10

New words: العمل *al-9amal* Work

1 **Essential vocabulary**

خبير خبراء	*khabīr khubarā'* expert	تاجر تجّار	*tājir tujjār* trader
شغل أشغال	*shughl 'ashghāl* work, job	دولي	*duwalī* international
طبيب أطبّاء	*ṭabīb aṭibbā'* doctor	صعب صعاب	*ṣa9b ṣi9āb* difficult
غائب	*ghā'ib* absent	عالمي	*9ālamī* world(wide)
مدني	*madanī* civil, urban	مأمور	*ma'mūr* public official
مهندس	*muhandis* engineer	مشهور	*mashhūr* famous
موظّف	*muwaẓẓaf* employee	موجود	*mowjūd* available
وكالة	*wakāla* agency	وظيفة وظائف	*waẓīfa waẓā'if* job, post

Open *S88.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat the** Essential vocabulary.

Reference vocabulary

بطالة	*baṭāla* unemployment	أجر أجور	*'ajr 'ujūr* wage
سمسار سماسير	*simsār samāsīr* broker	راتب رواتب	*rātib rawātib* salary
مقبول	*maqbūl* acceptable	معقول	*ma9qūl* reasonable
هندسة	*handasa* engineering	ممرّض\ ممرّضة	*mumarriḍ(a)* nurse (m./f.)
وكيل وكلاء	*wakīl wukalā'* agent	واضح	*wāḍiḥ* clear

Open *S89.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat the** Reference vocabulary.

Personal pronouns

2 In previous lessons we have encountered most of the personal pronouns ('I', 'you', 'he' etc.) It may be helpful to have them clearly set out, with one we haven't seen so far. **Write** them out:

أنا	أنا	*'ana*	I	نحن	نحن	*naḥnu*	we
أنتَ	أنت	*'anta*	you (m. s.)	أنتم	أنتم	*'antum*	you (pl.)
أنتِ	أنت	*'anti*	you (f. s.)				
هو	هو	*huwa*	he, it (m. s.)	هم	هم	*hum*	they (an. pl.)
هي	هي	*hiya*	she, it (f. s.), they (inan. pl., i.e. other than people)				

These pronouns correspond exactly in identity and in use to the possessives given in 9/5.

Basic structures, 2: Equation

3 You probably didn't realise that you can already write whole sentences in Arabic. Well, you can. **Read and write** these ones:

هو مسؤول.	هو مسؤول.	*huwa mas'ūl.* He is responsible.
هو مهندس.	هو مهندس.	*(muhandis)* He is an engineer.
زميله مسؤول.	زميله مسؤول.	*(zamīlu)* His colleague is responsible.
زميله طبيب.	زميله طبيب.	His colleague is a doctor.
زميله صحفي مصري.	زميله صحفي مصري.	His colleague is an Egyptian journalist.

Open *S90.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat.**

It is as simple as that. Whereas in English we need a form of the verb 'to be' for such a sentence, Arabic needs nothing beyond the two parts of the statement. These Arabic sentences are complete and correct.

(English uses verbless structures also, but only in newspaper headlines and the like: 'Dollar Devalued', 'Farmers Furious', 'Chairman Dismissed'.)

We can call this structure an **equation**, because, as in a mathematical equation such as '$x = 2$', both parts ('terms') are regarded as equal to each other. The equation is the second of the three basic structures which we study in this book. The first term of the equation is called the *subject*; the second term, which identifies or describes the subject, is called the *predicate*. We can use any pronoun or noun (including a relative or a participle) as subject, as long as it makes sense. **Read and write:**

أنا مسؤول. أنا مسؤول. *'ana mas'ūl.* I am responsible.

هي مسؤولة. هي مسؤولة. *hiya mas'ūla.* She is responsible.

هي كاتبة مشهورة. هي كاتبة مشهورة. *(mashhūra)* She is a famous writer.

Open *S91.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

> **Equation rule:** In a simple statement, Arabic does not use any verb form corresponding to the English 'am', 'is', 'are'. The verb is simply omitted.

You will notice that the predicate has to agree in gender (m./f.) and number (s./dual/pl.) with the subject, if it can (e. g. if it is an adjective, participle or relative). We observe the *inanimate plural rule* (9/4) where appropriate. **Read and write**, with an eye on the inanimate plural in the predicate:

المشكلة صعبة. المشكلة صعبة. *(ṣa9ba)* The problem is difficult. (f. s.)

المشاكل صعبة. المشاكل صعبة. The problems are difficult. (inan. pl.)

الاقتراحات طويلة. الاقتراحات طويلة. *(al-iqtirāḥāt)* The proposals are long.

هي طويلة. هي طويلة. *(hiya)* They (the proposals) are long.

Open *S92.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

When either term of an equation has a masculine regular plural ending, that ending takes the form ون... *-ūn* (not *-īn*); a dual ending takes the form ان... *-ān* (not *-ayn*). **Read and write:**

المفتّشون مسؤولون. المفتّشون مسؤولون. The inspectors are responsible.

المفتّشان مسؤولان. المفتّشان مسؤولان. Both inspectors are responsible.

نحن مسرورون. نحن مسرورون. *(masrūrūn)* We are pleased.

Open *S93.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

> **Exercise 1** Make as many meaningful equations as possible, taking your subject from list (a) and your predicate from list (b). The words must be used as they are; don't change their form:
> *subjects:* (a) اقتراحاتنا، هي، الرئيس، المندوبون، الصحفي
> *predicates:* (b) حاضرون، حاضر، مقبولة، واضحة، عراقي
> **Exercise 2** Translate into Arabic and read your answer aloud:
> (a) The engineer is Lebanese. (b) They are Italians. (c) The minister is absent.
> (d) The doctor is German. (e) She is a foreign doctor.
> The answers to these exercises follow paragraph 5 below.

We have said that the predicate must agree with the subject in gender and number if it can. Look

back at the equations quoted so far, especially the ones with a noun subject. Can you see any way in which the predicate does *not* agree with the subject, although it theoretically could?

Here is a clue. **Read and write** this expression, which bears some resemblance to one of the equations we have already written:

المشكلة الصعبة *al-mushkila ṣ-ṣa9ba*

Open *S94.wav*. Read, listen and repeat.

You see the difference. What we have here is not an equation at all, but a *description* (Lesson 9): 'the difficult problem'. In a description the two terms, noun and adjective, agree in every possible way, including being indefinite or definite. The equations we have studied so far have a *definite* first term (the subject) but an *indefinite* second term (the predicate).

We can have equations with a definite predicate. But their subject is almost always a pronoun.

Read and write:

هو الرئيس. *(ar-ra'īs)* He is the chairman.

هم الخبراء. They are the experts.

Open *S95.wav*. Read, listen and repeat.

If the meaning of such an equation demands a noun as subject, we use the noun but we re-state the subject with its corresponding pronoun. **Read and write:**

العراقي هو الرئيس. The Iraqi ('he') is the chairman.

زملائي هم الخبراء. My colleagues ('they') are the experts.

Open *S96.wav*. Read, listen and repeat.

Adding the pronoun makes it impossible to read the expression as a description. It must be an equation. But such equations are comparatively rare. Equations of the type we studied earlier in the paragraph, with an indefinite predicate, are more common.

Equations with descriptions

4 Either term (subject or predicate) of an equation can itself be a description. As long as the relationship between the two terms of the equation is respected, the equation is correct. Look back at the fifth and eighth examples shown in paragraph 3 above:

زميله صحفي مصري. هي كاتبة مشهورة.

in which the predicate is a description. If the equation begins to look heavy or complicated, the writer may loosen it up by adding the corresponding pronoun to the subject, showing clearly which term is which. We can always do this, with every equation. **Read and write:**

المهندس المدني حاضر. *al-muhandis al-madanī ḥāḍir.*

المهندس المدني حاضر. The civil engineer is present.

المندوب العربي هو مهندس مدني.
المندوب العربي هو مهندس مدني. } The Arab delegate ('he') is a civil engineer.

Open *S97.wav*. Read, listen and repeat.

Active participle in the predicate

5 An indefinite active participle (8/1) in the predicate of an equation may often express an *action*. **Read and write:**

زميلي مسافر إلى القاهرة. *zamīlī musāfir 'ila l-qāhira.*

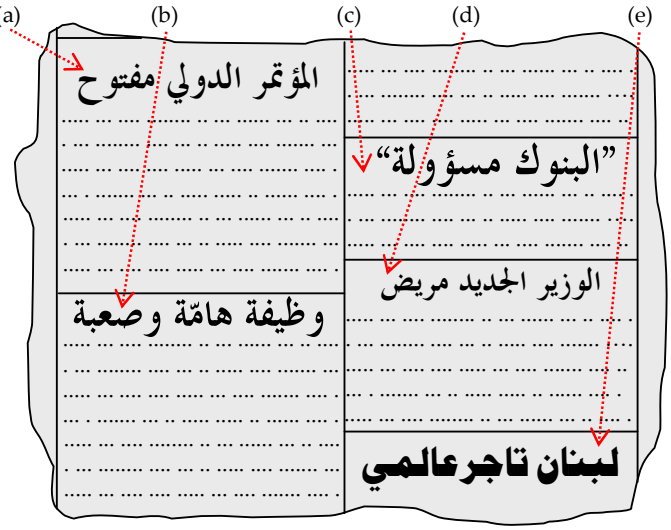
زميلي مسافر إلى القاهرة. My colleague is travelling to Cairo. (*not 'is a traveller to ...'*)

اللجنة منتظرة تقريري. *al-lajna muntáẓira taqrīrī.*
اللجنه منتظره تقريري. The committee is awaiting my report.

Open *S97a.wav*. Read, listen and repeat.

We can use an indefinite active participle in this way ('am/is/are ...ing') whenever the meaning permits it.

Exercise 3 Read and translate these newspaper headings; then answer the questions:



Which ones are equations and which are descriptions? Which equations (if any) have a description as one of their terms?

Exercise 4 Read aloud and translate:

(a) الطبيب إنجليزي. (b) الاقتراحات معقولة. (c) هو خبير فنّي. (d) مصر كبيرة. (e) اقتراحنا جديد.

The answers to these exercises are given immediately below.

Answers to Exercises

1. اقتراحاتنا مقبولة\واضحة *iqtirāḥātna maqbūla/wāḍiḥa.* Our proposals are acceptable/clear.

هي مقبولة\واضحة. *hiya maqbūla/wāḍiḥa.* They are acceptable/clear.

الرئيس حاضر\عراقي. *ar-ra'īs ḥāḍir/9irāqī.* The chairman is present/Iraqi.

المندوبون حاضرون. *al-mandūbūn ḥāḍirūn.* The delegates are present.

الصحفي حاضر\عراقي. *aṣ-ṣuḥufī ḥāḍir/9irāqī.* The journalist is present/Iraqi.

2 (a) المهندس لبناني. *al-muhandis lubnānī.* (b) هم إيطاليون. *hum 'īṭālīyūn.*

(c) الوزير غائب. *al-wazīr ghā'ib.* (d) الطبيب ألماني. *aṭ-ṭabīb 'almānī.*

(e) هي طبيبة أجنبية. *hiya ṭabība 'ajnabīya.*

3 (a) *al-mu'támar ad-duwalī maftūḥ.* The international conference is open. Equation with a definite description as subject.

(b) *waẓīfa hāmma wa-ṣa9ba* An important and difficult job. Not an equation but an indefinite description.

(c) *al-bunūk mas'ūla.* The banks are responsible. Simple equation.

(d) *al-wazīr al-jadīd marīḍ.* The new minister is ill. Equation with a definite description as subject.

(e) *lubnān tājir 9ālamī.* Lebanon is a world trader. Equation with an indefinite description as predicate.

4 (a) *aṭ-ṭabīb 'ingilīzī.* The doctor is British/English.

(b) *al-iqtirāḥāt ma9qūla.* The proposals are reasonable.

(c) *huwa khabīr fannī.* He is a technical expert. (d) *miṣr kabīra.* Egypt is big.

(e) *iqtirāḥna jadīd.* Our proposal is new.

1 Read aloud and translate:

(a) الوظيفة صعبة. (b) المؤتمر التجاري هامّ. (c) الوزراء حاضرون.
(d) الصورة جميلة. (e) الصورة الجميلة

2 Put the words together in an equation, making any necessary changes. Read your answer aloud and translate it:

(a) مطارنا، دولي؛ هامّ. (b) موظّفون؛ مسرور. (c) هو؛ تاجر دولي.
(d) مأمور؛ مشغول. (e) النصّ؛ واضح، مقبول.

3 Fill in the missing letter. Read the word aloud and translate it:

(a) و...يفة (b) م...ظّف (c) م...دوب (d) غا...ب (e) الخ...راء

4 Write in Arabic, and read aloud:

(a) I am writing the letter to the ministry. (NB. two possibilities, m./f.)

(b) We are electing our new chairman now.

(c) The experts are sending their report by ('with the') e-mail.

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