



UNIT 5b Transcript

What is a 'follower' تابع (plural توابع)?

You were not introduced to this concept officially in the original 10 day course but as you read on you will find that you are actually already somewhat familiar with the concept. In Arabic grammar, sometimes an اسم demands that the اسم following it have the same properties (status, number, gender, type) as the ones itself possesses. Recall that this was the case with adjectives, where the noun has a certain combination of four properties and the adjective following it must match in all four of those properties. We studied this in your original handouts on pages 24 to 26 and in the transcripts from Day 6 that were emailed to you.

Now we are ready to learn that the اسم and its adjective isn't the only case of one word matching another in terms of its properties. Simply put, when one word does match another in this manner, it is called a 'follower' or a تابع.

صفة and موصوف (noun and adjective) is just one of a few cases of followers. Before we talk about other kinds of followers, you should be mindful of the following concepts:

1. If the اسم is a non human broken plural, the follower may be **singular feminine OR plural feminine**

كُتِبَ قِيَمَةٌ

Established books,

سُرُرٌ مَرْفُوعَةٌ

elevated beds,

أَكْوَابٌ مَوْضُوعَةٌ etc.

well placed cups etc.

أَيَّامًا مَعْدُودَاتٍ

A few numbered days

2. If the اسم is plural feminine, the adjective may be **singular feminine OR plural feminine**.

I couldn't think of a Qur'anic examples but here are some general instances:

مُجْتَمَعَاتٌ مُخْتَلِفَةٌ

Different communities

جَامِعَاتٌ كَبِيرَةٌ

Big universities

Different kinds of followers:

In this follow up unit, you are going to learn about the following kinds of followers:

- a. Adjectives (complete follower) صفة

An adjective is a means by which a noun is described. This is the most common follower. By complete follower we mean that it must match all four properties of status, number, gender and type keeping in mind the pointers about broken plurals mentioned above.

- b. The one pointed out (complete follower) مشار إليه

The term مشار إليه is only used for an اسم if it follows a pointing اسم from pg 30 (original notes; هذا ذلك etc) AND has ال on it. When it does have ال on it, you remember well that it creates a fragment and keeps the phrase from becoming a sentence. What you are learning now is that this word with ال, that is to say this مشار إليه, must always match the pointing اسم (هذه etc) in all four properties.

هذا القرآنُ ذلك الكتابُ تلك الأيامُ هذه الأنعامُ etc.

- c. Substitute (complete follower) بدل

When I say, 'I met your brother, Shu'aib.' I realize that the phrase 'your brother is actually entirely substitutable with the word 'Shu'aib'. In other words, using both or either one would still make sense. So I could say

- I met your brother.
- I met Shu'aib.
- I met your brother Shu'aib.

The purpose of the substitute is to combine two statements into one. So instead of 'a' and 'b', we can just say 'c'.

In such cases, the word that plays the role that 'Shu'aib' is playing above is called the substitute. Grammatically it displays the same four properties as the phrase it replaces. This occurs in the Qur'an several times. Here are a few examples;

وإلى مَدْيَنَ أَخَاهُمْ شُعَيْبًا

To Madyan we sent their brother, **Shu'aib**.

إذ قال إبراهيم لأبيه آزر

When Ibrahim said to his father, **Azar**.

والله غفورٌ رحيمٌ

And Allah is exceedingly forgiving, **constantly merciful**.

- d. Elaborator (complete/partial follower) عطف بيان

An elaborator is an additional اسم the purpose of which is to clarify/ elaborate further what is meant by the first اسم. You might argue that this definition may well apply to the 'substitute' we just studied, but there are a few significant differences between the two:

- i. The elaborator must have something to do with the **اسم** it follows but the substitute may or may not.
- ii. The elaborator by itself may not communicate clear meaning while in the case of a substitute, it can be stated on its own.

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ

Didn't you see how Allah struck an example, i.e. that of a good & pure word being like a good and pure tree...

In the above example, **مَثَلًا** (an example) has been elaborated by **كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً** (a good word). I mentioned in the commentary that the elaborator may be a complete or partial follower. What that means is, it might follow the first **اسم** in all four properties, but at the very least it will match it in status. In the case above, status matched (**نصب**) but gender didn't as **مثلا** is masculine (because there is no sign of feminine) but **كلمة** is feminine (because of **ة**).

- e. Addition (partial follower) **معطوف**

This is the easiest kind of follower. Whenever two or more **اسماء** are separated by a **و** (and) or anything like it, their **status** must match but not necessarily any other property.