



الْمَذَكَّرُ وَالْمَوْثَّةُ

Masculine and Feminine

Gender Coordination

1. In Arabic there is always gender coordination.
2. In simple terms, if the first word is masculine, the other word “connected” to it will also be masculine and vice versa.
3. For example, in a simple sentence containing the “subject and predicate”, there will always be gender coordination.
4. The following are examples where both the “subject and predicate” are masculine.

Translation	Sentence	
The house is new.	الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ.	1
The boy is clever.	الْوَلَدُ ذَكِيٌّ.	2
The man is happy.	الرَّجُلُ مَسْرُورٌ.	3

Before we look at simple sentences where both the “subject and predicate” are feminine, let us learn about feminine words.

Feminine Words

There are several categories of words that are regarded as feminine, for now we will look at the following:

Category 3		Category 2		Category 1	
<i>Parts of the body that are in pairs.</i>		<i>Words used only for the feminine gender</i>		<i>Words that end in the round ة are mostly feminine.</i>	
Eye	عَيْن	Mother	أُمُّ	Fridge	ثَلَّاجَةٌ
Hand	يَد	Daughter	بِنْتُ	Bike	دَرَّاجَةٌ
Leg	رِجْل	Sister	أُخْت	Car	سَيَّارَةٌ
Ear	أُذُن	Bride	عَرُوس	Big	كَبِيرَةٌ
Foot	قَدَم	Expectant mother	حَامِل	New	جَدِيدَةٌ
Thigh	فَخِذ	Female name	زَيْنَب	Beautiful	جَمِيلَةٌ

Make a list of feminine words you know:

Translation	Word	
		1
		2
		3
	خِزَانَةٌ	4
		5
		6
	مَرْيَم	7

Changing adjectives from masculine to feminine

Adjectives can easily be changed from masculine to feminine by adding a ة. Look at the following examples.

Meaning	Feminine	Masculine	
Big	كَبِيرَةٌ	كَبِيرٌ	1
New	جَدِيدَةٌ	جَدِيدٌ	2
Beautiful	جَمِيلَةٌ	جَمِيلٌ	3
Tall	طَوِيلَةٌ	طَوِيلٌ	4
Strong	قَوِيَّةٌ	قَوِيٌّ	5
Happy	مَسْرُورَةٌ	مَسْرُورٌ	6
Clean	نَظِيفَةٌ	نَظِيفٌ	7
Dirty	وَسِخَةٌ	وَسِخٌ	8
Standing	قَائِمَةٌ	قَائِمٌ	9
Sitting	جَالِسَةٌ	جَالِسٌ	10
Ill	مَرِيضَةٌ	مَرِيضٌ	11
Sleeping	نَائِمَةٌ	نَائِمٌ	12
Clever	ذَكِيَّةٌ	ذَكِيٌّ	13
Delicious	لَذِيذَةٌ	لَذِيذٌ	14
Truthful	صَادِقَةٌ	صَادِقٌ	15
Broken	مَكْسُورَةٌ	مَكْسُورٌ	16
Student / Seeker	طَالِبَةٌ	طَالِبٌ	17

Note: Other nouns¹ cannot be made feminine by adding the ة. Thus, the following examples will always remain masculine.

بَيْتٌ	بَابٌ	كِتَابٌ	قَلَمٌ	وَرَقٌ	مِسْطَرٌ	وَلَدٌ
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¹ Known as Primitive Nouns (أَسْمَاءُ جَدِيدَةٌ), which is a noun that is not derived from any other word, nor is anything derived from it. These always remain masculine as opposed to most “derived nouns” (أَسْمَاءُ مُشْتَقَّةٌ).

Gender coordination in Subject & Predicate

- There is **always** “gender coordination” in the Subject and Predicate.
- If the subject is masculine, the predicate will also be masculine and vice versa.
- Look at the following examples (feminine), where both parts are feminine:

Translation	Example	
	السَّيَّارَةُ جَدِيدَةٌ .	1
	الْبِنْتُ ذَكِيَّةٌ .	2
	الْأُخْتُ مَسْرُورَةٌ .	3
	الْحَقِيبَةُ مَفْتُوحَةٌ .	4

The following will be regarded as grammatically incorrect, even though one may work out the overall meaning / translation.

Correct ✓	Incorrect ✗	
السَّيَّارَةُ جَدِيدَةٌ ✓	السَّيَّارَةُ جَدِيدٌ .	✗
الْبِنْتُ ذَكِيَّةٌ ✓	الْبِنْتُ ذَكِيٌّ .	✗
الْأُخْتُ مَسْرُورَةٌ ✓	الْأُخْتُ مَسْرُورٌ .	✗
الْحَقِيبَةُ مَفْتُوحَةٌ ✓	الْحَقِيبَةُ مَفْتُوحٌ .	✗

Terminology

English	Arabic	
Masculine	مُذَكَّرٌ	1
Feminine	مُؤَنَّثٌ	2

Exercise 1

Note the gender coordination and translate the following²:

Translation	Sentence	
	الْعَلَّاجَةُ جَدِيدَةٌ.	1
	الْمَدْرَسَةُ كَبِيرَةٌ.	2
	الْمُدَرِّسُ جَالِسٌ.	3
	الْمَدْرَسَةُ جَالِسَةٌ.	4
	الْوَلَدُ مَسْرُورٌ.	5
	الْبِنْتُ مَسْرُورَةٌ.	6
	الْمُنْدِيلُ وَسِخٌ.	7
	السَّيَّارَةُ وَسِخَةٌ.	8
	الْأُمُّ قَائِمَةٌ.	9
	الْأَبُ قَائِمٌ.	10
	الْمُهَنْدِسُ مَرِيضٌ.	11
	الْمُهَنْدِسَةُ مَرِيضَةٌ.	12
	الطَّيِّبُ نَائِمٌ.	13
	الطَّيِّبَةُ نَائِمَةٌ.	14

² Teacher must carry out a full analysis of every sentence, applying all the relevant grammar rules, terminology etc.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word, ensuring you place the correct Harakah on each word.

Translation	Sentence	
 الْمَرْوَحَةُ	1
 نَائِمَةٌ	2
 لَزِيدٌ	3
 مَرِيضَةٌ	4
 مَرِيضٌ	5
 الْمَسْطَرُ	6
 الْمُهَنْدِسُ	7
 الْمُهَنْدِسَةُ	8
 الْحَدِيقَةُ	9
 الْقَلَمُ	10
 ذَكِيٌّ	11
 ذَكِيَّةٌ	12

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