

Nouns اسم can be classified as:

- 1- Indefinite (نكرة) – Common or
- 2- Definite (معرفة) – Proper

Indefinite nouns are common nouns which are referred to in general and are not specific. Few examples are:

قلم	a pen	كتاب	a book
رجل	a man	رسول	a prophet
بيت	a house	باب	a door

Definite nouns are proper nouns which are given to a certain person, place or an object. Few examples are:

محمد	علي
مكة	نجف

Indefinite nouns can be converted into definite nouns either by:

- 1- Prefixing the definite article ال (meaning “the”) to nouns  
e.g. الكتاب becomes الكتاب
- 2- Making the noun possessive (attaching a pronoun ضمير )  
e.g. ربّ becomes ربكم
- 3- Attaching an indefinite noun to a definite noun. ((مضاف – مضاف اليه  
e.g. ربّ العالمين becomes ربّ العالمين

Second and third points would be covered in coming lessons.

In Arabic, the letters ال is the indefinite article and it corresponds roughly to the English article ‘the’. Indefinite noun can be made definite by prefixing it with the letters ال. Few examples are:

القلم	The pen	الكتاب	The book	
			The	
الرجل	The man	الرسول	prophet	<u>Assimilating and</u>
البيت	The house	الباب	The door	<u>Non-Assimilating Consonants</u>
				<u>(الحروف الشمسية و القمرية)</u>

The ل of the article ال is pronounced as ل when followed by any of the consonants in the left hand column below. In the right-hand column, the ل of the article ال is assimilated to the following consonant which is then doubled in pronunciation.

Non-Assimilating Consonants		Assimilating Consonants	
الحروف القمرية		الحروف الشمسية	
ا	الارض	ت	التراب
ب	الباب	ث	الثمن
ج	الجنة	د	الدرجة
ح	الحلم	ذ	الذرة
خ	الخبر	ر	الرجل
ع	العمل	ز	الزمن
غ	الغني	س	الساعة
ف	الفتوي	ش	الشمس
ق	القلم	ص	الصبر
ك	الكتاب	ض	الضال
م	المدينة	ط	الطويل
ه	الهدى	ظ	الظلم
و	الولد	ل	الليل
ي	اليوم	ن	النهار

### Cases of the Noun

Case refers to the function of the noun in the sentence. For example, in English, the words “I” and “me” refer to the same person, but they have a different function. “I” is used to refer to the doer of an action (e.g. “I went.”) “Me” is used to refer to the object of an action (e.g. “He saw me.”)

In Arabic, there are three different cases for nouns, meaning that the function of a noun in a sentence can be of three different types:

1- Nominative – مرفوع

e.g. ضرب زيداً

2- Accusative – منصوب

e.g. ضرب زيد عمراً

3- Genitive – مجرور

e.g. الحمد لله

The case is shown by the endings added at the end of a noun. The case is called إعراب, and it is shown by adding different endings to the noun. For example, the following sets are the same word, but with different إعراب:

مرفوع	منصوب	مجرور
زيدٌ	زيداً	زيدٍ
مسلمون	مسلمين	مسلمين
أبو الفضل	أبا الفضل	أبي الفضل

The vowels ( ُ ، َ ، ِ ) used on any letter (حرف) in a word are known as حركة.

Some nouns have a fixed form and do not accept different endings, even when their

إعراب changes. These nouns are called مبني, or unchangeable. Nouns that do accept different endings are called معرب, or changeable.

معرب nouns accept different endings depending on their function in a sentence.

معرب nouns can be classified further as:

- 1- Triptotes (Fully Changeable) – منصرف
- 2- Diptotes (Partially Changeable) – غير منصرف

الأسماء المنصرفة are nouns that have different ending for each of the three cases of مجرور and منصوب ، مرفوع.

#### مرفوع منصوب مجرور

بابُ باباً بابٍ

نوحٌ نوحاً نوح

The following are some examples of غير منصرف nouns:

1. Most feminine names, such as فاطمة، زينب، نرجسُ
2. Most place names, such as مكة، لبنان، كربلاء
3. Words like أكبر، أحسن، أعلم
4. Non-Arabic names, like إبراهيم
5. Some “broken plurals,” like مساجد، مفاتيح، كراسي

الأسماء غير المنصرفة have two special rules:

1. They cannot have تنوين on the last letter.
2. Their منصوب as well as مجرور cases have the same endings. A few examples are as follows:

مرفوع	منصوب	مجرور
ابراهيمُ	ابراهيمَ	ابراهيمَ
سليمانُ	سليمانَ	سليمانَ
مريمُ	مريمَ	مريمَ
يوسفُ	يوسفَ	يوسفَ
فرعونُ	فرعونَ	فرعونَ
آدمُ	آدمَ	آدمَ

Feminine plural nouns never end with **فتحه**. As an example: **خلق الله السماواتِ** ...

#### Noun in مرفوع case

case مرفوع is used for:

- 1- Subject of a verb.
- 2- Both subject (مبتدأ) and predicate (خبر) of a nominal (non-verbal) sentence (الجملة الاسمية). A nominal sentence usually begins with a noun or pronoun.

#### Noun in مجرور case

- 1- A noun case is مجرور when preceded by prepositions (حروف الجر).

Prepositions are listed in the table below:

Example	Meaning	Preposition
يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ	to / towards	إلى
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ	in / with	بِ
إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ	on / upon	على
إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً	in	في
والعصر	(used for swearing)	و ، ت
وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً	from / than	من

عَنْ أَصْحَابِ الْجَحِيمِ	from / about	عن
كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٍ	like	ك
وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ	for / to	ل
حَتَّىٰ مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ	until	حتى

- 2- Attaching a common noun to a proper noun makes the proper noun – مجرور – ((مضاف ، مضاف اليه)).

### Noun in منصوب case

- 1- Direct Object (مفعول به)
- 2- Absolute Object (مفعول مطلق)
- 3- Object for Time and Place (مفعول فيه)
- 4- Subject / first noun (مبتدأ) of كَأَنَّ ، لَيْتَ ، لَعَلَّ ، أَنْ ، لَآكِنَّ ، إِنَّ
- 5- Predicate / second noun (خبر) of ليس and كان
- 6- Object for Expressing Aim and Purpose (مفعول له) :
- 7- Object for Denoting Meaning of 'with' (مفعول معه) :
- 8- Common noun following (لا) لا لِنَفِي الْجِنْسِ
- 9- Noun which follows إِلا
- 10- First noun (مضاف) in the possessive phrase (مضاف إليه) when preceded by يا
- 11- حال
- 12- تمييز