

Verbs of wonder: the negative copula, special verbs and uses

- (7) The cat jumped on my chest and I was almost scared to death.
- (8) The cat almost died of thirst in the bedroom.
- (9) There is still half a day before the aeroplane departs (flies).
- (10) How narrow the streets of this village are!
- (11) Isn't the family on holiday next month?
- (12) After half a month the family resumed searching for the lost child in the desert.
- (13) The vice-chairman of the board of the oil company still refuses to pay the taxes.
- (14) The time given is not enough to answer all the questions in the news bulletin.

Chapter 38

Adverbs and adverbials, absolute or inner object, *hāl* (circumstantial clause) and *tamyīz* (accusative of specification)

38.1 Adverbs

Arabic adverbs are mostly derived from nominals. The majority of the derived adverbs are, in fact, indefinite accusative nouns or adjectives, although there are also many derived adverbs with *ḍammah* without nunation or article. Compared to European languages, Arabic has few underived (original) adverbs. The underived adverbs may end in *sukūn* or *fathah*, less often in *kasrah* or *ḍammah* without nunation.

38.2 In Arabic grammars, adverbs are classified by meaning as follows:

- (a) adverbs of time, *ظَرْفُ زَمَانٍ* (answer the question: متى *matā* 'when?')
- (b) adverbs of place, *ظَرْفُ مَكَانٍ* (answer the question: أين *ayna* 'where?' or 'whence?').

Note: Of course, there are also adverbs of manner, degree, reason, restriction, etc., e.g. the underived adverb *فَقَطُّ* *faqaṭṭu* 'only'.

38.3 All adverbs of time are derived from verbal roots or pronominal

bases. The common adverb *متى* *matā* 'when?' (also used as the temporal conjunction 'when') is apparently etymologically connected with the

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matā can be preceded by the particle أَي *ay*, as *aymatā*, without any change of meaning, e.g.

متى جيت؟ *matā gīta?* OR متى جيت؟ *ay matā gīta?*
When did you come?

38.4 Adverbs of time often have the definite article ... *al* and take the accusative or, rarely, nominative case, e.g.

With article:

اليوم	الجمعة	الآن	الليلة	الساعة	السنّة
<i>al-yawma</i>	<i>al-ġum‘ara</i>	<i>al-‘āna</i>	<i>al-laylata</i>	<i>as-sā‘ata</i>	<i>as-sanata</i>
today	on Friday	now	tonight	now, at this time	in this year

Without article:

بعد	قبل	حين	أمس	عدا
<i>ba‘du</i>	<i>qablu</i>	<i>hīna</i>	<i>amsi</i>	<i>gadan</i>
afterwards, still, yet	before, earlier	when (conj)	yesterday	tomorrow

Note: Adverbs ending in *dammah*, like *بعد* and *قبل*, may take a preposition. Nevertheless they do not change the ending into *kasrah*, e.g. *min ba‘du* ‘afterwards’.

Examples:

ما جاء اليوم *mā jā‘a l-yawma*. He did not come today.
 ما جاء بعد *mā jā‘a ba‘du*. He has not come yet.
 سافر أمس *sāfara ‘amsi*. He travelled yesterday.

Note: The *kasrah* in *أمس* ‘amsi’ ‘yesterday’ is not an indication of the genitive case, but is only used for smoothing the pronunciation. Observe also that *أمس* ‘amsi’ ‘yesterday’ has definite reference, although lacking the article. The noun *أمس* ‘al-‘amsu, which is definite, means ‘the past’ (not: ‘yesterday’). Similarly, *عدا* *gadan* ‘tomorrow’ has definite reference but indefinite form. Compare the prepositional expression *في الغد* *fi l-ġadi* ‘in the future’ (not ‘tomorrow’).

38.5 Certain nouns in the accusative without the article ... *al* are used as adverbs when followed by a year, e.g.

سنة ٢٠٠٣ *sanata 2003*, in the year 2003 OR في سنة ٢٠٠٣ *fi sanati 2003*

38.6 Underived adverbs of place, *ظرف زمان*, are very few, e.g.

تحت	هنا	هناك	حيث
<i>tahtu</i>	<i>hunā</i>	<i>hunāka</i>	<i>haytu</i>
beneath	here	there	where, whither, whereas, due to the fact that

Examples:

أجلس هنا *al-ġlis hunā* (masc. sing.)

إذهب من حيث جيت *ihḡab min haytu gīta* Go whence you came!

أجلس فوق *al-ġlis fuq* Derived adverbs of place are common, e.g., *فوق* *fuq* ‘up (stairs), on top, above’, *وراء* *warā‘u* ‘behind, in the rear, at the back’.

38.7 Other common adverbs having the form of accusative adjectives or nouns are:

38.8 Other common adverbs having the form of accusative adjectives or nouns are:

تقريباً	ليلاً	عدا	أحياناً	جداً	حالا
<i>taqrīban</i>	<i>laylan</i>	<i>gadan</i>	<i>‘ahyānan</i>	<i>ġiddan</i>	<i>hālan</i>
almost	by night	tomorrow	sometimes	very	immediately
حديئاً	دائماً	أخيراً	مئلاً	تأنيباً	أولاً
<i>hadīran</i>	<i>dā‘iman</i>	<i>‘ahīran</i>	<i>matālan</i>	<i>tāniyan</i>	<i>‘awwālan</i>
recently	always	finally, lately	for example	secondly	firstly, first
شرفاً	شمالاً	يميناً	يوماً	كثيراً	قليلاً
<i>šarġan</i>	<i>šamālan</i>	<i>yamīnan</i>	<i>yawman</i>	<i>kaṭīran</i>	<i>qalīlan</i>
eastward	on the	on the right	one day	much,	little, few
	left, to			very	
	the north				

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Examples:

أَسَافِرُ غَدًا

usāfiru **ḡadan**. I will travel **tomorrow**.

وَصَلَّتِ الطَّائِرَةُ لَيْلًا

wasalati t-ṭ-ṭairatu **laylan**. The aeroplane arrived **at night**.

تَوَجَّهَتْ الْبَاخِرَةُ جَنُوبًا

tawagḡahati l-bāhīratu **ḡanūban**. The ship set out (headed) **southwards**.

38.9 English adverbs are often rendered by prepositional phrases in Arabic, e.g.

فَهُمْ بِسَهُولَةٍ

fahima **bi-suhūlatin**. He understood **easily** (lit. with ease).

قَرَأَ عَلَى مَهْلٍ

qara'a 'alā **mahlīn**. He read **slowly**.

38.10 Absolute or inner object

The so-called absolute or inner object, **المفعول المطلق**, is used to emphasize the manner of action or the number of instances. It consists of a verbal noun (derived from the same root as the main verb) in the indefinite accusative form, followed by an accusative adjective.

رَكَضَ رَكْضًا سَرِيعًا

rakada **rakḡan sarī'an**. He ran **swiftly**. (lit. He ran a swift **running**.)

فَرِحَ فَرَحًا كَبِيرًا

farīha **farāhan kabīran**. He rejoiced **greatly**. (lit. He rejoiced a **great joy**.)

Note: Sometimes the inner object consists only of a dual verbal noun:

دَهَتْ السَّاعَةُ دَقَّتَيْنِ

daqqati s-sā'atu **daqqatayni**. The clock struck **twice** (two strikes).

38.11 Hāl clause (phrase)

Hāl **حَالٌ** means 'circumstance, condition, or state'. It is added to an already complete sentence as a kind of supplementary adverbial clause or phrase, answering the question **كَيْفَ** kayfa 'how?' or 'in which manner or condition?'. In English it corresponds mostly to a (co)pre-dicative or adverbial participle (referring to the subject or object), as in 'He came laughing. I saw him standing.'

Hāl **حَالٌ** is mostly an adjective or active participle in the indefinite accusative, agreeing in gender and number with the noun to which it refers, e.g.

عَانَ السَّائِحُ مَرِيضًا

āda s-sā'ihu **marīḡan**. The tourist returned ill.

(In which hāl 'condition' has the tourist returned? He returned **marīḡan** 'ill'. Thus, **marīḡan** is hāl, because it describes the circumstance or condition of the tourist.)

لَا تَشْرَبِ الْقَهْوَةَ سَاحِئًا!

lā ṣarībi l-qahwata **sāhīnatan!** Don't drink the coffee (while it is) **hot!**

نَهَبَ صَدِيقِي بَاكِيًا

dahaba ṣadiqī **dākiyan**. My friend left **weeping**. (My friend wept as he left.)

نَهَبَ الْوُجَدَانُ بَاكِينَ

dahaba l-wajādu **bākiina**. The boys left **weeping**. (The boys wept as they left.)

نَهَبَتِ الْبَنَاتُ بَاكِياتٍ

dahabati l-banātu **bākiyātīn**. The girls left **weeping**. (The girls wept as they left.)

Remember that the above **بَاكِياتٍ** is in the accusative indefinite form, although it has two **kasrahs**. See chapter 13 on the sound feminine plural!

38.12 Hāl **حَالٌ** can be in the definite form only when followed by a suffixed possessive pronoun. Hāl is never defined by the definite article **ال**, e.g.

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جاء المبعوث وحده

gā'a l-mab'ūtu wahda-hu. The delegate came alone (by himself).

38.13 *The wāw of hāl, وَأُوْالْحَالِ* وَأُوْالْحَالِ

The conjunction 'و' and' can be used to introduce a *hāl* clause based on an active participle (which then remains in the nominative case). This is called the *wāw of hāl*, وَأُوْالْحَالِ, and can be translated as 'while, as'. The *wāw* of *hāl* can be connected to a personal pronoun or a noun in the nominative (referring to a separate subject), e.g.

تكلم وهو واقف

takallama wa-huwa wāqifun. He spoke while (he was) standing.

هرب وألحارس تألم

haraba wa-l-hārisu nā'imun. He escaped while the guard was sleeping.

38.14 *Hāl, حَالِ*, may replace the participle with a finite verb in the imperfect tense, preceded by the *wāw* of *hāl* و and a pronoun, e.g.

ذهب وهو يبكي

dahaba wa-huwa yabki. He left weeping (He was weeping as he left).

38.15 *Tamyiz (accusative of specification)*

The word *tamyiz*, تَمْيِيزٌ, means 'specification, discrimination, clarification'. In grammar it refers to a nominal attribute in the accusative indefinite form that expresses the substance or content after measure words, or the item counted after the cardinal numbers 11-99. In addition, it is used after the relative form in periphrastic comparative and superlative expressions. Examples:

اشترى لثراً زيتاً

ʾišturiya l-irruṇ zaytan.

One litre of oil was bought.
(*zaytan* is *tamyiz*, because it specifies that the measured substance is oil and not something else)

اشترى والذي لثراً زيتاً

ʾištara wāllid-i l-irruṇ zaytan.

My father bought one litre of oil.

عندي عشرون قميصاً

ʿindi ʿiṣrūna qamiṣan.

I have twenty shirts.

ألبنت أقل جملاً من أمها

al-bintu ʿaqallu ġamalān min ʿummihā.

The girl is less beautiful than her mother.

(lit. The girl is less with regard to beauty than her mother.)

Exercises

Practise your reading:

حفظت 2 عينا 1 دروس (درس) 3 قواعد (قاعدَة) 4 اللغة العربية 5 درسا 6 درسا .

(1) 1^a learned the Arabic 3 grammar (lessons) 2^b by heart, lesson by lesson (lit. the 3 rules of the Arabic 4 language).

سهرت 2 الليل 3 كله 4 لوحدي 5 وآتأس 6 تألمون .

(2) 1^a stayed 1^a awake 3 all 2^a night 4 alone (by myself) 5 while 6 the people were 7 asleep.

في الغرب 2 يصنعون 3 الحديد 4 سلاحاً وفي 5 الشرق يقطعون 6 الأشجار (شجرة) 8 حطباً .

(3) In 1^a the West 2 they make 3 iron into 4 weapons and in 5 the East 6 they cut 7 trees for 8 wood.

هاجر 2 جاري 3 من القرية 4 وهو كبير 5 ولم نسمع 6 عنه 7 شيئاً 8 منذ ذلك الحين .

(4) 1^a My neighbour 2 emigrated from 3 the village 4 when 5 he was old and 6 since then we have 7 heard 8 nothing 9 about him .

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أَتَانِي 2 ضَيْفٌ 3 فِجَاءٌ 4 وَأَنَا 5 اسْتَعِدَّ 7 لِلدَّهَابِ فِي 8 سَيَّارَةٍ 9 أُجْرَةٌ كَانَتْ
أَتَانِي 2 ضَيْفٌ 3 فِجَاءٌ 4 وَأَنَا 5 اسْتَعِدَّ 7 لِلدَّهَابِ فِي 8 سَيَّارَةٍ 9 أُجْرَةٌ كَانَتْ

أَتَانِي 2 ضَيْفٌ 3 فِجَاءٌ 4 وَأَنَا 5 اسْتَعِدَّ 7 لِلدَّهَابِ فِي 8 سَيَّارَةٍ 9 أُجْرَةٌ كَانَتْ

(5) 2 A guest dropped in (lit. I came to me 3 suddenly) 4,5 while I 6 was preparing
7 to go out in 8 a taxi (hired 8 car) which was 10 waiting for me 11 outside.

(6) 1 The husband 2 is faithful 3 but 4 his wife 5 is 6 more 7 faithful 7 than he.
الزَّوْجُ 2 مَخْلُصٌ 3 أَمَّا 4 زَوْجَتُهُ 5 فَهِيَ 6 أَكْثَرُ 7 مِنْهُ 7 إِخْلَاصًا.

(7) The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is 1 one of 2 the greatest 6 oil 3-producing
3 countries in 4 the world.
المَمْلَكَةُ 6 الْعَرَبِيَّةُ 3 السُّعُودِيَّةُ 1 مِنْ 2 أَكْثَرِ 3 دَوْلٍ 4 (رَوْلَةٍ) 5 الْإِعْلَامِ 6 لِلنَّفْطِ.

(8) The dog 1 barked 3 loudly (lit. a 4 high 3 barking) at 2 the thief. The thief
5 was scared 6 and ran away.
بَيَعَ 1 الْكَلْبُ 3 عَلَى 4 اللَّصِّ 3 نَبِيحًا 4 عَالِيًا 5 فَخَافَ 6 اللَّصُّ 7 وَهَرَبَ.

(9) The president of the republic 1 received 2 the ministers 3 and parla-
mentary members 4 and shook their 5 hands one by one.
اِسْتَقْبَلَ 1 رَئِيسَ 2 الْجُمْهُورِيَّةِ 3 وَالْوَزَرَاءَ 4 (وَزَيْرِ) 3 وَالنُّوَابَ 4 (نَائِبِ) 4 وَوَسَّلَمَ
عَلَيْهِمْ 5 وَبَايَعَهُمْ 6 وَاحِدًا 7 وَاحِدًا.

(10) 2 The merchant 1 sold one (travelling) 3 suitcase, 20 5 shirts and 11 6 shoes.
بَاعَ 2 التَّاجِرُ 3 حَقِيْبَةً 4 سَفَرًا وَعَشْرِينَ 5 قَمِيصًا وَوَاحِدَ 6 عَشْرٍ 7 حِذَاءٍ.
اِشْتَرَيْتَ 2 الْقَمِيصَانَ (فَمِيصًا) 3 بِيضًا 4 وَالْقَبْعَةَ 5 سَوْدَاءً 6 وَسَاعَةَ
زَهْرِيَّةً 7 وَخَاتَمًا 8 وَفُصِّيَّةً 9.

(11) 1 I bought the 3 white 2 shirts and the 3 black 4 hat, and 7 a gold 6 watch and 8 a
silver 8 ring. (lit. the shirts white and the hat black)

(12) There is 1 no doubt that the physician is more 2 experienced than 3 the
nurse.
اَلَا 1 شَكَّ 2 اَنْ 3 الطَّيْبَ 4 اَكْثَرَ 2 خَبْرَةً 3 مِنْ 3 الْمَرْضِيَّةِ 4.

(13) 1 I was pleased 2 to see the president 3 walking 4 alone on 5 the main
5 street.
اِعْجَبْتَنِي 2 اَنْ 3 اَرَى 4 الرَّئِيسَ 3 مَاشِيًا 4 لَوْحْدِهِ 5 فِي 5 الشَّارِعِ 6 الرَّئِيسِيِّ 7.

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اَكْثَرًا 2 اَزْوَاجَ 3 اِلَاثْنَيْسَانَ 4 غَرَامًا 5 قَلَّ 6 مَنَامًا.

(14) 1,2 The more 3 a man is in 4 love, 5 the less 6 sleep he gets. (lit. Whenever
3 the man's 1 love 2 increases, his 5 sleep 3 decreases.)

(15) 1 I lived with him for 2 one week in 3 the same 4 apartment and I did not
5 like him 6 at all.
اِسْكَنْتَ 2 مَعَهُ 3 اِسْبُوعًا 4 فِي 3 نَفْسِ 4 اَلْاَسْبُوعِ 5 وَمَا 6 اَحْبَبْتَهُ 6 اَبَدًا.

(16) 1 I will travel 2 tomorrow to 4 the Middle 3 East and 5 I will be away from the
6 country for a 7 whole 6 month.
اَسَافِرُ 2 غَدًا 2 اِلَى 3 الشَّرْقِ 4 اَلْاَوْسَطِ 5 وَاعْتَبِ 6 عَنِ 6 الْبِلَادِ 7 كَامِلًا.

(17) 2 The lecturer 1 entered 4 the lecture 3 hall (5 while he was) laughing.
لَخَلَّ 2 الْمَحَاضِرُ 4 قَاعَةَ 5 الْمَحَاضِرَاتِ 3 وَهُوَ يَضْحَكُ / ضَاخِكًا.

(18) Don't drink 1 juice 2 hot and don't drink 3 tea 4 cold!
لَا تَشْرَبِ 1 الْعَصِيرَ 2 سَاخِنًا وَلَا تَشْرَبِ 3 الشَّايَ 4 بَارِدًا.

(19) 1 I walked 4 quickly (lit. a 4 quick 3 walk) for 2 two hours (2 time) 5 and got
tired.
اِسْتَبَيْتَ 1 لِمُدَّةٍ 2 سَاعَتَيْنِ 3 مَشِيًا 4 سَرِيعًا 5 فَتَعَبْتِ.

(20) 2 The moon 1 rose 3 suddenly from 4 behind 5 the mountain.
اَطْلَعَ 2 الْقَمَرُ 3 بَعْدَهُ 4 مِنْ 5 خَلْفِ 5 الْجَبَلِ.

(21) 1 I decided 2 I would return to 3 my homeland Lebanon 4 sooner 5 or 6 later.
اَقْرَرْتُ 1 اَنْ 2 اَعُودَ 3 اِلَى 3 وَطَنِي 4 لِبْنَانَ 4 عَاجِلًا 5 اَمْ 6 اَجَلًا.

Translate into Arabic:

- (1) There is no doubt that I will return to my village sooner or later.
- (2) The wife is more faithful than her husband.
- (3) The dog barked suddenly at the guest and (so) the guest got scared and ran away.

- (4) The West is more experienced than the East.
- (5) I decided to drink the tea hot and the juice cold.
- (6) The thief sold a black shirt, a white hat, a gold ring and a silver watch.