

Making Commands in Arabic

Making commands is so easy! Here's how to do it:

1. Make the present tense of the verb:-----يَكْتُبُ / يَدْرُسُ
2. Delete the first syllable (يَ) ----- كُتِبَ / دَرَسَ
3. If there is a vowel on the first letter, congrats! That's the command.----- دَرَسَ ✓
If there is a sukuun (◌ْ) on the first letter, you need to do one more step. كُتِبَ ✗
4. In Arabic you can't have a sukuun (◌ْ) on the first letter of the word (you can't have two consonants right after another, like in the words "step" and "pray" and "crash"). So to fix this, if there is a sukuun (◌ْ) on the first letter, like in كُتِبَ, we add an alif to the beginning: ----- اَكْتُبَ ✓

*But how do I know if it's اُكْتُبَ (uktub) or اِكْتُبِ (iktub) or اَكْتُبْ (aktub)? Easy!

- Look at the first vowel after the alif.
 - If it is damma (◌ُ "u"), the alif gets a damma (◌ُ)
 - If it is kesra (◌ِ "i") or fatha (◌َ "a"), the alif gets a kesra (◌ِ)
 - If it is a form IV verb, the alif gets a fatha (◌َ "a") on a hamza (ء), which will look like: (أ)

Here are some more examples:

- (I) Play → يَلْعَبُ → لَعِبَ → اَلْعَبَ ✓
- (II) Repair → يُصَلِّحُ → صَلِّحَ → اَصْلِحْ ✓
- (III) Try → يُحَاوِلُ → حَاوَلَ → اِحْوَلْ ✓
- (IV) Submit → يُسَلِّمُ → سَلَّمَ → اسْلِمْ ✓ *Form IV verb commands always start with ا
- (V) Interfere → يَتَدَخَّلُ → تَدَخَّلَ → اِتَدَخَّلْ ✓
- (VI) Deal with → يَتَعَامَلُ مَعَ → تَعَامَلَ مَعَ → اِتَعَامَلَ مَعَ ✓
- (VIII) Discover → يَكْتَشِفُ → كَتَشَفَ → اِكْتَشَفْ ✓
- (X) Work → يَشْتَغَلُ → شْتَغَلَ → اِسْتَغَلَ ✓

To tell different people to do something, you just add one of these endings on the command:

- You male singular اَنْتَ : keep as is (you write: اَكْتُبْ)
- You female singular اَنْتِ : add ي to the end (you write: اَكْتُبِي)
- You plural اَنْتُمْ/اَنْتَوَا : add وا (pronounced "oo") to the end (you all write: اَكْتُبُوا)

Practice making these words into a command (the first one is done for you):

1. Cook (talking to a male)

he cooks:

يَطْبَخُ

cook (command):

اطْبَخْ

2. Read (talking to a group)

he reads:

يَقْرَأُ

read (command):

3. Finish (talking to a group)

he finishes:

يُخَلِّصُ

finish (command):

4. Give (talking to a female)

he gives:

يُعْطِي

give (command):

**Note: if the verb ends in a long vowel (ا / ي / و), the vowel changes to whatever the ending is (i.e. delete the vowel for a male, change it to ي for a female, change it to وا for a group)*

5. Go (talking to a group)

he goes:

يَرْوِحُ

go (command):

6. Talk to (talking to a male)

he talks to:

يُكَلِّمُ

talk to (command):

7. Drink (talking to a female)

he drinks:

يَشْرَبُ

drink (command):

8. Use (talking to a female)

he uses:

يَسْتَعِدِمُ

use (command):

9. Be ashamed (talking to a group)

he is ashamed:

يَسْتَحْيِي

be ashamed (command):