

Learning Arabic Grammar from the basics

Lesson 5:

Recap of Last Lesson:

- (1) We learnt about the preposition مِنْ (min) – meaning “from”.
- (2) We learnt about the Genders in Arabic language – The Masculine and the Feminine forms and their exclusive features and conversion of nouns from masculine to feminine.
- (3) Proper Names in Arabic, that male proper names may carry “tanween” while female proper names cannot.
- (4) We also learnt about Mamnoo’ Min As-Sarfِ مِنَ الصَّرْفِ مَمْنُوعٌ that Genitive case in the case of feminine proper names or male names ending in (ة) are indicated by a “fathah” and NOT a “kasrah”

Vocabulary

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• أَنْتِ (anti) – “You” (female singular) [equivalent to (Anta) for male]• أَنْتُنَّ (antunna) – “You” (female plural) [equivalent to (Antum) for male]• مَدِينَةٌ (madeenah-tun) - “a city/town” (f)• مَدُنٌ (mudun-un) - “cities/towns”• دُنْيَا (dunya) – “world” (f)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• الْأَخْرَةَ (al-aakhirah-tu) - “the Hereafter” (f)• قَلَمٌ (qalam-un) - “a pen” (m)• أَقْلَامٌ (aqlaam-un) - “pens”• آيَةٌ (aayah-tun) - “a verse/sign” (f)• آيَاتٌ (aayaat-un) – “verses/signs”• أُمٌّ (umm-un) – “mother”
--	--

Note: Go through the vocabulary as many times as possible and try and learn these words with meanings in a week’s time Insha’Allah. Remember, that without vocabulary, learning any language would be of no use.

Female Personal Pronouns

We have already learnt about the masculine demonstrative pronouns أَنْتَ and أَنْتُمْ in Lesson 2. The feminine equivalent for these are أَنْتِ (anti) and أَنْتُنَّ (antunna).

Examples: هَلْ أَنْتُنَّ طَالِبَاتٌ مِنْ مَكَّةَ؟ (hal antunna taalibaat-un min Makkah-ta?) – Are you all (female) students from Makkah?

مِنْ أَيْنَ أَنْتِ يَا عَائِشَةُ؟ (min ayna anti ya Aaishah-tu?) – Where are you from, Oh Aaishah?

Detached Pronouns

Masculine	Feminine
هُوَ (huwa) - He / It (singular) (3 rd person)	هي (hiya) - She / It (singular) (3 rd person)
هُمْ (hum) - They (plural) (3 rd person)	هُنَّ (hunna) - They (plural) (3 rd person)

Pronouns are of two main categories: الضَّمَائِرُ الْمُنْفَصِلَةُ, the detached pronouns and الضَّمَائِرُ الْمُتَّصِلَةُ, the attached pronouns. In this lesson we are covering the detached pronouns. We covered the 1st person أَنَا and 2nd person pronouns أَنْتَ and أَنْتُمْ in Lesson 2.

In Arabic all nouns are either masculine or feminine. There is **No** Neuter Gender.

هُوَ (huwa) and هُمْ (hum)

A **masculine** noun is referred to by the pronoun هُوَ (huwa) whether it denotes a human being, an animal or a thing, and masculine plurals whether human beings or animals are referred to by the pronoun هُمْ (hum).

Examples:

أَيْنَ الْوَلَدِ؟ (ayna waladu?) - Where is the boy?

أَيْنَ الْكِتَابِ؟ (ayna l-kitabu?) - Where is the book?

هُوَ فِي فَصْلٍ (huwa fi faslin) - He is in a class.

هُوَ فِي الْبَيْتِ (huwa fi bayti) - It is in the house.

هُمْ طُلَّابٌ (hum tullab-un) – They are (male) students.

Examples from the Qur'an:

(a) Use of هُوَ (huwa) for Allah –

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah **112 verse 1**:

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ (Qul huwa Allahu ahadun) – “Say **He** is Allah (the) One”

(b) Use of هُوَ (huwa) for non human thing –

Allah says in the Qur'an in **Surah 3 verse 78** referring to the false claims of the Jews and the Christians about things in their scriptures which they added themselves:

وَمَا هُوَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ (wa ma huwa minal-kitabi) – “and **it** is not **from the book...**”

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah 35 verse 31:

وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ هُوَ الْحَقُّ (Wa al-ladhee awhayna ilayka minal-kitabi huwa al-haqqu) – “And what We have revealed to you (O Muhammad SAW), from the Book (the Qur'ân), it is the truth”

هِيَ (hiya) and هُنَّ (hunna)

A feminine noun is referred to by the pronoun هِيَ (hiya) whether it denotes a human being, an animal or a thing, and feminine plurals whether human beings or animals are referred to by the pronoun هُنَّ (hunna) e.g.:

هِيَ بِنْتٌ (hiya bintu-n) – She is a girl.

هِيَ فِي الْبَيْتِ (hiya fi-bayti) - She is in the house.

هُنَّ طَالِبَاتٌ (hunna taalibaat-un) – They are (female) students.

Important Rule: For 3rd person non-human plural we use the 3rd person feminine singular (hiya) as a pronoun. i.e. when we use “They” to refer to non-humans, like books, pens etc, we use هِيَ (hiya).

Examples:

أَيْنَ الْكُتُبُ؟ (ayna l-kutubu?) - Where are the books? هِيَ فِي الْمَدْرَسَةِ (hiya fil-madrasati) – They are in the school.

هَلِ الْمُدُنُ فِي مِصْرَ؟ (halil-mudunu fi misra?) – Are the cities/towns in Egypt?

نَعَمْ هِيَ فِي مِصْرَ (na'am hiya fi misra) – Yes, they are in Egypt.

Examples from the Qur'an:

(a) Use of هِيَ (hiya) for Allah's punishments (3rd person Non-Human Plural) -

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah 11 verse 83 referring to His punishments:

وَهِيَ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ بَعِيدٌ (wama hiya mina ad-dalimeena bi-ba'eedin) – “and they (Allah's vengeance / punishments) are not far from the Zâlimûn (polytheists, evil-doers,)”

(b) Use of هُنَّ (hunna) for Women (feminine plural)

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah 2 verse 187 referring to the women:

هُنَّ لَكُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لَهُنَّ لِبَاسٌ (hunna libasun lakum waantum libasun lahunna) – “They (women) are Libas (body cover or clothing) for you and you are Libas (body cover or clothing) for them....”

Demonstrative Pronoun (Feminine)

We have already learnt about the masculine demonstrative pronouns هَذَا and ذَلِكَ in Lesson 4. Now we will be learning feminine demonstrative pronouns.

هَذِهِ (haadhihi)

هَذِهِ (haadhihi) is a noun of indication. It is used to indicate/point to [feminine](#) objects or people which are [close in proximity](#).

Examples: هَذِهِ امْرَأَةٌ (haadhihi 'imra'ah-tun) – This is a woman. فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا (fi haadhihi d-dunya) – In this world. [Note: “dunya” is a feminine word, hence we have used the feminine demonstrative pronoun “haadhihi”]

Examples from the Qur'an:

Allah says in the Qur'an in **Surah 7 verse 156**:

وَأَكْتُبُ لَنَا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ (Waoktub lana fee hadhihi ad-dunya hasanatan wa fil-akhirati)
– “And ordain for us [good in this world](#), and in the Hereafter...”

تِلْكَ (tilka)

تِلْكَ (tilka) is a noun of indication it is used to indicate/point to [feminine](#) objects or people that are [distant or far](#).

Examples: تِلْكَ مَدِينَةٌ (tilka madeenah-tun) – That is a city.

هَذِهِ عَائِشَةُ وَتِلْكَ زَيْنَبُ (haadhihi Aishah-tu wa tilka Zainabu) – This is Aishah and that is Zainab.