



الْمُرَكَّبُ التَّوْصِيفِيُّ

The Adjectival Compound

Look at these examples:

Adjectival Compound	
A <u>tall</u> man.	1
A <u>small</u> girl.	2
A <u>big</u> car.	3
An <u>easy</u> lesson.	4
The <u>huge</u> fire.	5
The <u>red</u> hat.	6
The <u>new</u> house.	7
The <u>blue</u> sky.	8
The above are all Adjectival Compounds.	

What is an Adjectival Compound?

1. An adjectival compound is used to **describe** something or someone.
2. An adjectival compound will have at least 2 words. There could be more words (and even sentences) as well.
3. In English, the adjective comes first. Look at the above examples.
4. In Arabic, the adjective comes AFTER the noun it is describing.
5. Just like the possessive compound, the adjectival compound is NOT a complete sentence by itself. It is always part of a (complete) sentence.

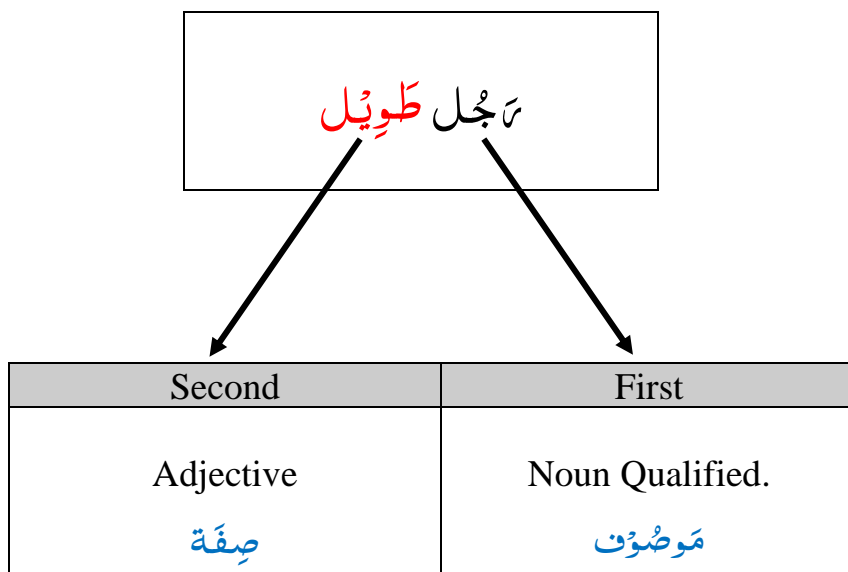
Look at these examples:

2	1	
Adjectival Compound in a sentence.	Adjectival Compound	
<p>I saw a <i>tall</i> man.</p> <p>Verb + Doer + Object فعل و فاعل و مفعول به</p>	<p>A <i>tall</i> man.</p>	1
<p>The <i>new</i> pen is broken.</p> <p>Subject & Predicate مبتدأ و خبر</p>	<p>The <i>new</i> pen.</p>	2

6. We use Adjectival Compounds every day in our conversations.

The Adjectival Compound in Arabic

1. In Arabic, the adjective comes *after* the noun that is being described.
2. Note the following:



3. The most important point to note is the Harakah (case ending): *the adjective will always follow the case ending (Harakah) of the noun qualified*. In other words, the صِفَّة always follows the case ending of the مَوْضُوت.
4. Just like the possessed (مُضَمَات), the Harakah of the noun qualified (مَوْضُوت) will depend on its position in a sentence.
5. Because the adjective (صِفَّة) comes first in English, we usually translate the adjective first.
6. The following is a conclusion of the rules regarding the adjectival compound:

Example	Rule	
<p>ذَهَبَ إِلَى بَيْتٍ جَدِيدٍ . He went to a new house.</p>	<p>The adjective follows the Harakah of the noun qualified. <i>The Harakah of the Noun Qualified will depend on its position in a sentence.</i></p>	Rule 1
<p>رَجُلٌ طَوِيلٌ الرَّجُلُ الطَّوِيلُ</p>	<p>The adjective will follow the noun qualified in being نَكْرَةٌ and مَعْرِفَةٌ .</p>	Rule 2
<p>سَيَّارَةٌ سَرِيعَةٌ</p>	<p>The adjective also follows the noun qualified in <i>gender</i>.</p>	Rule 3
<p>رَجُلَانِ طَوِيلَانِ</p>	<p>The adjective also follows the noun qualified in <i>number</i>.</p>	Rule 4

Now look at the following examples:

2		1		
مَعْرِفَةٌ		نَكْرَةٌ		
الرَّجُلُ الطَّوِيلُ <i>The tall man</i>	الرَّجُلُ <i>Man</i>	رَجُلٌ طَوِيلٌ <i>A tall man</i>	رَجُلٌ <i>Man</i>	1
الْبِنْتُ الصَّغِيرَةُ	الْبِنْتُ	بِنْتُ صَغِيرَةٌ	بِنْتُ <i>Girl</i>	2
الْبَيْتُ الْجَدِيدُ	الْبَيْتُ	بَيْتٌ جَدِيدٌ	بَيْتٌ <i>House</i>	3
السَّيَّارَةُ السَّرِيعَةُ	السَّيَّارَةُ	سَيَّارَةٌ سَرِيعَةٌ	سَيَّارَةٌ <i>Car</i>	4

Now change the following to dual (nominative case).

مَعْرِفَةٌ		نَكْرَةٌ		
الرَّجُلَانِ الطَّوِيلَانِ <i>The two tall men</i>	الرَّجُلُ الطَّوِيلُ	رَجُلَانِ طَوِيلَانِ <i>Two tall men</i>	رَجُلٌ طَوِيلٌ	1
	الْبِنْتُ الصَّغِيرَةُ		بِنْتُ صَغِيرَةٌ	2
	الْبَيْتُ الْجَدِيدُ		بَيْتٌ جَدِيدٌ	3
	السَّيَّارَةُ السَّرِيعَةُ		سَيَّارَةٌ سَرِيعَةٌ	4

Now practice the above examples in the accusative/genitive case.

Remember:

- The adjectival compound is NOT a complete sentence.
- A common error is to *confuse* the adjectival compound with a complete sentence. This results in incorrect translation.

Look at these examples:

Subject & Predicate <i>Complete sentence</i> ☑	Adjectival Compound <i>Incomplete sentence</i> ☒	
الرَّجُلُ طَوِيلٌ. <i>The man is tall.</i>	الرَّجُلُ الطَّوِيلُ <i>The tall man</i>	1
الْبِنْتُ صَغِيرَةٌ. <i>The girl is small.</i>	الْبِنْتُ الصَّغِيرَةُ <i>The small girl</i>	2

Now look at the adjectival compound when it is in a sentence.

2		1	
The Adjectival Compound in a sentence.		Adjectival Compound <i>Incomplete sentence</i>	
جَلَسَ الرَّجُلُ الطَّوِيلُ .	الرَّجُلُ الطَّوِيلُ مَرِيضٌ . <i>The tall man is ill.</i>	الرَّجُلُ الطَّوِيلُ <i>The tall man</i>	1
جَلَسَتِ الْبِنْتُ الصَّغِيرَةُ .	الْبِنْتُ الصَّغِيرَةُ مَسْرُورَةٌ . <i>The small girl is happy.</i>	الْبِنْتُ الصَّغِيرَةُ <i>The small girl</i>	2

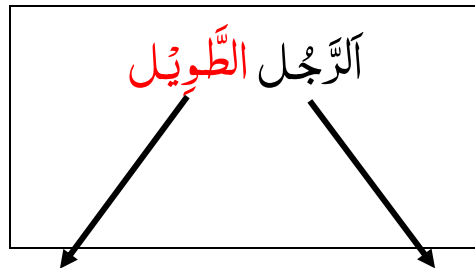
Now put the following into a sentence (as much as possible write a different sentence structure for each):

The Adjectival Compound in a sentence.	Adjectival Compound <i>Incomplete sentence</i>	
	<p>الْبَيْتُ الْجَدِيدُ</p> <p>The</p>	1
	<p>السَّيَّارَةُ السَّرِيعَةُ</p> <p>The</p>	2
	<p>التُّفَّاحُ الذِّيذِي</p> <p>The</p>	3
	<p>الدَّرْسُ السَّهْلُ</p> <p>The</p>	4

Conclusion

The Adjective
الصِّفَة
The adjective in Arabic is a “follower ¹ ” (تَّابِع).
It follows the <u>noun qualified</u> in all aspects:
Number
Gender
Definiteness / Indefiniteness
Case ending

Terminology



Adjective	Noun Qualified
الصِّفَة (التَّابِع)	الْمَوْصُوف (الْمَتَّبُوع)
=	
Adjectival Compound	
المُرَكَّبُ التَّوَصِيفِيُّ	

¹ There is a total of five followers in Arabic. The adjective is the most common one of the five.

Exercise 1 – The Adjectival Compound

Convert the following into an adjectival compound (note also the clear difference between the latter and a complete sentence). Use the nominative case in your examples.

English	Arabic	
A small car.		1
The small car.		2
The car is small.		3
A big house.		4
The big house.		5
The house is big.		6
The new room.		7
A new room.		8
The room is new.		9
The fast horse.		10
The horse is fast.		11
Two broken pens.		12
The two broken pens.		13
The two old chairs.		14
Two old chairs.		15
The (two) <u>pious</u> Muslims.		16
The (two) <u>Muslim</u> helpers.		17

Exercise 2 - The Adjectival Compound in a sentence

Analyse each sentence (determine the doer, predicate etc) and translate.

As relevant and appropriate, change each sentence (as demonstrated in some sentences) by adding *إِنَّ* / *كَانَ* etc and changing from singular to dual and vice versa.

English	Arabic	
	نَظَرَ الْمَلِكُ.	1
	نَظَرَ الْمَلِكُ الْعَادِلُ.	2
	الطِّفْلُ فِي الْبَيْتِ .	3
	الطِّفْلُ الصَّغِيرُ فِي الْبَيْتِ .	4
	الْوَلَدُ الذَّكِيُّ مِنَ الْهِنْدِ .	5
	الرَّجُلُ الْعَاقِلُ مِنَ الْهِنْدِ أَيْضًا .	6
	الْبِنْتُ الذَّكِيَّةُ مِنَ الصِّينِ .	7
	الْمُهَنْدِسَةُ الْعَاقِلَةُ مِنَ الصِّينِ أَيْضًا .	8
	الطَّبِيبَانِ الْمُجْتَهِدَانِ مَرِيضَانِ .	9
	إِنَّ الطَّبِيبَيْنِ الْمُجْتَهِدَيْنِ مَرِيضَانِ .	10
	كَانَ الطَّبِيبَانِ الْمُجْتَهِدَانِ مَرِيضَيْنِ .	11
	هَرَبَ الطَّبِيبَانِ الْمُجْتَهِدَانِ .	12
	الْمَحَاسِبَتَانِ الْمُجْتَهِدَتَانِ نَائِمَتَانِ .	13
	كَانَتِ الْمَحَاسِبَتَانِ الْمُجْتَهِدَتَانِ نَائِمَتَيْنِ .	14
	ذَهَبَتِ الْمَحَاسِبَتَانِ الْمُجْتَهِدَتَانِ إِلَى دُكَّانٍ كَبِيرٍ .	15

Exercise 3 - The Possessive & Adjectival Compounds

Analyse each sentence and translate. Ensure you identify the adjectival and possessive compound and understand the reason of their respective Harakah (case ending).

English	Arabic	
	أَكَلْتُ طَعَامًا لَزِيدًا .	1
	أَكَلُوا الطَّعَامَ الَّذِي دَنَ .	2
	مَا أَكَلْتُ طَعَامَ الرَّجُلِ .	3
	طَعَامُ الرَّجُلِ حَائِرٌ .	4
	لَا نَجْلِسُ فِي المَطْعَمِ الْجَدِيدِ .	5
	لَا نَجْلِسُ فِي مَطْعَمِ خَالِدٍ .	6
	هَرَبْنَا إِلَى حَدِيقَةِ جَمِيلَةَ .	7
	قَدْ هَرَبْنَا إِلَى حَدِيقَةِ المَحَاسِبِ .	8
	إِنَّ الخَاتَمَ الْجَدِيدَ مَكْسُورٌ .	9
	إِنَّ خَاتَمَ المَرْأَةِ جَدِيدٌ .	10
	الثَّوبُ الوَسِخُ لَزَيْدٍ .	11
	ثُوبُ زَيْدٍ وَسِخٌ .	12
	إِنَّ دَوَارَ البَحْرِ مَرَضٌ شَدِيدٌ .	13
	أَشْعُرُ الدَّوَارِ الشَّدِيدِ فِي السَّفِينَةِ الكَبِيرَةِ .	14
	خَرَجُوا مِنْ مَوْقِفِ السِّيَّارَاتِ وَدَهَبُوا إِلَى السُّوقِ الكَبِيرِ .	15
	دَخَلَتِ السِّيَّارَةُ الكَبِيرَةُ فِي مَوْقِفِ السِّيَّارَاتِ .	16

Exercise 4

- Analyse each sentence and translate.
- Ensure you mention the individual meaning of the possessor and possessed.
- This exercise also contains verbs from the قَالَ يَقُولُ pattern. Ensure you practice the paradigm of the past and imperfect tenses.

English	Arabic	
	أَكَلُوا لَحْمَ الْبَقْرِ .	1
	مَكَثُوا فِي مَحَطَّةِ الْقَطَارِ .	2
	لَا تَأْكُلْ لَحْمَ الْخِنْزِيرِ . هُوَ حَرَامٌ .	3
	نَسَطُرُ الدَّرَسَ بِقَلَمِ رِصَاصٍ .	4
	لَا نَلْعَبُ كُرَةَ السَّلَةِ بَلْ نَلْعَبُ كُرَةَ الْقَدَمِ .	5
	يَلُومُونَ طَيِّبَ الْأَسْنَانِ .	6
	يَسُوقُ الرَّجُلُ الطَّوِيلُ سَيَّارَةَ إِسْعَافٍ .	7
	مَاتَ السَّفِيرُ الْأَمْرِيكِيُّ فِي سَيَّارَةِ أُجْرَةٍ .	8
	زُرْتُ الْمَدِينَةَ فِي هَذِهِ الْعُطْلَةِ .	9
	زَارُوا تِلْكَ الْمَدِينَةَ .	10
	نَعُودُ بِاللَّهِ .	11
	أَعُودُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ .	12
	تَفَوُّهُ الطَّالِبَةُ الْمُجْتَهِدَةُ فِي قَاعَةِ الْإِمْتِحَانِ .	13
	تَمَوُّهُ الْهَرَّةُ الصَّغِيرَةُ وَتَحَوُّهُ الْبَقْرَةُ السَّمِينَةُ .	14
	يَقْفُومُونَ فِي قَاعَةِ الْإِمْتِحَانِ .	15
	تَدُوُّ الْأُخْتُ الطَّعَامَ الدَّيْدَ فِي دُكَّانِ زَيْدٍ .	16
	يَدُوُّونَ هَذَا اللَّحْمَ وَذَلِكَ الطَّعَامَ .	17
	فَازَ الطَّالِبُ الْمُجْتَهِدُ فِي الْإِمْتِحَانِ الصَّعْبِ .	18

Exercise 5 – English to Arabic

1. Analyse what each word would be in terms of grammar and then form the sentence.
2. Determine the meaning (translation) of each word individually.

I drank the cold milk.	1
We drank the cow's milk.	2
I went to the graveyard.	3
We went to the big graveyard.	4
I am going to the new hall.	5
We are going to the exam hall.	6
She is going to the railway station.	7
She is not going to the old market.	8
We took the big prize.	9
We did not take the broken mirror.	10

Exercise 6 – English to Arabic

1. Analyse what each word would be in terms of grammar and then form the sentence.
2. Determine the meaning (translation) of each word individually.

They broke the beautiful box.	1
They are not eating beef.	2
They are eating the delicious meat.	3
I am writing the Quran lesson.	4
The new ambassador is from Iraq.	5
The clever accountant is ill.	6
Indeed the man's weapon is lost.	7
Indeed the lost weapon belongs to the man.	8
The ambassador of India is standing.	9
The girl's maid is in the new kitchen.	10
The grateful student is from China.	11

Extension

The Adjectival Compound in Nominal Sentences

1. The adjectival compound is easily confused in nominal sentences where there is also a demonstrative pronoun.
2. Look at the following and note how the complete sentences are formed.
3. Carefully analyse which parts are the subject and predicate.
4. When analysing “long” nominal sentences, always determine the subject (مبتدأ) and predicate (خبر). And remember that between the subject and predicate we translate with “is” or “are”.

4	3	2	1		
هَذَا الْبَابُ الْمَكْسُورُ قَدِيمٌ .	هَذَا الْبَابُ مَكْسُورٌ .	هَذَا الْبَابُ ...	هَذَا بَابٌ .		A
This broken door is old. Complete sentence. Note the adjectival compound.	This door is broken. Complete sentence.	This door ... Incomplete sentence.	This is a door. Complete sentence.		

4	3	2	1		
ذَلِكَ الرَّجُلُ الْمَرِيضُ نَائِمٌ .	ذَلِكَ الرَّجُلُ مَرِيضٌ .	ذَلِكَ الرَّجُلُ ...	ذَلِكَ رَجُلٌ .		B
That ill man is sleeping. Complete sentence. Note the adjectival compound.	That man is ill. Complete sentence.	That man ... Incomplete sentence.	That is man. Complete sentence.		

4	3	2	1		
هَذِهِ الدَّرَاجَةُ الثَّمِينَةُ مَكْسُورَةٌ .	هَذِهِ الدَّرَاجَةُ ثَمِينَةٌ .	هَذِهِ الدَّرَاجَةُ ...	هَذِهِ دَرَّاجَةٌ .		C
This expensive bike is broken. Complete sentence. Note the adjectival compound.	This bike is expensive. Complete sentence.	This bike ... Incomplete sentence.	This is a bike. Complete sentence.		

Analysis

Ponder over the differences:

<p style="color: blue; text-align: center;">Complete Sentence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">مبتدأ و خبر</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nominal Sentence.</p>	<p>هَذَا بَابٌ .</p> <p>This <u>is</u> a door.</p>	<p>الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ .</p> <p>The house <u>is</u> new.</p>	1
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<p style="color: blue; text-align: center;">Incomplete Sentence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">مبتدأ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Part of a Nominal Sentence.</p>	<p>هَذَا الْبَابُ</p> <p>This door <u>is</u></p>	<p>الْبَيْتُ الْجَدِيدُ</p> <p>The new house...</p>	2
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<p style="color: blue; text-align: center;">Complete Sentence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">مبتدأ و خبر</p> <p style="text-align: center;">= مبتدا</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اسم الإشارة + المُشَارُ إِلَيْهِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nominal Sentence.</p>	<p>هَذَا الْبَابُ مَكْسُورٌ .</p> <p>This door <u>is</u> broken.</p>	<p>الْبَيْتُ الْجَدِيدُ جَمِيلٌ .</p> <p>The new house <u>is</u> beautiful.</p>	3
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<p>Complete Sentence.</p> <p>مبتدأ و خبر</p> <p>خبر</p> <p>=</p> <p>موصوف و صفة</p> <p>Nominal Sentence.</p>	<p>هَذَا بَابٌ مَكْسُورٌ.</p> <p>This <u>is</u> a broken door.</p>	<p>4</p>
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<p>Incomplete Sentence.</p> <p>مبتدأ.....</p> <p>مبتدا</p> <p>=</p> <p>اسم الإشارة + موصوف و صفة</p> <p>(المُشَاءُ إِلَيْهِ)</p> <p>Part of a Nominal Sentence.</p>	<p>هَذَا الْبَابُ الْمَكْسُورُ...</p> <p>This broken door is</p>	<p>5</p>
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<p>Complete Sentence.</p> <p>مبتدأ و خبر</p> <p>مبتدا</p> <p>=</p> <p>اسم الإشارة + موصوف و صفة</p> <p>(المُشَاءُ إِلَيْهِ)</p> <p>Nominal Sentence.</p>	<p>هَذَا الْبَابُ الْمَكْسُورُ قَدِيمٌ.</p> <p>This broken door <u>is</u> old.</p>	<p>6</p>
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Exercise

Consolidation

Answer true or false:

	Question	True	False
1	The possessive compound is a complete sentence.		
2	The adjectival compound is always an incomplete sentence.		
3	The possessed is always in the genitive case.		
4	The doer is always in the nominative case.		
5	A word containing the definite article cannot be a verb.		
6	In a broken plural, the singular form remains intact.		
7	Tanween on a word is a sign that it is only a noun.		
8	Some verbs can have a Tanween.		
9	There are 15 prepositions in total.		

Answer the following questions:

10	What cannot co-exist in a noun? Why?	
11	Give an example of a sound plural.	
12	What is an indeclinable noun? Give examples.	
13	Give an example of a relative pronoun.	
14	What do موصوف and مضاف have in common?	
15	The صفة is a “follower”. Explain what this means.	
16	How many “followers” are there in total.	
17	What gender are names of places in Arabic?	
18	What are demonstrative pronouns used for?	

Clearly explain the grammatical difference between the following:

هَذَا الْقَلَمُ .	هَذَا قَلَمٌ .
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20 Which pronoun is hidden in the following verbs?

	مَا جَعَلُوا
	لَعِبْنَ
	لَا تَسْطُرِينَ
	غَلَبْتُمْ

21 Write down the English terms for the following:

	حالة الجرّ
	صفة
	نكرة
	مضاف
	الجمع المكسّر
	حالة النصب
	مبنى
	معرفة
	ضمائر
	أسماء
	حالة الرفع
	أفعال
	معرب
	اسم الإشارة
	مفعول به
	موصوف

Modern Vocabulary – Shopping & Eating

We have many (of)...	لَدَيْنَا الْكَثِيرُ مِنْ ...	1
Discount	خَصْم	2
Price	سِعْر	3
Sales	تَنْزِيلَات	4
The prices are low.	الْأَسْعَاءُ مُنْخَفِضَةٌ	5
What is the total?	كَمْ الْحِسَابُ؟	6
This is expensive.	هَذَا غَالِي	7
Cheap	رَخِيص	8
Bill	فَاتُورَة	9
Bill please!	فَاتُورَة! مِنْ فَضْلِكَ	10

Fruits

Fruit	فَاكِهَة	1
Fresh fruit	فَاكِهَة طَازِجَة	2
Seasonal fruit	فَاكِهَة الْمَوْسِم	3
Apricot	مَشْمَش	4
Pomegranate	رُمَّان	5
Plum	دَرَّاق	6
Peach	خُوح	7
Fig	تَيْن	8
Pineapple	أَنَانَس	9
Mango	مَانْجُو	10

Drinks

Drinks	مَشْرُوبَات	1
Soft Drinks	المَشْرُوبَات الغَازِيَة	2
Juice	عَصِيْر	3
Juices	عَصِيْرَات	4
Orange Juice	عَصِيْر بُرْتُقَال	5
Apple Juice	عَصِيْر نُفَّاح	6
Pineapple Juice	عَصِيْر أَنَانَس	7
Mango Juice	عَصِيْر مَانْجُو	8
Tomato Juice	عَصِيْر طَمَاطِم	9
Pepsi	بيبسي	10
7up	سفن اب	11
Smoothie	سموْثِي	12
Mocktail	موكتيل	13
Sparkling	فَوَّارَة	14
Sparkling Water	مِيَاه فَوَّارَة	15
Water	مَاء	16

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