

أخواتها
and its
sisters,
كان أخواتها
and its
sisters

- (7) I heard that the worker sold his car at a cheap price, although it was in good condition.
- (8) When the children returned from the border(s), it (the weather) was rainy and cold.
- (9) When I returned from the market, I changed my shirt, because it was dirty.
- (10) The post office will move to another street not far from my workplace.
- (11) A lady said that women's rights are not equal to men's rights.
- (12) The leaves of the trees were green in spring, but they became yellow in autumn.

Chapter 27

Relative pronouns and relative clauses

27.1 Relative pronoun

The basic form (masc. sing.) of the relative pronoun **الَّذِي** 'the one who, which, that'. It is declined as follows:

	masculine		
	singular	dual	plural
Nom.	الَّذِي ʔalladī	الَّذَانِ ʔalladāni	الَّذِينَ ʔalladīna
Acc. and gen.	الَّذِي ʔalladī	الَّذَيْنِ ʔalladayni	الَّذِينَ ʔalladīna
		feminine	
Nom.	الَّتِي ʔallatī	الَّتَانِ ʔallatāni	الَّتِي ʔallawātī or ʔallātī (less used)
Acc. and gen.	الَّتِي ʔallatī	الَّتَيْنِ ʔallatayni	الَّتِي ʔallawātī or ʔallātī (less used)

Note a: For historical reasons, the masculine and feminine singular and masculine plural forms are written with one lām ... and the other forms with two. There is no difference in pronunciation.

27.2 *Definite relative clause*

The role of the relative pronoun is to link the relative clause with a definite antecedent **السَّابِقُ** as-sābīqu, which precedes it. The relative pronoun agrees with the antecedent in gender and number, e.g.

Relative clause	Relative pronoun	Antecedent
(الضَّلَّةُ) ³ سَبِيحٌ	(الْمَوْصُولُ)	(السَّابِقُ)
³ al-waladu llaḡī sabaha, the boy who swam	الَّذِي	الضَّلَّةُ
³ al-kātibatu llati min lubnāna, the writer (f) who is from Lebanon	الَّتِي	الضَّلَّةُ

27.3 The relative pronoun is used only when the antecedent is definite. If the antecedent is indefinite, the relative clause is introduced after the antecedent without a relative pronoun, e.g.

Definite antecedent	Indefinite antecedent
شَاهَدْتُ الرَّجُلَ الَّذِي يَتَكَلَّمُ الْعَرَبِيَّةَ	شَاهَدْتُ رَجُلًا يَتَكَلَّمُ الْعَرَبِيَّةَ
šāhaddu r-ragūla lladi	šāhaddu ragūlan yatakallamu
yatakallamu l-‘arabiyyata.	l-‘arabiyyata.
I saw the man who speaks Arabic.	I saw a man (who) speaks Arabic.
سَاعَدْتُ الرَّجُلَ الَّذِي كَسِرَتْ رِجْلَهُ	سَاعَدْتُ رَجُلًا كَسِرَتْ رِجْلَهُ
sā‘adtu r-ragūla lladi kusirat riġlu-hu.	sā‘adtu ragūlan kusirat riġlu-hu.
I helped the man whose leg was broken.	I helped a man (whose) leg was broken.
(lit. I helped the man, who his leg was broken.)	(lit. I helped a man, his leg was broken.)

Observe that, in contrast to Arabic, when you leave out the relative pronoun in English, the antecedent becomes object in the relative clause, e.g. ‘This is the man you saw.’

27.4 An active participle may replace both the relative pronoun and the following perfect or imperfect verb, e.g.

With the perfect verb
الَّتِي كَتَبْتَ الرُّسُلَةَ

³allati katabati r-risālata
the one **who** (f) wrote the letter

الَّذِي طَلَّقَ

³alladi ṭallāqa
the one **who** (m.) divorced

With the imperfect verb

الرَّجُلَ الَّذِي يَسْكُنُ هُنَاكَ

³ar-ragūlu **lladi** yaskunu hunāka
the man **who** lives there

الَّذِي يَنْتَظِرُ الطَّيِّبَ

³alladi yantaḡiru ṭ-ṭabība
the one **who** is waiting
for the physician

With the active participle
كَاتِبَةُ الرُّسُلَةِ

kātibatu r-risālata
the writer (f) of the letter OR
the one (who) wrote the letter

الْمُطَلِّقُ

³al-muṭalliqu
the divorced one (m.) OR
the one (who) got divorced

With the active participle

الرَّجُلَ السَّاكِنُ هُنَاكَ

³ar-ragūlu s-sākinu hunāka
the man (who is) living there

الْمَنْتَظِرُ الطَّيِّبَ

³al-muntaḡiru ṭ-ṭabība
the one (who is) waiting
for the physician

27.5 Also a passive participle placed after a noun may have the meaning of a relative clause, e.g.

جُمْلَةٌ مَكْتُوبَةٌ

a written sentence OR a sentence which is written

الْجُمْلَةُ الْمَكْتُوبَةُ

the written sentence OR the sentence which is written

الْمَقَالُ الْمَشْهُورُ

the published article OR the article which is published

27.6 ³Al-‘ātid **‘al-lāṭi**, ‘the returner’ (*anaphoric suffix pronoun*)

If the antecedent is referred to in the relative clause as an object, or as having a preposition, or as being a genitive attribute, it is resumed by a coreferential suffix pronoun attached to the verb, preposition, or noun,

respectively. This kind of anaphoric (back-referring) suffix pronoun is called **العائد** 'al-ʿā'id 'the returner'. The returner has no equivalent in English, because in English it is possible to use a relative pronoun as object or add a preposition or attribute to it. The following are the most common uses of **ʿal-ʿā'id**:

- (a) **ʿAl-ʿā'id** attached to a verb

المراة التي ساعدتها

ʿal-marʿatu llati sāʿadu-hā

the woman **whom** I helped (**her**)

- (b) **ʿAl-ʿā'id** attached to a preposition

هذا هو الكتاب الذي سألته عنه

hādā huwa l-kitābu lladi saʿalta ʿan-hu.

This is the book **that** you asked for. (lit... **that** you asked for it)

- (c) **ʿAl-ʿā'id** attached to a noun

هذا هو الصحفي الذي قرأت مقالة

hādā huwa s-ṣiḥāfiyyu lladi qaraʿtu maqālatu-hu.

This is the journalist **whose** article I read. (lit... **who** I read **his** article.)

27.7 Interrogatives used as relative pronouns

- (a) The interrogative pronouns **من** 'man, 'who?' and **ما** 'what?' are also used as relative pronouns in the following ways:

من (the one) who, whom (with reference to human beings)
ما (the thing) that, which, what (with reference to non-human beings or things)

They differ, however, from the definite relative pronoun **الذي** 'alladī in that they never take an antecedent in their meaning. Moreover, it is to say, the antecedent is included in their meaning. Moreover, they tend to be used with generalized or indefinite reference, e.g.

وجدت من يتكلم العربية
 wagādu **man** yatalkallamu l-ʿarabiyyata. I found **one who** speaks Arabic.
 هذا ما أكلت أمس
hādā mā ʾakaltu ʿamsi. This is **what** I ate yesterday.

- (b) When **ما** 'what?' or **من** 'of what?, of which?' (which is a combination of **من** + **ما**) are used as relative pronouns, the addition of **ʿal-ʿā'id** 'the returner' is optional, e.g.

With **ʿal-ʿā'id** Without **ʿal-ʿā'id**

هذا ما سمعناه OR هذا ما سمعنا

hādā mā samiʿnā-hu. **hādā mā** samiʿnā.

This is **what** we have heard.

لا أعبد ما تعبدونه OR لا أعبد ما تعبدون

lā ʿabudu mā taʿbudūna-hu. **lā ʿabudu mā** taʿbudūna.

I do not worship **what** you worship. (The Quran)

هذا مما كتبته OR هذا مما كتبت

hādā mimmā karabtu-hu. **hādā mimmā** karabtu.

This is (part) of **what** I have written.

Exercises

Practise your readings:

- (1) I lived on an island (which) had different traditions from the traditions of my country.

الاسماء (s) التي ذكرتها هي أسماء الملائك الذين نجوا في
 الاوتخان.

- (2) The names which mentioned are the names of the students who passed the exam.

شاهدت في يوم واحد من اكره ومن احب

- (3) I saw in one day one whom I hate and one whom I like.

لَمَّا مَا نَكَرَ / نَكَرَهُ الْإِيمَانُ فِي حُطْبَتِهِ الْجُمُعَةِ.

(4) This is 'what the imām mentioned in the Friday speech.

يَأْتُرُ فَرِيقٌ كَرَّةَ الْقَدَمِ بِصَفِّ سَاعَةٍ مِمَّا (مَنْ + مَا) جَمَلَهُ وَيُحَسِّنُ الْمَبَارَاةَ.

(5) The football team was half an hour late, which made it lose the match (competition).

أَشَاهَدُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ نَفْسَ السَّائِحِ الَّذِي يَرِيدُ جَمَلًا.

(6) Every day I see the same tourist who rides a camel.

وَرَأَتِ الْفِصَّةَ الَّتِي كَتَبَهَا الْكَاتِبُ الَّذِي حَصَلَ عَلَى جَائِزَةِ نُوبَلٍ.

(7) I read the story which the writer who won (got) the Nobel Prize wrote.

أَسْرَقَ الْأَلْسُ فِصَّةً كَتَبَهَا كَاتِبٌ حَصَلَ عَلَى جَوَائِزِ (S) جَائِزَةٍ عَالَمِيَّةٍ.

(8) The thief has stolen a story (which was) written by a writer who has received international prizes (awards).

فِي وَسْطِ الصَّحْرَاءِ شَاهَدْتُ جَبَلًا عَالِيًا سَقَطَ عَلَيْهِ النَّجْمُ.

(9) In the middle of the desert I saw a high mountain on which snow had fallen (on it).

أَيْنَ الْحَيَاءِ الَّذِي وَضَعْتَهُ عَلَى هَذَا الرَّوْفِ؟

(10) Where is the shoe which I put on this shelf?

السَّفِينَةُ فِي الْفَنْدِيقِ مِنْ بَيْنَكُمُ اللَّغَتَيْنِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ وَالْإِنْجِلِيزِيَّةِ.

(11) Someone who speaks both (i.e. the two languages) English and Arabic received me at the hotel.

الْجَمَلَةُ الْمَكْتُوبَةُ فِي آخِرِ الصَّفْحَةِ هِيَ صَعْبَةٌ وَمُعَقَّدَةٌ.

(12) The sentence (which is) written at the end of the page is difficult and complicated.

أَنَّ الَّذِي عَلَّمَكَ الْعَرَبِيَّةَ وَاللُّغَةَ الَّتِي تَعَلَّمْتُمُوهَا.

(13) I am the one who (sing) taught you (pl.) Arabic and you are those who learned it.

لَمَّا هُنَا السَّبَّاحَانِ اللَّذَانِ حَصَلَا عَلَى الْمَدَالِيَتَيْنِ الْذَهَبِيَّةِ وَالْفِضِيَّةِ.

(4) These are the two swimmers who got the gold and silver medals.

الْأَجْنِبِيُّ الَّذِي أَخَذَ نَوَاءً وَشَرِبَ كُحُولًا مَرِضٌ وَنُقِلَ إِلَى الْمُسْتَشْفَى.

(5) The foreigner who took medicine and drank alcohol became ill and was taken (transported) to hospital.

أَيْنَ السِّيَّاتِ اللَّوَاتِي بَعَثْنَ بِخَيْرِ عَدَمٍ مِثْلَ كِتَابَيْنِ فِي الْمَوْقِعِ؟

(6) Where are the ladies who sent a message concerning their non-participation in the congress?

هَذِهِ هِيَ الْحَبْرَاتُ السَّامَةُ الَّتِي قَدْ سَبَّبَتْ لِسَمْعِهَا خَطْرًا عَلَى حَيَاةِ الْإِنْسَانِ.

(7) These are the poisonous insects whose sting (bite) may cause danger to human life.

جَلَسْتُ مَعَ كَاتِبَيْنِ سَأَلْتُهُمَا عَنِ مَسْتَقْبَلِ اللُّغَةِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ.

(8) I sat with two writers (whom) I asked (them) about the future of the Arabic language.

Translate into Arabic:

(1) Where is the story which I put on this shelf?

(2) Everyday I see the writer who was awarded (received) the Nobel Prize.

(3) I saw the same tourist who rides the camel every day.

(4) I saw a tourist at the hotel who speaks the two languages Arabic and English.

(5) The swimmer was half an hour late, which resulted in him losing the competition.

(6) The foreigner who taught the students English became ill and was taken to hospital.