



الْمُبْتَدَأُ وَالْخَبَرُ

Subject & Predicate

1. We will learn how to create a “simple” sentence in Arabic.
2. Before we do this, we will look at this in English.
3. It is important to understand everything in English before looking at the Arabic equivalent.

A simple sentence in English:

Example:

The house is new¹.

Let us now analyse this sentence:

1. This is a complete sentence.
2. This sentence starts with a noun. Do you know what a noun is?
3. Both parts of this sentence contain a noun (the second word is also an adjective).
4. The first noun is called the SUBJECT.
5. The second part is called the PREDICATE².

| The boy is ill. | |
|---|---|
| The boy = Subject | Ill = Predicate |
| Subject: <i>The person or thing about whom the statement is made.</i> | Predicate: <i>This part of the sentence tells you something about the first part.</i> <i>The statement (information/news) regarding the subject.</i> |

¹ “The new house” is NOT a complete sentence, rather it is part of a sentence.

² The predicate in Arabic can be a noun, verb and a number of other things. The subject will always be a noun.

Vocabulary Bank

Before looking at the above in Arabic, it is important to learn some words in Arabic. This will help when constructing sentences in Arabic.

Memorise the following words (nouns):

| Nouns | | | Adjectives ³ | | |
|-------|------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| 1 | بَيْت | House | 20 | كَبِير | Big |
| 2 | بَاب | Door | 21 | جَدِيد | New |
| 3 | كِتَاب | Book | 22 | جَمِيل | Beautiful |
| 4 | قَلَم | Pen | 23 | طَوِيل | Tall |
| 5 | وَرَق | Paper | 24 | قَوِي | Strong |
| 6 | مِسْطَر | Ruler | 25 | مَسْرُور | Happy |
| 7 | وَلَد | Boy | 26 | نَظِيف | Clean |
| 8 | مُدَرِّس | Teacher | 27 | وَسِخ | Dirty |
| 9 | إِمَام | Imam | 28 | قَائِم | Standing |
| 10 | مِنْدِيل | Handkerchief | 29 | جَالِس | Sitting |
| 11 | مُهَنْدِس | Engineer | 30 | مَرِيض | Ill |
| 12 | عَالِم | Scholar | 31 | نَائِم | Sleeping |
| 13 | بُرْتُقَال | Orange (fruit) | 32 | ذَكِي | Clever |
| 14 | مَوْز | Banana | 33 | لَذِيذ | Delicious |
| 15 | خَبَر | News | 34 | صَادِق | Truthful/True |
| 16 | كُرْسِي | Chair | 35 | مَكْسُور | Broken |
| 17 | طَالِب | Student | 36 | مَفْتُوح | Open |
| 18 | مَدْرَسَة | School | 37 | خَفِيف | Light (in weight) |
| 19 | مَسْجِد | Mosque | 38 | ثَمِين | Expensive |

³ Adjectives are “describing” words. Many times, the predicate is an adjective.

Some basics

The definite article

| Without the definite article | With the definite article |
|------------------------------|--|
| بَيْت House | أَلْ + بَيْت = أَلْبَيْت <i>The house</i> |
| بَاب Door | أَلْ + بَاب = أَلْبَاب <i>The door</i> |
| قَلَم Pen | أَلْ + قَلَم = أَلْقَلَم <i>The pen</i> |
| وَلَد Boy | أَلْ + وَلَد = أَلْوَلَد <i>The boy</i> |

The Definite Article & Tanween

Rules:

Always ***understand*** the grammar rule and then memorise it.

1. Only a noun can contain the definite article. Verbs will NEVER contain the definite article.
2. Only a noun can have a Tanween. Verbs will NEVER contain a Tanween.
3. Thus, the definite article and Tanween are SIGNS of a noun. Any word that has the definite article or a Tanween will ALWAYS be a noun.
4. The definite article and Tanween can never be together in a noun at the same time. Look at the following examples:

| 1 Correct ☑ | 2 Incorrect ☒ |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| أَلْبَيْتُ | أَلْبَيْتٌ |
| أَلْوَلَدُ | أَلْوَلَدٌ |
| أَلْوَرَقُ | أَلْوَرَقٌ |

A simple sentence in Arabic

The house is new.

الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ .

- The question is, what Harakah will go on the last letter?
- There is a total of nine probabilities!

| 2 Predicate | 1 Subject |
|----------------|--------------|
| جَدِيدٌ | الْبَيْتُ |
| جَدِيدًا | |
| جَدِيدِ | |
| جَدِيدٌ | الْبَيْتِ |
| جَدِيدًا | |
| جَدِيدِ | |
| جَدِيدٌ | الْبَيْتِ |
| جَدِيدًا | |
| جَدِيدِ | |

The correct sentence is:

الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ .

Notes:

1. At this stage you simply need to understand that the subject will ALWAYS contain a Dhamma.
2. The predicate will also ALWAYS contain a Dhamma, but with a Tanween.
3. Note the following:

| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| الْبَيْتُ الْجَدِيدُ . | الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ . | الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدُ . | الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ . |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Task: Understand and explain the reason why numbers 2, 3 and 4 are incorrect.

Arabic Terminology

You must learn all technical terms in both English and Arabic and be able to confidently refer to them in either language.

Note the following:

| 2 | 1 |
|-----------|------------|
| مَرِيضٌ | الْوَلَدُ |
| Predicate | Subject |
| خَبَرٌ | مُبْتَدَأٌ |

As this sentence starts with a noun, it is called a Nominal Sentence.

| |
|----------------------------|
| الْمَوْزُ لَزِيدٌ . |
| Nominal Sentence |
| الْجُمْلَةُ الْإِسْمِيَّةُ |

| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|-------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| إِسْمِيَّةٌ | جُمْلَةٌ | فِعْلٌ ⁴ | إِسْمٌ ⁵ |
| Nominal | Sentence | Verb | Noun |

| 6 | 5 |
|-----------|------------------------|
| أَفْعَالٌ | أَسْمَاءٌ ⁶ |
| Verbs | Nouns |

⁴ Literally also means “action”.

⁵ Literally also means “name”.

⁶ Literally also means “names” (وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى).

Exercise 1

Translate the following⁷:

| Translation | Sentence | |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| | الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ. | 1 |
| | الْوَلَدُ ذَكِيٌّ. | 2 |
| | الرَّجُلُ مَسْرُورٌ. | 3 |
| | الْبَيْتُ مَفْتُوحٌ. | 4 |
| | الْبُرْتُقَالُ لَذِيذٌ. | 5 |
| | الْقَلَمُ مَكْسُورٌ. | 6 |

Now construct five sentences (different from the above) using the vocabulary bank. If you cannot write Arabic, then commit them to memory.

| Translation | Sentence | |
|-------------|----------|---|
| | | 1 |
| | | 2 |
| | | 3 |
| | | 4 |
| | | 5 |
| | | 6 |

⁷ Teacher must carry out a full analysis of every sentence, applying all the relevant grammar rules, terminology etc.

Exercise 2

Translate the following:

| Translation | Sentence | |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|
| | الْمُنْدِيلُ وَسِخٌ . | 1 |
| | الْمُسْطَرُّ مَكْسُورٌ . | 2 |
| | الْوَلَدُ قَوِيٌّ . | 3 |
| | الْإِمَامُ طَوِيلٌ . | 4 |
| | الْمُهَنْدِسُ قَائِمٌ . | 5 |
| | الْبَيْتُ نَظِيفٌ . | 6 |
| | الْبَابُ كَبِيرٌ . | 7 |
| | الْمُدَرِّسُ مَرِيضٌ . | 8 |
| | الْمَوْزُ لَذِيذٌ . | 9 |

Exercise 3

- Fill in the blanks and translate.
- Ensure you place the correct Harakah at the end of each word.

| Translation | Sentence | |
|-------------|----------------------|----|
| |صَادِقٌ . | 1 |
| |جَمِيلٌ . | 2 |
| |قَائِمٌ . | 3 |
| |جَالِسٌ . | 4 |
| |أَلْبُرْتُقَالٌ | 5 |
| |أَلْكُرْسِيِّ | 6 |
| |أَلْقَلَمِ | 7 |
| |أَلْوَرَقِ | 8 |
| |نَائِمٌ . | 9 |
| |ذَكِيٌّ . | 10 |
| |أَلْخَبَرِ | 11 |

Exercise (Extension)

Memorise the following:

| |
|----------------|
| صِفْرُ Zero |
|----------------|

| Feminine | | Masculine |
|----------------------------|----|------------------------|
| واحدة | 1 | واحد |
| إِثْنَتَانِ / إِثْنَتَيْنِ | 2 | إِثْنَانِ / إِثْنَيْنِ |
| ثَلَاثَةٌ | 3 | ثَلَاثٌ |
| أَرْبَعَةٌ | 4 | أَرْبَعٌ |
| خَمْسَةٌ | 5 | خَمْسٌ |
| سِتَّةٌ | 6 | سِتٌّ |
| سَبْعَةٌ | 7 | سَبْعٌ |
| ثَمَانِيَةٌ | 8 | ثَمَانٌ |
| تِسْعَةٌ | 9 | تِسْعٌ |
| عَشْرَةٌ | 10 | عَشْرٌ |

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