Lesson Four: The Present Tense Verb
[اَلْفِعْل اَلْمُضَارِع]

The *present tense verb* (اَلْفِعْل اَلْمُضَارِع) describes actions or events that are ongoing.[15] *Present tense verb*s are conjugated using prefixes and suffixes.

PRINCIPLE ONE

The pattern يَفْعَلُ (*he does*) is used as a model for the *active* voice of the *present tense verb.* Depending on the particular conjugation, one of four letters (*yā', tā', nūn,* or *hamzah*) is always prefixed to the three base letters (*table 4.1*).

PRINCIPLE TWO

The active voice of the *present tense verb* is conjugated by adding designated letters to the end of the verb. Like the *past tense*, these conjugations reflect three aspects of the verb's subject: person, gender, and plurality. Carefully study *table 4.1*, noting the differences between the various conjugations.

PRINCIPLE THREE

The *present tense verb* may express either the active or the passive voice. The pattern for the *passive* voice of the *present tense verb* is formed from the active voice by (1) changing the voweling of the first letter to a *dammah* and (2) changing the voweling of the second to last letter to a *fathah*.[16] Thus يَفْعَلُ (*he does*) becomes يُفْعَلُ (*it is being done*).

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[15] The *present tense verb* includes both the continuous present tense (e.g., he is doing) and the habitual present tense (e.g., he does).

[16] This second step is only necessary if the active voice of the *present tense verb* has a *dammah* or a *kasrah* on its second to last letter. Such patterns are covered in *Lesson Sixteen.*

PRINCIPLE FOUR

The designated suffixes used for the active voice of the *present tense verb* are also used for the passive voice. However, the conjugations of the passive voice reflect the person, gender, and plurality of the *object*, and not the *subject*, of the verb. *Table 4.2* illustrates both active and passive conjugations of the *present tense verb*.

PRINCIPLE FIVE

Placing the word " لاَ " before both the active and the passive voice conjugations negates the *present tense verb* (*table 4.2*). For example, يَفْعَلُ (*he does*) becomes لاَ يَفْعَلُ (*he does not do*), and يُفْعَلُ (*it is being done*) becomes لاَ يُفْعَلُ (*it is not being done*).

PRINCIPLE SIX

The *present tense verb* may also describe a future event or action.[17] For example, يَفْعَلُ may be translated as, "he will do." Placing either the letter " سَ " or the word " سَوْفَ " before active and passive voice conjugations of the *present tense verb* explicitly indicates future meaning (*table 4.3*). For example, سَيَفْعَلُ and سَوْفَ يَفْعَلُ are both translated as, "he will do."

ESSENTIAL NOTE

The conjugations of the *present tense verb* must be memorized (*table 4.2*) before moving to the next lesson.

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[17] Throughout this book, اَلْفِعْل اَلْمُضَارِع has been translated as "the *present tense verb*." More accurately, however, this Arabic term refers to the *imperfect* tense. *Imperfect* implies that the actions referred to are not yet complete. Thus, it includes both the present tense, "he does," and the future tense, "he will do."

TABLE 4.1

CONJUGATING THE *PRESENT TENSE VERB*

PERSON GENDER & PLURALITY			SUFFIX		BASE		PREFIX		ACTIVE VOICE
3rd	Masculine	Singular			فعل	+	ي	⇨	يَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) does
3rd	Masculine	Dual	انِ	+	فعل	+	ي	⇨	يَفْعَلاَنِ They (D/M) do
3rd	Masculine	Plural	وْنَ	+	فعل	+	ي	⇨	يَفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) do
3rd	Feminine	Singular			فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) does
3rd	Feminine	Dual	انِ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلاَنِ They (D/F) do
3rd	Feminine	Plural	نَ	+	فعل	+	ي	⇨	يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) do
2nd	Masculine	Singular			فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلُ You (S/M) do
2nd	Masculine	Dual	انِ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلاَنِ You (D/M) do
2nd	Masculine	Plural	وْنَ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) do
2nd	Feminine	Singular	يْنَ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) do
2nd	Feminine	Dual	انِ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلاَنِ You (D/F) do
2nd	Feminine	Plural	نَ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) do
1st	Masculine and Feminine	Singular			فعل	+	أ	⇨	أَفْعَلُ I do
1st	Masculine and Feminine	Plural			فعل	+	ن	⇨	نَفْعَلُ We do

M=Masculine   F=Feminine   S=Singular   D=Dual   P=Plural

TABLE 4.2

THE *PRESENT TENSE* VERB

PASSIVE VOICE NEGATION	ACTIVE VOICE NEGATION	PASSIVE VOICE	ACTIVE VOICE
لا يُفْعَلُ	لا يَفْعَلُ	يُفْعَلُ	يَفْعَلُ
He/It (S/M) is not being done	He/It (S/M) does not do	He/It (S/M) is being done	He/It (S/M) does
لا يُفْعَلاَنِ	لا يَفْعَلاَنِ	يُفْعَلاَنِ	يَفْعَلاَنِ
They (D/M) are not being done	They (D/M) do not do	They (D/M) are being done	They (D/M) do
لا يُفْعَلُوْنَ	لا يَفْعَلُوْنَ	يُفْعَلُوْنَ	يَفْعَلُوْنَ
They (P/M) are not being done	They (P/M) do not do	They (P/M) are being done	They (P/M) do
لا تُفْعَلُ	لا تَفْعَلُ	تُفْعَلُ	تَفْعَلُ
She/It (S/F) is not being done	She/It (S/F) does not do	She/It (S/F) is being done	She/It (S/F) does
لا تُفْعَلاَنِ	لا تَفْعَلاَنِ	تُفْعَلاَنِ	تَفْعَلاَنِ
They (D/F) are not being done	They (D/F) do not do	They (D/F) are being done	They (D/F) do
لا يُفْعَلْنَ	لا يَفْعَلْنَ	يُفْعَلْنَ	يَفْعَلْنَ
They (P/F) are not being done	They (P/F) do not do	They (P/F) are being done	They (P/F) do
لا تُفْعَلُ	لا تَفْعَلُ	تُفْعَلُ	تَفْعَلُ
You (S/M) are not being done	You (S/M) do not do	You (S/M) are being done	You (S/M) do
لا تُفْعَلاَنِ	لا تَفْعَلاَنِ	تُفْعَلاَنِ	تَفْعَلاَنِ
You (D/M) are not being done	You (D/M) do not do	You (D/M) are being done	You (D/M) do
لا تُفْعَلُوْنَ	لا تَفْعَلُوْنَ	تُفْعَلُوْنَ	تَفْعَلُوْنَ
You (P/M) are not being done	You (P/M) do not do	You (P/M) are being done	You (P/M) do
لا تُفْعَلِيْنَ	لا تَفْعَلِيْنَ	تُفْعَلِيْنَ	تَفْعَلِيْنَ
You (S/F) are not being done	You (S/F) do not do	You (S/F) are being done	You (S/F) do
لا تُفْعَلاَنِ	لا تَفْعَلاَنِ	تُفْعَلاَنِ	تَفْعَلاَنِ
You (D/F) are not being done	You (D/F) do not do	You (D/F) are being done	You (D/F) do
لا تُفْعَلْنَ	لا تَفْعَلْنَ	تُفْعَلْنَ	تَفْعَلْنَ
You (P/F) are not being done	You (P/F) do not do	You (P/F) are being done	You (P/F) do
لا أُفْعَلُ	لا أَفْعَلُ	أُفْعَلُ	أَفْعَلُ
I am not being done	I do not do	I am being done	I do
لا نُفْعَلُ	لا نَفْعَلُ	نُفْعَلُ	نَفْعَلُ
We are not being done	We do not do	We are being done	We do

M=Masculine   F=Feminine   S=Singular   D=Dual   P=Plural

TABLE 4.3

THE FUTURE TENSE

PASSIVE VOICE FUTURE	ACTIVE VOICE FUTURE	PASSIVE VOICE FUTURE	ACTIVE VOICE FUTURE
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلُ	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلُ	سَيُفْعَلُ	سَيَفْعَلُ
He/It (S/M) will be done	He/It (S/M) will do	He/It (S/M) will be done	He/It (S/M) will do
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلاَنِ	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلاَنِ	سَيُفْعَلاَنِ	سَيَفْعَلاَنِ
They (D/M) will be done	They (D/M) will do	They (D/M) will be done	They (D/M) will do
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلُوْنَ	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلُوْنَ	سَيُفْعَلُوْنَ	سَيَفْعَلُوْنَ
They (P/M) will be done	They (P/M) will do	They (P/M) will be done	They (P/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلُ	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلُ	سَتُفْعَلُ	سَتَفْعَلُ
She/It (S/F) will be done	She/It (S/F) will do	She/It (S/F) will be done	She/It (S/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلاَنِ	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلاَنِ	سَتُفْعَلاَنِ	سَتَفْعَلاَنِ
They (D/F) will be done	They (D/F) will do	They (D/F) will be done	They (D/F) will do
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلْنَ	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلْنَ	سَيُفْعَلْنَ	سَيَفْعَلْنَ
They (P/F) will be done	They (P/F) will do	They (P/F) will be done	They (P/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلُ	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلُ	سَتُفْعَلُ	سَتَفْعَلُ
You (S/M) will be done	You (S/M) will do	You (S/M) will be done	You (S/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلاَنِ	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلاَنِ	سَتُفْعَلاَنِ	سَتَفْعَلاَنِ
You (D/M) will be done	You (D/M) will do	You (D/M) will be done	You (D/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلُوْنَ	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلُوْنَ	سَتُفْعَلُوْنَ	سَتَفْعَلُوْنَ
You (P/M) will be done	You (P/M) will do	You (P/M) will be done	You (P/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلِيْنَ	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلِيْنَ	سَتُفْعَلِيْنَ	سَتَفْعَلِيْنَ
You (S/F) will be done	You (S/F) will do	You (S/F) will be done	You (S/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلاَنِ	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلاَنِ	سَتُفْعَلاَنِ	سَتَفْعَلاَنِ
You (D/F) will be done	You (D/F) will do	You (D/F) will be done	You (D/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلْنَ	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلْنَ	سَتُفْعَلْنَ	سَتَفْعَلْنَ
You (P/F) will be done	You (P/F) will do	You (P/F) will be done	You (P/F) will do
سَوْفَ أُفْعَلُ	سَوْفَ أَفْعَلُ	سَأُفْعَلُ	سَأَفْعَلُ
I will be done	I will do	I will be done	I will do
سَوْفَ نُفْعَلُ	سَوْفَ نَفْعَلُ	سَنُفْعَلُ	سَنَفْعَلُ
We will be done	We will do	We will be done	We will do

M=Masculine   F=Feminine   S=Singular   D=Dual   P=Plural