

BAYYINAH

Unit 2A: An Introduction to AL-SARF **الصرف** ?

Sarf is the study of an intricate system of conjugation in Arabic that allows for the creation of various meaningful words consistent with set patterns. To keep it simple, Sarf is the study the formula by which you can create tons of words from just one word.

In Sarf basics, we seek to create 9 kinds of words. This includes 6 kinds of **فعل** and 3 kinds of **اسم** . For now just pay attention to the English example though I've provided you an Arabic one for each here as well.

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|---------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| i. | Past Tense | such as | كَتَبَتْ | She wrote |
| ii. | Passive Past Tense | such as | كُتِبَتْ | It (something fem.) was written |
| iii. | Present Tense | such as | يَكْتُبُ | He writes |
| iv. | Passive Present Tense | such as | يُكْتَبُ | It is being written or it is written |
| v. | The Subjective Ism | such as | كَاتِبٌ | a writer |
| vi. | The Objective Ism | such as | مَكْتُوبٌ | something written |
| vii. | The Commanding fi'l | such as | اُكْتُبُوا | Write, all of you! |
| viii. | The Forbidding fi'l | such as | لَا تَكْتُبُوا | Don't any of you write! |
| ix. | The Masdar | such as | كِتَابَةٌ | to write / writing |

In order to have a working knowledge of sarf essentials, you don't actually have to worry about all 9 items listed above. Just concern yourself with items i, iii and ix. The pattern we discussed in the session associated with this document was

أَسْلَمَ يُسَلِّمُ إِسْلَامًا

I expect all of you to know this three word line by heart and precisely. This is your first pattern. The first word **أَسْلَمَ** is past tense so it is associated with page 33 from your original notes. Just to help you understand how it corresponds with page 33, I'm offering you the full conjugation of **أَسْلَمَ** consistent with what we learned on page 33 here:

أَسْلَمُوا	أَسْلَمَا	أَسْلَمَ
أَسْلَمْنَ	أَسْلَمْنَا	أَسْلَمْتِ
أَسْلَمْتُمْ	أَسْلَمْتُمَا	أَسْلَمْتِ
أَسْلَمْتُنَّ	أَسْلَمْتُمَا	أَسْلَمْتِ
	أَسْلَمْنَا	أَسْلَمْتُ

The second word in the line above, يُسَلِّمُ corresponds to the present tense we studied on page 39 in our original notes. Once again, here is the conjugation based on what we studied previously:

يُسَلِّمُونَ	يُسَلِّمَانِ	يُسَلِّمُ
يُسَلِّمَنَّ	تُسَلِّمَانِ	تُسَلِّمُ
تُسَلِّمُونَ	تُسَلِّمَانِ	تُسَلِّمُ
تُسَلِّمَنَّ	تُسَلِّمَانِ	تُسَلِّمِينَ
	نُسَلِّمُ	أُسَلِّمُ

Though يَنْصُرُ on page 39 began with the يِ the 14 words you see right above begin with يِ. The sound on the ي (or ت or أ or ن for that matter) is determined by the **pattern**. Since we are studying the أَسَلَّمَ يُسَلِّمُ إِسْلَامًا pattern which necessitates a يِ in يُسَلِّمُ, the rest of the conjugations will have to be the same way.

So the first word is past tense. أَسَلَّمَ means 'he submitted'. The second is present/future tense يُسَلِّمُ is 'he submits / will submit'. The third word is actually an اسم unlike the first two words which were فعل. It isn't enough to just call it اسم though. It is a precise brand of اسم we call مَصْدَر (not the one that goes on your sandwich). The مَصْدَر is technically defined as the infinitive. All that really means is that it's the اسم that communicates an idea. Make it even simpler. A مصدر is the اسم for something you can't touch. So in short, the translation of أَسَلَّمَ يُسَلِّمُ إِسْلَامًا will be 'he submitted, he submits/will submit, submission'.

The مصدر is typically translated with a 'tion', an 'ing' or a 'to' in the beginning. English مصدر examples would be Education, pollution, freedom, to be happy, to eat, running, sleeping etc.

Getting Used to أَسَلَّمْتُمْ يُسَلِّمُ إِسْلَامًا

Each of the following is to be read just like أَسَلَّمْتُ يُسَلِّمُ إِسْلَامًا. I'm accenting the first line. See if you can recite each of the following precisely. Every word in Arabic has a story. The meanings below don't tell you the whole story but they should suffice at this level.

معنى MEANING	مصدر IDEA	مضارع PRESENT/FUTURE(39)	ماضي PAST (33)
To turn away, to ignore, to back away	إِعْرَاض	يُعْرِضُ	أَعْرَضَ
To drown someone or something	إِغْرَاق	يَغْرِقُ	أَغْرَقَ
To cause corruption	إِفْسَاد	يُفْسِدُ	أَفْسَدَ
To succeed, to accomplish the goal	إِفْلَاح	يُفْلِحُ	أَفْلَحَ
To make something grow, to sprout	إِنْبَات	يَنْبِتُ	أَنْبَتَ
To warn	إِنذَار	يُنذِرُ	أَنْذَرَ
To send down	إِنزَال	يَنْزِلُ	أَنْزَلَ
To create, to produce	إِنشَاء	يُنشِئُ	أَنْشَأَ
To grant a favor	إِنْعَام	يُنْعِمُ	أَنْعَمَ
To spend	إِنْفَاق	يُنْفِقُ	أَنْفَقَ
To not recognize, to deny	إِنكَار	يُنكِرُ	أَنْكَرَ
To destroy, to kill	إِهْلَاق	يَهْلِكُ	أَهْلَكَ
To see, to have in full view	إِبْصَار	يُبْصِرُ	أَبْصَرَ
To excel, to do good things	إِحْسَان	يُحْسِنُ	أَحْسَنَ
To deport, to bring out, to draw out	إِخْرَاج	يُخْرِجُ	أَخْرَجَ
To put something inside something/ to make someone enter somewhere	إِدْخَال	يَدْخُلُ	أَدْخَلَ
To send something back / to take something back	إِرْجَاع	يَرْجِعُ	أَرْجَعَ
To send	إِرْسَال	يُرْسِلُ	أَرْسَلَ
To go overboard, to exceed, to overdo something	إِسْرَاف	يُسْرِفُ	أَسْرَفَ
To surrender, to submit	إِسْلَام	يُسَلِّمُ	أَسْلَمَ
To associate something with something	إِشْرَاق	يُشْرِكُ	أَشْرَكَ
To become/ to wake up in the morning	إِصْبَاح	يُصْبِحُ	أَصْبَحَ
To become good, to reconcile, to fix	إِصْلَاح	يُصْلِحُ	أَصْلَحَ

End of Document