

# ARABIC FOR NERDS *two*

A Grammar Compendium

UNDERSTANDING **إِعْرَابٌ**

450 Questions and Answers

by

Gerald Drißner

**Gerald Drißner (Drissner),**

born 1977 in a mountain village in Austria, is an economist and award-winning journalist.

He lived in the Middle East and North Africa for more than ten years, where he has intensively studied Arabic.

Gerald Drißner is the author of *Arabic for Nerds 1 (Fill the Gaps: 270 Questions about Arabic Grammar; 2015)* and *Islam for Nerds (500 Questions and Answers; 2016)*.

**IMPRINT/IMPRESSUM - Arabic for Nerds 2**

1<sup>st</sup> edition, August 2018 (281018)

Copyright © 2018 by Gerald Drißner (Drissner)

Cover design, layout: © 2018 by Gerald Drißner

Publisher: pochemuchka (Gerald Drißner)

Internet: <https://www.gerald-drissner.com>

E-Mail: [mail@gerald-drissner.com](mailto:mail@gerald-drissner.com)

Address: Postfach 35 03 30, D-10212 Berlin, Germany

ISBN-13: 978-3-9819848-0-4 (paperback)

ISBN-13: 978-3-9819848-1-1 (hardcover)

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic (such as Internet websites), mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise – without the prior permission of the author and publisher.

Das Werk, einschließlich seiner Teile, ist urheberrechtlich geschützt. Jede Verwertung ist ohne Zustimmung des Autors unzulässig. Dies gilt insbesondere für die elektronische oder sonstige Vervielfältigung, Übersetzung, Verbreitung und öffentliche Zugänglichmachung.

# ARABIC FOR NERDS *two*

0. Introduction..... 1

## PART ONE: THE BASICS

### CHAPTER 1: THE DAWN OF ARABIC GRAMMAR

1. How old is Arabic grammar?..... 3  
2. What is Classical Arabic?..... 3  
3. Who wrote the first Arabic dictionary?..... 4  
4. What does the Arabic word for *dictionary* (قاموس) mean?..... 5  
5. What prompted the first grammarian to write down rules?..... 6  
6. Why do we use the word *نحو* for *grammar*?..... 7  
7. How did the inventor of the dots guide his calligrapher?..... 7  
8. Who invented the vowels and markers which we use today?..... 8  
9. Are there consonants which do not go well with each other?..... 9  
10. Who wrote the first book about Arabic grammar?..... 9  
11. What does the name Sībawayhi mean?..... 10  
12. What is the first sentence of Sībawayhi's grammar?..... 11  
13. What was the aim of the first Arabic grammarians?..... 12  
14. Which are the two most famous Arabic grammar schools?..... 13  
15. How do we know that a scholar belongs to the Kūfa school?..... 14  
16. What role did the Bedouins play in creating Arabic grammar?..... 14  
17. What does a *wasp* have to do with Arabic grammar?..... 16  
18. What came first: noun or verb?..... 19  
19. How can you tell that a word in Arabic is of foreign origin?..... 20  
20. What does *أَكْلُونِي التَّارِغِيْتُ* mean?..... 20  
21. How did the scribes of the Qur'an set the rules for the Hamza?..... 21  
22. Did prophet Muhammad pronounce the *هَمْزَة* (glottal stop)?..... 22

### CHAPTER 2: DECODING ARABIC GRAMMAR

What you need to know about *إِعْرَاب*

23. What is the formula (steps) to analyze a word in Arabic?..... 23  
24. How much do English and Arabic grammar differ?..... 25  
25. What gender should we use for Arabic grammar terms?..... 28  
26. How many kinds of words does Arabic know?..... 29

27. Are there <i>particles</i> in Arabic?.....	30
28. What does اِغْرَاب mean?.....	32
29. Which signs are used for اِغْرَاب?.....	33
30. Does every اِسْم and فِعْل get the full spectrum of case endings?....	35
31. How do you put a case marker on an indeclinable word?.....	37
32. Can you use letters to mark cases?.....	37
33. What is a <i>governor</i> or <i>operator</i> (عَامِلٌ) in Arabic grammar?.....	39
34. Can we have more than one عَامِل in a sentence?.....	41
35. What does تَقْدِير mean?.....	43
36. Which verb forms hide the subject?.....	45
37. The cryptic term سَدَّ مَسَدَّ. Can a word be the subject (فَاعِلٌ) and serve as the predicate (حَبْرٌ)?.....	48

#### Misleading signs – the need for virtual case markers

38. What do you do when you can't put case markers on words?.....	55
39. Why is the Aleph the weakest letter in Arabic?.....	56
40. Can you put case or mood markers on weak letters?.....	58
41. Why can an extra (additional) preposition be annoying?.....	65

#### In any case the same – indeclinable words

42. Which kinds of words are entirely indeclinable?.....	68
43. Are there indeclinable verbs in Arabic?.....	69

#### The relationship of words – cases

44. What do case markers express?.....	72
45. Do verbs take cases in Arabic?.....	74
46. What is the underlying concept of <i>nunation</i> (تَنْوِينٌ)?.....	74
47. What does <i>nunation</i> (تَنْوِينٌ) actually express?.....	77
48. Does an indefinite, مَنْصُوب word always need a final Aleph?.....	77
49. How do you mark the case in words ending in هَمْزَة, e.g., مُبْتَدَأٌ or نَسْبِيٌّ?.....	79
50. What is the function of the subject?.....	80
51. When does a noun have to be in the nominative case (مَرْفُوعٌ)?....	82
52. What causes the مُبْتَدَأُ of a nominal sentence to be مَرْفُوعٌ?.....	82
53. What is the purpose of an object in Arabic?.....	83
54. When does a noun have to be in the مَنْصُوب-case?.....	84
55. When does a noun have to be in the مَجْرُور-case?.....	85

56. Does it matter whether we use a verbal or nominal sentence?.....85  
 57. Can you have two subjects in only one sentence?.....86

### Shaping the verb

58. What is a **فِعْلٌ نَاقِصٌ**?.....87  
 59. Why do we sometimes find an extra ن at the end of verbs?.....88  
 60. Why do we say **كَتَبْتُ** for *I wrote* – and not **كَتَبْتُ**?.....89  
 61. Does an Arabic verb indicate time?.....89  
 62. What does **المُضارعُ** mean?.....91  
 63. What is the connection between verbs and diptotes?.....92  
 64. Why is there no *to be* in the Arabic present tense?.....92  
 65. Which imperative of a regular verb doesn't end in a **سُكُونٌ**?.....94

### Sentences or clauses which do the jobs of single words

66. *Having (or not having) a position in* **إِعْرَاب** - What does it mean?...95  
 67. How is it possible that a sentence does the job of a word?.....96  
 68. Can a sentence supply the place of the predicate?.....97  
 69. What is a **جُمْلَةٌ إِنْشَائِيَّةٌ**?.....99  
 70. Can a whole sentence take on the job of an object?.....101  
 71. Can a sentence function as an object of **ظَنَّ**?.....103  
 72. Can a sentence function as the third object of certain verbs?.....103  
 73. Can a sentence take the position of a **حَالٌ**?.....104  
 74. Can a sentence function as an adjective (**صِفَةٌ**)?.....107  
 75. Why does it matter in Arabic whether a noun is truly indefinite? 109  
 76. Can a sentence supply the place of *the excluded* (**المُستثنى**)?.....113  
 77. Can you place a sentence as the second part of a **إِضَافَةٌ**?.....114  
 78. Why do adverbs of place make sentences sometimes complex?...116  
 79. Can a nominal sentence take on the task of a **مَجْرُومٌ**-verb?.....118  
 80. What is the tricky thing if a sentence follows another sentence?...120

### Neutral clauses - outside the scope of **إِعْرَابٌ**

81. Does the independent clause have a position in **إِعْرَابٌ**?.....121  
 82. How should we deal with a parenthesis in Arabic grammar?.....123  
 83. What is the weirdest function of the particle **أَنَّ**?.....125  
 84. How should we treat the content of an oath in Arabic?.....127  
 85. What's the judgment on the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of a conditional sentence?...127  
 86. How do grammarians treat the relative clause (**جُمْلَةٌ صِلَةٌ**)?.....129

## PART TWO: LETTERS, FORMS, AND WORDS

### CHAPTER 3: SECRETS OF LETTERS AND FORMS

87. What does the vowel on the second root letter tell us?.....130  
88. In which position will you never find an Aleph?.....131  
89. Why is there an Aleph at the end of third-person plural verbs?....132  
90. Why is there sometimes an Aleph instead of و or ي in verbs?.....132  
91. The verb يدعو. What does it mean?.....134  
92. What happens when ن and ب collide?.....135  
93. What is the *Hā' of silence*?.....137  
94. What is the energetic form of a verb?.....138  
95. Come to prayer! (حَيِّ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ). What form is حَيِّ?.....141  
96. Give! (هَاتِ). What form is that?.....147  
97. Why does the Arabic word for Caliph (خَلِيفَةٌ) have a هة?.....148  
98. What is the plural of the word عَالَمٌ?.....150  
99. Can feminine words form a sound masculine plural?.....152

#### Linking two nouns (الإضافة) - possession and belonging

100. Why does the first part of a إضافة not get nunation?.....154  
101. How do you know if a إضافة-construction is definite?.....155  
102. Should you use ابْن or بن?.....156  
103. *The king's sons and daughters*. How do you say that in Arabic?...160  
104. بُيُوتُ الْقَاهِرَةِ الْقَدِيمَةِ - What does it mean in English?.....161  
105. How do you say: *a son of the king*?.....162  
106. How do you express: *my (male) teachers*?.....162  
107. How do you add *my* or *me* to verbs?.....166  
108. What happens to a weak letter if it collides with *my*?.....166

#### The مَصْدَر

109. What came first: مَصْدَر or verb?.....168  
110. Is love (حُبٌّ) the original word for *love*?.....168  
111. How do you express English adjectives ending in *-able*, *-ive*?.....170

### CHAPTER 4: PRONOUNS AND PREPOSITIONS

#### Pronouns (الصَّمِيرُ) - and what we call in English pronouns

112. What turns an adjective into a predicate in Arabic?.....170

113. What is the <i>pronoun of the story or fact</i> ?.....	173
114. What does a relative pronoun need?.....	174
115. What kind of relative pronouns does Arabic know?.....	175
116. What is a <i>returning or fallback pronoun</i> ?.....	179
117. <i>The house which is big...</i> What is the problem in Arabic?.....	180
118. <i>The man from Beirut...</i> How do you translate that into Arabic?..	182
119. How can you get rid of a relative pronoun?.....	183
120. What are the rules for using <i>أَيَّ</i> as a relative pronoun?.....	184
121. What is the <i>ج</i> in the word <i>ذَلِكَ</i> ?.....	190
122. Can the demonstrative pronoun ( <i>this</i> ) be an adjective?.....	190

### Prepositions (حَرْفُ الْجَرِّ)

123. How many kinds of prepositions does Arabic know?.....	192
124. How many real prepositions does Arabic know?.....	193
125. Does a preposition have a meaning of its own?.....	195
126. Can you delete a preposition without changing the meaning?....	196

### Extra letters and prepositions to emphasize the meaning

127. Can the <i>ب</i> strengthen a word's meaning?.....	197
128. The preposition <i>مِنْ</i> does not always mean <i>from</i> . Is it true?.....	201
129. What is the <i>ج</i> in the phrase <i>الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ</i> ( <i>praise belongs to Allah</i> )?.	203
130. Is there a difference between <i>لِ</i> and <i>إِلَى</i> ?.....	206
131. What is the <i>Lām of rejection or denial</i> ( <i>لَا مَجْزُورٍ</i> ) good for?....	207
132. How can you use an extra/redundant <i>ج</i> to emphasize?.....	208
133. Is <i>ك</i> a preposition?.....	210
134. Can you use an extra <i>ك</i> to emphasize?.....	213
135. <i>Many a...</i> How do you say that in Arabic?.....	214
136. What type of pronoun is found in <i>رَبِّهِ</i> ?.....	219
137. What function has the <i>مَا</i> in the expression <i>رَبِّمَا</i> ?.....	219
138. What does the word <i>أَلَا</i> signify?.....	221

### The quasi-sentence (شِبْهُ الْجُمْلَةِ)

139. Why do we call some parts of a sentence <i>quasi-sentence</i> ?.....	222
140. What is the grammatical concept of <i>التَّعْلُقُ</i> good for?.....	223
141. Do prepositional or adverbial phrases only relate to verbs?.....	227

## CHAPTER 5: TINY TRICKY WORDS

142. What functions can the word ما have?.....	232
143. When does the word ما lose the Aleph?.....	236
144. Can a و also mean <i>when, with, or while</i> ...?.....	237
145. What is the word كُلُّ good for?.....	238
146. Can you say أَلْكُلُّ? Or is كُلُّ already definite?.....	239
147. Can كُلُّ be used as an adjective (تَعَثُّ)?.....	240
148. <i>Some students came.</i> Should the verb be plural in Arabic?.....	241
149. What can the word أَيُّ be used for?.....	244
150. Can you place أَيُّ as an adjective (تَعَثُّ)?.....	245
151. Can the word عَيْر be cut off from the إضافة?.....	245
152. Can عَيْر be used as an adjective (تَعَثُّ)?.....	247
153. What kind of word is حَسْبُ?.....	248
154. What does فَحَسْبُ mean?.....	251
155. What kind of word is فَقَطُ?.....	251
156. What is the word إِمَّا made of?.....	252
157. What does إِمَّا... وَإِمَّا mean?.....	253
158. What does the word أَمَّا mean?.....	254

### The inquiry / question words (جُمْلَةُ الْإِسْتِفْهَامِ)

159. Are all question words in Arabic nouns (إِسْمٌ)?.....	256
160. What functions may مَنْ have in a sentence?.....	257
161. The question word <i>what</i> ? Is it ما or ماذا in Arabic?.....	261
162. What kind of words are <i>when</i> (مَتَى) and <i>where</i> (أَيْنَ)?.....	266
163. Can the word <i>how</i> (كَيْفَ) be a حال in Arabic?.....	268
164. In Arabic, what do you need to express <i>how much/many</i> ?.....	269
165. Why can't you say in Arabic: كَمْ عَدَدُ الطَّلَابِ?.....	272
166. What's the difference between هَلْ and أ in questions?.....	272
167. What is the answer to a negated question in Arabic?.....	274
168. Why does a question sometimes need a ف?.....	275

## CHAPTER 6: THE FOLLOWER (التَّابِعُ) - WORDS THAT BLUEPRINT GRAMMATICAL FEATURES

169. Why is it important to identify a <i>follower</i> (تابع)?.....	276
---	-----

### The adjective (التَّعَثُّ or الصِّفَةُ)

170. Which words can serve as an adjective in Arabic?.....	277
--	-----



171. What is the difference between *تَعْت* and *صِفَة*?.....279
172. How many types of the descriptive (*تَعْت*) does Arabic know?....280
173. Does an adjective (*تَعْت حَقِيقِيَّة*) always need full agreement?.....281
174. What is the most important rule for the adjective?.....282
175. Why is the causal description (*تَعْت سَبَبِيَّة*) hard to understand? 283
176. Can an adjective describe another adjective?.....286

### The emphasis (*التَّوَكِيدُ*)

177. What grammatical function do words used for emphasis have?. 287
178. Can you add an extra preposition to an emphasis?.....288
179. How can you emphasize the dual?.....289
180. How can you stress on totality/the inclusive?.....289
181. Does repetition, repetition, repetition express emphasis?.....291
182. How can you express that you did something yourself?.....292
183. Can you use *تَمَّ* to emphasize?.....294

### The apposition (*الْبَدَلُ*)

184. How does the substitution (apposition) in Arabic work?.....294
185. How many types of an apposition (*بَدَلٌ*) does Arabic know?.....295
186. What are the four most important rules for the *بَدَل*?.....299

### Conjunctions - coordinators & couplers (*الْعَطْفُ*)

187. What is a *clarifying apposition* (*عَطْفُ التَّبْيَانِ*)?.....302
188. How do you express sequence in Arabic?.....304
189. Does the word *حَتَّى* always mean *until*?.....306
190. Is the word *أَمْ* only used in questions?.....307
191. Should you use *لَكِنَّ* or *لَكِنَّ* for *but*?.....309
192. *You and Zayd went.* How do you express this?.....311
193. How do you say: *Muhammad's book and pen*?.....312

## CHAPTER 7: THE NUMBERS

194. How should we read numbers in Arabic? From right to left?.....313
195. What are the most important rules for numbers?.....313
196. What is important to know about compound numbers?.....315
197. Why are the numbers from 11 to 19 special?.....316
198. How do you spell and pronounce *hundred* in Arabic?.....316
199. Why do numbers from 3 to 10 need inverted agreement?.....317

200. Why is the number 8 different from others?.....	319
201. <i>خَمْسَةَ حَمَامَاتٍ</i> (five pigeons). Is there a mistake?.....	321
202. How do you say <i>some twenty</i> or <i>twenty odd</i> in Arabic?.....	322
203. <i>The people came two by two?</i> How do you say that in Arabic?.....	322
204. Is it possible to place the number after a word?.....	323
205. How do you make numerical expressions (3 to 10) definite?.....	324
206. Can you use كَمَّ as a substitute for a number?.....	326

### PART THREE: THE SENTENCE

207. Does a verbal sentence always start with a verb?.....	331
--	-----

### CHAPTER 8: THE NOMINAL SENTENCE

208. Why is the subject of a nominal sentence called مُبْتَدَأٌ?.....	332
209. What are the “usual suspects” that can work as a subject of a nominal sentence?.....	333
210. Does every مُبْتَدَأٌ (subject) have a خَبْرٌ (predicate)?.....	335
211. هَلْ مِنْ رَجُلٍ فِي الْبَيْتِ؟ - What is the subject here?.....	340
212. السَّائِفُونَ السَّائِفُونَ - Is that a sentence?.....	341
213. <i>A dog is in the house.</i> How do you say that in Arabic?.....	341
214. You have money. You have <i>a lot</i> of money. Why does <i>a lot</i> give us some leverage in grammar?.....	346
215. What does word order signify?.....	346
216. What does <i>anacoluthon</i> mean?.....	347
217. Can you delete the subject of a nominal sentence?.....	349

#### The predicate (الْخَبْرُ)

218. What is the nature of the predicate (خَبْرٌ) in Arabic?.....	350
219. Can a prepositional phrase (شِبْهُ الْجُمْلَةِ) be the predicate?.....	354
220. When does the predicate have to be a sentence?.....	357
221. What is a sentence with two faces?.....	362
222. When can the predicate do without a connector (رَابِطٌ)?.....	363
223. When do you connect the predicate with ف?.....	366
224. When do you have to delete the predicate (حَدْفُ الْخَبْرِ)?.....	368
225. Can a subject have more than one predicate?.....	375
226. When are we not allowed to forward the predicate?.....	376
227. When do you have to place the predicate before the subject?.....	378
228. How do you put emphasis on the predicate?.....	379

## CHAPTER 9: RULE BREAKERS & GAME CHANGERS (التَّوَابِيعُ)

229. What is meant by the grammar term نَاسِخٌ?.....380

### The verb كَانَ (to be, to exist)

230. Why is كَانَ so special?.....380

231. Why does كَانَ not go along with a verbal subject?.....381

232. Can the verb كَانَ be a full verb (فِعْلٌ تَامٌّ)?.....382

233. Is a sentence with كَانَ a nominal or verbal sentence?.....383

234. What does كَانَ كَائِنًا مَا mean?.....384

235. Can you change the word order in a sentence with كَانَ?.....386

236. Can the word كَانَ be redundant?.....388

237. Can you add وَ to the predicate of كَانَ?.....392

238. Is it possible to delete the ن in كَانَ?.....394

239. Is it possible to delete كَانَ without changing the meaning?.....395

### The sisters of كَانَ

240. Why are they called *sisters*?.....400

241. How many sisters does كَانَ have?.....400

242. How do you know whether عَسَى is a full or incomplete verb? .402

243. What is the job of the كَ in the phrase عَسَاكَ (perhaps you)?.....406

244. Many verbs mean *to become*. Do they have other meanings?.....408

245. Which verbs convey change or transformation?.....410

246. Can you add the preposition ب to the predicate of a *sister*?.....412

### Still, to remain

247. Is there a difference between مَا يَزَالُ and لَا يَزَالُ?.....414

248. Are there alternatives to زَالَ?.....415

249. What is the function of مَا in the expression مَا دَامَ?.....416

250. What happens if the مَا in مَا دَامَ is, in fact, a negation?.....419

### Verbs of approaching

251. Should you use أَنْ after أَوْشَكَ?.....420

### Optical twins: إِنَّ and إِنَّ

252. Which particles are *abrogators* (الْخُرُوفُ النَّاسِخَةُ)?.....424

253. Can you change the word order in a sentence with إِنَّ?.....426

254. What is the difference between إِنَّ and أِنَّ?	427
255. When do you have to use أِنَّ (with فَتْحَة)?	432
256. In which situations can you use إِنَّ or أِنَّ?	438
257. What is the difference between إِنَّ and إِنَّمَا?	442
258. In what way is the expression إِنَّمَا special?	444
259. What is the difference between إِنَّمَا and مَا إِنَّ?	445
260. What is a <i>wandering</i> or <i>sliding Lām</i> ?	447
261. Why do we use different names for the emphatic Lām?	450
262. Can you lighten (تَخْفِيفٌ) the sisters of إِنَّ and أِنَّ?	451
263. Can you lighten إِنَّ in a sentence that starts with كَانَ?	453
264. Can you lighten the particle أِنَّ?	454
265. Can you lighten the particle كَانَ?	457
266. Can you lighten the particle لَكِنَّ?	459

#### The reported or indirect speech

267. Does the indirect speech work differently in Arabic?	460
---	-----

#### The negation of a nominal sentence

268. What kind of word is لَيْسَ?	462
269. Can you add وَ before the predicate of لَيْسَ?	464
270. Why did the grammarians of Basra & Kūfa quarrel about لَيْسَ?	465
271. How many particles can do the job of لَيْسَ (as a negation)?	466
272. Can you use مَا to negate a nominal sentence?	466
273. What happens if مَا is used together with <i>but</i> (بَلْ or لَكِنَّ)?	473
274. Can you negate a nominal sentence with لَا?	474
275. Can you negate a nominal sentence with إِنَّ?	477
276. Can you negate a nominal sentence with لَاتِ?	479

#### The absolute negation (the general denial)

277. What is meant by <i>absolute negation</i> ?	483
278. Why is the <i>absolute negation</i> grammatically interesting?	483
279. Can you use the absolute negation with the dual or plural?	488
280. What happens if you repeat the لَا of the absolute negation?	490
281. Which case marker does an adjective get after the لَا of denial?	492
282. <i>There is no God but Allah</i> . What got lost in this sentence?	495
283. What does لا سِيَمًا mean?	497

## CHAPTER 10: THE VERBAL SENTENCE

284. What is a verbal sentence?.....501  
285. What is the usual word order in Arabic?.....501  
286. What else can do the job of a verb?.....503  
287. Does a verbal sentence have to start with a singular verb?.....506  
288. Can a verb end a sentence?.....506  
289. When do you use the verb's feminine form to start a sentence?..507

### The subject of a verbal sentence

290. Is the subject of a verbal sentence always a single word?.....509  
291. Can an interpreted مَصْدَر function as the subject (فَاعِلٌ)?.....509  
292. Which verbs tend to have an interpreted مَصْدَر as a subject?.....512  
293. The subject is always in the nominative case, isn't it?.....513  
294. When do you have to add ب before the subject?.....514  
295. Can you delete the subject of a verbal sentence?.....516  
296. Are there verbs that don't need a subject?.....517  
297. Can you delete the regent (عَامِلٌ) of the subject?.....519  
298. *It was spring*. How do you say that in Arabic?.....520

### The subject of the passive verb (نَائِبُ الْفَاعِلِ)

299. Can something else step in for the *subject* (فَاعِلٌ)?.....522  
300. What was the function of the نَائِبُ الْفَاعِلِ in the active voice?....524  
301. What is the regent (عَامِلٌ) of the نَائِبُ الْفَاعِلِ?.....527  
302. Which verbs are almost only used in the passive voice?.....527

## CHAPTER 11: THE OBJECTS (الْمَفَاعِلُ)

303. Is every verb capable of carrying a direct object?.....528  
304. *I want to visit him*. Is *to visit* (أَنْ أُرْوِرَهُ) the مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ?.....530  
305. Can only verbs have (direct) objects in Arabic?.....530

### Verbs with two (or three) objects

306. Which verbs need two objects?.....535  
307. Why do you sometimes use أَنْ after verbs?.....538  
308. Verbs with two objects – What's the nature of these objects?.....539  
309. Verbs with two objects – Can you delete one object?.....540  
310. Why may *verbs of meaning* lead to complicated structures?.....541  
311. If there is a *verb of meaning*, can you change the word order?.....542

312. What happens if <i>to see</i> really means <i>to see</i> ?.....	547
313. <i>To consider</i> . Does this verb have two objects in Arabic?.....	548
314. What is the mysterious thing about the word هَبُّ?.....	549
315. Can the verb قَالَ have two objects?.....	550
316. Are there verbs with three objects?.....	552
317. Can you change the word order if there are 3 direct objects?.....	554

### The absolute or inner object (الْمَفْعُولُ الْمُطْلَقُ)

318. How did the absolute object get its name?.....	556
319. What is the purpose of the absolute object?.....	557
320. Why do we say “shukran” (شُكْرًا) and not “shukrun” (شُكْرٌ)?.....	558
321. Can a مَصْدَر govern another مَصْدَر?.....	561
322. Can you repeat the absolute object?.....	564
323. Can you delete the absolute object and keep its idea?.....	564
324. Which words are suitable to function as an absolute object?.....	565
325. What is a so-called مَفْعُولٍ مُطْلَقٍ نَائِبٍ?.....	569

### The purpose of the action (الْمَفْعُولُ لِأَجْلِهِ)

326. What is the so-called مَفْعُولٍ لِأَجْلِهِ?.....	570
327. Can only a verb have a causative object?.....	572
328. Can you move the مَفْعُولٍ لِأَجْلِهِ to the beginning?.....	574
329. Can a causative object be mistaken for a حال?.....	574

### Adverbial expression of time and place (الْمَفْعُولُ فِيهِ)

330. Why do we call an adverb in Arabic طَرْفٌ?.....	575
331. Is the مَفْعُولُ فِيهِ the same as an adverb of time or place?.....	576
332. Why is the adverb in the accusative case (مَنْصُوبٌ)?.....	577
333. Can an adverb of time/place be the predicate (حَبْرٌ)?.....	578
334. What is a <i>vague</i> adverb?.....	580
335. Which words can govern an adverb?.....	580
336. Can it be required to delete the regent (عَامِلٌ) of an adverb?.....	582
337. Can one regent (عَامِلٌ) govern two adverbs?.....	584
338. Where in the sentence should you place an adverb of time?.....	585
339. What does سَارَ الْيَوْمَ mean?.....	586
340. What can act as a substitute for an adverb (نَائِبٌ عَنِ الطَّرْفِ)?...586	
341. Can a <i>noun of place</i> (إِسْمُ الْمَكَانِ) fill the place of an adverb?.....	588
342. When is ذُ treated as an adverb?.....	589
343. Can ذُ work as the second part of a إِضَافَةٌ?.....	592

344. Can the particle إذا function as an adverb?.....	594
345. What happens if إذا denotes surprise?.....	595
346. Can the word مع function as an adverb?.....	596
347. Does together really always mean just together?.....	598
348. How do you say: I have money?.....	598
349. Which part of the Arabic word for while (بَيْنَمَا) is an adverb?.....	599
350. I have never done that. How do you say that?.....	602
351. What is the job of the adverb لَمَّا?.....	604
352. Are مِنْذُ and مُذُ prepositions or adverbs?.....	605
353. We want to express while. Should we use بَيْنَمَا or a حَالٌ?.....	608
354. What does يَوْمَ يَوْمَ mean?.....	610

### The tricky وَ - the object of accompaniment (الْمَفْعُولُ مَعَهُ)

355. Why does وَ not always mean and?.....	611
356. How do you know that وَ starts a مَفْعُولٌ مَعَهُ?.....	614
357. Can you use a مَفْعُولٌ مَعَهُ in questions?.....	616

### The state or circumstance (الْحَالُ)

358. To which question does the حال give an answer?.....	617
359. What is suitable as a صَاحِبُ الْحَالِ?.....	618
360. Can the حال refer to any kind of object?.....	621
361. What is the regent of the حال?.....	622
362. What is the regent of the حال in a nominal sentence?.....	626
363. Which forms of a word can be used to work as a حال?.....	627
364. What happens if the حال can't be interpreted as a مُشْتَقٌّ?.....	630
365. Is the حال always indefinite?.....	631
366. Is it correct to use the expression لَوْحْدِي to translate alone?.....	632
367. Is the status of the حال only temporary?.....	633
368. Can the حال be a full sentence, and what would happen then?...635	635
369. Can a prepositional/adverbial phrase be understood as a حال?. 639	639
370. Does it matter whether a verb or a participle serves as the حال?.641	641
371. Can you move the حال further to the front?.....	642
372. How do you know whether a word is a حال or an adjective?.....	644
373. Can an adjective become a حال?.....	645
374. Can a حال also express an intention?.....	646

### The specification (التَّمْيِيزُ)

375. Why do we need specifications?.....	647
--	-----

376. When do you have to specify a single word?.....	649
377. What is the grammatical DNA of a <i>noticeable specification</i> ?.....	650
378. Why is the word that is placed as a <i>تَمْيِيز</i> in the accusative?.....	655
379. <i>إِرْدَادَ رَيْدُ عِلْمًا</i> – Is the word <i>عِلْمًا</i> here the direct object?.....	656
380. What is the difference between a <i>حال</i> and a <i>تَمْيِيز</i> ?.....	658
381. Can you use a <i>تَمْيِيز</i> together with a comparative?.....	658
382. Does the <i>تَمْيِيز</i> go along with <i>surprise and wonder</i> ( <i>تَعَجُّبٌ</i> )?.....	659
383. Does the <i>تَمْيِيز</i> work with <i>praise and blame</i> ?.....	661
384. What will happen to a <i>تَمْيِيز</i> if you place the word <i>مِن</i> before it? 662	

## CHAPTER 12: FINE WAYS OF WORDING (الْجَمَلُ الْأُسْلُوبِيَّةُ)

### The conditional sentence (جُمْلَةُ الشَّرْطِ)

385. What are the main ingredients of a conditional sentence?.....	663
386. Does the first part of a conditional sentence need a verb?.....	665
387. How many types of <i>if</i> are there in Arabic?.....	666
388. What are the most common indeclinable conditional particles? 668	
389. Why do we need a <i>ف</i> in a conditional sentence?.....	670
390. Does it matter whether you use the present or the past tense in a conditional sentence?.....	674
391. How do you mark a past tense verb in the jussive mood?.....	675
392. Why is the conditional particle <i>إِن</i> often tricky?.....	676
393. Why is the word <i>إِذَا</i> special?.....	678
394. What is the difference (in meaning) between <i>إِذَا</i> and <i>إِن</i> ?.....	682
395. What is the difference between <i>إِذَا</i> and <i>إِذْ</i> ?.....	683
396. Can you place a noun ( <i>إِسْمٌ</i> ) after <i>إِذَا</i> ?.....	684
397. What is the peculiar thing about the conditional particle <i>أَيَّ</i> ?.....	685
398. Which tense should you use with <i>لَوْ</i> in Arabic?.....	686
399. How do you negate a sentence that starts with <i>لَوْ</i> ?.....	687
400. Can the 1 <sup>st</sup> part of a conditional sentence work as an adjective? 688	

### The exclusion (جُمْلَةُ الْإِسْتِثْنَاءِ)

401. Why does the excluded thing take the accusative case?.....	689
402. Does the word <i>إِلَّا</i> only mean <i>except</i> ?.....	690
403. Is there only one possible case marker for the <i>الْمُسْتَثْنَى</i> ?.....	692
404. What happens if the <i>الْمُسْتَثْنَى مِنْهُ</i> is missing?.....	694
405. Can you use <i>إِلَّا</i> to combine sentences?.....	696
406. Are there alternatives to <i>إِلَّا</i> ?.....	697



407. What does the word بَيِّد mean?.....699

408. What function has the ما in the expression ما عدا or ما خلا?.....701

### The particularization (أَسْلُوبُ الْإِحْتِصَاصِ)

409. What is a *particularization* in Arabic?.....703

### The occupied regent (الْأَسْتِغَالُ) or: emphasis by word order

410. هَلْ زَيْدًا صَرَّيْتَهُ؟ - Why is Zayd here in the accusative case?.....708

### Two regents want to rule over one patient (التَّنَائُغُ)

411. What do you do if you have two verbs but only one subject?.....715

### The vocative (التَّوْدَاءُ)

412. Why does the word after يا take the مَنْصُوب-case?.....717

413. Which case marker should you use for the person called?.....718

414. How do you call سَعِيدَ بْنِ زَيْدٍ (*Said son of Zayd*) correctly?.....720

415. Can you call someone whose name ends in a weak letter?.....722

416. How does a blind man call someone?.....724

417. What does يَا أَبَتِّ mean?.....726

418. Is it true that the person being called can't have ال?.....728

419. By which trick can you use ال in the vocative?.....729

420. What is the finest way to call God (Allah)?.....731

### Warnings (التَّحْذِيرُ) and instigations (الْإِعْرَاءُ)

421. *The road! The road!* Which case do we use to warn people?.....732

422. What is the purpose of the word يَا?.....734

423. Can the object of a *warning* take the nominative case?.....736

### Sorrow and pain (التُّدْبَةُ)

424. How do you lament in Arabic?.....737

### The call for help (الْأَسْتِغَاثَةُ)

425. How do you call someone for help in Arabic?.....740

426. What was the war-cry of the *time of ignorance*?.....743

427. What is the strange additional ending اه good for?.....744

428. How can you turn a call for help into a call for destruction?.....745

## Prohibition (التَّهْيِ) and proposal (الْعَرْضُ)

429. How do you call upon a person who is absent (الْغَائِبُ)?.....745  
430. *Let's...!* How do you say that in Arabic?.....746  
431. Can words other than verbs also express an imperative?.....747  
432. Can you put a negation particle (*“don't”*) before an imperative?. 747  
433. How can you demand something with urgency?.....748

## Surprise and astonishment (جُمْلَةُ التَّعَجُّبِ)

434. How can you express surprise or astonishment?.....751  
435. Why do we use a past tense form to express astonishment?.....753  
436. *What a pretty blue!* How do you say that?.....754  
437. Can you delete the ب in the التَّعَجُّبُ-form of أَفْعَلْ بِهِ?.....756  
438. *How excellent Zayd was!* How do you say this in Arabic?.....757  
439. What happens if we negate an exclamation of surprise?.....759  
440. Can you use a passive verb to express astonishment?.....760  
441. How do you express wonder with the verb *to be*?.....762

## Praise and blame (جُمْلَةُ الْمَدْحِ وَالذَّمِّ)

442. Which words do you use for praise and blame?.....764  
443. Why are نِعَمَ and يُنْسِنَ regarded as verbs?.....765  
444. How does the subject of a *praise and blame*-sentence look like?. 767  
445. What does the pattern فَعَلَّ express?.....770  
446. Is the verb حَبَّ used for praise *or* blame?.....771

## The oath - taking a vow (جُمْلَةُ الْقَسَمِ)

447. How can you swear *by Allah* in Arabic?.....774  
448. What are the specialties of the complement of the oath?.....775  
449. Can you use a conditional clause (شَرْطٌ) with an oath?.....778  
450. Can you express an oath by combining ل and إِنَّ?.....779

## EPILOGUE

- What's the function of the و in كُلُّ عَامٍ وَأَنْتُمْ بِخَيْرٍ?.....781  
Glossary of English grammar terms .....783  
Islamic Salutations after certain names .....787  
INDEX .....788