



Lesson 1: Singular Nouns

Singular Feminine Nouns

Most singular feminine nouns (المفرد المؤنث) end with a ة/ة (*ta marbuu'fa*) in their written forms.

مَكْتَبَة	maktaba	library
-----------	---------	---------

Singular Masculine Nouns

Singular masculine nouns (المفرد المذكر) do not end with a ة/ة (*ta marbuu'fa*).

مَكْتَب	maktab	desk, office
---------	--------	--------------

Exceptions

However, there are some singular feminine nouns that do not end with a ة/ة (*ta marbuu'fa*). These nouns should be memorized.

بِنْت	bint	girl
شَمْس	šams	sun

Exercise 1

Choose the masculine nouns from the words below and pronounce each of them.

بَيْت	جَامِعَة	مُدِيرَة	جَزْمَة
home, house	university	director	shoes
قِسْم	أَرْض	خَيْر	قَلَم
department	floor, ground	good	pen
نادي	دَرْس	طَالِب	شَقَّة
club	lesson	student	apartment
نَضْرَة	شَارِع	سُوق	أَوْضَة
glasses	street	market	room

ساعة clock, watch, hour	كُمبِيوتَر computer	مَطْعَم restaurant	أُسْتَاذَة teacher, professor (f.)
دُكْتُور doctor (physician or PhD holder)	مَكْتَب desk, office	بَنْك bank	قَمِيص shirt
كِتَاب book	كُرْسِي chair	أُتُوبِيس bus	مُهَنْدِسَة engineer
رَادِيُو radio	تَلِيْفِزْيُون television	صُورَة picture, photograph	جُرْنَال journal, newspaper
مُوظَّف employee	تَرَابِيزَة table	حَمَّام bathroom	دُور floor, turn, role
مِيَّة water	قَهْوَة coffee	شَاي tea	صَاحِبَة friend
وَاجِب homework	حِسَاب bill	عَنْوَان address, title	قَامُوس dictionary
صَبَاح morning	ظَرْف envelope, circumstance	هَرَم pyramid	شُغْل work
غَرْب west	يَمِين right	زَعْلَان upset	ضَهْر noon

Exercise 2

Choose the feminine nouns from the table in exercise 1 and pronounce each of them.





Lesson 2: The Definite Article

The Definite Article: ال التعريف

To change an indefinite Arabic noun or adjective into a definite one, a prefix ال (transliteration: *il*; meaning: the) is attached to the noun or adjective.

باب baab (a door) becomes الباب ilbaab (the door).
واسع waasi3 (wide) becomes الواسع ilwaasi3 (the wide).

Sun and Moon Letters

When the definite article is attached to Arabic nouns and adjectives, one has to consider sun letters (الحروف الشمسية) and moon letters (الحروف القمرية) in the pronunciation.

Sun Letters	Transcribed Form	Moon Letters	Transcribed Form
ت	t	ء	ʔ
*ث	Pronounced either as s (س) or as t (ت)	ب	b
ج	g	ح	ħ
د	d	خ	x
*ذ	Pronounced either as z (ز) or as d (د)	ع	3
ر	r	غ	ʁ
ز	z	ف	f
س	s	*ق	Pronounced either as q or as ʔ (ء)
ش	ʃ	م	m
ص	ʂ	هـ	h
ض	ɖ	و	w
ط	ʈ	ي	y
ظ	ʒ		
ك	k		

ل	l		
ن	n		

☞ Nouns and adjectives starting with a moon letter

When the prefix **إِلـ** (*il*) is attached to Arabic nouns and adjectives starting with a moon letter, it is written and pronounced as **إِلـ** (*il*).

Written Form	Pronunciation
باب ← إِلْبَاب	baab → ilbaab (door → the door)

☞ Nouns and adjectives starting with a sun letter

However, when the prefix **إِلـ** (*il*) is attached to Arabic nouns and adjectives starting with a sun letter, it is written **إِلـ** (*il*) but when it is pronounced, the **لـ** (*l*) sound is dropped and the sun letter at the beginning of the word is doubled.

Written Form	Pronunciation
شَمْس ← إِلشَّمْس	ʃams → iʃʃams (sun → the sun)
كِتَاب ← إِلْكِتَاب	ketaab → ikketaab (book → the book)

Exercise 1

Choose the words with sun letters from the following table, then add the definite article **إِلـ** (*il*) to each word and pronounce it.

بَيْت home, house	جَامِعَة university	مُدِيرَة director	جَزْمَة shoes
قِسْم department	أَرْض floor, Earth, ground	خَيْر good	قَلَم pen

نادي club	دَرْس lesson	طالِب student	شَقَّة apartment
نَضَّارَة glasses	شارِع street	سُوق market	أَوْصَة room
ساعَة clock, watch, hour	كُومْبِيوتَر computer	مَطْعَم restaurant	أُسْتَاذَة teacher, professor (f.)
دُكْتُور doctor (physician or PhD holder)	مَكْتَب desk, office	بَنْك bank	قَمِيص shirt
كِتَاب book	كُرْسِي chair	أُتوبِيس bus	مُهَنْدِسَة engineer
رَادِيُو radio	تِلِيْفِزْيُون television	صُورَة picture, photograph	جُرْنَال journal, newspaper
مُوظَّف employee	تَرابِيزَة table	حَمَّام bathroom	دُور floor, turn, role
مِيَّة water	قَهْوَة coffee	شاي tea	صاحِبَة friend
واجِب homework	جِساب bill	عَنْوَان address, title	قَامُوس dictionary
صَبَاح morning	ظَرْف envelope, circumstance	هَرَم pyramid	شُغْل work
غَرْب west	يَمِين right	زَعْلان upset	ضُهْر noon