

ARABIC IN PRACTICE (1)

The Basic Nominal Sentence

1. زَيْدٌ كَرِيمٌ (Zaid is generous)
2. هَذَا بُهْتَانٌ عَظِيمٌ (This is a great slander) Q
3. ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ (That is good/better) Q
4. هُوَ كَرِيمٌ (He is generous)
5. هَذِهِ مَرْيَمٌ (This is Maryam)
6. هِيَ مُؤْمِنَةٌ (She is a believer)
7. هَذِهِ سَيَّارَةٌ (This is a car)
8. هِيَ سَرِيعَةٌ (It is fast)
9. أَنَا يُوسُفُ وَهَذَا أُخِي (I am Yusuf and this is my brother) Q
10. نَحْنُ مُصْلِحُونَ (we are rectifiers) Q
11. أَنْتَ وَلِيٌّ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ (You are my Lord in the world and the hereafter) Q
12. أَنْتِ أُخْتِي (You are my sister)
13. أَنْتُمْ شَاكِرُونَ (You [all] are grateful)
14. أَنْتُنَّ طَالِبَاتٌ (You [women] are students)

Using your knowledge of the definite noun you can begin to construct simple nominal sentences. Look at the above examples and bear in mind the following points:

1. A nominal sentence is simply a sentence which begins with a noun as in all of the above examples.
2. A nominal sentence in its most basic form is made up of a معرفة noun and a نكرة noun. Ponder the examples above.
3. The معرفة noun will normally come first and will be the subject of the sentence and the نكرة noun will come last and be the predicate.

4. The predicate is often an adjective or any other descriptive noun such as in example 1, but it can also be a proper name or any other noun such as in examples 2 and 5.
5. In the sentence 'Zaid is generous', 'is' represents the verb 'to be'. In Arabic this has not written form, it is simply understood. Thus, there is no corresponding word for 'is' in an Arabic nominal sentence.

Asking Basic Questions

1. أَهَذَا بَيْتُكَ (is this your house?)
2. هَلْ أَنْتَ طَالِبٌ (are you a student?)
3. مَا هَذَا (what is this?)
4. مَا اسْمُكَ (what is your name?)
5. مَنْ أَنْتَ (who are you)
6. كَيْفَ أَنْتَ (how are you?)
7. كَيْفَ حَالُكَ (how are you? Lit. how is your state?)
8. كَمْ السَّاعَةُ (what is the time?)
9. أَيْنَ الْمَفَاتِيحُ (where are the keys?)
10. أَيْنَ تَذْهَبُ (Where are you going?)
11. مِنْ أَيْنَ أَنْتَ (where are you from?)
12. لِمَاذَا تَأَخَّرْتَ (why did you come late?)
13. مَتَى تَرْجِعُ (when are coming back?)

Above are examples of some common questions. Below are some points to note:

1. A sentence is turned into a question with an interrogative device (particles and nouns, or prepositions) as all of the above examples show.
2. أ and هَلْ are both particles and are used pretty much in the same way. You will find that some words are easier to pronounce with one rather than the other.
3. مَا is used for objects while مَنْ is used for people and intelligent beings. Both can be used with ذَا, for example, مَاذَا قَالَ رَبُّكُمْ (what did your Lord say?), and مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَنْصُرُكُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ (who can help you after Him (Allah)?)
4. كَيْفَ is used to inquire about conditions, circumstances, methods etc.
5. كَمْ is used to inquire about quantity.
6. أَيْنَ is used to inquire about place.
7. مَتَى is used to enquire about time.
8. A particle or preposition can come before the interrogative device. See example 11 above, and لِمَاذَا / لِمَ (why?),

You will be able to use the above interrogative words with معرفة and نكرة nouns found in your worksheets and vocabulary or with any sentence.

التَّمارِينُ – Exercises

التمرين الأول – Exercise 1

Using the vocabulary you've acquired so far and your knowledge of the definite and indefinite words, create your own nominal sentences. Repeat the template below with 5 different sentences.

نكرة	is	معرفة
كبير		البيت
بيت كبير		هذا
كبير		هذا البيت (this house)

التمرين الثاني – Exercise 2

Construct six different sentences without the aid of the template above.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

التمرين الرَّابِعُ - Exercise 4

Now construct two interrogative sentences using each of the remaining interrogative devices featured in the examples.