

ARABIC INTENSIVE



NAHW 101

SESSION 1

Introduction to Nahw

- Nahw is the science which teaches us how to join two words correctly using the right i'raab (harakah).
- The basic objective of nahw is to understand which harakah should be on the last letter of each word, and to understand how to form words into sentences.
- There are 3 types of words in the Arabic language:
 1. اسم - Noun, adjective (everything that is not a verb)
 2. فعل - Verb
 3. حرف - Harf (prepositions)
- Nahw focuses on the ism (noun)
- In arabic, every ism has 4 characteristics:
 1. اعراب - Refers to the fatha, dhumma, and kasrah
 2. عَدَد - Number/quantity
 3. مَعْرِفَ / نَكِرَ - Proper/common
 4. جِنْس - Gender

Marifa Nouns

- Every noun in the Arabic language is either marifa or nakira.
 - Marifa = A specific/proper noun
 - Nakira = A common noun
- Marifa (proper) nouns are recognized in 3 ways:

1. Adding ال

- Marifa nouns are translated with “the”

The house is small.

The book is new.

The boy is tall.

الْبَيْتُ صَغِيرٌ

الْكِتَابُ جَدِيدٌ

الْوَلَدُ طَوِيلٌ

2. Natural proper nouns are marifa

- A city's name, a person's name, and a country's name are all naturally proper nouns.
- These nouns don't need ال
 - Correct = زَيْدٌ
 - Incorrect = الزَيْدُ

Fatima left.

I traveled to **Syria**.

Zaid rode a horse.

خَرَجَتْ فَاطِمَةُ

سَافَرْتُ إِلَى سُورِيَا

رَكَبَ زَيْدٌ حَصَانًا

3. Pronouns are always proper nouns.

- He, she, they, etc. (هو، هي، انتَ، انتِ، هم، هما، هنَّ)

Nakira Nouns

- Nakira (common) nouns have tanween.
 - Nakira nouns are translated with "a" or "an".

This is **a small book**.

He has **a new car**.

This is **a big house**.

هَذَا كِتَابٌ صَغِيرٌ
عِنْدَهُ سَيَّارَةٌ جَدِيدَةٌ
هَذَا بَيْتٌ كَبِيرٌ

- A noun can never have both ال and tanween.
- When a sentence starts with a noun, that noun must be Marfia.

The flower is beautiful.

This is a very old house.

Ibrahim is a smart boy.

الزَّهْرَةُ جَمِيلَةٌ
هَذَا بَيْتٌ قَدِيمٌ جَدًّا
إِبْرَاهِيمُ وَلَدٌ ذَكِيٌّ

Additional Points

- When a sentence begins with a noun, the subject is always marifa (has ال), and the predicate is nakira (has tanween).

The girl is tall.

The car is fast.

The garden is big.

الْبِنْتُ طَوِيلَةٌ
السَّيَّارَةُ سَرِيعَةٌ
الْحَدِيقَةُ كَبِيرَةٌ

- When a sentence starts with a verb, the noun can be marifa or nakira (it's up to you).

The girl ate the food.

Ahmad helped Zaid.

The boys left the house.

أَكَلَتِ بِنْتُ الطَّعَامِ
نَصَرَ أَحْمَدُ زَيْدًا
خَرَجَ الْوِلَدُ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ

Gender - Feminine Nouns (مُؤَنَّث)

- There are specific signs which help to recognize the gender of a word.
- Words that end with a ة
 - This is the **main** sign of a feminine noun.

The car is new.

السَّيَّارَةُ جَدِيدَةٌ

The garden is big.

الْحَدِيقَةُ كَبِيرَةٌ

The window is clean.

النافِذة نَظِيفَةٌ

- Nouns that are biological feminine
 - They don't need a ة because they are representing female characters.

The **mother** is smart.

الْأُمُّ ذَكِيَّةٌ

The **sister** is kind.

الْأُخْتُ لَطِيفَةٌ

The **daughter** is respectful.

الْبِنْتُ مُحْتَرِمَةٌ

- Body parts that come in pairs
 - Examples:
 - The ears - الأُذُن
 - The eyes - العُيُون
- Names of places and countries
 - **America** is beautiful.
 - **Africa** is a great country.

أَمْرِيكَا جَمِيلَةٌ

أَفْرِيقَا بَلَدٌ عَظِيمَةٌ

- Some words are feminine because that is how the Arabs chose to use them based on how the Quran uses them.
 - If the Quran used a noun with a feminine adjective, the word is considered feminine, even if it does not possess any of the typical signs of a feminine noun.
 - Example:
 - The sun (الشَّمْسُ)
 - Fire (نَار)
 - Wind (رِيح)
 - This is not very common
- Word ending with ي or اء are also considered feminine
 - Examples: بُشْرَى، اسماء ، سَوْدَاء، حَمْرَاء، السَّمَاء ،

Gender - Masculine Nouns (مُذَكَّر)

- There are no specific signs for a masculine noun.
- If there are no signs of a feminine noun, then it is masculine.

Additional Points

- The gender of a noun is unchangeable.
 - The only times that a noun will change gender is if it is a/an:
 - Adjective
 - Profession
- The gender of an adjective or a descriptor must be changed to match the gender of the noun.
 - The gender of the adjective must always match the noun.
 - The noun and adjective do not have to match when it comes to being marifa/nakira.