

# The Imperfect Tense Verb (T §30)

## الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ

# In this lesson you will learn:

- How to form the imperfect active (الفعل مُضارع)
- Some uses, including with the verb كَانَ

Prerequisite: you can recognize perfect tense verbs

## The Imperfect Active Verb: Form

3 m	يكتب	<i>yaktubu</i>	يكتبان	<i>yaktubāni</i>	يكتبون	<i>yaktubūna</i>
f	تكتب	<i>taktubu</i>	تكتبان	<i>taktubāni</i>	يكتبن	<i>yaktubna</i>
2 m	تكتب	<i>taktubu</i>	تكتبان	<i>taktubāni</i>	تكتبون	<i>taktubūna</i>
f	تكتبين	<i>taktubīna</i>	تكتبان	<i>taktubāni</i>	تكتبن	<i>taktubna</i>
1 c	اكتب	<i>'aktubu</i>	—	—	نكتب	<i>naktubu</i>

# The Imperfect Active Verb: Form

Person	Singular	Prefix-Suffix	Plural	Prefix-Suffix
3 masculine	يَبْلُغُ	يَ-	يَبْلُغُونَ	يَ-ونَ
3 feminine	تَبْلُغُ	تَ-	يَبْلُغْنَ	يَ-نَ
2 masculine	تَبْلُغُ	تَ-	تَبْلُغُونَ	تَ-ونَ
2 feminine	تَبْلُغِينَ	تَ-ينَ	تَبْلُغْنَ	تَ-نَ
1 common gender	أَبْلُغُ	أَ-	نَبْلُغُ	نَ-

# The Imperfect Active Verb: Form

Person	Singular	Prefix-Suffix	Plural	Prefix-Suffix
3 masculine	يَبْلُغُ	يَا-	يَبْلُغُونَ	يَا-ونَ
3 feminine	تَبْلُغُ	يَا-	يَبْلُغْنَ	يَا-نَ
2 masculine	تَبْلُغُ	يَا-	تَبْلُغُونَ	يَا-ونَ
2 feminine	تَبْلُغِينَ	يَا-ينَ	تَبْلُغْنَ	يَا-نَ
1 common gender	أَبْلُغُ	أَ-	نَبْلُغُ	نَا-

Remember, to derive the stem of a verb:

3<sup>rd</sup> Masculine Perfect Tense – remove short vowels

بَلَغَ - بَلَّغَ

Note: depending on the verb, the short vowel on the second radical in the imperfect can be *dhamma*, *fatha*, or *kasra*.

نزل *nazala* **i** (نَزُولٌ *nuzūl*) to dismount, alight; to descend, go down, come down, move down, get down, step down, climb down; to get off (من, e.g., a train), get

Use the dictionary to find out!

يَنْزِلُ

# The Imperfect Tense Verb: Usage

- Verbal action presented as durative, ongoing, or habitual
- Also used for simple future, frequently preceded by the particle **سَوْفَ** or prefixed with the particle **سَ-**
- Following a perfect tense verb: to indicate an ongoing situation or circumstance relative to the action of the perfect tense verb
- Often used following the verb **كَانَ** (in perfect tense) to indicate past habitual (“she used to ...”)

Examples:

**كَانَ يُسَمَّى جُنَيْسَرًا** (he was/used to be called Junaysar)



# Compare and Contrast

- Perfect Tense

ضَرَبَ الْمَلِكُ الْمُنَجِّمَ (the king hit the astrologer)

- Imperfect Tense

يَضْرِبُ الْمَلِكُ الْمُنَجِّمَ (the king is/was/will be hitting the astrologer)

- Perfect + Imperfect Tense

كَانَ الْمَلِكُ يَضْرِبُ الْمُنَجِّمَ (the king used to hit the astrologer)

مع سلامة!