

Day 8:

PART 1: SUMMARY OF THE ENTIRE SESSION

1. The identifiers for present tense
2. Inside doer vs Outside doer

PART 2: INTRODUCTION TO PRESENT TENSE **الفِعْلُ الْمَصَارِعُ**

The past tense is processed by the Arabic student by paying attention to changes that occur at the end of the word. These endings were studied on Day 6. The standard endings were learned by means of using **نَصَرَ** a sample on page 33 and then applied using the examples in the exercises. The study of the present tense is an entirely different concept.

Here are a few introductory points we noted about the present tense in Arabic:

- a. Each present tense contains within it a *doer* pronoun. To discover that pronoun, students must pay attention to the clues at the beginning of the **فِعْلٌ** first. This is drastically different from the approach we took when studying the past tense where we gave exclusive emphasis to the ending. The bottom line is: for past tense, pay attention to the ending & for present tense, pay attention to first the beginning, then the ending.
- b. The present tense conjugations serve to deliver the meanings of both present and future. I only refer to them as the present tense for conciseness. The present tense conjugation is sometimes translated in the present, other times in the future and sometimes may be translated as either or both simultaneously depending on the context.
- c. While the past tense tends to allude to an event that occurred *once*, the present tense tends to imply an act that occurred continuously. In other words when I say present tense in Arabic, I'm really saying present continuous tense. *He helped*, probably just once whereas *He helps* probably over and over again.

PART 3: THE IDENTIFIERS FOR PRESENT TENSE

In class we noted that the present tense can only begin with one of four letters. These four letters are **أ، ن، ي، or**

ت. We also noted that these beginning letters can only have either the 'u' (**ضَمَّةٌ**) or 'a' (**فَتْحَةٌ**) on them.

Whether the sound should be 'u' or 'a' is a case by case consideration that is pre-determined for the **فِعْلٌ** is not something you have the right to change for a given word. For example, if the Arabic word is not do not have the right to change the **يَ** in **يُنْصِرُ** to **يُنْصَرُ**. That would be wrong.

The list of identifiers is a logical flow of items and should be organized in your mind into four groups. The first

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group is أ and ن. The second group is the four kinds of ي. The third group is the four kinds of ت and then finally the two additional ت's.

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| 1. أ or أُ beginning = I | أَنْصُرُ means <i>I help.</i> |
| 2. نَ or نُ beginning = We | نَنْصُرُ means <i>We help.</i> |
| 3. يَ or يُ beginning = He | يَنْصُرُ means <i>He helps.</i> |
| 4. يَ or يُ beginning + آَنِ ending = Both of them | يَنْصُرَانِ means <i>Both of them help</i> |
| 5. يَ or يُ beginning + وُنَ ending = They | يَنْصُرُونَ means <i>They help.</i> |
| 6. يَ or يُ beginning + نَ ending = They (women) | يَنْصُرْنَ means <i>They (women) help.</i> |
| 7. تَ or تُ beginning = You | تَنْصُرُ means <i>You help</i> |
| 8. تَ or تُ beginning + آَنِ ending = Both of you | تَنْصُرَانِ means <i>Both of you help</i> |
| 9. تَ or تُ beginning + وُنَ ending = All of you | تَنْصُرُونَ means <i>All of you help</i> |
| 10. تَ or تُ beginning + نَ ending = You women | تَنْصُرْنَ means <i>You women help</i> |
| 11. تَ or تُ beginning + يْنَ ending = You sing.Fem. | تَنْصُرِينَ mean <i>You help (fem.sing)</i> |
| 12. تَ or تُ beginning = She (in addition to meaning 'you' in 7) | تَنْصُرُ means <i>She helps</i> |
| 13. تَ or تُ beginning + آَنِ ending = Both of you fem. (based on 11) | تَنْصُرَانِ means <i>Both of you (fem.) help</i> |

The fourteen items listed above seem like a lot of information. First of all, concern yourself with 12 of them. The tips on how to construct twelve conjugations in your mind are as follows:

- Remember that the present tense can only begin with يَتَانِ, that is يَ or تَ or أُ or نَ
- The أ is for 'I' and the ن is for 'We'
- The ي is actually used four ways. يَ by itself (he), يَ with آَنِ (both of them) يَ with وُنَ (they) and يَ with نَ (those women)
- The ت is used at least in the same four ways as يَ. تَ by itself (you), تَ with آَنِ (both of you), تَ with وُنَ (all of you), تَ with نَ (you women).
- The ت is used in two additional ways: تَ could also mean 'she' and تَ with يْنَ is you fem.

We applied these identifiers to the examples on page 41. Make sure you understand each case covered in class on those two pages.

PART 4: BASICS OF **فعل** BASED SENTENCE STRUCTURE

When a sentence begins with a **فعل**, it is called a **فعل** sentence or technically **جُمْلَةٌ فِعْلِيَّةٌ**. Every **جملة فعلية** made up of a ‘act’ and a ‘doer’. Since every **فعل** an ‘act’ and a ‘example has the act ‘helped’ and the doer ‘he’), every **فعل** by itself is a **جملة فعلية**.

Sometimes there is a need to say something like ‘Kareem helped’ or ‘The Muslims helped’ instead of just using pronouns as we learned on page 33. While **نَصَرَ** means ‘He helped’, **نَصَرَ كَرِيمٌ** ‘Kareem helped’. What gave me the right to replace the word ‘he’ with the word ‘Kareem’? The fact that the word **كَرِيمٌ** is **رفع** and we know that **رفع** serves as the doer. Even though **نَصَرَ** a doer ‘he’ inside it, the word Kareem will now be called its doer instead because it is in **رفع** form. The following basic rules should be understood when adding a ‘doer’ to a **فعل** other than the pronoun that the **فعل** already comes with:

- The doer should be mentioned (i) after the **فعل** & (ii) must be **رفع**. Only when both these conditions exist does the doer get the grammatical term **فاعل**.
- The **فعل** remains singular (**هُوَ** or **هِيَ** form) even while the **فاعل** is singular, pair or plural.

نَصَرَ He helped

نَصَرَ مُسْلِمٌ A Muslim helped. (notice that Muslim is **فاعل** because it is after the **فعل** and **رفع** by ending sound)

نَصَرَ مُسْلِمَانِ Two Muslims helped. (**مُسْلِمَانِ** is a **فاعل** because it is after the **فعل** and **رفع** due to their pair **رفع** combo)

نَصَرَ مُسْلِمُونَ Muslims helped. (**مُسْلِمُونَ** is a **فاعل** because it is after the **فعل** and **رفع** due to the plural **رفع** combo)

- The **فعل**, under typical circumstances, is consistent in gender with the **فَاعِل** even though point ‘b’ made it clear that the number isn’t consistent. Notice that the examples offered in point b were all masculine. Had they been feminine, the feminine version of **نَصَرَ** (**نَصَرَتْ**) would be employed.

نَصَرَتْ مُسْلِمَةٌ A Muslims woman helped.

نَصَرَتْ مُسْلِمَتَانِ Two Muslim women helped.

نَصَرَتْ مُسْلِمَاتٌ Muslim women helped.

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The same rules apply when we use the present tense فعل, for example:

تَنْصُرُ الْمُسْلِمَاتَيْنِ *The two Muslim women help* and يَنْصُرُ مُحَمَّدٌ *Muhammad helps*.

Here are some examples from the Qur'an:

قَالَ means 'He said'. قَالَ الْكَافِرُونَ means 'The *disbelievers* said'.

يَقُولُ means 'He says'. وَيَقُولُ الْكَافِرُ means 'And the *disbeliever* says'.

ضَرَبَ means 'He struck'. ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ means '*Allah* struck'.

يَضْرِبُ means 'He strikes'. يَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ means '*Allah* strikes'.

سَأَلَ means 'He asked', سَأَلَ سَائِلٌ means 'A *questioner* asked'.

يَسْأَلُ means 'He asks'. يَسْأَلُكَ النَّاسُ means 'The *people* ask you'.