



The Substitute

الْبَدَل

Notes:

1. Certain nouns in Arabic do not have a specific (fixed) case-ending. Rather they “follow” the case-ending of another word.
2. These “followers” in Arabic are known as

2	1
Plural	Singular
تَوَابِع	تَابِع
Followers.	Follower.

3. There is a total of **five** “followers”.
4. We have covered one follower already, the صِفَة.
5. The صِفَة (adjective) does not have a fixed case-ending (إِعْرَاب).
6. Rather, it follows the إِعْرَاب (and number and gender) of the مَوْضُوت, note the following example:

نَصَرْتُ رَجُلًا مَرِيضًا.
I helped an ill man.

رَجُلًا مَرِيضًا



This word is a “follower” (تَابِع).
It follows the case-ending (إِعْرَاب) of the مَوْضُوت.

7. Note the following terminology:

2	1
مَرِيضًا تَابِع Follower.	رَجُلًا مَتَّبُوع Followed.

8. The above is a “general” term that applies to all تَوَابِع. Each follower also has its specific name as well:

2	1
مَرِيضًا صِفَةٌ Adjective.	رَجُلًا مَوْصُوف Noun Qualified.

9. Let us now look at another “follower” (تَابِع). This follower is known as اَلْبَدَل.

10. Note the following examples:

Arabic	
دَخَلَ الْمُدَرِّسُ خَالِدٌ.	1
جَاءَتِ الطَّالِبَةُ آمِنَةٌ.	2

11. The words in red are the substitute (اَلْبَدَل).

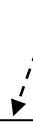
12. اَلْمُبْدَلُ is a follower. It follows اَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ.

13. Note the following:

دَخَلَ الْمُدَرِّسُ خَالِدٌ.

The teacher, Khalid entered.
The teacher, i.e., Khalid entered.

دَخَلَ الْمُدَرِّسُ خَالِدٌ.



This word is a “follower” (تَابِع).
It follows the case-ending (إِعْرَاب) of the الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ.

14. Note the following terminology:

2	1
خَالِدٌ	الْمُدَرِّسُ
تَابِع	مَتَّبِع
الْبَدَل	الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ
Substitute.	Substituted from.
	<i>The word being replaced.</i>

15. Definition of الْبَدَل:

- It is الْبَدَل that is intended (مَقْصُود) in the sentence.
- الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ is **not** the main objective.
- Rather, الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ serves as an introduction to الْبَدَل.
- الْبَدَل acts like a “commentary” after the “ambiguity” in الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ¹.

16. The following section looks at the different types of الْبَدَل.

¹ ليكون كالتفسير بعد الإبهام.

The Complete Substitute

بَدَلُ كُلِّ مِنْ كُلِّ (الْبَدَلُ الْمُطَابِقُ)

The following sentences are examples of ²بَدَلُ كُلِّ مِنْ كُلِّ.

Arabic	
دَخَلَ الْمُدَرِّسُ خَالِدٌ .	1
جَاءَتِ الطَّالِبَةُ آمِنَةُ .	2

Definition:

- ²بَدَلُ كُلِّ مِنْ كُلِّ is when the **الْبَدَلُ** and its **الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ** are **both one and the same**.
- In other words, **الْبَدَلُ** and its **الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ** are both fully inter-changeable, i.e. they **refer to the same person or thing**.

Example:

جَاءَتِ الطَّالِبَةُ آمِنَةُ .

The student, Aminah came.

The student, i.e. Aminah came.

- In this example “the student” (**الْبَدَلُ**) and “Aminah” (**الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ**) are both one and the same.
- **الْبَدَلُ** (Aminah) is exactly equivalent to the word it has substituted.
- In other words, **الْبَدَلُ** and its **الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ** refer to the same person.

² ويسمى: بدل الشيء من الشيء.

Hence, البَدَل is a **COMPLETE substitute** of its الْمُبَدَلُ مِنْهُ.

It is thus given the following names:

2	1
البَدَلُ الْمُطَابِقُ	بَدَلٌ كُلٌّ مِنْ كُلِّ
The “corresponding” substitute.	The complete substitute (from the entire الْمُبَدَلُ مِنْهُ).

Exercise

The Complete Substitute

Write all answers in your exercise book.

Ponder over the sentence, and explain the بَدَلُ كُلٍّ مِنْ كُلِّ.

Arabic	
غَابَتْ أُخْتِي عَائِشَةُ .	1
أَرْسَلَ اللَّهُ النَّبِيَّ مُحَمَّدًا ﷺ بِالْهُدَايِ .	2
إِنَّ الطَّالِبَ يُوسُفَ غَائِبٌ .	3
كَانَتِ التِّلْمِيزَةُ الذَّكِيَّةُ عَائِشَةُ مَرِيضَةً .	4
جَاءَ زَيْدٌ أَخُوكَ .	5
مَا رَجَعَ الْخَادِمُ حَمْرَةً مِنْ لُنْدَنْ .	6
مَا رَجَعَ الْخَادِمَانِ حَمْرَةً وَ طَلْحَةً مِنْ لُنْدَنْ .	7
مَا رَجَعَ الْخَادِمُونَ حَمْرَةً وَ طَلْحَةً وَ زَيْدٌ مِنْ لُنْدَنْ .	8
إِنَّ الطَّالِبَةَ فَاطِمَةَ جَالِسَةً خَلْفَ الْفُضْلِ .	9
هَذِهِ الْكُتُبُ لِلتِّلْمِيزَةِ الذَّكِيَّةِ رُقَيْيَةَ .	10
وَ كَانَ أَبُوهُ يَعْقُوبُ نَبِيًّا .	11
كَانَتْ أُمُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عَائِشَةُ (رضي الله تعالى عنها) زَوْجَةَ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ .	12
أَسْلَمَتِ السَّيِّدَةُ خَدِيجَةُ (رضي الله تعالى عنها) أَوَّلًا مِنَ النِّسَاءِ .	13

The Partial Substitute

بَدَلُ بَعْضٍ مِنْ كُلِّ (الْبَدَلُ الْبَعْضُ)

The following sentences are examples of بَدَلُ بَعْضٍ مِنْ كُلِّ.

Arabic	
أَكَلْتُ الْخُبْزَ رُبْعَهُ . I ate the bread, a quarter of it. I ate a quarter of the bread.	1
دَفَعْتُ الثَّمَنَ نِصْفَهُ . I paid the price, half of it. I paid half of the price.	2

Definition:

- أَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ is when أَلْبَدَلُ substitutes a part of مِنْهُ.
- Hence, they are NOT fully inter-changeable, i.e. أَلْبَدَلُ does not refer to the exact same person or thing as the أَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ.
- Rather أَلْبَدَلُ substitutes a part - **a real part**³ (جُزْءٌ حَقِيقِيٌّ) – of the أَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ.
- In other words, أَلْبَدَلُ is a REAL, physical, segment (component) of أَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ.
- أَلْبَدَلُ will usually contain a pronoun (ضمير), whose مَرْجِع will be أَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ.

³ This definition will differentiate this substitute from the next one (بَدَلُ الْإِشْتِمَالِ).

Example:

دَفَعْتُ الثَّمَنَ نِصْفَهُ .

I paid the price, half of it.
I paid half of the price.

- In this example الثَّمَنُ (الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ) and النِّصْفُ (النِّصْفُ) are NOT both one and the same.
- Rather الثَّمَنُ (الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ) is a PART of النِّصْفُ (النِّصْفُ).
- As mentioned, it is الثَّمَنُ that is intended (مَقْصُودٌ) in the sentence. Hence you can translate the above in a manner where you only translate الثَّمَنُ.
- Concluding, الثَّمَنُ is a NOT A COMPLETE substitute of its الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ. It is PART of it, and is thus given the name:

بَدَلُ بَعْضٍ مِنْ كُلِّ .
The partial substitute from the complete الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ.

Now look at the following two examples and explain in your own words how الثَّمَنُ is a part (and real component) of الْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ.

أَكَلُوا الطَّعَامَ بَعْضَهُ .

They ate the food, some of it.
They ate some of the food.

أَغْلَقْنَا الْحَدِيقَةَ أَبْوَابَهَا .

We locked the garden, its doors.
We locked the doors of the garden.

Exercise

The Partial and Complete Substitute

Write all answers in your exercise book.

Ponder over the sentence and explain the relevant substitute.

Arabic	
قَضَى خَالِدٌ الدَّيْنَ سُدْسَهُ .	1
فُتِحَ الْقَصْرُ عُزْفَانَهُ لِلزَّائِرِينَ .	2
فَضَحَ الطَّالِبُ لِسَانَهُ .	3
عَطَبَتِ الطَّائِرَةُ جَنَاحَهَا .	4
رَأَيْتُ الطُّلَّابَ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَجْتَهِدُونَ .	5
جَاءَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ بَعْضُهُمْ مِنَ الْحَجِّ .	6
شَرِبْتُ الْعَصِيرَ نِصْفَهُ .	7
إِنَّ الْمُهَنْدِسَ جَالِسٌ فِي الْبَيْتِ حَدِيقَتِهِ .	8

Revision:

سَمِعَ التِّلْمِيزَانِ الْجَدِيدَانِ أَحْمَدٌ وَ مُوسَى الدَّرْسَ .	9
عَلَّمَتْنَا الْمُعَلِّمَةُ حَدِيجَةُ صَبَاحًا .	10
رَأَوْا التَّاجِرَ الْكَبِيرَ خَالِدًا فِي السُّوقِ .	11
رَحِمَ اللَّهُ الصِّدِّيقَ أَبَا بَكْرٍ ^{رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ} . ⁴	12
إِنَّ عُمَرَ ^{رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ} عَدَلَهُ مَعْرُوفٌ .	13
زَارُوا مَكَّةَ الْمُكْرَمَةَ بَعْضُهَا .	14

⁴ This is a "Dua". When the past tense verb is used for Dua, you will translate as "May Allah".

The Inclusive Substitute

بَدَلُ الْإِشْتِمَالِ

The following sentences are examples of بَدَلُ الْإِشْتِمَالِ.

Arabic	
سُرِقَ زَيْدٌ مَالُهُ . Zaid was stolen, his wealth. Zaid was stolen, i.e. his wealth was stolen. Zaid's wealth was stolen.	1
عَجِبْتُ مِنَ الرَّجُلِ شُجَاعِهِ . I was amazed by the man, his bravery. I was amazed by the man, i.e. by his bravery. I was amazed at the man's bravery.	2

Definition⁵:

- بَدَلُ الْإِشْتِمَالِ is when أَلْبَدَلُ is **NOT a complete substitute** (part) مِنْهُ, **neither is it a partial** substitute of مِنْهُ أَلْمُبْدَلُ.
- Rather أَلْبَدَلُ substitutes something that is **related / connected** (جُزْءٌ غَيْرُ حَقِيقِيٍّ) to أَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ. In other words, أَلْبَدَلُ is NOT a REAL segment (component) of أَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ.
- In other words, a “**possession**” or “**quality**” is substituted in بَدَلُ الْإِشْتِمَالِ.
- This أَلْبَدَلُ will also contain a pronoun (ضمير), whose مَرْجِعٌ will be مِنْهُ أَلْمُبْدَلُ.

⁵ مَا يَدُلُّ عَلَى مَعْنَى فِي الْمُبْدَلِ مِنْهُ، لَا عَلَى جُزْءٍ حَقِيقِيٍّ.

Example:

حَسَنَ زَيْدٌ أَخْلَاقُهُ .

Zaid was good, i.e. his manners (were good).
Zaid's manners were good.

- In this example اَلْبَدَل (أَخْلَاقُهُ) is not a complete or partial substitute of اَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ (زَيْدٌ). In other words, the existence of Zaid does not depend on it.
- Rather اَلْبَدَل (أَخْلَاقُهُ) is something that is connected to اَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ (زَيْدٌ). Even if it were not there, Zaid would still exist.
- “Manners” are not a physical component of a person, rather they are connected to a person in an abstract (non-physical) manner.
- As mentioned, it is اَلْبَدَل that is intended (مَقْصُودٌ) in the sentence. Hence you can translate the above in a manner where you only translate the اَلْبَدَل.
- Hence the name:

بَدَلُ الْإِشْتِمَالِ
The Inclusive Substitute.

Now look at the following two examples and explain in your own words how اَلْبَدَل is connected to اَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ and not a real (physical) component of the latter.

أَعْجَبَنِي يُوسُفُ حُسْنَهُ .

Yusuf i.e. his beauty astounded me.
Yusuf's beauty astounded me.

أَعْجَبَنِي شُعْرَاءُ مِصْرَ كَلَامُهُمْ .

The poets of Egypt, their articulation pleased me.
The articulation of the poets of Egypt amazed me.

Exercise

Write all answers in your exercise book.

Ponder over the sentence and explain the relevant substitute.

Arabic	
أَعْجَبَنِي الْخَادِمُ صَدُوقُهُ .	1
أَعْجَبَنِي حُمَزَةُ أَدَبِهِ.	2
طَلَعَتِ الشَّمْسُ نُورَهَا .	3
الشَّوَارِعُ نَظَائِفُهَا جَمِيلَةٌ.	4
إِنَّ السَّيَّارَةَ لَوْنَهَا رَائِعَةٌ.	5
كَانَتِ الْقِصَّةُ أُسْلُوبُهَا عَجِيبَةً.	6
نَفَعَنِي الْمُعَلِّمُ عِلْمُهُ.	7
نَفَعَنِي الْمُعَلِّمَانِ عِلْمُهُمَا.	8
نَفَعَتْنَا الْوَرْدَةُ رَائِحَتُهَا.	9
لَا أَحِبُّ كَلَامَكَ كَذِبَهُ.	10
كَرِهْتُ فَاطِمَةَ الْعُرْفَةَ أَثْنَاهَا.	11
سَمِعُوا الْبَلْبَلَ صَوْتَهُ.	12
زَارَ الطُّلَّابُ عَاصِمَةَ مِصْرَ الْقَاهِرَةِ.	13

Revision:

حَفِظْتُ الْقُرْآنَ كُلَّهُ.	14
حَفِظْتُ الْقُرْآنَ نِصْفَهُ.	15
حَفِظْتُ الْقُرْآنَ ثُلَاثِيهِ.	16
فَهِمْتُ الْقُرْآنَ أَحْكَامَهُ.	17
أَمَرَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ أَنْ يَسْجُدَ عَلَى سَبْعَةِ أَعْضَاءٍ: الْجَبْهَةِ وَالْيَدَيْنِ وَالرَّكْبَتَيْنِ وَالرِّجْلَيْنِ.	18

Exercise

Qur'an Verses

Write all answers in your exercise book.

Ponder over the sentence and explain the relevant substitute.

Arabic	
جَعَلَ اللهُ الْكَعْبَةَ الْبَيْتَ الْحَرَامَ قِيَامًا .	1
وَجَعَلْنَا مَعَهُ أَخَاهُ هَارُونَ وَزِيرًا .	2
إِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ، صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ .	3
يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الشَّهْرِ الْحَرَامِ قِتَالٍ فِيهِ .	4
أَمَّا بِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ، رَبِّ مُوسَى وَهَارُونَ .	5
قَالُوا: نَعْبُدُ إِلَهَكَ وَإِلَهَ آبَائِكَ، إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ .	6
إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ مَفَازًا، حَدَائِقَ وَأَعْنَابًا .	7
لَتُسْفَعَنَّ بِالنَّاصِيَةِ، نَاصِيَةٍ ⁶ كَاذِبَةٍ خَاطِئَةٍ .	8
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ .	9

Non-Qur'an:

Arabic	
تَرَكَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ زَوْجَهُ هَاجَرَ فِي مَكَّةَ .	1
ذَهَبَ يُوسُفُ إِلَى أَبِيهِ يَعْقُوبَ .	2
بَاغُوا السَّيَّارَةَ نِصْفَهَا .	3
سَمِعُوا أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عُمَرَ .	4

⁶ والبدل إن كان نكرةً من مغرقةٍ، يجب نعت البدل .

The substitution of error

بَدَلُ الْغَلَطِ⁷

Definition:

- This is where your tongue slips, and you quickly substitute the incorrect word (or statement) with the correct word(s).
- Thus, أَلْمُبْدَلُ مِنْهُ corrects the error made in أَلْمُبْدِلُ.

Example:

إِشْتَرَيْتُ خُبْزًا لَحْمًا .

I purchased bread, (I purchased) meat.
I purchased bread, (rather I purchased) meat.

In such examples, the particle بَلْ can also be placed in between.

إِشْتَرَيْتُ خُبْزًا بَلْ لَحْمًا .

I purchased bread, rather (I purchased) meat.

Although not commonly used, this substitute is very straightforward! More examples:

خَرَجَ مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ حَامِدٌ ، خَالِدٌ .

Hamid, (rather) Khalid came out from the Masjid.

حَفِظْتُ الْقُرْآنَ نِصْفَهُ ، ثُلَاثِيَهُ .

I memorised half of the Qur'an, (rather, I memorised) two-thirds of it.

Updated: 22.08.2026

⁷ أي: بَدَلُ سَبَبِهِ غَلَطٌ .