

Gender of Nouns

Arabic has two grammatical genders, masculine and feminine. Nouns are considered to be feminine if they belong to any one of the following categories:

- 1- Nouns referring to intrinsically female beings. Examples are: أم ، أخت ، بنت
- 2- Names of towns and cities except عراق. Examples are: باكستان ، بغداد ، مكة
- 3- Parts of body that are in pairs. Examples are: يد ، عين ، أذن
- 4- Most but not all singular nouns ending in ة. Examples are: ساعة ، غرفة ، مدينة  
A few exceptions are: علامة معاوية ، طلحة
- 5- Collection nouns. Examples are: عرب ، ترك ، روم
- 6- Names given to the wind. Examples are: سموم ، ريح
- 7- Names given to fire. Examples are: نار ، جهنم
- 8- Some feminine nouns give no external indication of grammatical femininity. Examples are: خمر ، نفس ، شمس ، ارض ، سماء

Adjectives and Adjectival Agreement

The function of a given word in a sentence determines whether it is a modified noun (موصوف) or adjective (صفة). Adjectives invariably follow the noun and agree in (i) state, (ii) gender, (iii) number and (iv) case.

- (i) State: If the noun is definite or indefinite, the adjective will be identical. Examples are: كتابٌ مبينٌ ، الكتابُ المبينُ
- (ii) Gender: If the noun is masculine or feminine, the adjective will be identical. Examples are: خلقٌ عظيمٌ ، بلدةٌ طيبةٌ
- (iii) Number: If the noun is singular, dual or plural, the adjective will be identical. Examples are: (singular) ولدٌ صغيرٌ ، (dual) رجلانٌ صالحانٌ ، (plural) آياتٌ نساءٌ مؤمناتٌ ، بيئاتٌ
- (iv) Case: Adjective will have the same إعراب as the noun. Examples are:

كتابٌ مبينٌ                      في كتابٍ مبينٍ

عملٌ صالحٌ                      العملُ الصالحُ

يتلو صحفاً مطهرةً فيها كتبٌ قيمةٌ

Predicate adjectives and verbal compliments agree with their subjects in gender and number but not in case and state. Predicates occur in indefinite state and case of predicate varies as well depending on the sentence construct.

The man is wise	الرُّجُلُ حَكِيمٌ
Sulayman is smart	إِنَّ سُلَيْمَانَ شَاطِرٌ
Zaid was great	كَانَ زَيْدٌ كَبِيرًا

### Predication of Existence

Existential Predication (English “there is, there are”) is achieved by reversing the normal order of the sentence by placing the subject (necessarily indefinite) after the predicate.

Examples are:

A man in the city.	رَجُلٌ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ
There is a man in the city.	فِي الْمَدِينَةِ رَجُلٌ إِنَّ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ رَجُلًا

Such sentences are almost always introduced by **إِنَّ** which will put the subject in منصوب case.

### Preposition ل

Preposition **ل** gets directly attached to the following word and the case of the word changes to مجرور. Examples are: لِرَجُلٍ ، لِكِتَابٍ

For words that begin with letter *hamzah*, sometimes the letter *hamzah* is pronounced and sometimes not. If the letter *hamzah* is not pronounced, it is known as حمزة الوصل and is written as ا or □. As an example, امرأة becomes لامرأة. If the *hamzah* is pronounced, it is known as حمزة القطع and will be written أ or !. For example, لإمكان.

When the preposition **ل** is added to words that begin with the letter **ل** and have the definite article, the letter **ل** is doubled in pronunciation and written with a شدة, and the الف of the definite article is dropped. In writing, both the definite and indefinite words will look the same if the شدة is not written. For example:

for a night	لِالَّيْلَةِ	<=	ليلة
for the night	لِلَّيْلَةِ	<=	الليلة
for Allah	لِلَّهِ	<=	الله

The preposition ل is also used to express possession as in the following examples:

The earth belongs to Allah	الأرضُ لله
The man has a daughter	للرجل بنتٌ