

The Construct State (T §7);  
Plural of Nouns and Adjectives (T § 9-10)

# الإضافة جُمُعُ الأَسْمَاءِ وَالصِّفَاتِ

# In this lesson you will learn:

- The construct state (الإضافة)
- How to form plurals (الجمع) of nouns and adjectives
  - Sound plurals
  - Broken plurals

Prerequisite: you understand adjectival agreement, the formation of adjectives in singular, and basic predication of nominal sentences (i.e., without a verb)

# The construct state (الإضافة): how to form it

- The إضافة (“chain”) construction is a way for two or more nouns to be linked together
- The first noun is **always** definite (as marked with a single short vowel “case” ending), but may **never** be prefixed with the definite article
- The second noun must be in the genitive/مَجْرُور and may be either definite or indefinite; if the second noun is definite, **the entire construction** is treated as definite (and vice versa with indefinite)
- No word may intervene between two nouns in an إضافة construction

# Examples

وَلَدُ الْمَلِكِ (the son of the king)

وَلَدُ مَلِكٍ (a son of a king)

# The construct state (الإضافة): meanings

- Can indicate possession, in which the first member is a possession of the second:

بَيْتُ الْمَرْأَةِ (the house of the woman)

- Limiting relationship

فِي بَدَايَةِ السَّنَةِ (at the start of the year)

مَرْزُوقُ الظَّفَرِ (prosperous in success)

# The construct state (الإضافة): adjectives

- Remember: **no element** may come between two nouns in an إضافة !  
Adjectives describing either noun must therefore be placed after the إضافة .
- Use the gender and case of the adjective to determine which noun it belongs to

بَيْتُ الْمَرْأَةِ الْكَبِيرُ (the great house of the woman)

بَيْتُ الْمَرْأَةِ الْكَبِيرَةِ (the house of the great woman)

# The construct state (الإضافة): adjectives

An ambiguous example:

بيت الملك الكبير

# The construct state (الإضافة): adjectives

An ambiguous example:

بيت الملك الكبير

بَيْتُ الْمَلِكِ الْكَبِيرِ (the great house of the king)

بَيْتُ الْمَلِكِ الْكَبِيرِ (the house of the great king)



# Plurals of Nouns and Adjectives

## جُمُعُ الْأَسْمَاءِ وَالصِّفَاتِ

- Sound/regular plurals: suffixes added to base form of nouns and adjectives
- Broken/irregular plurals: different vocalic patterns—short and long vowels within, before, and at the end of words

Note: there is a **dual** form in Arabic (of nouns/adjectives, pronouns, and verbs!), but we will not be treating it here

# Sound Plurals: Masculine

- Suffixes added to base form without case endings/إعراب: مُنَجِّمٌ
- Are “diptotes”: only have a nominative/مرفوع ending and a shared genitive-accusative/مجرور - منصوب (as opposed to “triptotes”)
- The final ن is dropped when the noun is the first part of an إضافة
- No separate suffixes for definite/indefinite states

Case	Suffix	Indefinite	Definite
Nom./مرفوع	-ونَ	مُنَجِّمُونَ	الْمُنَجِّمُونَ
Gen.-Acc./مجرور - منصوب	-ينَ	مُنَجِّمِينَ	الْمُنَجِّمِينَ

# Examples

إِنَّ الْمُنَجِّمِينَ فِي الْبَيْتِ (the astrologers are in the house)

مُنَجِّمُو الْمَمْلَكَةِ (the astrologers of the kingdom)

# Sound Plurals: Feminine

- Suffixes added to form without **ثِرَّة** - < **ثِرَّ** - :ة
- Are “diptotes”: only have a nominative/مرفوع ending and a shared genitive-accusative/مجرور - منصوب
- Separate suffixes for definite/indefinite

Case	Indefinite Suffix	Indefinite	Definite Suffix	Definite
Nom./مرفوع	-اِثٌ	ثِرَّاتٌ	-اِثُ	الثِرَّاتُ
Gen.-Acc./مجرور - منصوب	-اِثٍ	ثِرَّاتٍ	-اِثٍ	الثِرَّاتِ

# Examples

بِنْت - بَنَات (daughter)

الْبَنَاتُ فِي الْبَيْتِ (the daughters are in the house)

إِنَّ الْبَنَاتِ فِي الْبَيْتِ (the daughters are in the house)

إِنَّ بَنَاتِ الْمَلِكِ عَزِيزَاتٌ (the daughters of the king are mighty)

# Broken Plurals: formation

- Are not formed by added suffixes, but by changing the vocalic pattern (can be long and short vowels)

مَلِكٌ ← مُلُوكٌ ، مَدِينَةٌ ← مَدَنٌ

- Predictable to a limited extent (see T §10): **learn plural when learning vocab!**
- General rule: nouns with long vowels in the singular tend to have short vowels in the plural, and vice versa

رَجُلٌ ← رِجَالٌ ، رَسُولٌ ← رُسُلٌ

- Many monosyllables (but not those with internal *ay*) prefix an *alif* and add an *alif* in the final syllable

سَبَبٌ ← أَسْبَابٌ ، يَوْمٌ ← أَيَّامٌ ، يَدٌ ← أَيَادٍ

# Broken Plurals: inflection

For now: be aware of patterns, especially when looking words up in dictionaries! If a noun you encounter has an initial *\*, it could be a plural and is therefore unlikely to be listed under that letter.

(Separate lesson to follow)

# Broken Plurals: inflection

- Singular case endings added

الْمُلُوكُ، الْمُلُوكَ، مُلُوكٍ

- Most are “triptotes” (i.e., take three cases endings)
  - Except plurals ending on hamza which take *kasra* for Gen.-Acc./مَجْرُورٌ – مَنصُوبٌ

وَزَيْرٌ ← وُزَرَاءِ، نَبِيٌّ ← أَنْبِيَاءِ



مع سلامة!