

Lesson Sixteen: The Six Types of Verb Form I

PRINCIPLE ONE

Lesson Three illustrated فَعَلَ as a model pattern for the active voice of the *past tense verb*. This is only one of several possible patterns. Some patterns involve vowelizing the base letters alone while others involve adding designated non-base letters.³⁵ Patterns containing the base letters alone (i.e., without additional letters) are classified as *verb form I*. The active voice of the *past tense* of *verb form I* has three possible vowelizing patterns:

- 1) فَعَلَ
- 2) فَعِلَ
- 3) فَعُلَ

Note that the *fā'* (ف) and *lām* (ل) positions are always vowelized with a *fathah* (َ); however, the vowelizing of the *'ain* (ع) position varies.

PRINCIPLE TWO

A given three-letter base, with rare exception, uses only one of these three *form I* active voice *past tense* patterns. For example, the base letters ع-م-س (*to bear*) use the pattern فَعِلَ to form سَمِعَ (*he heard*). On the other hand, the base letters ك-ر-م (*to be noble*) use the pattern فَعُلَ to form كَرُمَ (*he was noble*). The particular pattern used by any given set of base letters must be memorized.

PRINCIPLE THREE

The passive voice of the *past tense* of *verb form I* always uses the pattern فُعِلَ. This pattern was covered in *Lesson Three*.

³⁵ Verb forms that involve the addition of non-base letters are not covered in this volume.

PRINCIPLE FOUR

All patterns of the *past tense verb*, whether active or passive voice, are conjugated using the suffixes illustrated in *Lesson Three (table 3.2)*. When conjugating each of the three active voice *past tense* patterns of *verb form I*, the ‘ain (ع) position retains its particular vowelning (*table 16.1*).

PRINCIPLE FIVE

Lesson Four illustrated **يَفْعَلُ** as a model pattern for the active voice of the *present tense verb*. This is only one of several possible patterns. The *present tense* always begins with one of the following four letters: *hamzā'* (أ), *tā'* (ت), *yā'* (ي), and *nūn* (ن). In *verb form I*, this prefixed letter is always vowelned with a *fathah* (َ). However the vowelning of the ‘ain (ع) position varies. Thus the active voice of the *present tense* of *verb form I* has three possible patterns:

- 1) **يَفْعَلُ**
- 2) **يَفْعِلُ**
- 3) **يَفْعُلُ**

PRINCIPLE SIX

The passive voice of the *present tense* of *verb form I* always takes the pattern **يُفْعَلُ**. This pattern was covered in *Lesson Four*.

TABLE 16.1
VERB FORM I ON THE PATTERN OF فَعِلَ

| PERSON | GENDER | PLURALITY | BASE | | SUFFIX | | ACTIVE VOICE |
|--------|------------------------|-----------|------|---|--------|---|--------------|
| 3rd | Masculine | Singular | فعل | | | ⇒ | فَعِلَ |
| 3rd | Masculine | Dual | فعل | + | ا | ⇒ | فَعِلَا |
| 3rd | Masculine | Plural | فعل | + | وا | ⇒ | فَعِلُوا |
| 3rd | Feminine | Singular | فعل | + | تْ | ⇒ | فَعِلَتْ |
| 3rd | Feminine | Dual | فعل | + | تا | ⇒ | فَعِلْتَا |
| 3rd | Feminine | Plural | فعل | + | نَ | ⇒ | فَعِلْنَ |
| 2nd | Masculine | Singular | فعل | + | تَ | ⇒ | فَعِلْتَ |
| 2nd | Masculine | Dual | فعل | + | تُما | ⇒ | فَعِلْتُمَا |
| 2nd | Masculine | Plural | فعل | + | تُمْ | ⇒ | فَعِلْتُمْ |
| 2nd | Feminine | Singular | فعل | + | تِ | ⇒ | فَعِلْتِ |
| 2nd | Feminine | Dual | فعل | + | تُما | ⇒ | فَعِلْتُمَا |
| 2nd | Feminine | Plural | فعل | + | تُنَّ | ⇒ | فَعِلْتُنَّ |
| 1st | Masculine and Feminine | Singular | فعل | + | تُ | ⇒ | فَعِلْتُ |
| 1st | Masculine and Feminine | Plural | فعل | + | نا | ⇒ | فَعِلْنَا |

PRINCIPLE SEVEN

All patterns of the *present tense verb*, whether active or passive voice, are conjugated using the suffixes illustrated in *Lesson Four* (table 4.2). When conjugating each of the three active voice *present tense* patterns, the ‘ain (ع) position always retains its particular vowelizing (table 16.2). This holds true for the states of *nasb* (نَصْب) and *jazm* (جَزْم), and with the active voice conjugations of the *emphatic*, the *command*, and the *prohibition*.

The passive voice always uses the pattern يُفْعَلُ. The *fathah* on the ‘ain (ع) position is retained in the states of *nasb* (نَصْب) and *jazm* (جَزْم), and with the passive voice conjugations of the *emphatic*, the *command*, and the *prohibition*. The *appendices* include complete conjugations of the base letters ض-ر-ب (to strike) as illustrative models.

PRINCIPLE EIGHT

Each set of base letters uses only one of the three active voice *past tense* patterns and one of the three active voice *present tense* patterns. For example, the base letters ض-ر-ب use the pattern فَعَلَ for the active voice *past tense* and يَفْعَلُ for the active voice *present tense*. Combining all variations allowed for the vowelizing of the ‘ain (ع) position in both the active *past* and active *present tense* results in nine combinations (figure 16.1). However, in practice, only six of these combinations are used. These are called the six types of *verb form I*.

TABLE 16.2

VERB FORM I ON THE PATTERN OF **يَفْعِلُ**

| PERSON/GENDER/PLURALITY | | | PREFIX | | PAST | | SUFFIX | | ACTIVE VOICE |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|--------|---|------|---|--------|---|--------------|
| 3rd | Masculine | Singular | ي | + | فعل | | | ⇒ | يَفْعِلُ |
| 3rd | Masculine | Dual | ي | + | فعل | + | انِ | ⇒ | يَفْعِلَانِ |
| 3rd | Masculine | Plural | ي | + | فعل | + | ونَ | ⇒ | يَفْعِلُونَ |
| 3rd | Feminine | Singular | ت | + | فعل | | | ⇒ | تَفْعِلُ |
| 3rd | Feminine | Dual | ت | + | فعل | + | انِ | ⇒ | تَفْعِلَانِ |
| 3rd | Feminine | Plural | ي | + | فعل | + | نَ | ⇒ | يَفْعِلْنَ |
| 2nd | Masculine | Singular | ت | + | فعل | | | ⇒ | تَفْعِلُ |
| 2nd | Masculine | Dual | ت | + | فعل | + | انِ | ⇒ | تَفْعِلَانِ |
| 2nd | Masculine | Plural | ت | + | فعل | + | ونَ | ⇒ | تَفْعِلُونَ |
| 2nd | Feminine | Singular | ت | + | فعل | + | ينَ | ⇒ | تَفْعِلِينَ |
| 2nd | Feminine | Dual | ت | + | فعل | + | انِ | ⇒ | تَفْعِلَانِ |
| 2nd | Feminine | Plural | ت | + | فعل | + | نَ | ⇒ | تَفْعِلْنَ |
| 1st | Masculine and Feminine | Singular | أ | + | فعل | | | ⇒ | أَفْعِلُ |
| 1st | Masculine and Feminine | Plural | ن | + | فعل | | | ⇒ | نَفْعِلُ |

| | | |
|----------------|----------|---------|
| Exists | يَفْعَلُ | فَعَلَ |
| Exists | يَفْعِلُ | فَعَّلَ |
| Exists | يَفْعُلُ | فَعَّلَ |
| Exists | يَفْعَلُ | فَعِلَ |
| Exists | يَفْعِلُ | فَعِلَ |
| Does not exist | يَفْعُلُ | فَعِلَ |
| Does not exist | يَفْعِلُ | فَعَلَ |
| Does not exist | يَفْعِلُ | فَعَلَ |
| Exists | يَفْعُلُ | فَعَلَ |

FIGURE 16.1

COMBINATIONS OF ACTIVE VOICE VERB FORM I PATTERNS

PRINCIPLE NINE

Table 16.3 provides sample verbs for each of the six types of *verb form I*. The first line includes the active voice (third person masculine) of the *past* and *present tense verbs*, the active *masdar*,³⁶ and the *active participle*. The second line includes the passive voice (third person masculine) of the *past* and *present tense verbs*, the passive *masdar*, and the *passive participle*. The third line includes the *command* and the *prohibition*. The fourth line includes the *noun of time and place* and the *noun of usage*. Finally, the fifth line includes the masculine and feminine forms of the *superlative noun*. This complete model is illustrated in *figure 16.2*.

PRINCIPLE TEN

Verb form I, type E (كَرُمَ) differs from the other types in two ways. First, its *active participle* is formed on the pattern *فَعِيلٌ*. Second, it forms neither passive voice verbs nor a *passive participle*. All verbs that follow the pattern of *كَرُمَ* differ from the other types in these two ways.

ESSENTIAL NOTE

Each type of *verb form I* presented in *table 16.3* must be memorized and completely conjugated. For example, *نَصَرَ* and *نُصِرَ* should be conjugated through the *past tense* conjugations illustrated in *Lesson Three* while *يَنْصُرُ* and *يُنْصَرُ* should be conjugated in the states of *rafa'* (رَفَعٌ), *nasb* (نَصَبٌ), and *jazm* (جَزَمٌ) as illustrated in *Lessons Four, Six, and Seven*. Similarly, practice in conjugating the *emphatic*, the *command*, the *prohibition*, and all noun forms is required. The *appendices* include complete conjugations of the base letters *ض-ر-ب* (*to strike*) as illustrative models.

³⁶ The *masdar* represents the verbal noun of the base letters, usually translated as a gerund ending in “ing” or “ion.” For example, *نَصْرًا*, from *ن-ص-ر* (*to help*), means, “helping.” In order to preserve the rhyme of the model, the *masdar* is presented in the state of *nasb* (نَصَبٌ).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| فَهُوَ نَاصِرٌ The <i>active participle</i> is, “a helper” | نَصْرًا ³⁷ Helping | يَنْصُرُ He helps | نَصَرَ He helped |
| فَهُوَ مَنْصُورٌ The <i>passive participle</i> is, “he who was helped” | نَصْرًا Being helped | يُنْصَرُ He is being helped | نُصِرَ He was helped |
| وَالنَّهْيُ عَنْهُ لَا تَنْصُرُ And the <i>prohibition</i> for this form is, “Don’t help.” | الْأَمْرُ مِنْهُ أَنْصُرْ The <i>command</i> for this form is, “Help!” | | |
| وَالْآلَةُ مِنْهُ مِنْصَرٌ And the <i>noun of usage</i> is, “a tool used for helping.” | الظَّرْفُ مِنْهُ مَنْصَرٌ The <i>noun of time and place</i> is, “a place <i>or</i> time of helping.” | | |
| وَالْمَوْتُ مِنْهُ نَصْرِي The <i>feminine superlative noun</i> is “a female who helps more (<i>or</i> most).” | أَفْعَلُ التَّفْضِيلِ مِنْهُ أَنْصَرُ The <i>superlative noun</i> is “one who helps more (<i>or</i> most).” | | |

FIGURE 16.2

ILLUSTRATING THE MODEL FOR THE VERB FORMS

³⁷ See footnote 36.

TABLE 16.3

THE SIX TYPES OF VERB FORM I

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>نَصَرَ يَنْصُرُ نَصْرًا فَهُوَ نَاصِرٌ نُصِرَ يُنصِرُ نَصْرًا فَهُوَ مَنْصُورٌ الْأَمْرُ مِنْهُ أَنْصِرْ وَ التَّهْيِ عَنْهُ لَا تَنْصُرْ أَلْظَرَفُ مِنْهُ مَنْصَرٌ وَ الْآلَةُ مِنْهُ مِنْصَرٌ أَفْعَلُ التَّفْضِيلِ مِنْهُ أَنْصِرْ وَ الْمُؤَنَّثُ مِنْهُ نُصِرِي</p> | <p>FORM I, TYPE A On the pattern of فَعَلَ \ يَفْعُلُ The <i>past tense</i> (الْمَاضِي) has a <i>fathah</i> on the 'ain position and the <i>present tense</i> (الْمُضَارِع) has a <i>dammah</i> on the 'ain position نَصَرَ , He helped</p> |
| <p>ضَرَبَ يَضْرِبُ ضَرْبًا فَهُوَ ضَارِبٌ ضُرِبَ يُضْرَبُ ضَرْبًا فَهُوَ مَضْرُوبٌ الْأَمْرُ مِنْهُ اضْرِبْ وَ التَّهْيِ عَنْهُ لَا تَضْرِبْ أَلْظَرَفُ مِنْهُ مَضْرِبٌ وَ الْآلَةُ مِنْهُ مِضْرَبٌ أَفْعَلُ التَّفْضِيلِ مِنْهُ اضْرِبْ وَ الْمُؤَنَّثُ مِنْهُ ضُرِبِي</p> | <p>FORM I, TYPE B On the pattern of فَعَلَ \ يَفْعُلُ The <i>past tense</i> (الْمَاضِي) has a <i>fathah</i> on the 'ain position and the <i>present tense</i> (الْمُضَارِع) has a <i>kasrah</i> on the 'ain position ضَرَبَ , He struck</p> |
| <p>سَمِعَ يَسْمَعُ سَمْعًا فَهُوَ سَامِعٌ سُمِعَ يُسْمَعُ سَمْعًا فَهُوَ مَسْمُوعٌ الْأَمْرُ مِنْهُ اسْمَعْ وَ التَّهْيِ عَنْهُ لَا تَسْمَعْ أَلْظَرَفُ مِنْهُ مَسْمَعٌ وَ الْآلَةُ مِنْهُ مِسْمَعٌ أَفْعَلُ التَّفْضِيلِ مِنْهُ اسْمَعْ وَ الْمُؤَنَّثُ مِنْهُ سَمِعِي</p> | <p>FORM I, TYPE C On the pattern of فَعَلَ \ يَفْعُلُ The <i>past tense</i> (الْمَاضِي) has a <i>kasrah</i> on the 'ain position and the <i>present tense</i> (الْمُضَارِع) has a <i>fathah</i> on the 'ain position سَمِعَ , He heard</p> |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>فَتَحَ يُفْتَحُ فَتَحًا فَهُوَ فَاتِحٌ^{٣٨}</p> <p>فُتِحَ يُفْتَحُ فَتَحًا فَهُوَ مَفْتُوحٌ^{٣٨}</p> <p>الْأَمْرُ مِنْهُ افْتَحْ وَالنَّهْيُ عَنْهُ لَا تَفْتَحْ</p> <p>الظَّرْفُ مِنْهُ مَفْتَحٌ وَ الْآلَةُ مِنْهُ مِفْتَحٌ</p> <p>أَفْعَلُ التَّفْضِيلِ مِنْهُ أَفْتَحُ وَ الْمَوْتُ مِنْهُ فُتِحَ</p> | <p>FORM I, TYPE D</p> <p>On the pattern of فَعَلَ \ يَفْعَلُ</p> <p>The <i>past tense</i> (الْمَاضِي) has a <i>fathab</i> on the ‘<i>ain</i> position and the <i>present tense</i> (الْمُضَارِع) has a <i>fathab</i> on the ‘<i>ain</i> position</p> <p>فَتَحَ , He opened</p> |
| <p>كَرَّمَ يَكْرُمُ كَرَمًا فَهُوَ كَرِيمٌ</p> <p>الْأَمْرُ مِنْهُ أَكْرَمْ وَ النَّهْيُ عَنْهُ لَا تَكْرَمْ</p> <p>الظَّرْفُ مِنْهُ مَكْرَمٌ وَ الْآلَةُ مِنْهُ مِكْرَمٌ</p> <p>أَفْعَلُ التَّفْضِيلِ مِنْهُ أَكْرَمْ وَ الْمَوْتُ مِنْهُ كُرِمَ</p> | <p>FORM I, TYPE E</p> <p>On the pattern of فَعَلَ \ يَفْعَلُ</p> <p>The <i>past tense</i> (الْمَاضِي) has a <i>dammab</i> on the ‘<i>ain</i> position and the <i>present tense</i> (الْمُضَارِع) has a <i>dammab</i> on the ‘<i>ain</i> position</p> <p>كَرَّمَ , He was noble</p> |
| <p>حَسِبَ يَحْسِبُ حِسْبًا وَ حِسَابًا³⁸ فَهُوَ حَاسِبٌ</p> <p>حُسِبَ يُحْسَبُ حِسْبًا وَ حِسَابًا فَهُوَ مَحْسُوبٌ</p> <p>الْأَمْرُ مِنْهُ احْسِبْ وَ النَّهْيُ عَنْهُ لَا تَحْسِبْ</p> <p>الظَّرْفُ مِنْهُ مَحْسَبٌ وَ الْآلَةُ مِنْهُ مَحْسَبٌ</p> <p>أَفْعَلُ التَّفْضِيلِ مِنْهُ أَحْسَبُ وَ الْمَوْتُ مِنْهُ حُسِبَ</p> | <p>FORM I, TYPE F</p> <p>On the pattern of فَعَلَ \ يَفْعَلُ</p> <p>The <i>past tense</i> (الْمَاضِي) has a <i>kasrab</i> on the ‘<i>ain</i> position and the <i>present tense</i> (الْمُضَارِع) has a <i>kasrab</i> on the ‘<i>ain</i> position</p> <p>حَسِبَ , He considered</p> |

³⁸ Some verbs have multiple *masdars*. In the case of حَسِبَ, two are common and both are included above.