

Introduction to Arabic Grammar

Lesson 17



Governing Verbs الأفعال العاملة

الفعلُ المَعْرُوفُ – Active *fi 'l*: It is a *فَعْلٌ* whose doer is known/mentioned.

- *فَعْلٌ مَعْرُوفٌ*, whether transitive or intransitive, governs the following *isms*, as and when applicable:
 - it gives *رَفْعٌ* to the *فَاعِلٌ*.
 - it gives *نَصْبٌ* to the following, as and when applicable:
 - i. *الفعلُ المتعدي* (*مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ*) can only be governed by a *فَاعِلٌ*.
 - ii. *مَفْعُولٌ مُطْلَقٌ*
 - iii. *مَفْعُولٌ مَعَهُ*
 - iv. *مَفْعُولٌ لَهُ*
 - v. *مَفْعُولٌ فِيهِ*
 - vi. *حَالٌ*
 - vii. *تَمَيِّزٌ*

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الفعل المجهول – Passive fi' l: It is a فعل whose doer is not known/mentioned.

- فعل مجهول is also known as فعل ما لم يُسمَّ فاعله (a فعل whose فاعل is not named).
- It gives رُفْع to the نائب فاعل (originally the مفعول به).
- It gives نَصْب to all the remaining منصوبات.

e.g. ضَرَبَ زَيْدٌ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ أَمَامَ الْقَاضِي ضَرْبًا شَدِيدًا فِي دَارِهِ تَأْدِيبًا

Zayd was beaten severely on Friday, in front of the Judge, in his office/house, to teach him manners.

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الفعل اللازم – **Intransitive *fi'l***: It is a فعل whose meaning can be understood without a مفعول به.

e.g. جَلَسَ زَيْدٌ Zayd sat.

الأفعال الناقصة: These were discussed earlier ;

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الفعل المتعدي – Transitive fi‘l

Definition: It is a **فِعْلٌ** whose meaning cannot be understood without a **مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ**.

e.g. ضَرَبَ زَيْدٌ بَكْرًا Zayd hit Bakr.

There are four types of **الفعل المتعدي**. These are as follows:

1. Those **fi‘ls** which require one **مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ** as is the case with most *muta‘addi* verbs.

e.g. ضَرَبَ زَيْدٌ بَكْرًا

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2. Those *fi'ls* which can be given two مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ. These include the following:

- Any فِعْلٌ which has the meaning of إِعْطَاءٌ (to give).

e.g. أَعْطَى مَنَحَ وَهَبَ etc.

أَعْطَيْتُ السَّائِلَ خُبْزًا I gave the beggar a bread.

- Some other *fi'ls* which can also have two مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ include the following

أَمَرَ كَسَى سَأَلَ etc.

e.g. يَكْسُو الْعِلْمُ أَهْلَهُ وَقَارًا Knowledge clothes its possessor with dignity.

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3. Those *fi'ls* which must be given two *المفعولُ بِهِ*.
- These *fi'ls* are known as *أفعالُ القلوبِ* (*fi'ls* which relate to the heart/feelings).
 - They enter upon a *مُبْتَدَأٌ* and *خَبْرٌ* unlike the *fi'ls* above (number 2).

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أَفْعَالُ الْقُلُوبِ

<i>Fi'l</i>	Usage	Example	
رَأَى	used for certainty (يَقِينُ)	رَأَيْتُ سَعِيدًا ذَاهِبًا	I was sure Sa'eed was going.
وَجَدَ	used for certainty (يَقِينُ)	وَجَدْتُ رَشِيدًا عَالِمًا	I was sure Rasheed was knowledgeable.
عَلِمَ	used for certainty (يَقِينُ)	عَلِمْتُ زَيْدًا أَمِينًا	I was sure Zayd was trustworthy.
زَعَمَ	used for certainty (يَقِينُ) or doubt (شَكٌّ)	زَعَمْتُ زَيْدًا حَاضِرًا	I was sure Zayd was present. / I thought Zayd was present.
حَسِبَ	used for doubt (شَكٌّ)	حَسِبْتُ زَيْدًا فَاضِلًا	I thought Zayd was well-educated.
حَالَ	used for doubt (شَكٌّ)	حَلَيْتُ خَالِدًا قَائِمًا	I thought Khalid was standing.
ظَنَّ	used for doubt (شَكٌّ)	ظَنَنْتُ بَكْرًا نَائِمًا	I thought Bakr was sleeping.

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Note: Other *fi'ls* which also require two مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ include the following:

صَيَّرَ to make something something else

e.g. صَيَّرْتُ الْأَوْزَاقَ كِتَابًا I made the pages a book.

اتَّخَذَ to take someone/something as someone/something

e.g. وَاتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ خَلِيلًا Allah took Ibraheem (peace be upon him) as a friend.

جَعَلَ to make something something else

e.g. جَعَلْتُ الْكِتَابَ مُرْتَبًا I made the book organized.

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4. Those *fi'ls* which require three مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ. Each of these has the meaning of “informing” or “showing.” These are as follows:

<i>Fi'l</i>	Example
أَرَى	أَرَيْتُ زَيْدًا خَالِدًا نَائِمًا I informed Zayd that Khalid is sleeping.
أَعْلَمَ	أَعْلَمْتُ زَيْدًا بَكْرًا فَاضِلًا I informed Zayd that Bakr is well-educated.
أَنْبَأَ	أَنْبَأَنِي الرَّسُولُ الْأَمِيرَ قَادِمًا The messenger informed me that the chief is coming.
نَبَأَ	نَبَأْتُهُمُ الْكِبَرَ مَمْقُوتًا I informed them that arrogance is hated.
أَخْبَرَ	أَخْبَرْتُ الْغُلَمَانَ اللَّعِبَ مُفِيدًا I informed the boys that sport is beneficial.
خَبَّرَ	خَبَّرْتُ الْمُسَافِرِينَ الْقِطَارَ مُتَأَخِّرًا I informed the travellers that the train is late.
حَدَّثَ	حَدَّثْتُ الْأَوْلَادَ السِّبَاخَةَ نَافِعَةً I informed the children that swimming is beneficial.

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أَفْعَالُ الْمُقَارَبَةِ وَالرَّجَاءِ وَالشُّرُوعِ

Definition: These *fi'ls* are actually a type of أَفْعَالٌ نَاقِصَةٌ and they behave the same way. They also enter upon مُبْتَدَأٌ & خَبْرٌ and give رَفْعٌ to their إِسْمٌ and نَصْبٌ to their خَبْرٌ. The difference is that their خَبْرٌ is always جُمْلَةٌ فِعْلِيَّةٌ.

They are used for the following purposes:

1. أَفْعَالُ الْمُقَارَبَةِ show nearness in the attainment (حُصُولٌ) of the خَبْرٌ.
2. أَفْعَالُ الرَّجَاءِ show desire for attainment of خَبْرٌ.
3. أَفْعَالُ الشُّرُوعِ show commencement of action.

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أَفْعَالُ الْمُقَارَبَةِ وَالرَّجَاءِ وَالشُّرُوعِ

فِعْلٌ	إِسْمٌ	خَبْرٌ	Type	Example
كَادَ	مَرْفُوعٌ	أَنَّ مُضَارِعٌ preferably without	حُصُولٌ	كَادَ زَيْدٌ يَذْهَبُ Zayd was about to go.
كَرَبَ / كَرَبَ*	مَرْفُوعٌ	أَنَّ مُضَارِعٌ preferably without	حُصُولٌ	كَرَبَ خَالِدٌ يَجْلِسُ Khalid was about to sit.
أَوْشَكَ	مَرْفُوعٌ	أَنَّ مُضَارِعٌ preferably with	حُصُولٌ	أَوْشَكَ زَيْدٌ أَنْ يَجْلِسَ Zayd was about to sit.

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عَسَى*	مَرْفُوعٌ	أَنَّ مُضَارِعٌ preferably with	رَجَاءٌ	عَسَى زَيْدٌ أَنْ يَخْرُجَ	Hopefully Zayd will come out.
طَفِقَ*	مَرْفُوعٌ	أَنَّ مُضَارِعٌ without	شُرُوعٌ	طَفِقَ زَيْدٌ يَكْتُبُ	Zayd began writing.
جَعَلَ*	مَرْفُوعٌ	أَنَّ مُضَارِعٌ without	شُرُوعٌ	جَعَلَ زَيْدٌ يَقْرَأُ	Zayd began reading.
أَخَذَ*	مَرْفُوعٌ	أَنَّ مُضَارِعٌ without	شُرُوعٌ	أَخَذَ زَيْدٌ يَأْكُلُ	Zayd began eating.

* These *fi'ls* are used only in past tense.

- The أَفْعَالُ الشُّرُوعِ can be used as normal *fi'ls* too.

e.g. أَخَذَ زَيْدٌ ثَوْبَهُ Zayd took his clothes.

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Sentence Analysis:

عَسَى زَيْدٌ أَنْ يَخْرُجَ

Hopefully Zayd will come out.

أَنْ يَخْرُجَ

زَيْدٌ

عَسَى

أَنْ مصدرية + فِعْلٌ + فَاعِلٌ (هُوَ)

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خَبْرُ عَسَى

إِسْمُ عَسَى

فِعْلُ الرَّجَاءِ

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أَفْعَالُ الْمَدْحِ وَالذَّمِّ – *Fi'ls* of praise and blame

<i>Fi'ls</i> of praise:	نِعْمَ	e.g.	نِعْمَ الرَّجُلُ زَيْدٌ	What a wonderful man Zayd is!
	حَبْدًا	e.g.	حَبْدًا زَيْدٌ	What a wonderful man Zayd is!
<i>Fi'ls</i> of blame:	بِئْسَ	e.g.	بِئْسَ الرَّجُلُ زَيْدٌ	What an evil man Zayd is!
	سَاءَ	e.g.	سَاءَ الرَّجُلُ زَيْدٌ	What an evil man Zayd is!

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- That which appears after the فاعِل is called مَخْصُوصٌ بِالْمَدْحِ or مَخْصُوصٌ بِالذَّمِّ.
- The فاعِل of نِعَمَ - بئسَ - سَاءَ must be one of the following:
 - i. prefixed with ال.
e.g. نِعَمَ الرَّجُلِ زَيْدٌ What a wonderful man Zayd is!
 - ii. مَضَافٌ to an إِسْمٌ prefixed with ال.
e.g. نِعَمَ صَاحِبِ الْعِلْمِ زَيْدٌ What a wonderful learned man Zayd is!
 - iii. a hidden ضَمِيرٌ followed by a نَكْرَةٌ مَنْصُوبَةٌ (being تَمَيِّزٌ).
e.g. نِعَمَ رَجُلًا زَيْدٌ [نِعَمَ (هُوَ) رَجُلًا زَيْدٌ] What a wonderful man Zayd is!
 - iv. The word ما.
e.g. بئسَ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ How evil is what they used to do!

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In حَبَّذَا زَيْدٌ, حَبَّ is the فِعْلٌ.
ذَا (اسْمٌ إِشَارَةٌ) is its فَاعِلٌ.
زَيْدٌ is the مَخْصُوصٌ بِالْمَدْحِ.

Notes:

1. These *fi'ls* are used in the past tense in their singular form (masculine or feminine).
2. At times the مَخْصُوصٌ بِالْمَدْحِ is dropped.

e.g. نِعَمَ الْعَبْدُ i.e. نِعَمَ الْعَبْدُ أَيُّوبُ What a wonderful slave Ayyub is!

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Sentence Analysis:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{زَيْدٌ} \\ \text{مَخْصُوصٌ بِالْمَدْحِ} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{الرَّجُلُ} \\ \text{فَاعِلٌ} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{نِعْمَ} \\ \text{فِعْلٌ الْمَدْحِ} \end{array}$$

⏟
خَبْرٌ مُقَدَّمٌ

$$\text{جُمْلَةٌ إِسْمِيَّةٌ خَبَرِيَّةٌ} = \text{مُبْتَدَأٌ مُؤَخَّرٌ}$$

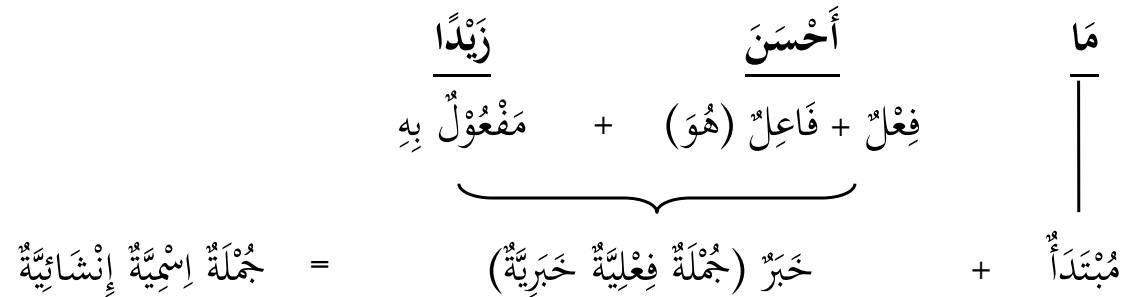
الأفعال العاملة Governing Verbs

أفعال التعجب – Fi'ls of wonder

For three-letter *fi'ls* (الثلاثي المجرد), there are two *wazns* for expressing wonder or amazement.

1. أيُّ شيءٍ ما: ما أفعلهُ.

e.g. ما أحسنَ زيدًا How wonderful Zayd is!



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2. (زائدةٌ) أَفْعَلُ بِ has the meaning of past tense and the ب is extra (فِعْلٌ أَمْرٌ) أَفْعَلُ: أَفْعَلُ بِهِ.

e.g. (أَحْسَنَ زَيْدٌ) أَحْسِنُ بِزَيْدٍ How wonderful Zayd is!

جُمْلَةٌ فِعْلِيَّةٌ إِنْشَائِيَّةٌ

- To express wonder for other than three-letter *fi'ls* (عَيْرُ الثَّلَاثِيِّ الْمُجَرَّدِ), a word such as أَشَدُّ بِ or أَشَدَّ or مَا أَحْسَنَ بِ or مَا أَحْسَنَ or مَا أَشَدَّ etc. should be placed before the مَصْدَرٌ of the desired فِعْلٌ. The مَصْدَرٌ will be مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ, thus مَنصُوبٌ.

e.g. مَا أَشَدَّ إِكْرَامَ النَّاسِ لِلْعُلَمَاءِ How very respectful people are towards the learned!