

Introduction to Arabic Grammar

Lesson 9



tasneeminstitute
ENRICHING THE SOUL

Single, Dual and Plural واحد وتثنية وجمع

واحد وتثنية وجمع – Singular, dual and plural

واحد – **Singular:** It is an *ism* which denotes one of something.

e.g. رَجُلٌ one man

تثنية – **Dual:** It is an *ism* which denotes two of something. It is formed by placing at the end of a singular (واحد) one of the following:

واحد وتثنية وجمع Single, Dual and Plural

- An **ألف** preceded by a *fathah* and followed by a **نُونٌ** with a *kasrah* i.e. [ـَانِ] for **حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ**.
(أَلْفٌ مَا قَبْلَهَا مَفْتُوحٌ وَبَعْدَهَا نُونٌ مَكْسُورَةٌ)
e.g. رَجُلَانِ two men
- A **ياءٌ** preceded by a *fathah* and followed by a **نُونٌ** with a *kasrah* i.e. [ـَيْنِ] for **حَالَةُ النَّصْبِ**.
(يَاءٌ مَا قَبْلَهَا مَفْتُوحٌ وَبَعْدَهَا نُونٌ مَكْسُورَةٌ). وَالْجَرِّ
e.g. رَجُلَيْنِ two men

Single, Dual and Plural واحد وتثنية وجمع

جمع – **Plural:** It is an *ism* which denotes more than two of something.

e.g. رَجَالٌ men

Note: The نُونُ of تَثْنِيَّةٌ and جَمْعٌ is dropped in case of إِضَافَةٌ.

e.g. قَلَمًا زَيْدٍ (Originally قَلَمَانِ زَيْدٍ but the نُونُ was dropped due to إِضَافَةٌ.)

فَرَسًا رَجُلٍ (Originally فَرَسَانِ رَجُلٍ but the نُونُ was dropped due to إِضَافَةٌ.)

مُسْلِمًا مِصْرَ (Originally مُسْلِمُونَ مِصْرَ but the نُونُ was dropped due to إِضَافَةٌ.)

طَالِبًا عِلْمٍ (Originally طَالِبُونَ عِلْمٍ but the نُونُ was dropped due to إِضَافَةٌ.)

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

أقسام الجمع – Types of plural

الجمع السالم – **Sound plural:** It is a plural whose **صيغة** (letter sequence/form) of **واحد** does not change when its plural is made. In other words, the singular letter sequence does not break.

e.g. **مُسْلِمُونَ** (singular – مُسْلِمٌ)

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

There are two types of أَلْجُمْعُ السَّالِمُ:

1. جَمْعُ مُذَكَّرٍ سَالِمٍ – Masculine sound plural: It is formed by adding at the end of a singular (وَاحِدٌ) one of the following:

- A واوٌ preceded by a *dammah* and followed by a نُونٌ with a *fathah* i.e. [نُونٌ] for (وَإِذَا مَا قَبْلَهَا مَضْمُومٌ وَبَعْدَهَا نُونٌ مَفْتُوحَةٌ). حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ

e.g. مُسْلِمُونَ

- A ياءٌ preceded by a *kasrah* and followed by a نُونٌ with a *fathah* i.e. [نُونٌ] for (يَاءٌ مَا قَبْلَهَا مَكْسُورٌ وَبَعْدَهَا نُونٌ مَفْتُوحَةٌ). حَالَةُ النَّصْبِ وَالْجَرِّ

e.g. مُسْلِمِينَ

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

2. جَمْعٌ مُؤَنَّثٌ سَالِمٌ – Feminine sound plural: It is formed by discarding the round ة and adding at the end of a singular one of the following:

- An اَلِفٌ preceded by a *fathah* and followed by a *madmoom* long ت i.e. [اَتٌ] for

(اَلِفٌ مَا قَبْلَهَا مَفْتُوحٌ وَبَعْدَهَا تَاءٌ مَضْمُومَةٌ). حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ

e.g. مُسَلِمَاتٌ

- An اَلِفٌ preceded by a *fathah* and followed by a *maksoor* long ت i.e. [اَاتٌ] for

(اَلِفٌ مَا قَبْلَهَا مَفْتُوحٌ وَبَعْدَهَا تَاءٌ مَكْسُورَةٌ). حَالَةُ النَّصْبِ وَ الْجَرِّ

e.g. مُسَلِمَاتٍ

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

أَجْمَعُ الْمُكْسَرُ – **Broken plural:** It is a plural whose صِيغَةٌ (the singular letter sequence/form) of وَاحِدٌ changes when its plural is made. In other words, the singular letter sequence breaks.

e.g. رِجَالٌ (singular – رَجُلٌ)

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

جمع قلة – **Restricted Plural**: It is a plural which denotes a number from three to ten. It has four common أوزان جمع قلة.

أوزان جمع قلة

Wazn	Examples		
	Singular	Meaning	Plural
أَفْعُلٌ	نَفْسٌ	self	أَنْفُسٌ
أَفْعَالٌ	قَوْلٌ	statement	أَقْوَالٌ
أَفْعِلَةٌ	طَعَامٌ	food	أَطْعِمَةٌ
فِعْلَةٌ	عُلَامٌ	boy	غِلْمَةٌ

Note: The masculine and feminine sound plural, which is **not** preceded by an ال is also considered جمع قلة.

e.g. عَاقِلَاتٌ intelligent females عَاقِلُونَ intelligent males

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

جمع كثره – Unrestricted Plural: It is a plural which denotes a number from three upwards. Some of the common أوزان كثره are given below.

أوزان جمع كثره

Wazn	Examples		
	Singular	Meaning	Plural
فِعَالٌ	عَبْدٌ	slave	عِبَادٌ
فُعَلَاءُ	عَلِيمٌ	knowledgeable	عُلَمَاءُ
أَفْعِلَاءُ	نَبِيٌّ	prophet	أَنْبِيَاءُ
فُعُلٌ	رَسُولٌ	messenger	رُسُلٌ
فُعُولٌ	نَجْمٌ	star	نُجُومٌ
فُعَالٌ	خَادِمٌ	servant	خُدَّامٌ
فَعْلَى	مَرِيضٌ	patient	مَرَضَى
فَعَلَةٌ	طَالِبٌ	student	طَلَبَةٌ
فِعَلٌ	فِرْقَةٌ	group/sect	فِرَقٌ
فِعْلَانٌ	غُلَامٌ	boy	غُلَمَانٌ

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

Note: The masculine and feminine sound plural which is preceded by an ال is also considered as جَمْعُ كَثْرَةٍ.

e.g. الْمُسْلِمَاتُ

الْمُسْلِمُونَ

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

جمعُ الجمعِ – **Plural of a plural**: It is the plural of a plural. Sometimes, it appears on the *wazn* of مُنْتَهَى الْجُمُوعِ and sometimes on the *wazn* of الْجَمْعُ السَّالِمُ. Not every plural has a plural. Some examples of plurals which have a plural are given below.

أمثالُ جمعِ الجمعِ

Singular	Meaning	Plural	Plural of plural
نِعْمَةٌ	blessing	أَنْعَمٌ	أَنْعَامٌ
ظُفْرٌ	nail	أَظْفَارٌ	أَظْفَارِيْرٌ
بَيْتٌ	house	بُيُوتٌ	بُيُوتَاتٌ
فَاضِلٌ	well-qualified	أَفَاضِلٌ	أَفَاضِلُونَ

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

مُنْتَهَى الْجُمُوع: It is a plural which has after the أَلِفُ الْجَمْعِ (*alif* of plural), one of the following:

- two مُتَحَرِّكُ letters. e.g. مَسَاجِدُ
- one مُشَدَّدٌ letter. e.g. دَوَابُّ (the original being دَوَابِ)
- three letters, the middle one being سَاكِنٌ. e.g. مَفَاتِيحُ

Some of the common *wazns* of مُنْتَهَى الْجُمُوع are given below:

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

أوزانُ مُنتَهَى الجُمُوعِ

<i>Wazn</i>	Examples		
	Singular	Meaning	Plural
مَفَاعِلُ	مَسْجِدٌ	mosque	مَسَاجِدُ
مَفَاعِلُ	مِفْتَاحٌ	key	مَفَاتِيحُ
فَوَاعِلُ	قَاعِدَةٌ	rule/maxim	قَوَاعِدُ
فَعَائِلُ	رِسَالَةٌ	message/letter	رَسَائِلُ
أَفَاعِلُ	أَكْبَرُ	elder	أَكَابِرُ

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

إِسْمُ الْجَمْعِ – Collective ism: It is a singular إِسْمٌ which conveys a plural meaning. Generally, it does not have a singular from the same word.

e.g. قَوْمٌ nation
رَهْطٌ group

Note:

1. These words have plurals.

e.g. قَوْمٌ → أَقْوَامٌ رَهْطٌ → أَرْهَاطٌ

2. In usage, if the word is considered, it will be used as a singular إِسْمٌ.

e.g. الْقَوْمُ حَاضِرٌ The people are present.

If its meaning is considered (as is commonly done), it will be used as a plural إِسْمٌ.

e.g. قَوْمٌ صَالِحُونَ righteous people

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

Notes:

1. Some plurals do not have the same root letters as their singulars.

e.g. اِمْرَأَةٌ (woman) → نِسَاءٌ
 ذُو (the one who possesses something) → اَوْلُو

2. Some plurals are not according to rule (خِلَافُ الْقِيَاسِ).

e.g. اُمٌّ (mother) → اُمَّهَاتٌ
 فَمٌّ (mouth) → اَفْوَاهٌ
 مَاءٌ (water) → مِيَاهٌ
 اِنْسَانٌ (human being) → اُنْسَانٌ
 شَاةٌ (goat/sheep) → شِيَاهٌ

Types of Plural أقسام الجمع

إِسْمُ الْجِنْسِ – Generic ism: It is an إِسْمٌ which is devised for an essence (مَاهِيَّةٌ). Because of that, it refers to an entire genus (category/class). Generally, its singular has a (ة). For example,

شَجَرٌ refers to trees. Its singular is شَجْرَةٌ (a tree).

نَخْلٌ refers to date-palm trees. Its singular is نَخْلَةٌ (a date-palm tree).