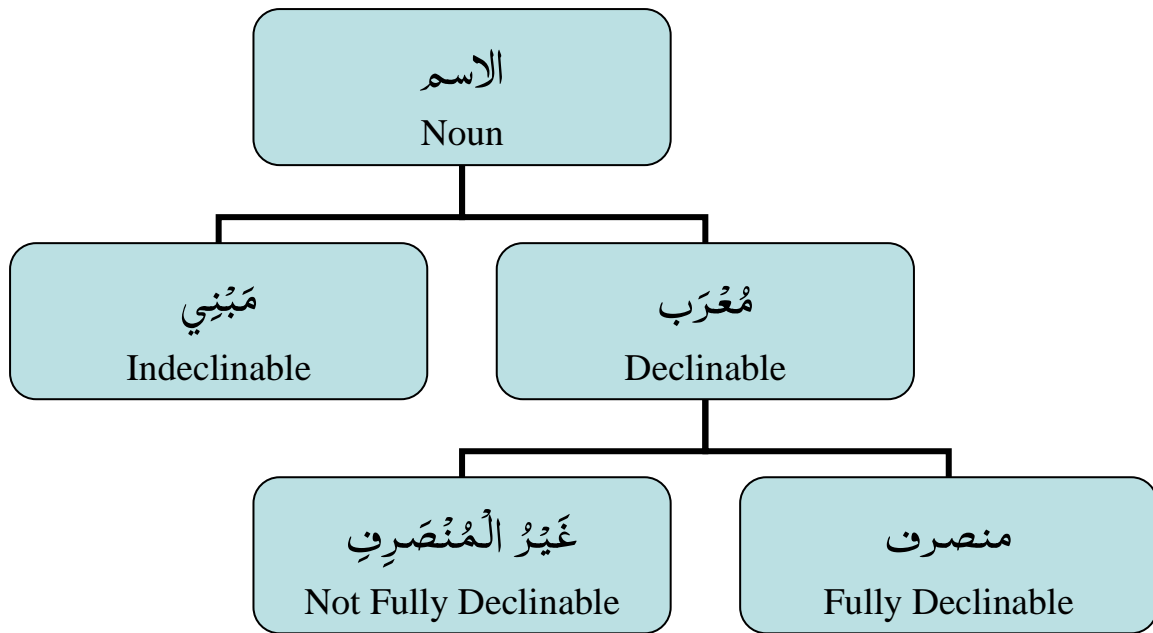




## Diptotes (Nouns that do not fully decline)

غَيْرُ الْمُنْصَرِفِ (الْمَمْنُوعُ مِنَ الصَّرْفِ)

Look at the following overview of nouns in terms of their declension:



We have already looked at:

مُعْرَب	Declinable Nouns	1
مَبْنِي	Indeclinable Nouns	2

1. The nouns we have looked at so far are all fully declinable.
2. This means they accept Tanween and all Harakaat:
  - a) Fatha – to represent the accusative case.
  - b) Dhamma – to represent the nominative case.
  - c) Kasra – to represent the genitive case.

3. Examples of fully declinable nouns:

3	2	1
حَالَةُ الْجَرِّ Genitive Case	حَالَةُ النَّصْبِ Accusative Case	حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ Nominative Case
أَلْقَلَمُ لِزَيْدٍ .	رَأَيْتُ زَيْدًا .	زَيْدٌ جَالِسٌ .

In the above examples, the noun زَيْدٌ is a *fully declinable noun*, as it accepts all three Harakaat.

4. “Not fully declinable nouns” are known as غَيْرُ الْمُنْصَرِفِ (diptote).

5. A غَيْرُ الْمُنْصَرِفِ will not contain/accept two things:

تَنْوِين	1
كَسْرَةٌ	2

6. The Kasra is replaced by a (single) Fatha.

7. Carefully look at these examples:

3	2	1
حَالَةُ الْجَرِّ Genitive Case	حَالَةُ النَّصْبِ Accusative Case	حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ Nominative Case
أَلْمِفْتَاحُ لِعَائِشَةَ .	رَأَيْتُ عَائِشَةَ .	عَائِشَةٌ جَالِسَةٌ .

8. The genitive case in a غَيْرُ الْمُنْصَرِفِ noun is represented by a (single) Fatha.

9. The next section looks at how to recognise a “not fully declinable” (diptote) noun.

## Which nouns are Diptotes?

- As this is an absolute beginner's level, we are not going to cover the specific rules that govern if a word is **غَيْرُ الْمُنْصَرِفِ** or not.
- Rather we will look at *some types of words* that are usually **غَيْرُ الْمُنْصَرِفِ**.
- The following is not an exhaustive list; however, at this stage it is sufficient.
- This first set of words is names of people.

Example	Type of noun	
<p>فَاطِمَةُ أَمْنَةُ عَائِشَةُ جُوَيْرِيَّةُ</p> <p>زَيْنَبُ مَرْيَمُ</p> <p>رُقَيْيَّةُ خَدِيجَةُ صَفِيَّةُ</p>	<p>Almost <b>all feminine names</b> are diptotes.</p>	1
<p>صَالِحَةُ عَارِفَةُ نَاصِرَةُ عَابِدَةُ</p> <p>شَاكِرَةُ سَاجِدَةُ عَاقِلَةُ</p>	<p>All <b>adjectives that are used as a feminine name</b> are also diptotes.</p> <p>They will <u>not</u> be a diptote when used as an adjective</p>	2
<p>أَحْمَدُ أَشْرَفُ أَنْوَرُ أَيْمَنُ أَكْرَمُ</p> <p>يَزِيدُ يَحْيَى تَغْلِبُ</p>	<p>Names on the <b>pattern of a verb</b>.</p>	3
<p>حَمْزَةُ أُسَامَةُ حُدَيْفَةُ</p> <p>مُعَاوِيَةُ وَائِلَةُ حَنْظَلَةُ</p> <p>طَلْحَةُ</p>	<p><b>Masculine names</b> ending in <b>ة</b>.</p> <p>Note: Despite containing the <b>ة</b> these nouns are not classified as feminine.</p>	4
<p>لُقْمَانُ عِمْرَانُ هَامَانَ مَرْوَانَ صَفْوَانَ</p> <p>سُفْيَانَ سَلْمَانَ نُعْمَانَ حَمْدَانَ</p> <p>رَمَضَانَ شَعْبَانَ</p>	<p>Most names (of people and months) ending in <b>ان</b>.</p>	5
<p>إِبْرَاهِيمُ إِسْحَاقُ إِسْمَاعِيلُ</p> <p>يُوسُفُ يَعْقُوبُ إِسْرَائِيلُ أَيُّوبُ</p>	<p>Most masculine <b>non-Arabic</b> names are diptotes.</p> <p>These names are largely Hebrew.</p>	6
<p>مُحَمَّدُ صَالِحُ شُعَيْبُ</p> <p>هُودُ نُوحُ لُوطُ</p>	<p>The names of all prophets except the six mentioned here are diptotes.</p>	7

This second set of words are nouns that are not the names of people.

Example	Type of noun	
دِمَشْقُ حِمصِ بَارِيسِ لِنَدَنِ يَثْرِبِ بَعْدَادِ	Names of <b>most places</b> are also diptotes.	8
أَسْوَدُ أَبْيَضِ أَحْمَرُ أَخْضَرِ	All <b>colours on the verb pattern</b> are diptotes.	9
مَسَاجِدُ مَدَارِسُ مَكَاتِبُ مَتَاحِفُ فَوَاكِهُ فَنَائِقُ أَمَاكِنُ حَدَائِقُ دَرَاهِمُ قَبَائِلُ مَفَاتِيحُ أَبَابِيحُ دَوَابُّ مَصَابِيحُ	Plurals that are made up as follows: a) An الف of plurality. b) Followed by a مكسور letter(s). c) Followed by a final letter.	10
سَكْرَانُ عَطْشَانُ جَوْعَانُ شَبْعَانُ غَضْبَانُ فَرْحَانُ ظَمَّانُ يَقْظَانُ رَيَّانُ حَيْرَانُ	<b>Adjectives with (an extra) ان at the end<sup>1</sup>.</b>  “Extra” here means: Not part of the root letters.	11
بَعْلَبَكِّ حَضْرَمَوْتِ <sup>2</sup> كُوَالْمَبُورِ نُيُورِكِ	Names of places that are a combination of two words.  This combination <sup>3</sup> of two words is known as: الْتَرْكِيْبُ الْمَرْجِيْ / الْمَرْكَبُ الْمَرْجِيْ	12
أَكْبَرُ <sup>4</sup> أَحْسَنُ أَصْغَرُ أَسْرَعُ أَحْسَنُ أَقْوَى أَحْلَى	Those nouns <sup>5</sup> (صفة) that are on the <b>pattern of أَفْعَلُ</b> .	13

<sup>1</sup> With the condition that their feminine form is NOT on the pattern of فَعْلَانَةٌ. Rather, the feminine must be on the pattern of فَعْلَانِيَّةٌ .

<sup>2</sup> Names of cities in Lebanon and Yemen respectively.

<sup>3</sup> Two words joint together in a manner where they are regarded as “one word”. This joining of two words is not in the same manner as a possessive compound, i.e. the meaning of “possession and ownership” is NOT present in this compound.

<sup>4</sup> Bigger, greater, more beautiful, smaller, faster (swifter), Nicer (better), stronger, sweeter.

<sup>5</sup> These nouns are known as إِسْمُ التَّضْيِيْلِ (The Elative). This noun is used to refer the quality or attribute of the root letters to a **greater extent** in a person or a thing. It is used as a *comparative* and *superlative* adjective.

# Notes

## Note 1:

الْقَلَمُ لِعَائِشَةَ .

- Although the word عَائِشَةَ will not physically contain the Kasra, the word عَائِشَةَ is still in the genitive case.
- In the above example, the word عَائِشَةَ is **not** in the accusative case, it is in the genitive case. It is very important to understand and appreciate this.

## Note 2:

خَرَجْتُ مِنَ الْمَسَاجِدِ وَ دَخَلْتُ فِي مَدَارِسِ الْبَلَدِ .

- Diptotes will accept the Kasra when definite or مُضَمَّاتٍ .
- In the above example carefully note the words الْمَسَاجِدِ and مَدَارِسِ .

## Note 3:

If a plural has a round 3 attached at the end, then it will be مُنْصَرِفٌ (fully declinable).

Examples:

أَسَاتِذَةٌ

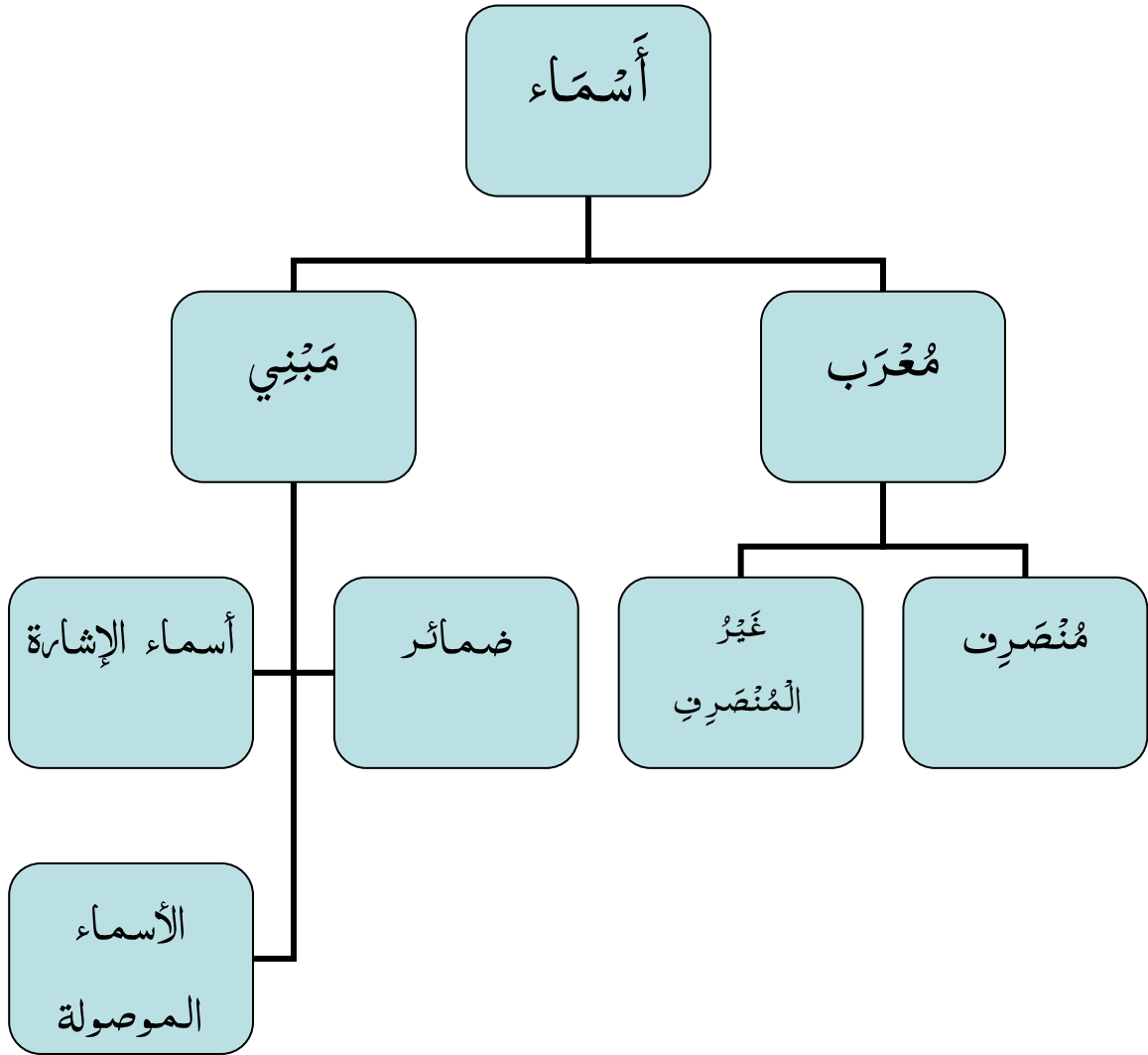
تَلَامِيذَةٌ

حَنَابِلَةٌ

## Note 4:

The more familiarity you create with Arabic, certain things become “easy” to identify. One example are nouns that are “not fully declinable”, the greater the exposure, the easier they are to identify.

# Overview



## Terminology

Write down the English equivalent of the following:

English	Arabic	
	مُعْرَبٌ	1
	مَبْنِيٌّ	2
	ص ر ت	3
	مُنْصَرِفٌ	4
	غَيْرُ الْمُنْصَرِفِ	5
	الْمَمْنُوعُ مِنَ الصَّرْفِ	6

## Vocabulary (1)

Write down the singular of these nouns.

Singular		Word	Meaning
1		مَسَاجِد	Masjids
2		مَدَارِس	Schools
3		مَكَاتِب	Offices / Libraries
4		مَتَاحِف	Museums
5		فَوَاكِه	Fruits
6		فَنَاقِق	Hotels
7		أَمَاكِن	Places
8		حَدَائِق	Gardens
9		دِرَاهِم	Dirhams (silver coins)
10		دِنَانِير	Dinars (gold coins)
11		قَبَائِل	Tribes
12		مَفَاتِيح	Keys
13		أَبَائِل	Birds
14		دَوَاب	Animals
15		مَصَابِيح	Lamps
16		قَوَانِين	Rules / Laws
17		شَيَاطِين	Satans / Devils
18		مَسَاكِين	Poor
19		فَنَاجِيْن	Cups / Teacups
20		مَدَائِن	Cities
21		بَسَاتِين	Gardens

## Vocabulary (2)

	Word	Meaning
1	سَكْرَان	Intoxicated / Drunk
2	عَطْشَان	Thirsty
3	جَوْعَان	Hungry
4	شَبْعَان	Full / Satisfied
5	عَضْبَان	Angry
6	فَرْحَان	Happy
7	ظَمَّان	Thirsty
8	وَلَهَّان	Confused / Puzzled
9	يَقْظَان	Awake
10	رَيَّان	Sated / Full (with water)
11	حَيْرَان	Confused / Puzzled

	Singular	Word	Meaning
12		مَلَايِين	Millions
13		مَنَادِيْل	Handkerchiefs
14		قَنَادِيْل	Lamps
15		صَوَارِيْخ	Rockets / Missiles



## Vocabulary (3)

### Different foods (fish, chicken, and burgers)

Fish	سَمَك	1
Salmon	سَالْمُون	2
Smoked	مُذَخَّن	3
Smoked salmon	سَالْمُونُ مُذَخَّن	4
Lobster	سَرَطَانُ الْبَحْرِ	5
Prawns	رُؤْبِيَان	6
Chicken	دَجَاج	7
Lemon Chicken	دَجَاجٌ بِاللَّيْمُون	8
Chicken Biryani	بِرْيَانِي الدَّجَاج	9
Fried Chicken	دَجَاجٌ مَقْلِي	10
Roast Chicken	دَجَاجٌ مُحَمَّر	11
Burger	بُرْجَر	12
Fish Burger	بُرْجَرٌ سَمَك	13
Chicken Burger	بُرْجَرٌ دَجَاج	14
Beef Burger	بُرْجَرٌ لَحْم	15
Lamb burger.	بُرْجَرٌ لَحْمُ الضَّأْن	16
Grilled Lamb Burger	بُرْجَرٌ لَحْمُ الضَّأْنِ الْمَشْوِي	17

## Colours & Defects

Examples of colours (note the respective patterns):

**Important:** Only the singular masculine and singular feminine forms of colours and defects are diptotes.

مُنْصَرِفٌ	غَيْرُ الْمُنْصَرِفِ				
Plural	Singular Feminine	Singular Masculine	Colour		
سُودٌ	سَوْدَاءٌ	أَسْوَدٌ	Black	ألوان (واحد: لون) ألوان	1
بَيْضٌ	بَيْضَاءٌ	أَبْيَضٌ	White		2
حُمْرٌ	حَمْرَاءٌ	أَحْمَرٌ	Red		3
صُفْرٌ	صَفْرَاءٌ	أَصْفَرٌ	Yellow		4
خُضْرٌ	خَضْرَاءٌ	أَخْضَرٌ	Green		5
زُرْقٌ	زَرْقَاءٌ	أَزْرَقٌ	Blue		6

Examples of defects (again note the respective patterns):

مُنْصَرِفٌ	غَيْرُ الْمُنْصَرِفِ				
Plural	Singular Feminine	Singular Masculine	Defect		
عُرْجٌ	عَرْجَاءٌ	أَعْرَجٌ	Lame	عيوب (واحد: عيب) عيوب	1
عُورٌ	عَوْرَاءٌ	أَعْوَرٌ	One-eyed		2
بُكْمٌ	بَكْمَاءٌ	أَبْكَمٌ	Dumb		3
خُرْسٌ	خَرْسَاءٌ	أَخْرَسٌ	Dumb		4
حَوْلٌ	حَوْلَاءٌ	أَحْوَلٌ	Cross-eyed		5
صَمٌّ	صَمَاءٌ	أَصَمٌّ	Deaf		6
عَمِيٌّ	عَمِيَاءٌ	أَعْمَى	Blind		7

## Exercise 1

- Ensure you pay special attention to all diptotes.
- Do not forget to analyse the sentence.

English	Arabic	
	أَمِنَةٌ جَالِسَةٌ .	1
	أَكَلْتُ أَمِنَةً .	2
	ذَهَبْتُ عَائِشَةَ وَزَيْنَبَ إِلَى السُّوقِ .	3
	إِنَّ زَيْنَبَ قَائِمَةٌ .	4
	كَانَتْ مَرِيْمُ طَالِبَةً .	5
	ذَهَبْتُ عَائِشَةَ إِلَى بَيْتِ زَيْدٍ .	6
	ذَهَبْتُ عَائِشَةَ إِلَى بَيْتِ مَرِيْمَ .	7
	مَا دَخَلَ يُوسُفُ وَ سَعِيدٌ .	8
	ذَهَبُوا إِلَى لَنْدَنْ صَبَاحًا .	9
	رَجَعْنَا مِنْ مَكَّةَ أَمْسَ .	10
	بَيْتُ اللَّهِ فِي مَكَّةَ .	11
	أَنَا مِنْ بَاكِسْتَانِ .	12
	هُوَ مِنْ بَغْدَادَ وَ نَحْنُ مِنَ الصَّيْنِ .	13
	إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيْمَ مِنْ مِصْرَ .	14
	نَحْنُ مِنْ حَضْرَمَوْتِ .	15
	هَذِهِ الْحَقِيبَةُ لِعُثْمَانَ .	16
	تَذَهَبُ صَفِيَّةٌ إِلَى بَارِيْسَ ثُمَّ إِلَى لَنْدَنْ .	17
	إِنَّ جَعْفَرًا مِنْ مِصْرَ وَ هُوَ طَبِيْبٌ مَاهِرٌ .	18

## Exercise 2

- Ensure you pay special attention to all diptotes.
- Do not forget to analyse the sentence.

English	Arabic	
	حَمْرَةٌ مِنَ الْهِنْدِ وَ صَالِحٌ مِنَ الْهِنْدِ .	1
	سَأَدُّهُبُ إِلَى بَغْدَادَ .	2
	أَمِنَةٌ وَ صَفِيَّةٌ مِنْ دِمَشْقٍ وَ زَيْدٌ مِنْ لُبْنَانَ .	3
	أَنَا مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ الْمُنَوَّرَةِ وَ هُوَ مِنْ مَكَّةَ .	4
	طَبَخَ يُوسُفُ فِي مَطْبَخِ خَدِيجَةَ .	5
	طَبَخَ مُحَمَّدٌ فِي مَطْبَخِ بِلَالٍ .	6
	طَبَخَ حَامِدٌ وَ خَالِدٌ وَ زَيْدٌ .	7
	يَعْبُدُ إِسْمَاعِيلُ اللَّهَ .	8
	يَعْبُدُ عَادِلٌ اللَّهَ .	9
	مَاعَبَدَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ الصَّنَمَ .	10
	إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَى قَوْمِهِ .	11
	سَافَرُوا مِنْ مَطَارِ بَارِيسَ إِلَى دِمَشْقَ .	12
	بَغْدَادُ مَدِينَةٌ وَ هِيَ كَبِيرَةٌ .	13
	رَأَيْنَا يَعْقُوبَ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ وَ خَالِدًا فِي السُّوقِ .	14
	هَذَا بَيْتُ مُحَمَّدٍ وَ ذَلِكَ بَيْتُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ .	15
	كَانَ فِرْعَوْنُ ظَالِمًا وَ كَانَ هَامَانُ وَ زَيْرَةُ .	16

## Exercise 3

- Ensure you pay special attention to all diptotes.
- Revise and recap rules regarding “plurals of objects”.
- Do not forget to analyse the sentence.

English	Arabic	
	زَارَ طَاهِرٌ مَسَاجِدَ كَثِيرَةً.	1
	زَارَ طَاهِرٌ الْمَسَاجِدَ.	2
	ذَهَبْتُ إِلَى مَدَارِسَ كَبِيرَةٍ.	3
	ذَهَبْتُ إِلَى الْمَدَارِسِ الْكَبِيرَةِ.	4
	ذَهَبْتُ إِلَى مَدَارِسِ الْهِنْدِ.	5
	بَاعَتْ بِنْتُ الْبَقَالِ فَوَاكِهَ كَثِيرَةً.	6
	بِعَتْ الْفَوَاكِهَ.	7
	مَا شَرِبْتُ مِنَ الْفَنَاجِينِ الذَّهَبِيَّةِ.	8
	زُرْنَا أَمَاكِنَ كَثِيرَةً فِي مَكَّةَ.	9
	زُرْنَا الْأَمَاكِنَ الْكَثِيرَةَ فِي مَكَّةَ.	10
	زَامُوا مَدَائِنَ.	11
	مَا دَخَلُوا فِي الْمَدَائِنِ.	12
	خَرَجُوا مِنْ مَدَائِنَ.	13
	عَادَ الضُّيُوفُ مِنَ الْفَنَازِقِ.	14
	الْفَنَازِقُ بَعِيدَةٌ وَالْمَتَّاحِفُ قَرِيبَةٌ.	15
	عُثْمَانُ وَ مُحَمَّدٌ فِي السُّوقِ.	16
	الْوَلَدُ الصَّالِحُ لَا يَشْرَبُ مِنْ فَنَاجِينِ ذَهَبِيَّةٍ.	17

## Exercise 4 – 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	
I would like a burger please.		1
We would like a fish burger.		2
The chicken and fish are delicious.		3
We ate beef burger(s).		4
These prawns are from China.		5
She would like the tasty chicken.		6
How much is the beef burger?		7
How much are the drinks?		8
How much is the hot chocolate?		9
We would like a light snack please.		10
Burger with French fries please.		11
How much are the juices?		12
Very expensive!		13

Updated: 16.04.2023