



الْمُبْتَدَأُ وَالْخَبَرُ

Subject & Predicate

1. We will learn how to create a “simple” sentence in Arabic.
2. Before we do this, we will look at this in English.
3. It is important to understand everything in English before looking at the Arabic equivalent.

A simple sentence in English:

Example:

The house is new¹.

Let us now analyse this sentence:

1. This is a complete sentence.
2. This sentence starts with a noun. Do you know what a noun is?
3. Both parts of this sentence contain a noun.
4. The first noun is called the SUBJECT.
5. The second part is called the PREDICATE².

The boy is ill.	
The boy = Subject	Ill = Predicate
Subject: <i>The person or thing about whom the statement is made.</i>	Predicate: <i>This part of the sentence tells you something about the first part.</i> <i>The statement (information/news) regarding the subject.</i>

¹ “The new house” is NOT a complete sentence, rather it is part of a sentence.

² The predicate in Arabic can be a noun, verb and a number of other things. The subject will always be a noun.

Vocabulary Bank

Before looking at the above in Arabic, it is important to learn some words in Arabic. This will help when constructing sentences in Arabic.

Memorise the following words (nouns):

Nouns			Adjectives ³		
1	بَيْت	House	20	كَبِير	Big
2	بَاب	Door	21	جَدِيد	New
3	كِتَاب	Book	22	جَمِيل	Beautiful
4	قَلَم	Pen	23	طَوِيل	Tall
5	وَرَق	Paper	24	قَوِي	Strong
6	مِسْطَر	Ruler	25	مَسْرُور	Happy
7	وَلَد	Boy	26	نَظِيف	Clean
8	مُدَرِّس	Teacher	27	وَسِخ	Dirty
9	إِمَام	Imam	28	قَائِم	Standing
10	مِنْدِيل	Handkerchief	29	جَالِس	Sitting
11	مُهَنْدِس	Engineer	30	مَرِيض	Ill
12	عَالِم	Scholar	31	نَائِم	Sleeping
13	بُرْتُقَال	Orange (fruit)	32	ذَكِي	Clever
14	مَوْز	Banana	33	لَذِيذ	Delicious
15	خَبَر	News	34	صَادِق	Truthful/True
16	كُرْسِي	Chair	35	مَكْسُور	Broken
17	طَالِب	Student	36	مَفْتُوح	Open
18	مَدْرَسَة	School	37	خَفِيف	Light (in weight)
19	مَسْجِد	Mosque	38	ثَمِين	Expensive

³ Adjectives are “describing” words. Many times, the predicate is an adjective.

Some basics

The definite article

Without the definite article	With the definite article
بَيْت House	أَلْ + بَيْت = أَلْبَيْت <i>The house</i>
بَاب Door	أَلْ + بَاب = أَلْبَاب <i>The door</i>
قَلَم Pen	أَلْ + قَلَم = أَلْقَلَم <i>The pen</i>
وَلَد Boy	أَلْ + وَلَد = أَلْوَلَد <i>The boy</i>

The Definite Article & Tanween

Rules:

First always understand all grammar rules and then memorise them.

1. Only a noun can contain the definite article. Verbs will NEVER contain the definite article.
2. Only a noun can have a Tanween. Verbs will NEVER contain a Tanween.
3. Thus, the definite article and Tanween are SIGNS of a noun. Any word that has the definite article or a Tanween will ALWAYS be a noun.
4. The definite article and Tanween can never be together in a noun at the same time. Look at the following examples:

1 Correct ☑	2 Incorrect ☒
أَلْبَيْتُ	أَلْبَيْتٌ
أَلْوَلَدُ	أَلْوَلَدٌ
أَلْوَرَقُ	أَلْوَرَقٌ

A simple sentence in Arabic

The house is new.

الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ .

- The question is, what Harakah will go on the last letter?
- There is a total of nine probabilities!

2 Predicate	1 Subject
جَدِيدٌ	الْبَيْتُ
جَدِيدًا	
جَدِيدِ	
جَدِيدٌ	الْبَيْتِ
جَدِيدًا	
جَدِيدِ	
جَدِيدٌ	الْبَيْتِ
جَدِيدًا	
جَدِيدِ	

The correct sentence is:

الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ .

Notes:

1. At this stage you simply need to understand that the subject will ALWAYS contain a Dhamma.
2. The predicate will also ALWAYS contain a Dhamma, but with a Tanween.
3. Note the following:

4	3	2	1
الْبَيْتُ الْجَدِيدُ .	الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ .	الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدُ .	الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Task: Understand and explain the reason why numbers 2 to 4 are incorrect.

Arabic Terminology

You must learn all technical terms in both English and Arabic and be able to confidently refer to them in either language.

Note the following:

2	1
مَرِيضٌ	الْوَلَدُ
Predicate	Subject
خَبَرٌ	مُبْتَدَأٌ

As this sentence starts with a noun, it is called a Nominal Sentence.

الْمَوْزُ لَزِيدٌ .
Nominal Sentence
الْجُمْلَةُ الْإِسْمِيَّةُ

4	3	2	1
إِسْمِيَّةٌ	جُمْلَةٌ	فِعْلٌ ⁴	إِسْمٌ ⁵
Nominal	Sentence	Verb	Noun

6	5
أَفْعَالٌ	أَسْمَاءٌ ⁶
Verbs	Nouns

⁴ Literally also means “action”.

⁵ Literally also means “name”.

⁶ Literally also means “names” (وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى).

Exercise 1

Translate the following⁷:

Translation	Sentence	
	الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ .	1
	الْوَلَدُ ذَكِيٌّ .	2
	الرَّجُلُ مَسْرُورٌ .	3
	الْبَيْتُ مَفْتُوحٌ .	4
	الْبُرْتُقَالُ لَذِيذٌ .	5
	الْقَلَمُ مَكْسُورٌ .	6

Now construct five sentences (different from the above) using the vocabulary bank. If you cannot write Arabic, then commit them to memory.

Translation	Sentence	
		1
		2
		3
		4
		5
		6

⁷ Teacher must carry out a full analysis of every sentence, applying all the relevant grammar rules, terminology etc.

Exercise 2

Translate the following:

Translation	Sentence	
	الْمُنْدِيلُ وَسِخٌ .	1
	الْمُسْطَرُّ مَكْسُورٌ .	2
	الْوَلَدُ قَوِيٌّ .	3
	الْإِمَامُ طَوِيلٌ .	4
	الْمُهَنْدِسُ قَائِمٌ .	5
	الْبَيْتُ نَظِيفٌ .	6
	الْبَابُ كَبِيرٌ .	7
	الْمُدَرِّسُ مَرِيضٌ .	8
	الْمَوْزُ لَذِيذٌ .	9

Exercise 3

- Fill in the blanks and translate.
- Ensure you place the correct Harakah at the end of each word.

Translation	Sentence	
	.....صَادِقٌ .	1
	.....جَمِيلٌ .	2
	.....قَائِمٌ .	3
	.....جَالِسٌ .	4
	.....أَلْبُرْتُقَالٌ	5
	.....أَلْكُرْسِيِّ	6
	.....أَلْقَلَمِ	7
	.....أَلْوَرَقِ	8
	.....نَائِمٌ .	9
	.....ذَكِيٌّ .	10
	.....أَلْخَبَرِ	11

Exercise (Extension)

Memorise the following:

صِفْرُ Zero

Feminine		Masculine
واحدة	1	واحد
إِثْنَتَانِ / إِثْنَتَيْنِ	2	إِثْنَانِ / إِثْنَيْنِ
ثَلَاثَةٌ	3	ثَلَاثٌ
أَرْبَعَةٌ	4	أَرْبَعٌ
خَمْسَةٌ	5	خَمْسٌ
سِتَّةٌ	6	سِتٌّ
سَبْعَةٌ	7	سَبْعٌ
ثَمَانِيَةٌ	8	ثَمَانٌ
تِسْعَةٌ	9	تِسْعٌ
عَشْرَةٌ	10	عَشْرٌ

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