



Rules of agreement for plurals

الْقَوَاعِدُ لِجَمْعِ الْعَاقِلِ وَغَيْرِهِ

Using sound plurals is very straightforward: There will always be number and gender coordination.

2	1
Sound Feminine Plural	Sound Masculine Plural
جَمْعُ الْمُؤَنَّثِ السَّالِمِ	جَمْعُ الْمَذَكَّرِ السَّالِمِ
الْمُسْلِمَاتُ جَالِسَاتٌ .	الْمُسْلِمُونَ جَالِسُونَ .
<i>There is number and gender coordination between both words.</i>	<i>There is number and gender coordination between both words.</i>

Similarly, there will be gender and number coordination when using *broken plurals of humans*.

Broken Plural (of a human)
الْجَمْعُ الْمَكْسَرُ (جمع العاقل)
الرِّجَالُ جَالِسُونَ .
النِّسَاءُ جَالِسَاتٌ .
الْأَوْلَادُ نَائِمُونَ .
الْأَطْفَالُ نَائِمُونَ .

Thus, the conclusion is as follows:

Rule	Type of plural	
<i>There will be number and gender coordination.</i>	جَمْعُ الْمَذَكَّرِ السَّالِمِ	1
	جَمْعُ الْمُؤَنَّثِ السَّالِمِ	2
	الْجَمْعُ الْمَكْسَرُ (جمع العاقل)	3

Note the following terminology and examples:

2	1
جمع غَيْرِ الْعَاقِلِ	جمع الْعَاقِلِ
<i>Plural of a non-human.</i>	<i>Plural of a human¹.</i>
Examples:	Examples:
السِّيَّارات	الرِّجَال
الْبُيُوت	الْبَنَات
الْمَسَاجِد	الْأَوْلَاد
الْمَدَارِس	النِّسَاء
النُّجُوم	الْأَطْفَال

We will now look at how to use broken plurals of non-humans (in other words broken plurals of objects).

Plural of an object جمع غَيْرِ الْعَاقِلِ
This plural is considered as: وَاحِد + مُؤَنَّث <i>Singular and Feminine (S & F).</i>

¹ By this we mean the “broken plural” of a human.

- Now carefully look at the following examples and note the number and gender coordination.
- These are sentences containing a subject and predicate.
- The subject (مبتدأ) is a broken plural of an object (non-human).

الأمثلة
<p>الأقلام صغيرةٌ.</p> <p>The pens are small.</p>
<p>السيارات سريعةٌ.</p> <p>The cars are fast.</p>
<p>البيوت قديمةٌ.</p> <p>The houses are old.</p>
<p>النجوم جميلةٌ.</p> <p>The stars are beautiful.</p>

You will notice in the above examples:

1. The subject (مبتدأ) is a broken plural of an object (non-human).
2. This type of broken plural is considered as *singular* and *feminine*. It is NOT considered as plural and feminine.
3. Hence, the predicate (خبر) is also *singular* and *feminine*.
4. The predicate (خبر) is NOT a plural.
5. Now note the following sentences where one group is “correct” and the other “incorrect”.

2	1
غَيْرُ الْعَاقِلِ	غَيْرُ الْعَاقِلِ
Incorrect ✘	Correct ✔
النُّجُومُ جَمِيلَاتٌ. ✘	النُّجُومُ جَمِيلَةٌ. The stars are beautiful.
السِّيَّارَاتُ جَدِيدَاتٌ. ✘	السِّيَّارَاتُ جَدِيدَةٌ. The cars are new.
الْبُيُوتُ كَبِيرَاتٌ. ✘	الْبُيُوتُ كَبِيرَةٌ. The houses are big.
الْأَقْلَامُ مَكْسُورَاتٌ. ✘	الْأَقْلَامُ مَكْسُورَةٌ. The pens are broken.

Conclusion:

<p>جَمْعُ غَيْرِ الْعَاقِلِ</p> <p>=</p> <p>وَاحِدٌ + مُؤَنَّثٌ</p>			
النُّجُومُ	الْبُيُوتُ	السِّيَّارَاتُ	الْأَقْلَامُ
<p>These are plurals of objects (non-humans) and considered as <u>Singular and Feminine</u>.</p> <p>They are <u>not</u> considered as Plural and Feminine.</p>			

Vocabulary 1

	Word	Meaning
1	نَجْم (نُجُوم)	Star
2	جَبَل (جِبَال)	Mountain
3	فَاكِهَة (فَوَاكِه)	Fruit
4	حَافِلَة (حَافِلَات)	Bus
5	جَامِعَة (جَامِعَات)	University
6	مَعْصِيَة (مَعَاصِي)	Sin
7	ذَنْب (ذُنُوب)	Sin
8	مَدْرَسَة (مَدَارِس)	School
9	شَاعِر (شُعْرَاء)	Poet
10	فَاسِق (فُسَّاق)	Sinner / Deviant
11	كَرِيم (كَرَام)	Noble / Generous
12	حَاج (حُجَّاج)	Pilgrim
13	مَاهِر	Expert / Skilful
14	مَعْصُوم	Infallible / Impeccable
15	أَلْيَابَان	Japan
16	عِلْمُ النَّحْوِ	Syntax
17	عِلْمُ الصَّرْفِ	Morphology
18	أَحْمَر (مُؤْنِث: حَمْرَاء)	Red
19	أَسْوَد (مُؤْنِث: سَوْدَاء)	Black
20	أَبْيَض (مُؤْنِث: بَيْضَاء)	White
21	عَسَل	Honey
22	سَعَادَة	Happiness
23	شَقَاوَة	Misfortune / Distress
24	صِدْق	Truth

Vocabulary 2

Breakfast فُطُور

Juices	عَصَائِر	1
Fruit juices	عَصَائِرُ الْفَوَاكِه	2
Brown toast	تُوسْتِ أَسْمَر	3
White toast	تُوسْتِ أَبْيَض	4
(It is) served with ...	يُقَدَّمُ مَعَ ... / تُقَدَّمُ مَعَ ...	5
Served with cheese	تُقَدَّمُ مَعَ الزُّبْدَةِ	6
Jam	مُرَّيْبِي	7
Honey	عَسَل	8
Cereals	حُبُوب	9
Milk	حَلِيب	10
Full fat milk	حَلِيب كَامِل الدَّسَم	11
Low fat milk	حَلِيب قَلِيل الدَّسَم	12
Skimmed milk	حَلِيب خَالِي الدَّسَم	13
Egg	بَيْض	14
Boiled egg	بَيْض مَسْلُوق	15
Served from 6am	يُقَدَّمُ مِنَ السَّاعَةِ السَّادِسَةِ	16
Add	أَضِفْ	17
Add on it...	أَضِفْ عَلَيْهَا	18
English Breakfast	الْفُطُور الْإِنْجِلِيزِي	19

Exercise 1

- Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word.
- Ensure you adhere to the rules of gender and number coordination.
- Do not forget to translate.
- The first two have been done for you.

English	Arabic	
The man is small.	الرَّجُلُ صَغِيرٌ .	1
The two men are small.	الرَّجُلَانِ صَغِيرَانِ .	عناقل
The men are small.	الرِّجَالُ صَغِيرُونَ .	
The pen is cheap.	الْقَلَمُ رَخِيصٌ .	2
The two pens are cheap.	الْقَلَمَانِ رَخِيصَانِ .	تغير العناقل
The pens are cheap.	الْقَلَامُ رَخِيصَةٌ .	
	الْبَيْتُ جَالِسَةٌ .	3
	الْبَيْتَانِ	عناقل
	الْبَيْتَاتُ	
	السَّيَّارَةُ مَفْتُوحَةٌ .	4
	السَّيَّارَتَانِ	تغير العناقل
	السَّيَّاراتُ	
	الْوَلَدُ نَائِمٌ .	5
	الْوَلَدَانِ	عناقل
	الْأَوْلَادُ	
	الْبَيْتُ قَدِيمٌ .	6
	الْبَيْتَانِ	تغير العناقل
	الْبَيْوتُ	

Exercise 2

- The first word in each sentence is a demonstrative pronoun².
- Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word. Do not forget to translate.
- Ensure you adhere to the rules of gender and number coordination.
- The first one has been done for you.

English	Arabic	
This is a teacher.	هَذَا مُدَرِّسٌ.	1
These are teachers (dual).	هَذَانِ مُدَرِّسَانِ.	عناقل
These are teachers.	هَؤُلَاءِ مُدَرِّسُونَ.	
This is a bus.	هَذِهِ حَافِلَةٌ.	2
These are buses (dual).	هَاتَانِ حَافِلَتَانِ.	غير العناقل
These are buses.	هَذِهِ حَافِلَاتٌ.	
	هَذِهِ بِنْتُ.	3
	..... بِنْتَانِ.	عناقل
	..... بَنَاتٌ.	
	هَذَا جِمَارٌ.	4
	..... جِمَارَانِ.	غير العناقل
	..... حُمُرٌ.	
	تِلْكَ امْرَأَةٌ.	5
	..... امْرَأَتَانِ.	عناقل
	..... نِسَاءً.	
	ذَلِكَ طَيْرٌ.	6
	..... طَيْرَانِ.	غير العناقل
	..... طَيْرٌ.	

² Revisit demonstrative pronouns before starting this exercise.

Exercise 3

- The first word in each sentence is a personal pronoun³.
- Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word. Do not forget to translate.
- Ensure you adhere to the rules of gender and number coordination.
- The first one has been done for you.

English	Arabic	
He is an engineer.	هُوَ مُهَنْدِسٌ .	1
They are engineers (dual).	هُمَا مُهَنْدِسَانِ .	عناقل
They are engineers.	هُمْ مُهَنْدِسُونَ .	
It is a star.	هُوَ نَجْمٌ .	2
They are stars (dual).	هُمَا نَجْمَانِ .	غير المناقل
They are stars.	هِيَ نُجُومٌ .	
	هُوَ جَالِسٌ .	3
	..... جَالِسَانِ .	عناقل
	..... جَالِسُونَ .	
	هِيَ شَجَرَةٌ .	4
	..... شَجَرَتَانِ .	غير المناقل
	..... أَشْجَارٌ .	
	هِيَ قَائِمَةٌ .	5
	..... هُمَا	عناقل
	..... قَائِمَاتٌ .	
	هُوَ نَهْرٌ .	6
	..... نَهْرَانِ .	غير المناقل
	..... أَنْهَارٌ .	

³ Revisit personal pronouns before starting this exercise.

Exercise 4

- The following are adjectival compounds; thus they are incomplete sentences.
- For ease, the nominative case has been used.
- Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word. Do not forget to translate.
- Ensure you adhere to the rules of gender and number coordination.

English	Arabic	
The hardworking student	الطَّالِبُ الْمُجْتَهِدُ	1
The hardworking students (dual)	الطَّالِبَانِ الْمُجْتَهِدَانِ	عناقل
The hardworking students	الطُّلَّابِ الْمُجْتَهِدُونَ	
The beautiful mountain	الْجَبَلُ الْجَمِيلُ	2
The beautiful mountains (dual)	الْجَبَلَانِ الْجَمِيلَانِ	تغيير العناقل
The beautiful mountains	الْجِبَالِ الْجَمِيلَةُ	
	الْبَيْتُ الذَّاكِرَةُ	3
	..... الذَّاكِرَتَانِ	عناقل
	..... الْبِنَاتُ	
	الْقَصْرُ الْقَدِيمُ	4
	..... الْقَصْرَانِ	تغيير العناقل
	..... الْقُصُورُ	
	الْأَخُ الْكَرِيمُ	5
	..... الْأَخْوَانِ	عناقل
	..... الْإِخْوَانُ	
	الْقِطُّ الْجَائِعُ	6
	..... الْقِطَّانِ	تغيير العناقل
	..... الْقِطَطُ	

Exercise 5 - Revision

Remember:

2	1
هَذَا الرَّجُلُ <i>This man.....</i>	هَذَا رَجُلٌ. <i>This is a man.</i>
Incomplete sentence.	Complete sentence.

Ensure you clearly determine both subject and predicate.

English	Arabic	
	هَذِهِ حَافِلَةٌ .	1
	هَذِهِ الْحَافِلَةُ جَدِيدَةٌ .	2
	هَذِهِ حَافِلَاتٌ .	3
	هَذِهِ حَافِلَاتٌ جَدِيدَةٌ .	4
	هَذِهِ الْحَافِلَاتُ جَدِيدَةٌ .	5
	هَذِهِ سَيَّارَاتٌ .	7
	هَذِهِ سَيَّارَاتٌ جَمِيلَةٌ .	8
	هَذِهِ السَّيَّارَاتُ جَمِيلَةٌ .	9
	هَذِهِ السَّيَّارَاتُ الْجَمِيلَةُ لِلتَّاجِرِ الْكَبِيرِ .	10
	هَؤُلَاءِ مُدَرِّسُونَ .	11
	هَؤُلَاءِ الْمُدَرِّسُونَ الْمَاهِرُونَ مِنَ الْيَابَانِ .	12
	إِنَّ الْمَدَارِسَ الْكَبِيرَةَ بَعِيدَةٌ .	13
	كَانَتِ الْبُيُوتُ الْكَبِيرَةُ قَدِيمَةً .	14
	مَا كَسَرَ الطَّالِبُ الشَّرِيْرُ الْأَقْلَامَ الثَّمِينَةَ .	15
	جَلَسْنَا فِي طَائِرَاتٍ سَرِيعَةٍ أَمْسَ .	16
	يُصْنَعُ عَصِيْرُ الْبُرْتُقَالِ فِي هَذَا الْمَصْنَعِ .	17
	هَذَا الْمَصْنَعُ خَلْفَ الْمَدَارِسِ وَالْمَطَاعِمِ .	18

Exercise 6 - Revision

As relevant, change the sentences to dual / plural and vice versa.

English	Arabic	
	إِنَّ الْمُعَلِّمِينَ مَاهِرُونَ.	1
	إِنَّ الْمُعَلِّمَاتِ مَاهِرَاتٌ.	2
	إِنَّ الْمُهَنْدِسَاتِ غَائِبَاتٌ.	3
	الْأَنْبِيَاءُ مَعْصُومُونَ.	4
	إِنَّ الْحُجَّاجَ نَائِمُونَ.	5
	إِنَّ الْأَوْلَادَ النَّائِمِينَ طُلَّابٌ فِي الْمَدْرَسَةِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ.	7
	كَانَتِ النِّسَاءُ نَائِمَاتٍ.	8
	الْأَشْجَاءُ طَوِيلَةٌ.	9
	الْأَشْجَاءُ الطَّوِيلَةُ خَلْفَ حَدِيقَةِ مَحْمُودٍ.	10
	سَافَرَتِ الْمُعَلِّمَاتُ الْجَدِيدَاتُ إِلَى الْبُيُوتِ الْجَدِيدَةِ قَبْلَ شَهْرَيْنِ.	11
	سَافَرَ الْخَيَّاطَانِ الْمَرِيضَانِ مِنَ الْيَابَانِ لِلْعِلَاجِ.	12
	دَرَسُوا عِلْمَ النَّحْوِ وَعِلْمَ الصَّرْفِ زَمَنًا طَوِيلًا.	13
	يُدْرَسُ عِلْمُ النَّحْوِ وَعِلْمُ الصَّرْفِ فِي الْجَامِعَةِ.	14
	يَسْكُنُونَ أَمَامَ الْبَحْرِ الْأَحْمَرِ وَيَرَوْنَ مَنَظَرًا جَمِيلًا كُلَّ يَوْمٍ.	15
	السِّيَارَةُ السُّودَاءُ لِلطَّيِّبِ.	16
	الْبَيْتُ الْأَبْيَضُ فِي أَمْرِيكَأ.	17

Exercise 7 – Using Modern Vocabulary

The aim of these sentences is to use modern vocabulary and be able to construct similar sentences in order to hold a basic conversation.

English	Arabic	
	أُرِيدُ أَطْبَاقَ اللَّحْمِ.	1
	أَيْنَ السَّلَطَاتِ؟	2
	خَلَفَ الْمُقْبِلَاتِ.	3
	يُرِيدُ الْحُبُوبَ مَعَ الْحَلِيبِ صَبَاحًا.	4
	دُكَّانَ الْحَلَوِيَّاتِ مُقَابِلَ الْفُنْدُقِ.	5
	نُفَضِّلُ عُرْفَةَ عَلِي الطَّابِقِ الْأَوَّلِ.	6
	الْمَلْعَقَةُ فِي الْإِبْرِيْقِ.	7
	لَا نَلْبَسُ سِرْوَالًا قَصِيرًا فِي الصَّلَاةِ.	8
	شَرِبْنَا عَصَائِرَ الْفَوَاكِهِ صَبَاحًا.	9
	نُفَضِّلُ الْفُطُورَ الْإِنْجَلِيزِيَّ.	10
	ذَهَبْتُ صَبَاحًا إِلَى دُكَّانِ الْمَلَابِسِ.	11
	يُرِيدُ الطَّيِّبَ عُرْفَةَ فَرْدِيَّةَ مَعَ حَمَامٍ فَرْدِيَّ.	12
	الْعُرْفُ الْخَالِيَةُ عَلَي الطَّابِقِ الثَّلَاثِ فَقَطْ.	13
	هَذَا الْآنَ نَاسٌ وَذَلِكَ الْمَانُجُو مِنَ الْهِنْدِ.	14
	أَكَلْنَا الدَّجَاجَ بِاللَّيْمُونِ ثُمَّ شَرَبْنَا الْمَشْرُوبَاتِ الْعَازِيَةَ.	15

Exercise 8 – Using Modern Vocabulary

The aim of these sentences is to use modern vocabulary and be able to construct similar sentences in order to hold a basic conversation.

Where are the empty rooms?	1
On the fourth floor.	2
The desserts are delicious.	3
We would like two juices.	4
This is very expensive!	5
Bag, please!	6
The guests are from France.	7
I prefer a seperate bathroom.	8
I do not like this hotel.	9

Exercise 8 (Cont.)

Where is the changing room?	10
Opposite the elevator.	11
These hotels are big.	12
We ate smoked salmon.	13
He would like vegetables.	14
Do you have seasonal fruit?	15
I would like that pomegranate.	16
She had (ate) a light snack in the evening.	17

Questions

Answer the following questions:

1	What do مضات and موصوت have in common?	
2	What will a sound feminine plural never contain?	
3	How can you create emphasis in a nominal sentence?	
4	How can you create emphasis in a past tense verb?	
5	Explain why is Tanween and the “definite article” two opposites?	
6	Can a verb contain the round ة?	
7	Name two physical signs by of a word being a noun.	
8	Which plural is considered as “singular and feminine”?	
9	What does the term جمع العاقل refer to?	
10	Which word is the opposite of مُكسّر?	

Answer true or false:

	Question	True	False
1	Adverbs are in the accusative case.		
2	Adverbs show the time or place of an action.		
3	The possessive compound is not a complete sentence.		
4	The adjectival compound is always an incomplete sentence.		
5	All adverbs are used as possessive compounds.		
6	The صفة is always in the nominative case.		
7	Only two things are in the genitive case.		
8	Verbal sentences sometimes begin with a noun.		
9	There are 17 prepositions in total.		
10	A noun sometimes contains tense.		
11	A verb will never contain Tanween.		

Look at the example then change the missing verb to active or passive.

مجهول	معروف
خُلِقَ	خَلَقَ
	شَرِبَ
كُسِرَ	(ض)
	يَسْجُدُ
لَا يُسْأَلُ	(ف)

Give an example of each of the following:

5	4	3	2	1
الْجَمْعُ الْمَكْسَرُ (عَيْزُ الْعَاوِلِ)	الْجَمْعُ السَّالِمُ (عَاوِلِ)	الْجَمْعُ الْمَكْسَرُ (عَاوِلِ)	جَمْعُ الْمُؤَنَّثِ السَّالِمِ	جَمْعُ الْمُذَكَّرِ السَّالِمِ

Give an example of each of the following and write down the respective plural:

Plural	Meaning	Type of word	
		إِسْم	1
		فِعْل	2
		حَرْف	3

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