

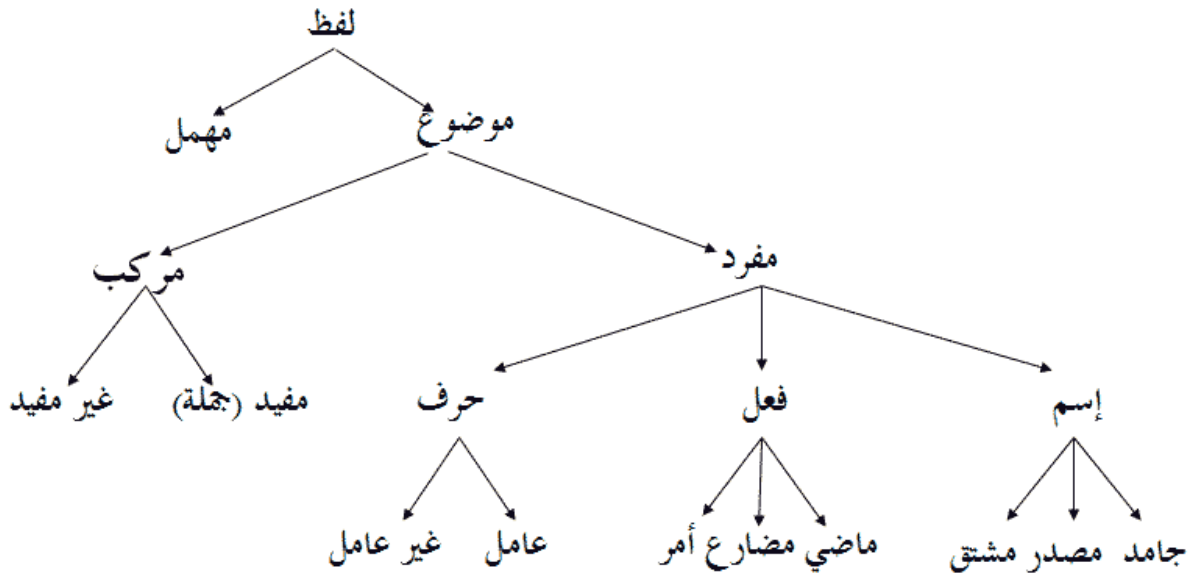
عِلْمُ النَّحْوِ

Introduction to the Sentence

جُمْلَةٌ / مَرْكَبٌ مُفِيدٌ



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The Complete Sentence: (جملة)

A complete sentence is one that does not require the listener to require more. If we were to say *فِي الْبَيْتِ* (in the house...), this would make the listener ask, who or what is in the house?

What is required to make a complete sentence are 2 words, a primary one (the subject) and then a descriptive word about the subject. These 2 words are linked in a relationship called **إِسْنَاد** (linkage). The primary part or subject of the sentence is called **مُسْنَدٌ إِلَيْهِ** (that which is linked to) and the descriptive part or predicate is known as **مُسْنَدٌ** (that which is linked).

To illustrate, consider a boy (**وَلَدٌ**) and the idea of laziness (**كَسَلٌ**). There are several ways these two ideas can be linked together. Some will result in sentences while others will form only phrases:

1. **الْوَلَدُ الْكَسَلَانُ**, the lazy boy: a descriptive phrase
2. **كَسَلُ الْوَلَدِ**, the boy's laziness: a possessive phrase
3. **الْوَلَدُ كَسَلَانُ**, The boy is lazy: a full sentence (إِسْنَاد - جُمْلَةٌ إِسْمِيَّةٌ).
4. **كَسَلَ الْوَلَدُ**, The boy became lazy: also a full sentence (إِسْنَاد - جُمْلَةٌ فِعْلِيَّةٌ).

In the third example “الْوَلَدُ كَسَلَانٌ” the ‘الْوَلَدُ’ إسم which appears first is the مُسْنَدٌ إِلَيْهِ i.e. the primary part of the sentence. The إسم (in this case adjective) كَسَلَانٌ is the predicate and it appears second.

In the fourth example “كَسَلَ الْوَلَدُ” again it’s the الْوَلَدُ : إسم which is being talked ‘about’, so it is the مُسْنَدٌ إِلَيْهِ. Only here it does not appear first, but second. The كَسَلَ (verb) فعل, appearing first, is the descriptive part and therefore the مُسْنَدٌ.

We see there is no consistent order in which they must appear. Subject and predicate do not mean first and second. They mean primary and descriptive. When the sentence comprises of just two words, as in both the above examples, identifying the two is still relatively easy. However, like in all languages, sentences in Arabic are not restricted to just two words and can be very long. It is in such complex sentences that the process of identifying the subject, (made up of multiple phrases) from the predicate (also compound) becomes somewhat difficult. A great portion of فُحُو is devoted to parsing and analyzing sentences in order to determine the subject from the predicate, for even the basic translation of a sentence depends entirely on it.

To make recognition of the مُسْنَدٌ إِلَيْهِ and مُسْنَدٌ somewhat easier the scholars of نَحْو further classify the sentence into two categories based on the first word in the sentence:

1. **جَمَاعَةُ أَسْمِيٍّ**: the sentence which begins with an إسم e.g. الْوَلَدُ قَائِمٌ. (The boy is standing). The two parts are known as مَبْتَدَأٌ and خَبَرٌ (subject and predicate).
2. **جَمَاعَةُ فَعْلِيٍّ**: the sentence which begins with a فعل e.g. ذَهَبَ حَامِدٌ. (Hamid went). The two parts are known as فاعل and فعل (verb and subject).

The Two Parts of the إسمِيّ Sentence:

The مُسْنَدٌ إِلَيْهِ, when it appears in an إسمِيّ structure, is called مَبْتَدَأٌ. With rare exception, it will be first in the sentence and definite. The مُسْنَدٌ in this type of sentence is called خَبَرٌ.

The Two Parts of the فعلية Sentence:

The مُسند إليه, when it appears in the فعلية sentence, it is called فاعل or subject of the verb preceding it.

Unlike in English, the verb *ALWAYS* precedes the subject in Arabic. Therefore, in this type of sentence the مُسند إليه i.e. the فاعل will always come after the descriptive part or predicate. The predicate (مُسند) is known simply as فعل These ideas are summarized below in Table below

	جُمْلَةٌ إِسْمِيَّةٌ	جُمْلَةٌ فِعْلِيَّةٌ
مُسند إليه	مبتدا	فاعل
مُسند	خبر	فعل