Contents

Introduction
The Aim of this Book xvii
Why Learn/Teach Grammar? xviii
Is the Arabic Language Difficult to Learn? xviii
The Organization and Content of the Book xx
Background Knowledge Required of the Reader xxi

Transliteration Symbols of Arabic Sounds xxii

Abbreviations xxv

1 Arabic Script and Sounds 1
1.1 Arabic Script: The Alphabet 2
1.2 Arabic Sounds 5
1.2.1 Vowels and Grammatical Vowel Endings 5
1.2.2 Consonants 8
1.2.3 Variations in Consonants and Vowels 10
1.2.4 Diphthongs and other Sound Combinations 12
1.3 Gemination 13
1.4 Stress 15
1.4.1 Presence of a Long Vowel 15
1.4.2 Presence of Two Long Vowels 16
1.4.3 Absence of a Long Vowel 16
1.5 Spelling Variations of 'alif 17
1.6 taa’ marbuuTa 18
1.7 Definiteness 20
1.8 Formal MSA vs. Informal MSA 23
1.9 Helping Vowels and Dropping the hamza of the Definite Article 24
  1.9.1 The fatHa Helping Vowel [a] 25
  1.9.2 The Damma Helping Vowel [u] 25
  1.9.3 The kasra Helping Vowel [i] 26
1.10 Dropping the hamza and 'alif Seat of the Definite Article in Writing 27
1.11 Summary 28

2 Word Structure 30
  2.1 The Basic Components of the Arabic Word: Root and Pattern 30
  2.2 Gender جِنْس 36
    2.2.1 Gender in Verbs 36
    2.2.2 Gender in Nouns 38
    2.2.3 Gender in Adjectives 43
  2.3 Number العَدُد 46
    2.3.1 The Dual المُتَنِّى 46
    2.3.2 The Plural الجِمْع 50
      2.3.2.1 Regular/Sound Plural Masculine جَمْعُ الْمُذْكُورِ السَّالِمِ 51
      2.3.2.2 Regular/Sound Plural Feminine جَمْعُ الْمُؤْنَثِ السَّالِمِ 53
      2.3.2.3 Irregular/Broken Plural جَمْعُ التَّكْسِير 57
  2.4 Summary 61

3 Noun Phrase Structure 63
  3.1 Noun–adjective Phrase الْعَضُوْدَةَ وَالْمَوْصُوف 63
    3.1.1 Real Attributive Adjective النَّعْثُ التَّحْقِيْقِي 64
    3.1.2 Causative Attributive Adjective النَّعْثُ التَّسْبِيْبِي 67
  3.2 Demonstrative Phrase 69
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Arabic Title</th>
<th>English Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>الإضافة الحقيقيّة</td>
<td>'iDaafa Phrase</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>الإضافة اللفظيّة</td>
<td>Adjective 'iDaafa Phrase</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sentence Structure</td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>الجملة الفعلية</td>
<td>The Verbal Sentence</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1</td>
<td>Basic Structure of the Verbal Sentence</td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.2</td>
<td>Verb–Subject Agreement</td>
<td>78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3</td>
<td>Tenses of the Verbal Sentence</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3.1</td>
<td>The Simple Present Tense and its Negation</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3.2</td>
<td>The Present Continuous Tense and its Negation</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3.3</td>
<td>The Present Perfect Tense and its Negation</td>
<td>82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3.4</td>
<td>The Simple Past Tense and its Negation</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3.5</td>
<td>The Past Continuous Tense and its Negation</td>
<td>84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3.6</td>
<td>The Habitual Past Tense and its Negation</td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3.7</td>
<td>The Past Perfect Tense and its Negation</td>
<td>86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3.8</td>
<td>The Simple Future Tense and its Negation</td>
<td>87</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3.9</td>
<td>The Future Continuous Tense and its Negation</td>
<td>88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3.10</td>
<td>The Future Perfect Tense and its Negation</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>الجملة الإسمية</td>
<td>The Nominal Sentence</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1</td>
<td>Structure of the Nominal Sentence</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1.1</td>
<td>Nominal Sentences Containing a Verb Predicate</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1.2</td>
<td>Nominal/Verbless Sentences Containing an Indefinite Predicate</td>
<td>91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1.3</td>
<td>Nominal/Verbless Sentences Containing a Definite Predicate</td>
<td>92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

4.2.1.4 Nominal Sentences Containing an Indefinite Subject 93
4.2.1.5 Nominal Sentences Containing a Sentence Predicate 94
4.2.1.6 Nominal Sentences Containing a Clause Subject 95

4.2.2 Negation of Nominal Sentences 95
4.2.3 The Past Tense of the Nominal Sentence and its Negation 97
4.2.4 The Future Tense of the Nominal Sentence and its Negation 98

4.2.5  

4.2.6 Inna and its Sisters 100

4.3 Summary 102

5 Pronouns

5.1 Personal Pronouns 105
5.2 Object Pronouns 105
5.3 Possessive Pronouns 108
5.4 Demonstrative Pronouns 109
5.5 Relative Pronouns 111
5.6 Dropping of Relative Pronouns and the Indefinite Relative Clause 113
5.7 The Particles ما maa and من man Functioning as Relative Pronouns 114
5.8 Sound Changes to Pronoun and Word Endings 115
5.9 Summary 118

6 Prepositions

6.1 Basic meanings and Use of Prepositions 119
6.1.1 min من “from” 120
6.1.2 'ilaa إلـٰى “to,” “until” 120
6.1.3 ان عن “from,” “off,” “about,” “instead of” 121
6.1.4 'alaa علـٰـى “on,” “about,” “for” 121
6.1.5 fii في “in,” “at,” “on” 122
6.1.6 hattaا “up to,” “until” 122
6.1.7 mundhu مـْدِ “for,” “since” 123
6.1.8 bi- “by,” “in,” “on,” “for” 123
6.1.9 li- “for,” “of,” “to” 124
6.1.10 ka- “like,” “such as” 124
6.1.11 ma’a مـْ “with,” “at,” “along” 125
6.1.12 wa- “by,” “with,” “at” 125
6.2 Idiomatic Usage and Expressions Involving Prepositions 126
6.3 Occurrence with Pronoun Suffixes and Resulting Sound Changes 126
6.4 Summary 130

7 Question Words and Question Formation 132
7.1 Question Formation and Question Words 132
7.1.1 hal هل “Yes/No” Question Word 133
7.1.2 'a أ “Yes/No” Question Particle 133
7.1.3 man من “Who” Question Word 135
7.1.4 maa ما “What” Question Word 135
7.1.5 maadhaا مـْ “What” Question Word 136
7.1.6 limaadhaا مـْ “Why” Question Word 137
7.1.7 mataa مـْ “When” Question Word 137
7.1.8 'ayna أين “Where” Question Word 138
7.1.9 kayfa كيف “How” Question Word 138
7.1.10 kam كـْ “How Many” Question Word 139
7.1.11 'ayy أي “Which/Which One” Question Word 140
7.2 Summary 142

8 Adverbs of Time and Place 143
8.1 Adverbs of Time 143
8.2 Adverbs of Place 147
8.3 Words Used as Adverbs of Time or Place 148
8.4 Dropping of Adverbs while Retaining Adverbial Meaning 149
8.5 Occurrence of Adverbs of Time and Place with Prepositions 149
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>Expressing Adverbial Meanings by a Preposition Followed by a Noun</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>Other Uses of Adverbs</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Adverbs of Manner</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Adverbs of Manner Occurring as a Single Word</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>Adverbs of Manner Occurring as Non-derived Nouns</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>Adverbs of Manner Occurring as a Phrase</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>Adverbs of Manner Occurring as a Verbal Sentence</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>Adverbs of Manner Occurring as a Nominal Sentence</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>Dropping of Adverbs of Manner with Prepositional and Adverbial Phrases</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Adverbs of Specification</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>Adverbs of Specification Clarifying an Ambiguous Word</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>Adverbs of Specification Clarifying an Ambiguous Verb</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>Adverbs of Specification Clarifying an Ambiguous (Nominal) Sentence</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Adverbs of Cause</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>Adverbs of Cause Occurring as Indefinite Singular Verbal Noun/Gerund</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>Adverbs of Cause Occurring as an إضافة ‘iDaafa Phrase</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>Other Ways of Expressing Adverbs of Cause</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Adverbs of Emphasis/Cognate Accusative</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>Adverbs of Emphasis Emphasizing a Verb/Action or a Word in a Sentence</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>Other Uses of Adverbs of Emphasis</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>Adverbs of Emphasis Emphasizing a Sentence</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>Adverbs of Emphasis Occurring as an إضافة ‘iDaafa Phrase</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12.5 Dropping Adverbs of Emphasis 172
12.6 Summary 173

13 The Verb الفعل

13.1 Common Triliteral Verb Forms 174
  13.1.1 Form I 175
  13.1.2 Forms II–X 178

13.2 Meanings of the Common Triliteral Verb Forms 178
  13.2.1 Meanings of Form I Verbs 179
  13.2.2 Meanings of Form II Verbs 180
  13.2.3 Meanings of Form III Verbs 180
  13.2.4 Meanings of Form IV Verbs 181
  13.2.5 Meanings of Form V Verbs 181
  13.2.6 Meanings of Form VI Verbs 181
  13.2.7 Meanings of Form VII Verbs 182
  13.2.8 Meanings of Form VIII Verbs 182
  13.2.9 Meanings of Form IX Verbs 183
  13.2.10 Meanings of Form X Verbs 183
  13.2.11 Deriving Forms II–X from Form I Verbs 184
  13.2.12 Triliteral Verb Form XI 186

13.3 Common Quadriliteral Verb Forms 187

13.4 Categories of Arabic Verbs and Conjugations 189
  13.4.1 Conjugation of Sound Verbs سالم 189
  13.4.2 Conjugation of Geminated Verbs مضعف 192
  13.4.3 Conjugation of hamzated Verbs مهموز 193
  13.4.4 Conjugation of Assimilated Verbs مثال 195
  13.4.5 Conjugation of Hollow Verbs أجواف 197
  13.4.6 Conjugation of Defective Verbs نافقص 203
  13.4.7 Conjugation of Non-separated, Double Weak Verbs مفرقعون 210
  13.4.8 Conjugation of Separated, Double Weak Verbs مفرقوش 211
13.5 The Imperative

13.5.1 Imperative of Form I (Triliteral Verbs) 212
13.5.2 Imperative of Forms II–III (Triliteral Verbs) 214
13.5.3 Imperative of Form IV (Triliteral Verbs) 215
13.5.4 Imperative of Forms V–VI (Triliteral Verbs) 216
13.5.5 Imperative of Forms VII–VIII and X (Triliteral Verbs) 217
13.5.6 Imperative of Quadriliteral Verbs (Form ﻓُﻌَﻞ - ﻓُﻌَﻞ) 218
13.5.7 Imperative of Derived Quadriliteral Verbs 219
13.5.8 Imperative of hamzated Verbs 220
13.5.9 Imperative of Geminated Verbs 220
13.5.10 Imperative of Assimilated Verbs 222
13.5.11 Imperative of Hollow Verbs 223
13.5.12 Imperative of Defective Verbs 224
13.5.13 Imperative of Non-separated, Double Weak Verbs 226
13.5.14 Imperative of Separated, Double Weak Verbs 226
13.5.15 Imperative of Two Common Irregular Verbs 227

13.6 The Negative Imperative 227

13.7 The Passive Voice ﻟِﻠْﻤُﺠْﻬَﻮﻝ 229

13.7.1 The Past-tense Passive Voice الماضي لِلْﻤُﺠْﻬَﻮﻝ 229
13.7.2 The Present-tense Passive Voice المضارع لِلْﻤُﺠْﻬَﻮﻝ 233

13.8 Summary 236

14 The Noun

14.1 The Non-derived Noun 237
14.2 The Verbal Noun ﺍﻟْﻤَﺘْﺼَد 238

14.2.1 Verbal Nouns of Form I Verbs 238
14.2.2 Verbal Nouns of Forms II–X Verbs 239
14.2.3 Verbal Noun Use 240
16 Quantifiers and Emphasis 281
16.1 Quantifiers 281
16.1.1 “No one” and “Nothing” 281
16.1.2 “Any” 282
16.1.3 “Some” 283
16.1.4 “A Number of” 284
16.1.5 “Many of,” “Many,” and “Many” 286
16.1.6 “A Few,” “A Little” 287
16.1.7 “Most of” 288
16.1.8 “Every,” “All” 288
16.1.9 “All” 290
16.1.10 “Both M” and “Both F” 291
16.2 Emphasis Words 293
16.3 Other Ways of Expressing Emphasis 295
16.4 Summary 296

17 Conditional Sentences 297
17.1 The Possible/Probable Conditional Sentence 297
17.1.1 Use of Other Structures and Tenses 300
17.1.2 Use of the Particle 299
17.2 The Improbable Conditional Sentence 302
17.2.1 “if” 302
17.2.2 “were it not for” 303
17.3 The Impossible Conditional Sentence 304
17.4 Summary 305

18 Exceptive Sentences 306
18.1 Exceptive Words and Their Use 306
18.1.1 “Except for” 307
18.1.2 “Except for” 307
18.1.3 “Except for” 308
18.1.4 “Except for” 308
18.2 Variations in the Exceptive Structure 309
18.2.1 Use of Negation Preceding 291
18.2.2 Use of Negation Preceding ﻦﻮ and ﻦﻮ 309
18.2.3 Use of Negation and Dropping the Noun Preceding ﹰا ﻦﻮ 310
18.2.4 Use of Negation and Dropping the Noun Preceding ﻦﻮ and ﻦﻮ 310
18.3 The Structure of ﺔ$name$ “Especially” 311
18.4 Summary 312

19 The Vocative ﺛداء
19.1 The Vocative Particle ﱃا 313
19.1.1 The Vocative Noun ﻢنادئ as a Proper Name 314
19.1.2 The Vocative Noun ﻢنادئ as an Indefinite Noun with Reference 314
19.1.3 The Vocative Noun ﻢنادئ as an Indefinite Noun without Reference 314
19.1.4 The Vocative Noun ﻢنادئ as an إضافة ‘iDaafa phrase 315
19.1.5 Use of More than One Vocative ﻢنادئ Noun 315
19.1.6 Use of an Adjective Following the Vocative ﻢنادئ Noun 316
19.2 Dropping the Vocative Particle ﱃا 317
19.3 Optative Use of the Vocative Particle ﱃا 317
19.4 Derogatory Use of the Vocative Particle ﱃا 317
19.5 The Vocative Particles ِبَﺗْها and ﺔانها 318
19.6 Summary 318

20 Exclamation ﺢاجب
20.1 Two Regular Expressions ﻎَﻠَ ﺔاو ﻎَﻠَ 320
20.1.1 Exclamation of Form I Verbs 320
20.1.2 Exclamation of Derived Verbs and Words 322
20.1.3 Use of the Particles ﻎَﻠَ and ﻎَﻠَ 323
20.2 Use of the Vocative Particle ﱃا and the Exclamation Particle ﱃا 324
20.3 Use of Certain Question Words and Phrases 325
20.4 Summary 326
Contents

21 Apposition 

21.1 Types of Apposition Nouns
21.1.1 Whole Noun–Noun Apposition
21.1.2 Partial Noun–Noun Apposition
21.1.3 Inclusive Noun–Noun Apposition
21.1.4 Mistaken Noun–Noun Apposition

21.2 Definiteness Agreement within Noun–Noun Apposition

21.3 Use of “Son” and the Noun Following it as an Apposition Noun

21.4 Summary

22 Triptote, Diptote, and Indeclinable/Invariable

22.1 The Indeclinable/Invariable

22.2 The Declinable
22.2.1 Mood Endings on Present/Imperfect Verbs
22.2.2 Case Endings on Nouns and Adjectives
22.2.3 Diptotes
22.2.4 Occurrence of Diptotes as Triptotes

22.3 Summary

References and Further Reading (in Arabic)

Appendix A The Geometric Basis of Arabic Numerals

Appendix B The Writing of the hamza

Appendix C The Phoenician Alphabet

Appendix D Identifying the Root and Looking up Words in the Dictionary

Appendix E The Number Phrase

English Index

Arabic Index