

عِلْمُ النَّحْوِ

Singular nouns

AND AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NOMINAL SENTENCE



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The singular noun (اسم مفرد) denotes a noun that is neither dual (مثنى) or plural (جمع) and is used for a single person, place, entity etc

Here is a table with examples of words that are singular:

Type of word	Arabic	Meaning
person	رَجُل	man
adjective	رَشِيد	intelligent, rightly guided
thing	زَمَن	time, age

The اسم مفرد can be made dual and plural and this will be discussed in future lessons.

These nouns decline the following way:

الرَّشِيدُ , رَشِيدٌ e.g. صَمَّةٌ — the end of the word ends with a ضَمَّةٌ — رَفْعٌ

الرَّجُلُ , رَجُلٌ e.g. فَتْحَةٌ — the end of the word ends with a فَتْحَةٌ — نَصَبٌ

الزَّمَنُ , زَمَنٌ e.g. كَسْرَةٌ — the end of the word ends with a كَسْرَةٌ — جَرٌّ

In Arabic grammar the simplest sentence is composed of either

a. 2 x إسم e.g. **الْوَلَدُ طَوِيلٌ** The boy is tall (جملة اسمية – nominal sentence)

or

b. A verb and إسم e.g. **جَاءَ الْوَلَدُ** The boy came (جملة فعلية – verbal sentence)

However in Arabic these 2 types of sentences can become very complex as in the following 2 examples.

هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيْمِنُ الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُ

He is Allah, besides Whom there is no god; the King, the Holy, the Giver of peace, the Granter of security,

Guardian over all, the Mighty, the Supreme, the Possessor of every greatness 59:23

وَجَاءَ مِنْ أَقْصَى الْمَدِينَةِ رَجُلٌ يَسْعَى

And from the remote part of the city there came a man running 36:20

The nominal sentence (جملة اسمية)

The nominal sentence is made up of a subject (مُبْتَدَأٌ). The subject names either a person, place, thing or a pronoun referring to these. The subject is usually one word and can have other word (s) associated with it (explained later).

Let's take the follow 3 sentences:

1. The Boy is tall (الولدُ طويلٌ)
2. Khalid is a student (خالدٌ طالبٌ)
3. This is a student (هذا طالبٌ)

The word in red is the مُبْتَدَأٌ and is most of the time definite and always مَرْفُوعٌ

The other part of the nominal sentence which says something about the مُبْتَدَأٌ is called the خَبَرٌ

The خَبَرٌ (in its simplest form) is a noun that attributes information to the مُبْتَدَأٌ. In sentence 1 the Khabar is an adjective (طويلٌ) which has been attributed to the الولدُ

In sentence 2 and 3 the Khabar is a noun which is attributed to a proper noun and pronoun respectively.

The Khabar will also be مَرْفُوعٌ and is usually indefinite.

2 rules to keep in mind with the **مُبْتَدَأٌ** and **خَبَرٌ**

1. They both should agree in gender

الْبُنْتُ طَوِيلَةٌ (The girl is tall)

الْبُنْتُ طَالِبَةٌ (The girl is a student)

2. They should both agree in number

الْأَوْلَادُ طَالِبُونَ (The boys are students)

You will notice that Arabic is unlike English in that a copula such as “is, are “ do not exist. In English these words are used to connect the subject to the predicate. In Arabic, the **مُبْتَدَأٌ** and **خَبَرٌ** relationship assumes these words and therefore there is no need to have them.