجْحَانٌ
فِعْلَانٌ	رِضْوَانٌ، نِسْيَانٌ، حِرْمَانٌ
فُعْلَانٌ	عُفْرَانٌ، سُكْرَانٌ، رُجْحَانٌ
فِعَالٌ	ذَهَابٌ، فُسَاكٌ، رَوَاحٌ
فِعَالٌ	قِيَامٌ، نِكَاحٌ، حِجَابٌ
فُعَالٌ	سُعَالٌ، سُؤَالٌ، مُزَاحٌ
فِعَالَةٌ	فَصَاحَةٌ، نَظَافَةٌ، ظَرَافَةٌ
فِعَالَةٌ	كِتَابَةٌ، عِبَادَةٌ، صِيَانَةٌ

ضاغط <i>ḍāḡiṭ</i> : آلة ضاغطة compressor	
مضغوط <i>maḍḡuṭ</i> : هواء مضغوط (<i>hawāʾ</i>) compressed air	
ضغن <i>ḍaḡina</i> a (<i>ḍaḡan</i>) to bear a grudge, harbor (secret) hatred (عل against), resent (عل s.r.) to harbor a grudge against one	
ضغن <i>ḍiḡ</i> <i>ḍiḡan</i> rancor, spite, grudge, violence, ill will, (secret) hatred	
ضغن <i>ḍaḡ</i> malicious, malevolent, rancorous, spiteful	
ضغينة <i>ḍaḡīna</i> <i>ḍaḡīn</i> rancor, spite, grudge, malevolence, ill will, (secret)	
ضفة <i>ḍaffa</i> crowd, jam (of people)	
ضفة <i>ḍiffa</i> , shore; coast	

to wrap, envelope (عل s.th., with), spread (عل s.th. over)	
ضفة <i>ḍafwa</i> : ضفة العيش <i>ḍ. al-ʿaiṣ</i> an easy, comfortable life	
ضاف <i>ḍāfin</i> abundant, copious, ample; detailed, elaborate, extensive	
ضل <i>ḍalla</i> ضلالة <i>ḍalāla</i> , ضلال <i>ḍalāl</i> to lose one's way, to astray; stray (عن or s from the way); to mislead, lead astray (عل s.r.) to delude, deceive (عل s.r.) to n (s.o.) lose his way (s) lost	
ضل <i>ḍalāl</i> stray from the right path or truth; color blind	
ضلالة <i>ḍalāla</i> error	

The verbal noun occurs in the brackets after the verb pattern is mentioned. In some cases there can be more than one verbal noun.

The only way to learn them is to memorize them.

Usage in the Quran

The مَصْدَر (verbal noun) is stripped from the doer, occurrence of the action and time.

Example 1:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds

The word الْحَمْدُ was used to denote that this act of praise is not linked to a specific doer, or a specific occurrence of the action or a time frame. الْحَمْدُ is a مَصْدَر and by using that form it is as if one is saying that this “entity of praise” is for Allah (swt) regardless of time, any one praising Him or whether the action of praising exists or not. Therefore this الْحَمْدُ existed even before creating one who praises.

Example 2:

When the Brothers of Yusuf showed the shirt of Yusuf (a.s) to their father Yacoub (a.s) with the blood stain. Allah (s.w.t) described the blood on the shirt using a مَصْدَر

وَجَاءُوا عَلَىٰ قَمِيصِهِ بِدَمٍ كَذِبٍ

And they came with false blood on his shirt [12:18]

Describing it in this way is emphasizing the fact that the blood stains clearly demonstrated to Yacoub (a.s) that the story was false. The blood was described as “lying” to indicate this fact.