

Arabic Grammatical Terms

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قَوَاعِد	grammar
مُذَكَّر	masculine
مُؤَنَّث	feminine
"ال"	"the" (definite article)
النَّسْبِيَّة	a class of adjectives formed from nouns by adding the suffix ِيّ for مذَكَّر or يَّة for مؤنَّث . These adjectives generally indicate origin or affiliation, especially in reference to a place. Examples: مصريّ، مصريّة
سؤال	question
إِسْم (ج: أَسَاء)	noun, name; also the subject of كان and أخواتها (the verb كان and its "sister" verbs)
اسم المكان	nouns of place ("مفعَل(ة)"). Example: مدرسة = "the place of studying," i.e., "school"
ضَمِير (ج: ضَمَائِر)	pronoun
ضمائر الملكية	possessive pronouns
ضمائر النصب	object pronouns
إِسْم مَوْصُول	relative pronoun
مُفْرَد	singular
مُتَنِّى	dual
جَمْع	plural (abbreviated ج)
الجمع غير العاقل	non-human plurals (treated grammatically as feminine singular)
جمع التّكسير	broken plurals
مَمْنُوع من الصّرف	diptote (noun prevented from taking regular case endings)
جُمْلَة	sentence
جملة إسمية	nominal sentence, i.e., a sentence which begins with a noun or a pronoun. The جملة إسمية may or may not be a verbless clause. Normally the subject of a جملة إسمية is definite and precedes the predicate, which is indefinite. Nominal sentences with a fronted predicate (خبر مقدّم) occur when the subject is indefinite, since an Arabic sentence may not begin with an indefinite noun. The fronted predicate often occurs in constructions which substitute for the English concepts "to have" and "there is/there are" (using a prepositional phrase or هناك).
مُبْتَدَأ	subject of a جملة إسمية (except for كان and أخواتها)
خَبَر	predicate of a جملة إسمية (lit., "new information," i.e., what is being related about the subject)
اسم إنّ (وأخواتها)	subject of a إنّ clause (or كأنّ، لكنّ، لأنّ، لأنّ)
خبر إنّ (وأخواتها)	predicate of a إنّ clause

الإضافة	the construct state; can be definite or indefinite
صفة (ج: صفات)	adjective
جملة الصفة	a two-part sentence which describes an indefinite noun. Each of the two halves of جملة الصفة could stand on its own as a complete sentence, and thus the noun is only a logical subject. Often جملة الصفة involves the use of a resumptive pronoun; a relative pronoun must be inserted when translating into English. Example: لي صديق اسمه فريد ("I have a friend whose name is Fareed")
"أفعل" التفضيل	superlative adjective (treated grammatically as indefinite; precedes the noun it modifies); also used for the comparative adjective (follows the noun it modifies)
شَرَط	condition (three words for <i>if</i> : إذا, إن, and أو)
جملة شَرْطِيَّة	conditional clause
الرَّفْع (إسم مرفوع)	the nominative case
النَّصْب (إسم منصوب)	the accusative case
الجرّ (إسم مجرور)	the genitive case
نَفْي	negation
فِعْل (ج: أفعال)	verb
جملة فعلية	a sentence that begins with a verb. Whenever a verb precedes its subject, and that subject is a separate noun (i.e., not part of the verb), the verb must always be singular and agree with the subject in gender.
الفاعل	subject of a verb in a جملة فعلية
فعل مُضَعَّف	geminate verb
مُضارع	present/imperfect/incomplete conjugation
ماضي	past; typically a separate conjugation, but in written Arabic past negation is commonly expressed by لم followed by المضارع المجزوم
مُسْتَقْبَل	future; formed by adding the prefix سَ or its long form سَوَف to المضارع المرفوع; negated by the particle لَنْ followed by المضارع المنصوب (without سَ or سَوَف)
مَصْدَر (ج: مَصَادِر)	a noun formed from verbs which can function as an infinitive or a gerund
إسم فاعِل	active participle. Participles in Arabic can be either substantival or adjectival. Unlike English, they are not used to express progressive actions, for which المضارع is used.
إسم مَفْعول	passive participle
المضارع المرفوع	one of three forms of الفعل المضارع; the "basic" or "default" form of the verb, used in independent clauses
المضارع المنصوب	one of three forms of الفعل المضارع; used when المضارع is preceded by لَ or أُنْ, in which instance it is equivalent in meaning to المصدر; also used when المضارع is preceded by لَنْ for future negation
المضارع المجزوم	one of three forms of الفعل المضارع; used for past negation with لَمْ and in conditions with إِنْ
جَذْر (ج: جُذُور)	(lexical) root
وَزْن (ج: أَوْزَان)	(vowel) pattern; also used for verb stems
أوزان الفعل	patterns of the verb (for different verb stems; الوزن الأوّل = Form I, etc.)

المَبْنِي للمَجْهُول	the passive (lit., "unknown") voice. Can be expressed in four ways: by using a preposed topic, by using تَمَّ, by using اِنْفَعَلَ/وزن اِنْفَعَلَ/Form VII (N stem; only the passive of فَعَلَ/وزن فَعَلَ/Form I), or by changing the inflection of active verbs (using short <i>u</i> and <i>i</i> vowels).
قاموس	dictionary
فاصلة	comma, decimal point
الحَرَكَات	the pointing (vowels, diacritical marks)