

Lesson Eight: The Emphatic

[التَّأْكِيدُ]

The *emphatic* describes, with emphasis, future actions or events. For example, **لَيَفْعَلَنَّ** means, “verily he will do!”

PRINCIPLE ONE

The *emphatic* is formed by: (1) adding the particle “لَ” to the beginning of active and passive voice conjugations of the *present tense verb* and (2) adding a “نَّ” to their end.²³ (*table 8.1*). Depending on the particular conjugation, the “نَّ” is voweled with either a *fathah* or a *kasrah*. The particle “لَ” is called the *lām of emphasis* (لَامُ التَّأْكِيدِ) and it causes the verb, originally in the state of *rafa’* (رَفْعُ), to become *stateless* (مَبْنِي). It also alters the meaning of the verb from the present tense to the future tense with emphasis. Thus, **يَفْعَلُ** (*he does*) becomes **لَيَفْعَلَنَّ** (*verily he will do!*).

ESSENTIAL NOTE

The conjugations of the *emphatic* must be memorized (*table 8.1*) before moving to the next lesson.²⁴

²³ A second pattern for the *emphatic* is formed by (1) adding the particle “لَ” to the beginning of the *present tense verb* and (2) adding a “نَّ” to its end. This pattern is less common than the form presented above and is not discussed in this text.

²⁴ Detailed rules exist for constructing each of the *emphatic* conjugations from their corresponding *present tense* conjugations (e.g., **لَيَفْعَلَنَّ** from **يَفْعَلُونَ**). For the beginner emphasis is placed on memorizing patterns. A comprehensive discussion of these rules is present in higher-level books of Arabic grammar.

TABLE 8.1
THE EMPHATIC

PASSIVE VOICE	ACTIVE VOICE
كَيْفَعَلَنَّ <small>Verily he/it (S/M) will be done!</small>	كَيْفَعَلَنَّ <small>Verily he/it (S/M) will do!</small>
كَيْفَعَلَانَّ ²⁵ <small>Verily they (D/M) will be done!</small>	كَيْفَعَلَانَّ ²⁵ <small>Verily they (D/M) will do!</small>
كَيْفَعَلُنَّ <small>Verily they (P/M) will be done!</small>	كَيْفَعَلُنَّ <small>Verily they (P/M) will do!</small>
لَتَفْعَلَنَّ <small>Verily she/it (S/F) will be done!</small>	لَتَفْعَلَنَّ <small>Verily she/it (S/F) will do!</small>
لَتَفْعَلَانَّ <small>Verily they (D/F) will be done!</small>	لَتَفْعَلَانَّ <small>Verily they (D/F) will do!</small>
كَيْفَعَلْنَانَّ <small>Verily they (P/F) will be done!</small>	كَيْفَعَلْنَانَّ <small>Verily they (P/F) will do!</small>
لَتَفْعَلَنَّ <small>Verily you (S/M) will be done!</small>	لَتَفْعَلَنَّ <small>Verily you (S/M) will do!</small>
لَتَفْعَلَانَّ <small>Verily you (D/M) will be done!</small>	لَتَفْعَلَانَّ <small>Verily you (D/M) will do!</small>
لَتَفْعَلُنَّ <small>Verily you (P/M) will be done!</small>	لَتَفْعَلُنَّ <small>Verily you (P/M) will do!</small>
لَتَفْعَلِنَّ <small>Verily you (S/F) will be done!</small>	لَتَفْعَلِنَّ <small>Verily you (S/F) will do!</small>
لَتَفْعَلَانَّ <small>Verily you (D/F) will be done!</small>	لَتَفْعَلَانَّ <small>Verily you (D/F) will do!</small>
لَتَفْعَلْنَانَّ <small>Verily you (P/F) will be done!</small>	لَتَفْعَلْنَانَّ <small>Verily you (P/F) will do!</small>
لَأَفْعَلَنَّ <small>Verily I will be done!</small>	لَأَفْعَلَنَّ <small>Verily I will do!</small>
لَنَفْعَلَنَّ <small>Verily we will be done!</small>	لَنَفْعَلَنَّ <small>Verily we will do!</small>

M=Masculine

F=Feminine

S=Singular

D=Dual

P=Plural

²⁵ “ ن ” indicates a *nūn* with a *shaddah* that is voweled with a *kasrah*.