

Lesson 6

Sentences with a Noun - الجملة الاسمية

1. You have read that a complete statement is called a sentence (جملة). See 3.2. Remember that sentences are of two types: (جملة فعلية) and (جملة اسمية).

A (جملة اسمية) is one in which the first part is a noun (اسم), e.g. (زَيْدٌ حَسَنٌ) – Zaid is handsome.

A (جملة فعلية) is one in which the first part is a verb (فعل), e.g. (حَسَنَ زَيْدٌ) – Zaid became handsome.

Hereunder follow some rules of (جملة اسمية) while the (جملة فعلية) will be discussed in Lesson 14.

The first part of a (جملة اسمية) is generally definite (معرفة) while the second part is indefinite (نكرة). In the above example, the word (زَيْدٌ) is definite while (حَسَنٌ) is indefinite.

Note 1: The difference between (جملة اسمية) and (مرکب) is that in the latter, both the parts are the same in being definite or indefinite while in the former, the first part is definite and the second part is indefinite. Consequently, in the above-mentioned example, if an indefinite noun takes the place of the word (زَيْدٌ) and you say (رَجُلٌ حَسَنٌ), or you render the second word (حَسَنٌ) definite by adding (الْ) to it, and say (زَيْدٌنَ الْحَسَنُ), both these will become adjectival phrases (مرکب توصيفي).

However, when the second part of a (جملة اسمية) is not a word that can become an adjective of a noun²⁴, it is permissible for the second part also to be definite, e.g.

(أَنَا يُوسُفُ) – I am Yūsuf.

It is also permissible to insert a separating pronoun (ضَمِير) between the subject (مبتدا) and the predicate (خبر).

Examples:

(الرَّجُلُ هُوَ الصَّالِحُ) – The man is pious.

(الرِّجَالُ هُمُ الصَّالِحُونَ) – The men are pious.

²⁴ For example, it is (اسم علم), (ضمير) or (اسم إشارة).

If the pronoun is removed from here, these sentences will become adjectival phrases (مركب توصيفي).

Note 2: In Arabic, there is no word for 'is' as in English. This word is understood from the sentence. Therefore (زَيْدٌ عَالِمٌ) means 'Zaid is learned' although the word 'is' is not there.²⁵

3. The first part of a (جملة اسمية) is called (مبتدا) - the subject²⁶, while the second part is called the (خبر) - the predicate²⁷.

4. Generally the (مبتدا) and the (خبر) are in (حالة الرفع)²⁸ - the nominative case.

5. The predicate conforms to the subject in number and gender, as in the case of the adjective. However when the subject is (جَمْعٌ غَيْرِ عَاقِلٍ) - the plural of a non-intelligent being, the predicate is generally singular feminine.

²⁵ However, the verb (يَكُونُ) can provide the meaning of 'is'.

²⁶ In English, the subject of a sentence is a word or phrase that refers to the person or thing that performs an action.

²⁷ In English, the predicate refers to the word or words that say something about the subject but are not part of it.

²⁸ A detailed discussion on cases follows in Lesson 10.

Examples:

Sentence	Meaning	Type of Subject
الرَّجُلُ صَادِقٌ	The man is truthful.	singular, masculine, intelligent
الرَّجُلَانِ صَادِقَانِ	The two men are truthful.	dual, masculine, intelligent
الرِّجَالُ صَادِقُونَ	The men are truthful.	plural, masculine, intelligent
الْمَرْأَةُ صَادِقَةٌ	The woman is truthful.	singular, feminine, intelligent
الْمَرْأَتَانِ صَادِقَتَانِ	The two women are truthful.	dual, feminine, intelligent
النِّسَاءُ صَادِقَاتٌ	The women are truthful.	plural, feminine, intelligent
الرِّيحُ شَدِيدَةٌ	The wind is severe.	singular, feminine, non-intelligent
الرِّيحَانِ شَدِيدَتَانِ	The two winds are severe.	dual, feminine, non-intelligent
الرِّيَاحُ شَدِيدَةٌ	The winds are severe.	plural, feminine, non-intelligent

Note 3: In these examples, if the definite article (الْ) is added

to the second part, or it is removed from the first part, all these examples will become (مركَّب توصيفي) - adjectival phrases.

6. If there are two subjects and they are of different types, that is, one is masculine and one feminine, the predicate will be masculine, e.g. (الابْنُ وَالابْنَةُ حَسَنَانِ) – The son and the daughter are beautiful.

7. The subject and predicate are sometimes singular and sometimes they are compounds (مركَّب). The examples of singular have passed. Hereunder follow the examples of (مركَّب):

Sentence	Meaning	Analysis
الرَّجُلُ الطَّيِّبُ حَاضِرٌ	The good man is present.	The subject is (مركَّب توصيفي).
زَيْدٌ رَجُلٌ طَيِّبٌ	Zaid is a good man.	The predicate is (مركَّب توصيفي).

8. By adding (مَّا) or (لَيْسَ) to a (جمله اسمية), it changes from positive to negative. Most often a (بِ) is added to the

predicate which changes the case to the genitive (حالة الجر),
e.g. (مَا زَيْدٌ بِعَالِمٍ) – Zaid is not learned; (لَيْسَ زَيْدٌ بِرَجُلٍ قَبِيحٍ) –
Zaid is not a bad person.

9. Very often the word (إِنَّ) is prefixed to a (جمله اسمية). As a
result, the subject changes to (حالة النصب) - the accusative
case while the predicate remains unchanged, e.g.
(إِنَّ الْأَرْضَ مُدَوَّرَةٌ) – Undoubtedly the earth is round.

Note 4: To create the meaning of interrogation in a sentence,
(هَلْ) or (أَ) is added to the beginning, e.g.

(أَ زَيْدٌ عَالِمٌ) – Is Zaid learned?;

(هَلِ الرَّجُلُ عَالِمٌ) – Is the man learned?

Vocabulary List No. 5

Word	Meaning
أَمْ	or (in a question)
بَقْرٌ	cow
بَلَى	certainly, why not

جَدِيدٌ	new
جَدًّا	very
جَالِسٌ ، قَاعِدٌ	sitting
حَارِسٌ	guard, sentry
شَاةٌ	sheep
فِيلٌ	elephant
قَائِمٌ	standing
قَدِيمٌ	old
كَلْبٌ	dog
مَشْهُورٌ ، مَعْرُوفٌ	famous
مُؤْمِنٌ	believer
نَعَمْ	yes
ضَخْمٌ	thick

The Nominative Detached Pronouns

(الضَّمَائِرُ الْمَرْفُوعَةُ الْمُنْفَصِلَةُ)

Third Person غَائِبٌ			
Masculine	singular	هُوَ	he , it
	dual	هُمَا	they
	plural	هُمْ	they
Feminine	singular	هِيَ	she, it
	dual	هُمَا	they
	plural	هُنَّ	they

Second Person حَاضِرٌ			
Masculine	singular	أَنْتَ	you
	dual	أَنْتُمَا	you
	plural	أَنْتُمْ	you
Feminine	singular	أَنْتِ	you
	dual	أَنْتُمَا	you
	plural	أَنْتُنَّ	you

First Person (Speaker) مُتَكَلِّمٌ	
أَنَا	I
نَحْنُ	We

Note 5: These pronouns are most often the subject of a sentence. Hence they are regarded as (مرفوع) – in the nominative case. See 6.4. They are called (مُنْفَصِلٌ) because they are pronounced independently.

Note 6: Also remember that (أَنَا) is always pronounced (أَنْ) without the alif.

Exercise No. 5

Note 7: When speaking, pause (*waqf*) at the end of sentences as mentioned in Exercise No. 1. However, initially, continue writing all the ḥarakāt.

(A) Translate the following into English

- (1) أَلَوْلَدُ قَائِمٌ (2) أَلْأَبْنَةُ جَالِسَةٌ (3) هَلِ الْوَلَدُ قَائِمٌ ، نَعَمْ هُوَ قَائِمٌ (4)
هَلِ الْأَبْنَةُ قَائِمَةٌ ، لَا هِيَ جَالِسَةٌ (5) أَهَذَا الرَّجُلُ نَجَّارٌ أَمْ خَبَّازٌ ، هُوَ خَبَّازٌ
مَا هُوَ بَنَجَّارٌ (6) أَطَرَفَةُ شَاعِرٌ ، نَعَمْ هُوَ شَاعِرٌ مَعْرُوفٌ (7) هَلِ أَنْتُمْ
حَيَّاطُونَ ؟ مَا نَحْنُ بِخَيَّاطِينَ بَلْ نَحْنُ مُعَلِّمُونَ (8) هَلِ هُنَّ مُعَلِّمَاتٌ ؟ نَعَمْ
هُنَّ مُعَلِّمَاتٌ صَالِحَاتٌ (9) أَأَنْتِ يُوسُفُ الْعَلَّامَةُ ؟ أَنَا يُوسُفُ لَكِنْ مَا أَنَا
بَعَلَّامَةٌ (10) هَلِ زَيْنَبُ مُعَلِّمَةٌ كَسَلَانَةٌ ؟ لَا هِيَ مُعَلِّمَةٌ مُجْتَهِدَةٌ (11) هَلِ
الْحَارَاتُ نَظِيفَةٌ ؟ نَعَمْ هِيَ حَارَاتٌ نَظِيفَةٌ (12) أَلَيْسَ الْبَقَرُ بِحَيَّوَانٍ نَافِعٍ ؟
بَلَى الْبَقَرُ حَيَّوَانٌ نَافِعٌ جِدًّا (13) إِنَّ الْكَلْبَ حَيَّوَانٌ حَارِثٌ (14) إِنَّ

الْمَرْأَةُ الصَّالِحَةُ جَالِسَةٌ (15) إِنَّ الْمَرْأَتَيْنِ الصَّالِحَتَيْنِ²⁹ جَالِسَتَانِ (16) إِنَّ
الْمُعَلِّمِينَ وَالْمُعَلِّمَاتِ³⁰ مُحْتَهِدُونَ

(B) Fill in the blanks which represent a subject or predicate with suitable words that you have studied.

- (1) _____ الدَّارُ
- (2) _____ الْوَلَدَانِ الصَّالِحَانِ
- (3) _____ الْبَيْتُ لَيْسَ بِ _____
- (4) _____ كَسَلَانَةٌ
- (5) _____ هَلِ النَّجَّارُ
- (6) _____ أَنَا
- (7) _____ نَعَمْ هُوَ
- (8) _____ هُمَا
- (9) _____ هَلِ _____ كَسَلَانٌ
- (10) _____ هَلِ الْإِبْنَةُ _____ أُمُّ _____
- (11) _____ أَلَيْسَ الْكَلْبُ بِ _____

²⁹ See 5.2.

³⁰ See 5.2.

(12) الشَّاةُ _____ وَ الكَلْبُ _____

(13) بَلِي _____ حَارِسٌ

(14) الخِيَّاطُ _____ وَالخِيَّاطَةُ _____

(15) الفِيلُ _____ ضَخْمٌ

(16) أَهَذَا الْوَلَدُ _____ أُمُّ _____

(17) الْمَرْأَةُ الصَّادِقَةُ _____

(18) إِنَّ _____ مُجْتَهِدٌ

(19) الْإِبْتَتَانِ _____

(20) إِنَّ _____ كَسَلَانَتَانِ

(21) إِنَّ _____ مُجْتَهِدَاتٌ

(C) Translate into Arabic

- (1) Is the boy standing? No, he is sitting.
- (2) Is the girl sitting? No, she is standing.
- (3) Are the two boys present? Yes, they are present.
- (4) Are the two girls honest? Yes, they are honest.
- (5) Are the women truthful? Yes, they are truthful.
- (6) Is the teacher absent? No, the teacher is present.
- (7) Are they carpenters? No, they are tailors.
- (8) Is that Yūsuf? Yes, that is Yūsuf.
- (9) Are you Mahmūd? No, I am Hāmid.
- (10) Is the house old? No, the house is new.
- (11) Are they (plural feminine) seamstresses? No, they are teachers.
- (12) Are you (pl. m.) learned or ignorant? We are not ignorant.
- (13) Is not the elephant a great animal? Why not, the elephant is a great animal.
- (14) Is the dog standing or sitting? The dog is not standing but it is sitting.