

الفعل الماضي

The Past-Tense Verbs (Structure and Conjugation)

The past-tense pattern:

The selected patterns for the past-tense three-lettered verbs (verb form 1) are three:

فَعَلَ – Each of the three base letters is vowelled with a **fatha** e.g. نَصَرَ (he helped), ذَهَبَ (he went).

فَعِلَ – The **ف** position' and **ل** position' are vowelled with **fatha** , whereas the middle letter from the three base letters (the **ع** position) is vowelled with a **kasra** e.g. سَمِعَ (he heard), شَرِبَ (he drank).

فُعِلَ – First and last with **fatha** and middle with **dhamma** e.g. كُرِمَ (he was noble).

These are the three possibilities of past tense verbs. The middle radical can be either one of the three vowels while the first and third radical will always have a fatha.

As we learnt in the video lesson, we have 3 persons, 2 genders and 3 numbers (singular, dual and plural).

Note: First person has the same verb used for both genders. In Addition, dual and plural use the same verb.

The **ت** in forms 4 and 5 are not part of the pronoun but is a sign of femininity.



Person	Gender	Plurality	English Equivalent	Arabic	
3 rd	Masculine	Singular	He	فَعَلَ	1
		Dual (2)	They (M2)	فَعَلَا	2
		Plural (>2)	They (M>2)	فَعَلُوا	3
	Feminine	Singular	She	فَعَلَتْ	4
		Dual (2)	They (F2)	فَعَلَتَا	5
		Plural (>2)	They (F>2)	فَعَلْنَ	6
2 nd	Masculine	Singular	You (M)	فَعَلْتَ	7
		Dual (2)	You (M2)	فَعَلْتُمَا	8
		Plural (>2)	You (M>2)	فَعَلْتُمْ	9
	Feminine	Singular	You (F)	فَعَلْتِ	10
		Dual (2)	You (F2)	فَعَلْتُمَا	11
		Plural (>2)	You (F>2)	فَعَلْتُنَّ	12
1 st	Masculine and Feminine	Singular	I (M/F)	فَعَلْتُ	13
		Plural (≥2)	We (M/F≥2)	فَعَلْنَا	14

Table: Past tense Verbs (black) attached to the doer of the verb (red)



Practice conjugations with the following verbs

دَخَلَ	(dakhala) - He entered
ذَهَبَ	(dhahaba) - He went
خَرَجَ	(kharja) - He left
أَكَلَ	(akala) - He ate
شَرِبَ	(shariba) - He drank
جَلَسَ	(jalasa) - He sat
سَمِعَ	(sami'a) - He heard
لَبَسَ	(labisa) - He wore
عَمِلَ	(‘amila) - He worked
حَضَرَ	(hadara) - He attended
وَصَلَ	(wasala) - He arrived
حُرِّمَ	(Haruma) – It was forbidden
كَرُمَ	(karuma) - He is honorable

