



Vocative Particles

حُرُوفُ النِّدَاءِ

1. The word نداء means “to call”.
2. Vocative particles are used to address (call) someone / get their attention.
3. A vocative particle is placed before (for example) a person’s name.
4. The most commonly used vocative particle in Arabic is يَا.
5. Whoever you are calling out to is known as the مُنَادَى (the “called noun”). Thus the مُنَادَى is that word (noun) which occurs **after** a vocative particle.
6. Look at the following examples and identify the vocative particle and the مُنَادَى.

يَا زَيْدُ!

O Zaid!

يَا خَالِدُ!

O Khalid!

يَا رَجُلُ!

O man!

7. There are various types of مُنَادَى. Some examples are:

Type of مُنَادِي		
Possessive Compound	الْمُرَكَّبُ الْإِضَافِيُّ	1
A proper noun which is not a possessive compound ¹ .	الْعَلْمُ ² الْمُفْرَدُ	2
Intended Indefinite Noun	نَكْرَةٌ مَقْصُودَةٌ	3
Unintended Indefinite Noun	نَكْرَةٌ غَيْرَ مَقْصُودَةٌ	4
Noun containing the definite article.	مُعَرَّفٌ بِالْأَمْرِ ³	5

8. Due to the different types of مُنَادِي, there are various rules regarding the case-ending of the مُنَادِي. Some of the most common ones are mentioned here.

¹ “Mufrad” here refers to not being a Possessive Compound. Hence, “Mufrad” covers all types of nouns, irrespective if the noun is Singular, Dual and Plural.

² This refers to the “proper noun”. This noun refers to something specific (name of a person, place, animal etc). For example, the name “Yusuf” is used to refer to a specific person.

³ This is a noun that contains the “definite article” (literally: “made definite with the Alif Laam”).

مُنَادَى: مُضَاف (الْمُرَكَّبُ الْإِضَافِيُّ)

Rule: The مُضَاف will be in the accusative case.

Translation	مُنَادَى: مُضَاف	Possessive Compound	
<i>O Abdullah! (O servant of Allah)</i>	يَا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ	عَبْدُ اللَّهِ	1
<i>O people of the book.</i>	يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ	أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ	2
<i>O wives of the prophet.</i>	يَا نِسَاءَ النَّبِيِّ	نِسَاءُ النَّبِيِّ	3
<i>O leader of the faithful.</i>	يَا أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ	أَمِيرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ	4
<i>O prophet of Allah.</i>	يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ	رَسُولُ اللَّهِ	5
<i>O our lord.</i>	يَا رَبَّنَا	رَبُّنَا	6
<i>O our creator.</i>	يَا خَالِقَنَا	خَالِقَنَا	7
<i>O dweller of the house.</i>	يَا سَاكِنَ الْبَيْتِ	سَاكِنُ الْبَيْتِ	8
<i>O Abdur Rahman (O servant of the merciful)</i>	يَا عَبْدَ الرَّحْمَنِ	عَبْدُ الرَّحْمَنِ	9

Now give three examples where the مُنَادَى is a possessive compound.

Translation	مُنَادَى: مُضَاف	Possessive Compound	
			1
			2
			3

مُنَادَى:

الْعَلْمُ الْمَفْرَدُ وَ النَّكْرَةُ الْمَقْصُودَةُ

Rule: The مُنَادَى will be in the nominative case with no Tanween.

Translation	مُنَادَى	الْعَلْمُ الْمَفْرَدُ Proper Noun	
<i>O Nuh!</i>	يَا نُوحُ	نُوحٌ	1
<i>O Lot!</i>	يَا لُوطُ	لُوطٌ	2
<i>O Maryam!</i>	يَا مَرْيَمُ	مَرْيَمٌ	3
<i>O Ibrahim!</i>	يَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ	إِبْرَاهِيمٌ	4

Translation	مُنَادَى: النَّكْرَةُ الْمَقْصُودَةُ ⁴	النَّكْرَةُ	
<i>O man!</i>	يَا رَجُلٌ ⁵	رَجُلٌ	1
<i>O cook!</i>	يَا طَبَّاخُ	طَبَّاخٌ	2
<i>O teacher!</i>	يَا أَسْتَاذُ	أَسْتَاذٌ	3

The above rule applies, whether the مُنَادَى is singular, dual, or plural (as the term “Mufrad” here refers to the noun not being a possessive compound).

يَا رَجَالُ	يَا رَجُلَانِ	يَا رَجُلٌ
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⁴ This is an indefinite noun that is used in a manner where whoever you are addressing is “specific and known” (despite the indefiniteness of the word), this is because you are aware of “who you are calling out to”. Hence, this noun is described as that “indefinite noun that is specific / intended”.

⁵ You see a man and you call out to him, although you may not know his name, he is still regarded as “specific” (known) as you know who you are calling.

مُنَادَى: نَكْرَةٌ غَيْرُ مَقْصُودَةٍ

1. Look at the following example:

يَا رَجُلًا! أَنْصُرْنِي.

O man (person)!
Help me.

2. This is an example of a مُنَادَى that is:

- Indefinite.
- Not specific.

3. The reason it is not specific is because you do not know who you are addressing (talking to).

4. To understand this better, the above example could be used by a blind person, who has (for example) fallen down, and when he hears someone, he calls out for help. He knows someone is walking past, but he does not know whether that passer-by is a male, female, child etc.

5. Hence, the مُنَادَى is referred to as:

نَكْرَةٌ غَيْرُ مَقْصُودَةٍ

Indefinite noun that is not specific.

6. Another example is a teacher making a general statement in the classroom, where he says:

يَا طَالِبًا! اجْتَهِدْ فِي الدُّرُوسِ كُلِّ يَوْمٍ.

O student!
Work hard daily in the lessons.

7. No particular student is being addressed in this statement, rather it is a general statement where the مُنَادَى is unspecified.

مُنَادَى: مُعَرَّفٌ بِاللَّامِ

Rule: The مُنَادَى will be in the nominative case and after the vocative particle the word أَيُّهَا will be placed (and أَيُّهَا for feminine).

Translation	مُنَادَى: مُعَرَّفٌ بِاللَّامِ	مُعَرَّفٌ بِاللَّامِ	
<i>O prophet!</i>	يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ	النَّبِيُّ	1
O messenger!	يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ	الرَّسُولُ	2
	يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُزَّمِّلُ	الْمُزَّمِّلُ	3
O people!	يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ	النَّاسُ	4
O peaceful (calm) soul!	يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ	النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ	5

Now give three examples where the مُنَادَى is a noun that contains the definite article.

Translation	مُنَادَى: مُعَرَّفٌ بِاللَّامِ	مُعَرَّفٌ بِاللَّامِ	
			1
			2
			3

Vocative Particles

The following are all Vocative Particles:

5	4	3	2	1
أَ	أَيُّ	هَيَا	أَيَا	يَا

They are used as follows:

5	4	3	2	1
أَ	أَيُّ	هَيَا	أَيَا	يَا
نداء القريب		نداء البعيد		نداء القريب والبعيد

Terminology

Note the following terms:

English	Arabic Term	
To call.	نِدَاءٌ	1
Vocative Particle.	حَرْفُ النِّدَاءِ	2
Noun in the vocative. What is being called.	مُنَادَى	3
Proper Noun	الْعَلَمُ	4
Intentional Indefinite Noun	النَّكْرَةُ الْمَقْصُودَةُ / النَّكْرَةُ الْمُعَيَّنَةُ	5
Made definite	مُعَرَّفٌ	6
Made definite with آلَ.	مُعَرَّفٌ بِآلٍ	7

جَوَابُ النِّدَاءِ

1. Every نداء (call) has must have a جَوَابُ النِّدَاءِ (response to the call).
2. Look at the following example:

2	1
أَكْتُبْ دَرَسَكَ! Write your lesson!	يَا خَالِدُ! O Khalid!
جَوَابُ النِّدَاءِ The response.	حَرْفُ النِّدَاءِ + مُنَادِي = نِدَاءٍ The call.

3. Thus, just the vocative particle with its respective مُنَادِي is not a complete statement⁶.

⁶ Although individually both parts maybe complete sentences.

Extension

1. Sometimes the vocative particle is physically (لَفْظًا) omitted.
2. Despite the omission, it is still present in terms of the meaning (مَعْنَى).
3. This in grammar is referred to as “the word is محذوف”.
4. Words are omitted for various reasons. Sometimes it is due to “كَفْرَةُ الْإِسْتِعْمَالِ” (excessive usage). Thus the “excessive usage” demands that a word is physically dropped, making it easier⁷.
5. Despite the word being dropped, if it governs another word (causes the case ending to change), the case ending will still change (as the word in reality is still present, although مَعْنَى).
6. In the examples below the vocative particle يَا has been dropped. Note that out of all the vocative particles, only the particle يَا can be dropped. The rest must always be physically present.

حَرْفُ الْبَدَاءِ = مَحذُوفٌ		حَرْفُ الْبَدَاءِ + الْمُنَادَى
رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا. <i>O our lord, forgive us.</i>	رَبَّنَا	يَا رَبَّنَا
رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِيَلَا. <i>O my lord, forgive me.</i>	رَبِّ ⁸	يَا رَبِّي

⁷ On other occasions, the reason of omission is to make it “lighter on the tongue”. By omitting, it is “easier to say the word(s)”.

⁸ The ي is also dropped to make it easier / lighter (to pronounce).

Extension – The word Allah

Note the following:

1. The following will be regarded as grammatically correct: يَا اللَّهُ
2. Although the word اللَّهُ has اَلْ before it, the following will **not** be said: يَا أَيُّهَا اللَّهُ
3. When supplicating, rather than saying: يَا اللَّهُ, the vocative particle is removed and replaced with a ۞ at the end. The result is:

اللَّهُمَّ.

O Allah.

4. Now look at these examples:

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَنَا. O Allah forgive us.	1
اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُمْ. O Allah forgive them.	2
اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي. O Allah forgive me.	3
اللَّهُمَّ انصُرْنِي. O Allah help me.	4
اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِي... O Allah open for me...	5

Exercise 1

- Place the vocative particle يَا before the following words and translate.
- Identify all case endings.

With vocative particle and correct case ending.	Word / Name	
	خَالِدٍ	1
	زَيْدٍ	2
	أَحْمَدَ	3
	خَدِيْجَةَ	4
	عَائِشَةَ	5
	رَجُلٍ	6
	وَلَدٍ	7
	بِنْتٍ	8
	طَالِبٍ	9
	الرَّسُوْلُ	10
	النَّبِيِّ	11
	الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا	12
	الَّذِيْنَ كَفَرُوْا	13
	النَّاسِ	14

Exercise 2

- Identify the type of مُنَادِي and determine the reason for the case ending.
- Identify all case endings.

English	Arabic	
	يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ ، لَا تَغْلُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ .	1
	يَا أَهْلَ يَثْرِبَ .	2
	يَا خَيْرَ الرَّاحِمِينَ و يَا خَيْرَ الرَّازِقِينَ .	3
	يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ .	4
	يَا رَبَّ السَّمَوَاتِ و الْأَرْضِ .	5
	رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا .	6
	رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا .	7
	رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي .	8
	رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي و اِرْحَمْنِي .	9
	رَبِّ انصُرْنِي .	10
	اللَّهُمَّ انصُرِ الْإِسْلَامَ .	11
	اللَّهُمَّ انصُرِ الْإِسْلَامَ و الْمُسْلِمِينَ .	12
	اللَّهُمَّ انصُرْهُمْ .	13
	اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لَنَا أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ .	14
	اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لَنَا أَبْوَابَ هِدَايَتِكَ .	15
	يَا دَاوُدُ ، إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاكَ خَلِيفَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ .	16

Exercise 3 – Some Supplications

- Use a dictionary to find the meanings of words you do not know.
- Memorise and use these sentences when you make Dua.
- Your Dua must commence with the praises of Allah.
- Identify (where applicable):

حرف النداء

منادي

جواب النداء

يَا مُغِيثَ الْمُسْتَغِيثِينَ، يَا أَمَانَ الْخَائِفِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ يَا شَدِيدَ الْبَطْشِ .

اللَّهُمَّ انصُرْنَا وَلَا تَنْصُرْ عَلَيْنَا .

اللَّهُمَّ ارفِعِ الظُّلْمَ وَالْقَهْرَ وَالْفَقْرَ عَن أُمَّةِ الْإِسْلَامِ .

يَا نَاصِرَ الْمَظْلُومِينَ، اللَّهُمَّ انصُرِ الْمَظْلُومِينَ فِي.....

اللَّهُمَّ لَا تَجْعَلْنَا فِتْنَةً لِلْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ .

Exercise 4 – Some Supplications

- Use a dictionary to find the meanings of words you do not know.
- Memorise and use these sentences when you make Dua.
- Your Dua must commence with the praises of Allah.

يَا خَالِقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ . يَا بَدِيعَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ .
يَا نُورَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ . يَا قَيِّمَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ .
اللَّهُمَّ يَا قَوِيَّ ، يَا عَزِيْزُ ، يَا مَالِكَ الْمُلْكِ .
يَا خَيْرَ النَّاصِرِيْنَ ، وَيَا خَيْرَ الرَّازِقِيْنَ ،
وَيَا خَيْرَ الْفَاتِحِيْنَ .
يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِيْنَ ، وَيَا أَحْكَمَ الْحَاكِمِيْنَ .

Exercise 5 - Revision

- This is revision of dual and plurals.
- Revise and recap rules regarding duals and plurals.
- Do not forget to analyse the sentence.

English	Arabic	
	الْمَتْحَفُ مَفْتُوحٌ.	1
		Dual
		Plural
	الْفُنْدُقُ كَبِيرٌ.	2
		Dual
		Plural
	الْقَبِيلَةُ مَشْهُورَةٌ.	3
		Dual
		Plural
	إِنَّ الْقَانُونَ جَدِيدٌ.	4
		Dual
		Plural
	الْفُنْجَانُ مَكْسُورٌ.	5
		Dual
		Plural
	كَانَ الْمُهَنْدِسُ مَرِيضًا.	6
		Dual
		Plural

Questions

Answer the following questions:

1	Explain what this means: “A fully declinable noun”.	
2	Give two examples of a plural of an object (non-human).	
3	Explain what one must bear in mind when using a plural of an object (non-human).	
4	When will adjectives such as the following be classified as a diptote. عَابِدَةٌ سَاجِدَةٌ	
5	Explain this statement: “When a noun does not contain Tanween, then it does not necessarily have to always be a مُضَمَّاتٌ”.	
6	Give three examples of adverbs of time.	
7	Give three examples of adverbs of place.	
8	Which adverbs are generally used as a possessive compound?	
9	What is the common factor about these two pronouns: بِهِ قَلَمُهُمْ	
10	Clearly explain the difference between the following: جَعَلْنَا جَعَلْنَا	

Answer true or false:

	Question	True	False
1	Diptotes can sometimes contain a Tanween.		
2	Every جَوَابُ النَّدَاءِ must have a نِدَاءٌ.		
3	A مُعْرَبٌ noun is always fully declinable.		
4	There is only one vocative particle.		
5	Adverbs are always used as possessive compounds.		
6	All plurals are diptotes.		
7	The مُتَّادِي is always a possessive compound.		
8	The مُضَات does not have a specific case ending.		
9	All pronouns are مَبْنِي.		
10	Most male names are diptotes.		
11	Most female names are diptotes.		
12	The names of most places are diptotes.		

Write down the correct name for the following pronouns:

..... الضَّمِيرُ	نَحْنُ	1
..... الضَّمِيرُ	كِتَابُهُمْ	2
..... الضَّمِيرُ	أَكَلَهُ	3
..... الضَّمِيرُ	عَنْكُمْ	4
..... الضَّمِيرُ	إِيَّاكَ	5
..... الضَّمِيرُ	إِنَّكَ	6

Now practice the respective paradigm of the above.

Tick the correct box:

معرّب	مبني		
		أَنَا	1
		زَيْد	2
		هَذَا	3
		بَيْت	4
		أَوْلَادِكَ	5
		كِتَاب	6
		هَذِهِ	7
		عَائِشَةُ	8
		طَلْحَةَ	9
		الَّذِي	10
		هَؤُلَاءِ	11

Construct the following possessive compounds (keep in mind the rules regarding diptotes):

	Khalid's son	1
	Fatima's mother.	2
	Zainab's sister.	3
	Yusuf's lesson.	4
	The baker's bag.	5
	Salman's garden.	6
	Hamid's bag.	7

Vocabulary

Hotel

Hotel	فندق	1
Hotels	فنادق	2
Reception	إِسْتِقْبَال	3
Card	بِطَاقَة	4
Key card	بِطَاقَة الْمِفْتَاح	5
Floor	طابق	6
First floor	طابق أوّل	7
Second floor	طابق ثانی	8
Guest	ضَیْف	9
Guests	ضُیُوف	10
Elevator	مِصْعَد	11
Luggage	أَمْتِیْعَة	12
Luggage	مَتَاع	13
Traveller	مُسَافِر	14
I booked	حَجَزْتُ (ن)	15
I would like to book a room	أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَحْجِزَ عُرْفَةً	16

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