

Day 9:

**PART 1: SUMMARY OF THE ENTIRE SESSION:**

1. The normal vs. light vs. lightest present tense
2. The Light Harf & The Lightest Harf Groups
3. Commanding and Forbidding

**PART 2: THE LIGHT & LIGHTEST PRESENT TENSES:**

The present tense chart on page 39 can be divided into three parts:

- a. Words that end with 'u' sound like يَنْصُرُ or تَنْصُرُ.
- b. Words the end with the ن like يَنْصُرَانِ, تَنْصُرَيْنِ or تَنْصُرُونَ.
- c. The two plural feminines: يَنْصُرْنَ and تَنْصُرْنَ.

First of all, don't confuse the term 'light' here with the same term we used under اسم study. Here we mean something else by it. The basic idea is that the present tense occurs in its normal state on page 39. The normal endings are changed to *light* endings under special circumstances. There are two things to learn about this topic. (i) What do the *light* versions of each present tense look like and (ii) what causes the present tense to be *light*. The first column going down on page 39 has a bunch of words that end with an 'u' (skipping تَنْصُرَيْنِ and including نَنْصُرُ on the bottom left). The few words that end with 'u', are يَنْصُرُ, تَنْصُرُ, تَنْصُرُ, أَنْصُرُ, and نَنْصُرُ. These words, when converted to their *light* form, become يَنْصَرَ, تَنْصَرَ, تَنْصَرَ, أَنْصَرَ, and نَنْصَرَ respectively. So the *light* version is simply a change from the 'u' ending to the 'a' ending for these words. As for the words with ن at the end (point b above), the *light* version demands that the ن be removed. So يَنْصُرَانِ and تَنْصُرَيْنِ would be يَنْصُرَا and تَنْصُرَا in their *light* forms. يَنْصُرُونَ and تَنْصُرُونَ would be يَنْصُرُوا and تَنْصُرُوا in their *light* forms (the | is a writing formality). تَنْصُرَيْنِ would be تَنْصُرِي in its *light* form. There are two words that I skipped on purpose because they are unchanged (point c above). These are the plural feminines يَنْصُرْنَ and تَنْصُرْنَ. These two words look the same whether *normal* or *light*. The following chart is a *light* rendering of the *normal* chart on page 39.

يَنْصُرُوا ('ن' is removed when light)	يَنْصُرَا ('ن' is removed when light)	يَنْصَرَ ('u' changes to 'a' when light)
يَنْصُرْنَ (Pl. Fem. Doesn't change when light)	تَنْصُرَا ('ن' is removed when light)	تَنْصَرَ ('u' changes to 'a' when light)
تَنْصُرُوا ('ن' is removed when light)	تَنْصُرَا ('ن' is removed when light)	تَنْصَرَ ('u' changes to 'a' when light)
تَنْصُرْنَ (Pl. Fem. Doesn't change when light)	تَنْصُرَا ('ن' is removed when light)	تَنْصُرِي ('ن' is removed when light)

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تَنْصُرَ ('u' changes to 'a' when light)

أَنْصُرَ ('u' changes to 'a' when light)

By comparison, the *lightest* version is only different from the light version in one respect. It enforces a سُكُونٌ instead of a 'u' ending for the few words that have a 'u' in their normal state. As for the rest of the chart, it looks identical to the *light* version. Here's the *lightest* chart in comparison to the normal one on page 39:

يَنْصُرُوا ('ن' is removed when lightest)	يَنْصُرَا ('ن' is removed when lightest)	يَنْصُرُ ('u' changes to 'sukoon' when lightest)
يَنْصُرْنَ (Pl. Fem. Doesn't change when lightest)	تَنْصُرَا ('ن' is removed when lightest)	تَنْصُرُ ('u' changes to 'sukoon' when lightest)
تَنْصُرُوا ('ن' is removed when lightest)	تَنْصُرَا ('ن' is removed when lightest)	تَنْصُرُ ('u' changes to 'sukoon' when lightest)
تَنْصُرْنَ (Pl. Fem. Doesn't change when lightest)	تَنْصُرَا ('ن' is removed when lightest)	تَنْصُرِي ('ن' is removed when lightest)
نَنْصُرُ ('u' changes to 'sukoon' when lightest)		أَنْصُرُ ('u' changes to 'sukoon' when lightest)

### PART 3: WHAT MAKES THE PRESENT TENSE LIGHT OR LIGHTEST?

**THE LIGHT GROUP:** There is a small group of حَرَف that we spoke about in class yesterday whose job is to make sure that the present tense coming after them is *light*.

أَنْ means to      لَنْ means *will not*      لِ or كَيْ or لَيْ means *so that*      إِذَا means *in that case*  
 حَتَّى means *until*

The words above have the effect of making the present tense *light*. Here are some examples of using يَنْصُرُ:  
 لَنْ يَنْصُرَ means *He will not help*. لِيَنْصُرُوا (I took off the ن to make يَنْصُرُونَ light here) means *So that they help*.

حَتَّى تَنْصُرَ may mean *Until she helps* or *Until you help*. Some examples from the Qur'an include:

حَتَّى يَلِجَ الْجَمَلُ فِي سَمِّ الْخِيَاطِ (because of حَتَّى, the normally يَلِجُ is changed to يَلِجُ).

لَنْ نُؤْمِنَ لَكَ حَتَّى تَرَى اللَّهَ جَهْرَةً (because of لَنْ, the normally نُؤْمِنُ is changed to نُؤْمِنَ).

كِي نُسَبِّحَكَ كَثِيرًا (because of كِي, the normally نُسَبِّحُ is changed to نُسَبِّحُ).

لِيَدْخُلَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ (because of لِ, the normally يُدْخِلُ is changed to يُدْخِلَ).

**THE LIGHTEST GROUP:** Another small group of words ensures that the present tense occurring after them is in its lightest state. The حَرَف that enforce the lightest state are as follows:

إِنْ means *if*      لَمْ means *did not*      لَمَّا means *not yet*      وَلَ means *and...should*      فَلْ means *then...should*      لِ means *should*

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For example: *إِنْ يَنْصُرْ* (if he helps), *لَمْ أَنْصُرْ* (I didn't help), *لَمَّا يَنْصُرُوا* (they haven't helped yet), *فَلْيَنْصُرْ* (then he should help).

Here are some examples from the Qur'an:

*إِنْ يَنْصُرْكُمْ اللَّهُ* (notice the normally *يَنْصُرْ* changes to the lightest *يَنْصُرْ* because of *إِنْ*). *If Allah helps you.*

*لَمْ يَلِدْ* (notice the normally *يَلِدُ* changes to the lightest *يَلِدُ* because of *لَمْ*). *He didn't beget.*

*فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ* (notice the normally *يَعْبُدُونَ* loses its ن in this lightest form due to the *فَلْ*). *Then they should worship the Lord of this house.*

### PART 4: SOME ADDITIONAL POINTS THAT DIDN'T GET COVERED IN CLASS

1. The *سُكُون* in the lightest form can appear to be a *كَسْرَة* sometimes. This is only done in Arabic to connect a word phonetically to the following words. Here's an example:

*لَمَّا يَدْخُلُ* is clearly a case of the lightest present tense. If we add another word to the sentence, we get:

*لَمَّا يَدْخُلُ الْإِيمَانُ*. How are we to read this if we don't want to stop at *يَدْخُلُ* but rather speak in flow having the word *يَدْخُلُ* pour into the word *الْإِيمَانُ* phonetically? We do so by replacing the *سُكُون* with *كَسْرَة*. So the way to read in flow would be:

*لَمَّا يَدْخُلِ الْإِيمَانُ*. Even though we see a *كَسْرَة*, as students of Arabic we know that it is actually a *سُكُون* and the *كَسْرَة* is just there allowing for better flow in reading/ pronunciation.

2. *حَتَّى* came up when we were studying *حَرْفُ الْجَرِّ*. It has come up again when we are studying the *light* group. How is one to distinguish which group *حَتَّى* belongs to at a given instance? You will notice that on page 27 when we listed the *حُرُوفُ الْجَرِّ* that occur in the Qur'an, I mentioned *حَتَّى* twice. I did so because it occurs as a *حَرْفُ الْجَرِّ* in those two textual instances in the entire Qur'an (though one of them is repeated more than once). As for the rest of the instances of *حَتَّى* in the Qur'an, assume that they belong to this, the *light* group for present tense.

### PART 5: COMMANDING & FORBIDDING:

On a completely separate note, we spoke in class about common sense observations about commanding & forbidding:

- a. You can't command in the past ('Brought me some water please, Child!' makes no sense)
- b. You can't command yourself (even if you do it's like a weird out of body experience or you're really just

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talking to a mirror)

- c. You can't command someone who isn't there (the most you can say is 'She should or shouldn't do something which would still constitute a comment not a command.)
- d. A command isn't always a command. It can be a request, an allowance or permission, encouragement, advice, prayer or an actual command. Only context can determine how to properly analyze speech.
- e. It is easier to forbid than it is to command.

Commanding and forbidding doesn't use the past tense as noted in point 'a'. Therefore we won't be employing page 33 for this lesson. It doesn't employ the third person so we won't be using the first two rows of page 39 (3rd person is people who aren't there or people you are not talking to, rather about). We won't be using the bottom row (1st person) because we noted that we can't command ourselves. Not out loud anyway.

What we are left with then are the 2nd person present tense conjugations outlined ONLY in rows 3 and 4 on page 39. I'm re-writing them here for convenience:

تَنْصُرُ *you help*    تَنْصُرَانِ *you both help*    تَنْصُرُونَ *you all help*

تَنْصُرِينَ *you woman help*    تَنْصُرَانِ *both of you women help*    تَنْصُرْنَ *you women help*

### FORBIDDING:

If we add لا to each of the فعل cases above, the statement simply changes from positive to negative:

لا تَنْصُرُ *You don't help.*    لا تَنْصُرَانِ *Neither of you help.*    لا تَنْصُرُونَ *None of you help.*

لا تَنْصُرِينَ *You don't help (f. Sing.).*    لا تَنْصُرَانِ *Neither of you ladies help.*    لا تَنْصُرْنَ *None of you ladies help.*

The لا statements above can't be called cases of 'forbidding'. They are simply comments/observations, not instructions. To change them to instructions, we kept the لا and made the present tense **LIGHTEST**. If you're forgetting how that works, read up on the notes on day 8.

لا تَنْصُرُ *DON'T HELP!*    لا تَنْصُرَانِ *DON'T HELP, EITHER OF YOU!*    لا تَنْصُرُونَ *DON'T ANY OF YOU HELP!*

لا تَنْصُرِينَ *DON'T HELP (Sing. Fem.)*    لا تَنْصُرَانِ *DON'T EITHER OF YOU LADIES HELP!*    لا تَنْصُرْنَ *DON'T ANY OF YOU LADIES HELP!*

The bottom line is, to forbid we use لا + the lightest 2<sup>nd</sup> person present tense. Here is a list of numerous words from page 40 turned into forbidding statements:

لا تَمُوتُوا *becomes*    لا تَمُوتُونَ *becomes*    لا تَطْلِمُوا *becomes*    لا تَطْلِمُونَ *becomes*    لا تَدَّكَّرُوا *becomes*    لا تَدَّكَّرُونَ *becomes*

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لا تَعُودُوا becomes تَعُودُونَ, لا تَقُولُوا becomes تَقُولُونَ, لا تَأْمُرُونَ becomes تَأْمُرُونَ  
لا تَسْتَأْخِرُوا becomes تَسْتَأْخِرُونَ, لا تُفْصَلُ becomes تُفْصَلُ, لا تَحْسَبُوا becomes تَحْسَبُونَ  
لا تَقْصُوا becomes تَقْصُونَ, لا تَدْخُلِي becomes تَدْخُلِينَ, لا تَسْتَقْدِمُوا becomes تَسْتَقْدِمُونَ

Let's look at some examples of forbidding from the Quran:

لا تَقْتُلُوا *Don't any of you kill!*

لا تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ *Don't commit shirk (associate partners) with Allah!*

لا تَكْفُرْ *Don't disbelieve!*

لا تَقْرَبَا *Don't come near (both of you)!*

لا تَحْزَنُوا *Don't worry (all of you)!* لا تَحْزَنِي *Don't worry! (sing. Fem. Used for Maryam)* لا تَحْزَنُ *Don't worry!*

### COMMANDING:

Let's go back to the 6 conjugations of the present tense that are 2<sup>nd</sup> person:

تَنْصُرُ *you help* تَنْصُرَانِ *you both help* تَنْصُرُونَ *you all help*

تَنْصُرِينَ *you women help*

تَنْصُرَانِ *both of you ladies help*

تَنْصُرْنَ *you ladies help*

And while we're at it, let's also list these six conjugations for another word:

تُعَلِّمُ *you teach* تُعَلِّمَانِ *you both teach* تُعَلِّمُونَ *all of you teach*

تُعَلِّمِينَ *you teach (sing. Fem.)* تُعَلِّمَانِ *both of you ladies teach*

تُعَلِّمْنَ *You ladies teach*

The thing that commanding and forbidding have in common is that they both require the word to be lightest. So when constructing commands, the first step is that the present tense must be in its lightest form.

Let's reiterate the words above in their lightest form:

تَنْصُرَا

تَنْصُرِي تَنْصُرُوا

تَنْصُرْنَ

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تُعَلِّمَنَّ    تُعَلِّمًا    تُعَلِّمِي    تُعَلِّمُوا    تُعَلِّمَنَّ

For commands, after you meet the first condition (**Lightest**), you must meet the second condition, which is to **remove the ت from the beginning**. If we meet the second condition for the above words, we get:

نُصْرًا    نُصْرًا    نُصْرًا    نُصْرًا    نُصْرًا  
عَلَّمًا    عَلَّمًا    عَلَّمًا    عَلَّمًا    عَلَّمًا

The row that begins with نُصْرًا is clearly unreadable after we remove the ت. The row that begins with عَلَّمًا on the other hand is readable. When you run into a situation where the word is readable, you've got yourself a command. The عَلَّمًا line is a bunch of commands.

Here's a translation for them:

عَلَّمًا Teach!    عَلَّمًا Teach, both of you!    عَلَّمُوا Teach, all of you!    عَلَّمِي Teach! (sing. Fem.)  
عَلَّمًا Teach, both of you! (pair. Fem.)    عَلَّمَنَّ Teach, ladies!

But about the نُصْرًا row of words? These words are not readable and so they need additional assistance to be functional (or pronounceable). That assistance comes by means of a helper alif ا.

أَنْصُرًا Help!    أَنْصُرًا Help, both of you!    أَنْصُرُوا Help, all of you!  
أَنْصُرِي Help! (sing. Fem.)    أَنْصُرًا Help, both of you (pair fem.)    أَنْصُرَنَّ Help, ladies!

You noticed that the ا was marked اُ in the command cases above. This is done when the second last letter (in this case ص) has a 'u'. If that second last letter doesn't have an 'u', simply apply an ا. This is a minor point because in the Qur'an the commands are punctuated for your non-Arab convenience. Let's try applying this process to a bunch of present tense words:

Normal Present Tense	Lightest Form	Remove ت and add alif if need	Meaning(command)
تَشْكُرُ	تَشْكُرُ	أَشْكُرُ	Thank!
تَعْبُدُونَ	تَعْبُدُوا	أَعْبُدُوا	Worship, all of you!
تُجَاهِدُ	تُجَاهِدُ	جَاهِدُ	Struggle!

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تُكْرِمُونَ	تُكْرِمُوا	كُرِّمُوا	Honor, all of you!
تَتَطَهَّرْنَ	تَتَطَهَّرَنَّ	تَطَهَّرْنَ	Cleanse yourselves, ladies!
تُقَاتِلُونَ	تُقَاتِلُوا	قَاتِلُوا	Fight, all of you!
تَسْجُدُ	تَسْجُدُ	أَسْجُدُ	Prostrate!
تَسْتَمِعُونَ	تَسْتَمِعُوا	اسْتَمِعُوا	Listen carefully, all of you!
تَتَّقُونَ	تَتَّقُوا	اتَّقُوا	Be extremely cautious, all of you!
تَسْمَعُ	تَسْمَعُ	اسْمَعُ	Listen!
تَنْظُرُ	تَنْظُرُ	انْظُرُ	Look!