

Arabic Verb Tenses and Their Grammatical Analysis

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Abstract: Verbs hold significant importance in all languages of the world, playing a central role in linguistic structure. Among world languages, Arabic stands out for its unique grammatical rules and is considered one of the richest languages in terms of vocabulary. In this article, we examine the classification of verbs according to tense in Arabic, the rules governing their usage, and the distinctive features that differentiate them from one another.

Keywords: Arabic language, verb tenses, arabic verbs, grammatical analysis, morphology, syntax.

Introduction: The Arabic is one of the richest languages in the world, with very extensive and diverse grammatical rules. Verbs in Arabic are divided into two main tenses: the "past tense" and the "present-future tense," with an additional imperative form. Each tense has its own specific formation and usage, which is of great importance in learning the language.

1. Past tense (الماضي):

الفعل الماضي هو كل فعل يدل على حصول عمل في الزمن الماضي

(The past tense verb is any verb that indicates that an action or event occurred in the past.)

الأمثلة: Examples:

جَرَى الكلبُ — The dog ran,

وَقَفَ الرَّجُلُ — The man stopped,

جَاءَتِ الْبِنْتُ — The girl came,

ضَاعَ الْكِتَابُ — The book was lost,

باضت الدجاجة — The hen laid an egg.

تأمل الكلمات الأولى في الأمثلة السابقة تجدها أفعالا ؛ لأن كلاً منها يدل على حصول عمل في زمن خاص ، وإذا تدبرْتَ هذا الزمنَ في كل منها وَجَدْتَهُ زمناً ماضياً ، فكلمة « جَرَى » في المثال الأول تدل على الجري في الزمن الذي مضى قبل التكلم ؛ وكلمة « وقف » في المثال الثاني تدل على الوقوف في الزمن الذي مضى قبل التكلم أيضاً ، وهَلُمَّ جَرَا ، ولذلك تُسمَّى كل كلمة من الكلمات «فعلاً ماضياً» ، وكذلك جميع الكلمات التي من هذا النوع .

If you pay attention to the first words in the previous examples, you will see that all of them are verbs. This is

because each of them indicates an action that took place at a certain time. If you consider the tense of the verbs in these examples, you will know that they all belong to the past tense. For example, the word "جَرَى" (ran) in the first example indicates that the running happened before the time of speaking. The word "وَقَفَ" (stopped) in the second example also means that the stopping occurred before the speech — similarly for the others. Therefore, each of these words is called a "past tense verb." All words belonging to this group are named accordingly.

Thus, the past tense verb expresses that an event or action has passed. Certain suffixes or changes are added to the end of the verb to agree with person, number, and gender.

For example, if we look at the verb "فعل" (to do) conjugated in the past tense:

1. فعل — he (male) did.
2. فعلت — she (female) did.
3. فعلا — they two (male) did.
4. فعلتا — they two (female) did.
5. فعلوا — they (males) did.
6. فعلن — they (females) did.
7. فعلت — you (male) did.
8. فعلت — you (female) did.
9. فعلتما — you two (male) did.
10. فعلتما — you two (female) did.

11. فَعَلْتُمْ – you all (males) did.
12. فَعَلْتُنَّ – you all (females) did.
13. فَعَلْتُ – I did.
14. فَعَلْنَا – we did.

In Arabic, verbs conjugate in 14 forms. Unlike Uzbek, Arabic also has a dual form.

There are also particles that emphasize the past tense verb. These are the particles **قَدْ** and **لَقَدْ**. When added to a past tense verb, they emphasize that the action has definitely been completed. For example:

ذهب إلى المدرسة — translates as "He went to school,"
whereas

لقد ذهب إلى المدرسة — means "He has already gone to school," emphasizing that the action is certainly done.

Also, every language has negation forms for verb tenses. In Arabic, to negate the past tense verb, we use the negation particle **ما** (ma). For example:

قرأ أحمد الكتاب — means "Ahmad read the book,"

but with negation:

ما قرأ أحمد الكتاب — means "Ahmad did not read the book."

Another negation particle used for the past tense verb negation is **لم** (lam). For example:

ذهب محمد إلى المدرسة — "Muhammad went to school."

Negated:

لم يذهب محمد إلى المدرسة — "Muhammad did not go to school."

In this form, after the negation particle **لم** (lam), the verb is written in the present tense form, but it takes the Jazm (sukun) state, indicating negation in the past. This is how the Arabic language expresses the negation of past tense verbs.

To form a question with the past tense verb (الفاعل), the interrogative particle **هل** (hal) is placed before the verb. For example:

هل قرأت هذا الكتاب؟ — "Did you read this book?"

هل خرجت من المدينة؟ — "Did you leave the city?"

Thus, the past tense verb can be formed into a question using **هل**.

2. Present-Future Tense (المضارع):

Rule:

الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ is any verb that indicates an action occurring in the present or future. It must begin with one of the present tense particles, which are **الهمزة** (hamza), **النون** (nun), **الياء** (ya), or **التاء** (ta).

Examples:

أغسل يدي — I wash my hand.

يَبْكُ الكلب — The dog is barking.

أَلْبَسُ ثيابي — I put on my clothes.

يُنْتَبِه الحارس — The guard is alert.

نَلْعِبُ بِالْكُرَةِ — We play with the ball.

تَأْكُلُ الْبِنْتُ — The girl is eating.

نَمْشِي فِي الْحُقُول — We walk in the fields

الكلمات الأولى في الأمثلة السابقة كلها أفعال ، لأن كلا منها يدل على عمل في زمن خاص . وإذا تَدَبَّرْتَ هذا الزمن الخاص في كل منها وجدته إما حاضراً وإما مُسْتَقْبِلاً ، فالفعل **أَغْسِلُ** ، يدل على حصول الغسل في الزمن الحاضر أو المستقبل ، والفعل **« أَلْبَسُ »** ، يدل على حصول اللبس في الزمن الحاضر أو المستقبل ، ويُسمَّى كل فعل من هذا النوع «فِعْلاً مضارعاً» .

وإذا نَظَرْتَ إلى الحرف الأول في كل فعل من هذه الأفعال وأشباهها وجدتَه همزة أو نوناً أو ياء أو تاء ، وتُسمَّى هذه الأحرف الأربعة « أحرف المضارعة» .

The first words in the above examples are verbs because each of them denotes an action occurring at a certain time. If we carefully examine the tense of each of these actions, we see that they indicate the present or future tense.

For example, the verb **"أغسل"** (I wash) denotes that the action of washing is happening now or will happen in the future. Similarly, the verb **"ألبس"** (I wear) indicates that the action of dressing occurs in the present or future. Such verbs are called **"fe'li muzori"** (present-future tense verbs).

If you pay attention to the initial letter of these verbs, you will notice that they all begin with one of the letters hamza (ء), nun (ن), ya (ي), or ta (ت). These four letters are called the **"muzori harflari"** (present tense letters).

The present-future tense verb conjugates into 14 forms, just like the past tense verb. For example, the verb **"فعل"** (to do) conjugated in the present-future tense is as follows:

هو يفعل — he (male) does.

هي تفعل — she (female) does.

هما يفعلان — they two (male) do.

هما تفعلان — they two (female) do.

هم يفعلون — they (males) do.

هنّ يفعلنّ — they (females) do.

أنت تفعل — you (male) do.

أنت تفعلين — you (female) do.

أنتما تفعلان — you two (male) do.

أنتما تفعلان — you two (female) do.

أنتم تفعلون — you all (males) do.

أنتنّ تفعلنّ — you all (females) do.

أنا أفعل — I do.

نحن نفعل – we do.

To form the negation of the present-future tense verb, we use the negation particle لا (laa). For example:

"I am writing the letter," — أكتب الرسالة

"I am not writing the letter," or "I do not write the letter." — لا أكتب الرسالة

Similarly:

"Mahmoud is reading the newspaper now," — يقرأ محمود الجريدة الآن

"Mahmoud is not reading the newspaper." — لا يقرأ محمود الجريدة

In the present-future tense sentence, the exact tense (present or future) is understood from the context or words that indicate time. For instance:

"We will travel to the mountain tomorrow." — نسافر غدا إلى الجبل

The presence of the word غدا ("tomorrow") shows that the verb expresses future tense.

We can also say:

"We are traveling to the mountain now," — نسافر الآن إلى الجبل

which clearly indicates the present tense.

In Arabic, there are also particles that specifically mark the verb as future tense: these are س (sa) and سوف (sawfa). They are added before the verb to indicate a future action.

“سيذهب علي إلى الجامعة

The sentence "Ali universitetga boradi yoki bormoqchi" ("Ali goes to university or intends to go") expresses a meaning indicating the future tense by the particle س (sa). Alternatively, the particle سوف (sawfa) can be used in its place. For example:

"The family will travel to the seaside" or "The family intends to travel to the seaside." — سوف تسافر الأسرة إلى شاطئ البحر

To form the negation of the future tense, the negation particle لن (lan) is used. The verb with this particle expresses only the future tense meaning. Moreover, this particle affects the verb's ending (i'rāb), so that the verb is in the nasb (accusative) case. Examples:

"I will not say anything to you." — لن أقول لك شيء

"We will not leave the village." — لن نترك القرية

"You two will not travel to Spain." — لن تسافرا إلى إسبانيا

When س (sa) and سوف (sawfa) are used in sentences, they only appear with affirmative (positive) verbs. For example:

"Mahmoud will watch the movies," — سيشاهد محمود الأفلام is correct and acceptable.

However, the form لا سيشاهد محمود الأفلام is incorrect and considered a mistake.

To negate the future tense, we use the negation particle لن (lan), and it is incorrect to use س (sa) or سوف (sawfa) with it. For example:

"Mahmoud will not watch the movies," — لن يشاهد محمود الأفلام is the correct form.

3. Imperative Verb (الفعل الأمر):

Rule:

The imperative verb is any verb that requests an action to occur in the future.

Definition:

فعل الأمر هو كل فعل يُطلب به حصول شيء في الزمن المستقبل

(The imperative verb is any verb by which the occurrence of an action in the future is demanded.)

Examples:

"Play with the ball!" — العب بالكرة

"Sleep early!" — نَمْ مُبَكِّرًا

"Feed your cat!" — أَطْعِمْ قِطَّكَ

"Clean your clothes!" — نظف ثيابك

الكلمات الأولى في الأمثلة الْمُتَقَدِّمَةِ أفعال لأن كلاً منها يدل على حصول عمل في زمن خاص وإذا تَدَبَّرْنَا هذه الأفعال ، وَجَدْنَا الْمُتَكَلِّمَ في كل منها ، يطلب من المخاطب ويأمره أَنْ يَأْتِيَ عملاً في الزَّمنِ المُستقبل ، ومن أجل ذلك يُسَمَّى كل فعل من هذه الأفعال «فِعْلَ أَمْرٍ» فالفعل «الْعَبْ» في المثال الأول يُطلب به من المخاطب إتيان اللعب في الزمن المستقبل ، وهو لذلك فِعْلُ أَمْرٍ ، والفعل «أطعم» في المثال الثاني يُطلب به من المخاطب حصول الإطعام في الزمن المستقبل ، وهو لذلك فِعْلُ أَمْرٍ أَيْضًا ، وهكذا يقال في بَقِيَّةِ الأفعال السابقة.

The first words in the previous examples are verbs because each of them indicates the occurrence of an action at a certain time. If we analyze these verbs, we see that in each case the speaker is asking or commanding the listener to perform an action, which is expected to happen in the future. Therefore, each of these verbs is called an imperative verb (الفعل الأمر).

In the first example, the verb "play (الْعَب)" commands the listener to play, making it an imperative verb. In the second example, the verb "feed! (أطعم)" commands the listener to feed, which is also an imperative verb. The same applies to the other verbs mentioned earlier.

The imperative form is not a separate tense but is derived from the present-future tense verb form, and its meaning refers to the future.

Verb tenses in Arabic play an important role not only in expressing time but also in defining the meaning and style of the text. The past tense is used for narration and historical events; the present tense is used to express thoughts and dialogues; and the future tense serves to state plans and promises.

Studying Arabic verb tenses helps not only to understand the language better but also to use it clearly and effectively. Proper use of these tenses enriches the learner's vocabulary and provides an opportunity to engage closely with Arabic language culture.

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