

2.1.4 Properties of Ism: Type قِسْم

- Type is if a word is common نَكِرَة or proper مَعْرِفَة.
- A word is by default common unless there are reasons to make it proper:
 - المُوْمِنِيْنَ السَّبِيْلِ eg. Words with ال المُعْرَفُ بِاللَّامِ
 - اِبْرَاهِيْمَ مَرْيَمَ eg. Proper names اسْمُ الْعَلَمِ
 - يَا اَبْتَ يَا مُوسَى eg. The one being called مُنَادَى
 - اَنَا اَنْتَ اَنْتُمْ eg. Pronouns الضَّمِيْر
 - ذٰلِكَ هٰذَا هٰؤُلَاءِ eg. Pointer words اسْمُ الْاِشَارَةِ
 - الَّتِي الَّذِيْنَ الَّذِي eg. Ism mawsool اسْمُ مَوْصُوْلٍ
 - الْمُدْحَافُ اِلَى مَعْرِفَةٍ eg. Mudhaf if the mudhaf ilayhi is proper



3 Types of ال

1. Al Ahdiyyah ال العَهْدِيَّة - referential “al”

- العَهْدُ means reference, previous knowledge.
- Eg when I say جاءَ البِنْتُ “the girl came” that means my listener and I already know her.
- If not, the question “which girl are you talking about?” will arise.
- So ال العَهْدِيَّة refers to the thing that is known to you & listeners/readers.
- This common knowledge can come from 3 sources:



العهديّة Al Ahdiyyah:

3 sources of common knowledge

1. العَهْدُ الحُضُوريُّ

الحُضُوريُّ means “**presence**”. This is when the thing/person is in front of you & your listener.

e.g. Suppose a drink is here & I say, “Give me **the** drink”

My listener will know what I mean as it is in front us.

Or may be there’s a girl close to us or even a little further away & I say, “Call **the** girl here.” My listener will understand because s/he see the girl there.



Al Ahdiyyah: ال عَهْدِيَّة

3 sources of common knowledge

2. العَهْدُ الذِّكْرِيُّ

This is when you know the object or person because it **has been mentioned before**.

e.g. I bought **a book**. **The** book is inspiring.

The second sentence uses “the” because the book has been mentioned in the first sentence.



العهديّة Al Ahdiyyah:

3 sources of common knowledge

3. العَهْدُ الذِّهْنِيّ

This knowledge is based on **context**.

e.g. When you tell your mom, “I’m going to **the** office”, she knows which office you mean **because she knows you work in a particular office**.

or suppose **a Maths question bugging the students of a class** & one of them said, “We’ll ask **the** teacher”. That will mean the Maths teacher – not any other subject teacher – because the context determines it.



3 Types of ال

2. Al Jinsiyyah ال الجِنْسِيَّة - generic “al”

- ال الجِنْس means genus (kind), generic.
- This type of ال has nothing to do with previous knowledge.
- e.g. الأسماك أغلى من الدجاج fish is more expensive than chicken.
- This is a **generic statement**, not a particular thing.
- There are 2 types of generic ال:



2 Types of Generic ال

1. الجِنْسِيَّةُ لِاسْتِغْرَاقِ الْجِنْسِ

This is the ال that **includes all members of its kind.**

e.g. الإنسانُ يَمُوتُ “Man dies”; it’s talking about every human being.

2. الجِنْسِيَّةُ لِبَيَانِ الْحَقِيقَةِ

Doesn’t include all members; just a generic rule.

e.g. الرَّجَالُ أَقْوَى مِنَ النِّسَاءِ “Men are stronger than women”.
It doesn’t refer to all men, some women are stronger.



3 Types of ال

3. Al Zaidah ال الزائدة - extra “al”

- Some words just come with ال & it can't be separated
- e.g. القَاهِرَةُ (Cairo), الَّذِي (the one who)
- These ال don't have a special meaning nor do they add meaning to the word

Properties of Ism - Summary

- Status [R, N, J]
 - Told by EC or ES, don't forget it can be light
- Number
 - Aani/ayni always pair
 - Oona/eena & ism jam'a always plural
 - Plural meaning use plural chart
- Gender
 - Masculine unless there's reasons to be fem
- Type
 - Common unless there's reasons to be proper

Indications Of An Ism

- Tanween eg كُلٌّ
- Have ال attached to it eg الْمُؤْمِنُونَ
- In Jarr status eg كَمَثَلِ
- Can be called on by a harf نداء eg يَا مُحَمَّدُ
- Ends with ة eg جَنَّةٌ

Exercise 4: Indicate the number & gender for the following words.

الغُلامُ the boy	وَالْأَرْضِ the earth	بُيُوتًا houses
الْمُؤْمِنِينَ the believers	وَالْآخِرَةِ the Hereafter	عُرَابًا crow
مُشْرِكٌ polytheist	سُورَةٌ surah	جِهَادًا struggle
نَفْسٍ person/soul	عُيُونًا springs	خَصْمَانٍ litigants
قِثَاءٌ cucumbers	نَارٌ fire	قُلُوبٌ hearts
رَجُلَيْنِ two men	الشَّيَاطِينِ the devils	قَوْمٌ nation
مَلَائِكَةً angels	أَعْمَالٍ deeds	السَّبِيلِ the path
رُسُلٌ messengers	جَنَّاتٍ gardens	السَّمَاوَاتِ skies

Exercise 5: Indicate the 4 properties of each word below. Eg. الْمُؤْمِنِينَ NJ/PI/M/P

الْمُلْكُ	الطَّيْرُ the birds	صَادِقِينَ
شَيْءٍ	صَافَاتٍ	الْكُفَّارِ disbelievers
وَالْحَيَاةَ	مُسْتَقِيمٍ	عَمَلًا
مَلَائِكَةً angels	وُجُوهُ faces	قَانِتَاتٍ
كَرَّتِينَ	الْكَافِرُونَ	غِلَاطٍ
نَذِيرٌ	ضَلَالٍ	صَالِحِينَ
مَغْفِرَةً	غَوْرًا	النَّارَ
وَأَجْرٌ	بَيْتًا	كُتُبٍ books