

الإضافة Idafas

What is an إضافة?

- An إضافة is two (or more) nouns put together that shows a relationship between the two, usually best translated as possession.
- Examples:

Arabic	Literal Translation	Better Translation
سيارة الرجل	the car of the man	the man's car
كتاب الطالب	the book of the student	the student's book
شعر ساره	the hair of Sarah	Sarah's hair
مكتبي	the desk of me	my desk
مكيف سيارة أخوي	the A/C of the car of the brother of me	my brother's car A/C
ولد عام	a son of an uncle	a cousin
صف العربية	the class of Arabic	Arabic class
كلية الادب	the college of literature	--

Important notes about an إضافة

- ONLY the last word in an إضافة phrase is definite (الـ or possessive or a name), but this makes the whole phrase definite
- Technically, putting a pronoun on the end of a word is a mini إضافة (بيتي is بي + بيت: the house of me, AKA my house). It isn't so important for you to know it's an إضافة, but here's the info if you want it. 😊
- There can be indefinite إضافة. You do this by keeping even the last word indefinite. These aren't as common, so in general use a definite one. But so you can see, here are some examples:

Arabic	Literal Translation	Better Translation
فرشاة اسنان	a brush of teeth	a toothbrush
أولاد عام	sons of an uncle	cousins
كيلو موز	a kilo of bananas	--
دراجة أطفال	a bicycle of children	a kids' bike
أستاذ جامعة	a professor of a university	a university professor

- To make an indefinite إضافة definite, all you'd need to do is make the last word definite (i.e. فرشاة اسنان = a toothbrush, فرشاة الاسنان = the toothbrush)
- Many students new to إضافة easily confuse إضافة with noun-adjective phrases. Just be careful to look for nouns when you are trying to find إضافة.

Tips for finding إضافة:

- Look for a **two or more nouns** with no other words between them where **all the nouns** (except maybe the last one) **are indefinite**.

A. Are these إضافة? Answers and explanations are after the exercise.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. سيارة حمراء | 2. باب الغرفة |
| 3. بيت أبي | 4. الباب المفتوح |
| 5. أختي طيبة | 6. صديقتي لطيفة وكريمة |
| 7. الولد تعبان | 8. ابن صاحب البيت |
| 9. كرسي أحمد | |

Answers:

1. سيارة حمراء

سيارة = car (n), حمراء = red (adj)

--> a red car. NOT an إضافة

2. باب الغرفة

باب = door (n), الغرفة = the room (n)

--> the door of the room. YES an إضافة

3. بيت أبوي

بيت = house (n), أبوع = my father (n)

--> the house of my father (my father's house). YES an إضافة

4. الباب مفتوح

الباب = the door (n), مفتوح = open (adj)

--> the door is open (you know there is an *is* because it switched from definite to indefinite). NOT an إضافة

5. أختي طيبة

أختي = my sister (n), طيبة = good (adj)

--> My sister is good (you know there is an *is* because it switched from definite to indefinite). NOT an إضافة

6. صديقتي لطيفة وكريمة

صديقتي = my friend (n), لطيفة = nice (adj), وكريمة = and good (adj)

--> My friend is nice and good (you know there is an *is* because it switched from definite to indefinite). NOT an إضافة

7. الولد تعبان

الولد = the boy (n), تعبان = tired/sick (adj)

--> the boy is sick (you know there is an *is* because it switched from definite to indefinite). NOT an إضافة

8. ابن صاحب البيت

ابن = son (n), صاحب = owner (n), البيت = the house (n)

--> the son of the owner of the house (the owner of the house's son). YES an إضافة

9. كرسي أحمد

كرسي = chair (n), أحمد = Ahmed (n)

--> the chair of Ahmed (Ahmed's chair). YES an إضافة

B. Write these English phrases that are translated into Arabic as إضافة. If you need help, there are hints at the end of this exercise.

1. Housework
2. My aunt
3. Her friend's pen
4. My Language Institute
5. A love letter

Hints: 1. House = بيت, work = شغل 2. Aunt = my father's sister or my mother's sister 3. Friend = صديق or صديقة, pen = قلم
4. Language = لغة, institute = معهد 5. Love = حب, letter = رسالة

C. Underline the إضافة in the sentence.

1. فستاني الزهراء في غرفة أختي.
2. ما هو اسم ولدك؟
3. عندي كتاب طويل عن تاريخ الامارات.
4. أحب أغاني حب وموسيقى رومانسية.
5. أمس سلّمت على جد صديقي في بيت أهله.
6. أدرس الأدب الإنجليزي في كلية الادب في جامعة نيويورك.

D. Extra Practice:

1. Open a page in your book. Try to find إضافة.
2. Write possessive phrases in English and think of how to say them in Arabic.