

Lesson 3

Compounds

1. A combination of two or more words is called (مُرَكَّب).

The relationship between them is called (تَرْكِيب).

2. Compounds are of two types: (نَاقِص) incomplete and (تَام) complete.

(a) An incomplete compound (مركب ناقص) is a combination of words from which no information, order or desire is understood. It is an incomplete statement, e.g. (رَجُلٌ حَسَنٌ) – a good man; (كِتَابُ رَجُلٍ) a man's book.

(b) A complete compound (مركب تام) is a combination of words from which some information, command or wish is understood, e.g. (الرَّجُلُ حَسَنٌ) - The man is good. This statement provides us with the information that the man is good.

(خُذِ الْكِتَابَ) – Take the book. The order of taking the book is understood from this sentence.

(رَبِّ ارْزُقْنِي) – O my Sustainer, grant me sustenance. A request is understood from this statement.

A complete sentence is also called (جُمْلَةٌ) or (كَلَامٌ).

3. Incomplete compounds are of several kinds, e.g. (مركب) (مركب عَدَدِيّ), (مركب إِضَافِيّ), (تَوْصِيفِيّ), etc. Here we will discuss (مركب توصيفي). The other types will be discussed later on, as will complete sentences.

The Adjectival Phrase

(مركب توصيفي)

4. A (مركب توصيفي) is a compound in which the second word describes the first word, e.g. (رَجُلٌ صَالِحٌ) – a pious man. The word (صَالِحٌ) describes the word (رَجُلٌ) with the quality of piety.

5. The first part of a (مركب توصيفي) is (اسم الذات)⁶ while the second part is (اسم الصفة). In the above example, the word (رَجُلٌ) is (اسم الذات) while the word (صَالِحٌ) is (اسم الصفة).

⁶ See Lesson 1, fact no.4

6. The first part of (مركب توصيفي) is called (مَوْصُوفٌ)⁷ while the second part is called the (صِفَةٌ)⁸. In the above example, the word (رَجُلٌ) is a (موصوف) while the word (صَالِحٌ) is a (صفة).

7. If the (موصوف) is indefinite (نكرة), the (صفة) will also be (نكرة), otherwise it will be (معرفة). In the compound (رَجُلٌ صَالِحٌ), both parts are (نكرة) - indefinite. In the phrase (الرَّجُلُ الصَّالِحُ), both parts are (معرفة) - definite.

8. The same declension (إِعْرَابٌ)⁹ that applies to the (موصوف) will apply to the (صفة).

9. A (مركب توصيفي) and all other incomplete compounds form part of a sentence.

⁷ a word that is being described.

⁸ adjective.

⁹ This will be discussed in detail in Lesson 10.

Vocabulary List No. 2

Word	Meaning
بُسْتَانٌ	garden
بَحْرٌ	sea
بَطِيخٌ	melon
كَبِيرٌ	big, large
عَمِيقٌ	deep
رَدِيئٌ	bad
تُفَّاحٌ	apple
رَمَّانٌ	pomegranate
شَارِعٌ	street
قَصْرٌ	palace
مَحَلٌ	place
مَسْجِدٌ	mosque
مَلِكٌ	king
جَبْنٌ	cheese
قَلَمٌ	pen

وَرْدٌ	rose
جَيِّدٌ	good
حُلُوٌّ	sweet
عَرِيضٌ	broad
مَشِيدٌ	strong
نَظِيفٌ	clean
وَسِيعٌ	wide
عَظِيمٌ	great
مَالِحٌ أَوْ مَلِيحٌ	salty
صَغِيرٌ	small
أَحْمَرٌ	red

The above list contains many (اسم الذات) and (اسم الصفة). By combining them, you can form many compounds of (مركب) – adjectival phrases.

Exercise No. 2

(A) Translate the following phrases into English:

- (1) اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ (2) الرَّسُولُ الْكَرِيمُ (3) قَصْرٌ عَظِيمٌ (4) الْبَيْتُ الصَّغِيرُ
(5) بُسْتَانٌ نَظِيفٌ (6) تَمْرٌ حُلْوٌ (7) التَّمْرُ الْحُلْوُ (8) مَلِكٌ صَالِحٌ (9)
الْبَحْرُ الْمَالِحُ (10) شَيْءٌ طَيِّبٌ (11) الرَّجُلُ الطَّيِّبُ (12) مُحَمَّدٌ
الرَّسُولُ (13) رَبٌّ غَفُورٌ (14) ذَنْبٌ عَظِيمٌ (15) رَجُلٌ قَبِيحٌ (16)
الْجَبْنُ الرَّدِيءُ (17) خُبْزٌ جَيِّدٌ وَ تَمْرٌ حُلْوٌ (18) الرَّجُلُ الصَّالِحُ وَ الْمَلِكُ
الْكَرِيمُ (19) تُفَّاحٌ أَحْمَرٌ (20) الْبَطِيخُ الْحُلْوُ (21) الْوَرْدُ الْأَحْمَرُ

(B) Translate these phrases into Arabic:

- (1) the strong place (2) the small house (3) a beautiful flower
(4) the ugly man (5) the broad street (6) a pious man (7) the
sweet milk (8) the just king (9) the great palace (10) the easy
lesson (11) a beautiful horse (12) a sweet fruit (13) the small
place (14) the good horse (15) the wide house (16) the good
bread or the good milk (17) a pious boy and a transgressing
boy (18) the large musjid and the small garden.