

Making Sentences

الجملة الاسمية Noun Sentences

There are **two kinds of sentences** in Arabic, noun sentences (also called “nominal sentences”) and verbal sentences. The difference between them is easy—noun sentences begin with a noun (or noun phrase) and verb sentences begin with a verb. Easy.

Noun sentences don't need a verb. In English, we translate them with “be/am/is/are/etc.,” but you don't need that in Arabic.

Examples:

الوَلَدُ حَزِينٌ.	1.	The boy (is) sad.
الأَكْلُ عَلَى الطَّائِلَةِ.	2.	The food (is) on the table.
أَنَا طَالِبٌ.	3.	I (am a) student.

The first part of the sentence is called **المُبْتَدَأُ** (the subject) and the second part of the sentence is called **الخَبَرُ** (the predicate). The names aren't so important to know, but you'll need to know how to find where **المُبْتَدَأُ** ends and **الخَبَرُ** starts to know where to put “am/is/are.”

الخَبَرُ is going to be a noun, preposition, or adjective.

You can tell where **المُبْتَدَأُ** ends and **الخَبَرُ** begins by:

1. seeing a change from definite (“the”) to indefinite (“a”)
2. if there's no change, looking for the prepositional phrase (“on X, by X, for X, etc.”)
3. seeing a change from a pronoun (“I, you, he, we, etc.”) to a noun or adjective

Examples:

الخَبَرُ	المُبْتَدَأُ	
حَزِينٌ.	الوَلَدُ	1. change from definite to indefinite
عَلَى الطَّائِلَةِ.	الأَكْلُ	2. prepositional phrase
طَالِبٌ.	أَنَا	3. change from pronoun to noun (or adjective)

Practice:

Look at the sentences and circle الخبَر . Then write the translation.		
أنا في البيت.	1.	
الأولاد جوعانون.	2.	
الكرسي بُني.	3.	
البسة نائمة على الكرسي.	4.	
خالد طويل.	5.	
هي صدقتي.	6.	
مريم وحنان في المطعم.	7.	

Practice:

Translate the sentences into Arabic.		
	1.	The child is little. صَغِير طِفْل
	2.	We are on the street. شارع
	3.	The food is delicious. لَذِيذ أَكْل
	4.	The man at the university is busy. مَشْغُول جَامِعَة رَجُل
	5.	The books are short. قَصِير كُتُب
	6.	I am at the restaurant. مَطْعَم
	7.	The kitchen is in the house. مَطْبَخ بَيْت

If you are comfortable with those, here are some longer sentences:

Look at the sentences and circle الخَبَر . Then write the translation.		
الرَّجُلُ الطَّوِيلُ مَعِي.	1.	
أَنَا وَفَاطِمَةُ فِي السَّيَّارَةِ الْبَيْضَاءِ.	2.	
الْبِنْتُ فِي الْمَحَطَّةِ زَعْلَانَةٌ.	3.	
الْكُرْسِيُّ الْأَبْيَضُ الْكَبِيرُ مَكْسُورٌ.	4.	
أَنَا طَبِيبٌ فِي الْمُسْتَشْفَى.	5.	

Homework:

Find some external texts (Tweets, text messages, sentences from a book, etc.) and try to find noun sentences in them. If you can, circle **الخَبَر**.

Also, try to write 3 examples of your own of each type of noun sentence.