



التَّثْنِيَّةُ وَحَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ

Using Duals and the Nominative Case

What is a Dual?

1. Most languages have the following:

Singular words

Plural words

2. Very few languages have a word that is in between singular and plural: i.e. dual.
3. A dual is a *grammatical* number that is used in some languages in addition to the singular and plural.
4. The English language does not have a dual. Look at the following examples:

Plural	Dual	Singular	
Books	<i>Two books</i>	Book	1
Pens	<i>Two Pens</i>	Pen	2
Houses	<i>Two Houses</i>	House	3
Ships	<i>Two Ships</i>	Ship	4
Phones	<i>Two Phones</i>	Phone	5

5. In the above examples, the word *two* has to be used to show the dual.
6. Arabic has a singular, *dual*, and plural form for verbs, nouns, pronouns etc.
7. We have already looked at verbs that are dual. Some examples are:

Plural	Dual	Singular	
شَرِبُوا	شَرِبَا	شَرِبَ	1
شَرِبْنَ	شَرِبَتَا	شَرِبَتْ	2
شَرِبْتُمْ	شَرِبْتُمَا	شَرِبْتَ	3

8. We will now look at how to make a Dual from nouns. Look at the following examples and take note of how the Dual is made:

Broken Plural ¹	Dual		Singular	
كُتُب	كِتَابَيْنِ	كِتَابَانِ	كِتَاب	1
أَقْلَام	قَلَمَيْنِ	قَلَمَانِ	قَلَم	2
بُيُوت	بَيْتَيْنِ	بَيْتَانِ	بَيْت	3
مِفْتَاح	مِفْتَاحَيْنِ	مِفْتَاحَانِ	مِفْتَاح	4
أَبْنَاء	إِبْنَيْنِ	إِبْنَانِ	إِبْن	5
أَوْلَاد	وَلَدَيْنِ	وَلَدَانِ	وَلَد	6
حَدَائِق	حَدِيقَتَيْنِ	حَدِيقَتَانِ	حَدِيقَة	7

9. You will notice the following in the above examples:

- There are two different ways to represent a dual.
- One dual has a **انِ** at the *end* of the word, and the letter before it has a Fatha.
- The other dual has **ينِ** at the *end* of the word, and the letter before it has a Fatha.
- Thus, making a singular word into a dual is very straightforward.

¹ At this stage the broken plural is for information purposes only and to familiarise learners with such words.

Which Dual will be used?

The question that now arises is, *which Dual will be used where?*

For example, how would you make the following nominal sentence (consisting of a subject and predicate) into dual?

الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ.

Looking at the two forms of dual, there are a total of four probabilities:

?	الْبَيْتَانِ جَدِيدَانِ .	1
?	الْبَيْتَيْنِ جَدِيدَيْنِ .	2
?	الْبَيْتَانِ جَدِيدَيْنِ .	3
?	الْبَيْتَيْنِ جَدِيدَانِ .	4

Only one of the above four is correct!

Before we look at this, let us learn some new terminology.

Terminology

4	3	2	1
Broken Plural ²	Plural	Dual	Singular
الْجَمْعُ الْمَكْسَرُ	جَمْعٌ	تَثْنِيَّةٌ	وَاحِدٌ

² The opposite of a broken plural is a “sound plural”. In a sound plural the singular form remains intact, whereas it does not remain intact in a broken plural (hence the name “broken”).

Convert the following words to Dual form:

Dual Accusative + Genitive Case	Dual Nominative Case	Singular	
		عَيْن	1
		شَفَّة	2
		أُذُن	3
		يَد	4
		رِجْل	5
		قَدَم	6
		كَعْب	7
		كَتِف	8

New Terminology - The Nominative Case

حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ

Before looking at the new terminology, a reminder that the following all contain a Dhamma:

أَلْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ.	مبتدأ وخبر	1
سَمِعَ الْوَلَدُ.	فاعل	2
كَانَ الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدًا.	اسمُ كَانَ	3
إِنَّ الْبَيْتَ جَدِيدٌ.	خبرُ إِنَّ	4

- Till now, we learnt that the above will have a DHAMMA. This was to make it easy to understand.
- We will now look at this in a more *grammatical* manner, using the APPROPRIATE terminology.
- The appropriate terminology is:

The مبتدأ is always in the [nominative case](#).

The خبر is always in the [nominative case](#).

The فاعل is always in the [nominative case](#).

The اسم of كَانَ always in the [nominative case](#).

The خبر of إِنَّ is always in the [nominative case](#).

RULE: The nominative case is represented in **most** *singular* words³ by a Dhamma.

All the examples we have done so far reflect this, including the above examples.

From this point onwards we will explain in this manner:

سَمِعَ الْوَلَدُ.

1. The word الْوَلَدُ is in the nominative case as it is the فاعل.
2. The فاعل is always in the nominative case.
3. The nominative case in most singular words is represented by a Dhamma.
4. Hence, الْوَلَدُ has a Dhamma.

³ And in most broken plurals.

Exercise 1

1. Explain the following using the example.
2. Why are the highlighted words in the nominative case?
3. Ensure you mention all points in the correct sequence.

Explanation	Sentence	
The word الرَّجُلُ is in the nominative case as it is the فاعل. The فاعل is always in the nominative case. The nominative case in most singular words is represented by a Dhamma.	هَرَبَ الرَّجُلُ .	1
	الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدٌ .	2
	كَانَ الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدًا .	3
	إِنَّ الْبَيْتَ جَدِيدٌ .	4
	جَلَسَ الطِّفْلُ .	5

How to represent Duals in the Nominative Case

حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ

As mentioned earlier, there are a total of four probabilities in the sentence containing a subject and predicate:

?	أَلْبَيْتَانِ جَدِيدَانِ .	1
	أَلْبَيْتَيْنِ جَدِيدَيْنِ .	2
	أَلْبَيْعَانِ جَدِيدَيْنِ .	3
	أَلْبَيْعَيْنِ جَدِيدَانِ .	4

RULE:

The nominative case is represented in **duals** by **ان** .

Thus, only that Dual will be used (for example) in a Subject & predicate that has the **ان** .

From the above four probabilities, only this sentence is correct:

أَلْبَيْتَانِ جَدِيدَانِ .

We will explain in this manner:

أَلْبَيْتَانِ جَدِيدَانِ .

The word **أَلْبَيْعَانِ** is in the nominative case as it is the **مبتدأ** .

The **مبتدأ** is always in the nominative case.

The nominative case in duals is represented by **ان** .

The word **جَدِيدَانِ** is in the nominative case as it is the **خبر** .

The **خبر** is always in the nominative case.

The nominative case in duals is represented by **ان** .

Exercise 2

Explain which one is correct and why?

1b	1a
نَصَرَ الْمُدَرِّسَيْنِ . The (two) teachers helped.	نَصَرَ الْمُدَرِّسَانِ . The (two) teachers helped.

2b	2a
أَكَلَ الْمُهَنْدِسَانِ . The (two) engineers ate.	أَكَلَ الْمُهَنْدِسَيْنِ . The (two) engineers ate.

3b	3a
الْقَلَمَيْنِ مَكْسُورَيْنِ . The (two) pens are broken.	الْقَلَمَانِ مَكْسُورَانِ . The (two) pens are broken.

4b	4a
السَّيَّارَتَيْنِ ثَمِيمَتَيْنِ . The (two) cars are expensive.	السَّيَّارَتَانِ ثَمِيمَتَانِ . The (two) cars are expensive.

5b	5a
فَتَحَتِ الطَّبِيبَتَيْنِ . The (two) doctors opened.	فَتَحَتِ الطَّبِيبَتَانِ . The (two) doctors opened.

Exercise 3

Ask yourself the following questions and give the answer:

	Question	Answer
1	<i>What is the case of the Subject & Predicate?</i>	N Case
2	<i>How is the NOMINATIVE case shown in nouns that are SINGULAR?</i>	
3	<i>How is the NOMINATIVE case shown in nouns that are DUAL?</i>	
4	<i>ان represents the NOMINATIVE case in DUAL nouns.</i>	True or False?
5	<i>ين represents the NOMINATIVE case in DUAL nouns.</i>	True or False?
6	الْقَلَمُ مَكْسُورٌ .	Correct or Incorrect? Give the reason.
7	السَّيَّارَةُ كَبِيرَةٌ .	Which part is incorrect? Give the reason.
8	الطَّبِيبَانِ ضَاحِكَانِ .	Correct or Incorrect? Give the reason.
9	الْوَلَدَانِ سَامِعَانِ .	Correct or Incorrect? Give the reason.
10	الرَّجُلَيْنِ هَارِبَيْنِ .	Correct or Incorrect? Give the reason.
11	الْمَسْجِدَيْنِ مَفْتُوحَيْنِ .	Correct or Incorrect? Give the reason.
12	السَّاعَتَانِ جَدِيدَتَيْنِ .	Which part is incorrect? Give the reason.
13	السَّكِينَيْنِ مَكْسُورَانِ .	Which part is incorrect? Give the reason.

Note:

It is very important to understand the above, as it will be needed in almost all of the Arabic you will learn from this point onwards.

Before we look at the other two cases (Accusative & Genitive), complete the following exercises.

Terminology

4	3	2	1
Broken Plural	Plural	Dual	Singular
الْجَمْعُ الْمَكْسَّر	جَمْع	تَثْنِيَّة	وَاحِد
Example:	Example:	Example:	Example:
أَقْلَام	أَقْلَام	قَلَمَانِ / قَلَمَيْنِ	قَلَم

Nominative Case
حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ

Conclusion

Nominative Case حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ	
Represented by: Dhamma	Singular Nouns ⁴
Represented by: انِ	Dual Nouns

⁴ And most broken plurals.

Master Conclusion of Grammar Rules

3	2	1
حَالَةُ الْجَرِّ	حَالَةُ النَّصْبِ	حَالَةُ الرَّفْعِ
Genitive Case	Accusative Case	Nominative Case
مجرور بحرف الجرِّ مجرور بالإضافة	مفعول به اسمُ إنَّ خبيرُ كان	مبتدأ خبر اسمُ كان خبيرُ إنَّ فاعل
Total: 2	Total: 12	Total: 8

You must be able to clearly explain how each case ending is shown in different types of nouns.

The accusative and genitive cases will be covered in the next handout.

Exercise 4

a) Change the following words into Duals.

b) Do not forget to translate.

Translation	Dual		Singular	
	Accusative + Genitive Case	Nominative Case		
			قَصْر	1
			صَنَم	2
			ثَوْب	3
			حَقِيْبَة	4
			سَجَادَة	5
			طَائِرَة	6
			حَافِظ	7
			عَابِد	8
			نَاصِر	9
			مَفْتُوح	10
			مَحْمُول	11
			مَخْلُوق	12
			فَقِيْر	13
			غَنِي	14

Exercise 5

1. Change the following sentences into Dual form. Remember that Subject & Predicate must have gender and number coordination.
2. Analyse each sentence and also determine why ان *ان* has been used.
3. Do not forget to translate.

Dual	Singular <i>Subject & Predicate</i>	
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>الرَّجُلُ هَارِبٌ .</p> <p>.....</p>	1
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>الْبُرْتُقَالُ لَذِيذٌ .</p> <p>.....</p>	2
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>الْخَادِمَةُ مَرِيضَةٌ .</p> <p>.....</p>	3
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>الْمَرْأَةُ صَالِحَةٌ .</p> <p>.....</p>	4
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>الْهَدْيِيُّ مِنَ الْعِرَاقِ .</p> <p>.....</p>	5
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>الْأَسَدُ عَلَى الْجَبَلِ .</p> <p>.....</p>	6

Exercise 6

a) Change the following sentences into Dual form.

Note: Even though the Doer could be more than one person, as the action remains ONE, the verb will also remain singular.

b) Analyse each sentence and also determine why **ان** has been used.

c) Do not forget to translate.

Dual	Singular Verb + Doer	
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>سَمِعَ الْوَلَدُ .</p> <p>.....</p>	1
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>شَرِبَ الرَّجُلُ .</p> <p>.....</p>	2
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>مَا نَصَرَ الطَّيِّبُ .</p> <p>.....</p>	3
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>وَصَلَ الْقَطَاءُ مِنَ الْعِرَاقِ .</p> <p>.....</p>	4
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>يَعْبُدُ الْمُسْلِمُ .</p> <p>.....</p>	5
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>لَا تَفْهَمُ الطَّالِبَةُ .</p> <p>.....</p>	6

Extension

Duals of the Active and Passive Participles

We have looked at Active and Passive Participles already. Some examples are:

2	1
اِسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ The Passive Participle	اِسْمُ الْفَاعِلِ The Active Participle.
مَخْلُوقٌ Created (i.e. creation)	خَالِقٌ Creator (Allah)
مَنْصُورٌ Helped / Someone helped	نَاصِرٌ Helper / Someone helping
مَشْرُوبٌ Drunk / Something drunk (i.e. a drink)	شَارِبٌ Drinker / Someone drinking
مَكْتُوبٌ Written (i.e. a letter)	كَاتِبٌ Writer

Duals of these words are very straightforward, you simply add ان or ين .

Look at these examples:

2 Dual		1 Singular	
نَاصِرَيْنِ	نَاصِرَانِ	نَاصِرٌ	اِسْمُ الْفَاعِلِ
نَاصِرَتَيْنِ	نَاصِرَتَانِ	نَاصِرَةٌ	
مَنْصُورَيْنِ	مَنْصُورَانِ	مَنْصُورٌ	اِسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ
مَنْصُورَتَيْنِ	مَنْصُورَتَانِ	مَنْصُورَةٌ	

Exercise 7

Write down and practice the duals of the following:

2 Dual		1 Singular	
		شَارِب شَارِبَة	إِسْمُ الْفَاعِلِ
		مَشْرُوب مَشْرُوبَة	إِسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ

2 Dual		1 Singular	
		حَافِظ حَافِظَة	إِسْمُ الْفَاعِلِ
		مَحْفُوظ مَحْفُوظَة	إِسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ

2 Dual		1 Singular	
		سَائِل سَائِلَة	إِسْمُ الْفَاعِلِ
		مَسْئُول مَسْئُولَة	إِسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ

Vocabulary Bank

	Singular	Meaning	Plural
1	آيَة	Sign	آيَات
2	عِلْم	Knowledge	عُلُوم
3	قَاضِي	Judge	قُضَاة
4	مَلِك	Kings	مُلُوك
5	ذَكِي	Clever	أَذْكِيَاء
6	وَلِي	Friend	أَوْلِيَاء
7	عَالِم	Scholar	عُلَمَاء
8	ضَعِيف	Weak	ضُعَفَاء
9	وَزِير	Minister	وُزَرَاء
10	آسِف	Sorry (Adjective)	آسِفُونَ
11	شَخْص	Person	أَشْخَاص
12	شَرِير	Naughty	شَرَار
13	رَسُول	Messenger	رُسُل
14	نَبِي	Prophet	أَنْبِيَاء
15	مِسْكِين	Poor	مَسَاكِين
16	عِلَاج	Treatment	
17	قَصْر	Palace	قُصُور
18	يَد	Hand	أَيْدِي

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