

النَّكِرَةُ وَالْمَعْرِفَةُ

The Indefinite and the Definite Noun

In Arabic nouns are of two kinds:

- Definite مَعْرِفَة
- Indefinite نَكِرَة

1. The Definite Noun المَعْرِفَة

Definite nouns indicate a particular thing, place or person.

- The book الْكِتَابُ 
- Egypt مِصْرُ 
- The Zam zam water الْمَاءُ زَمْ زَمِ 

There are many types of definite nouns:

Proper Noun	عَلَمٌ
Demonstrative Pronoun	اسْمٌ إِشَارَةٌ
Personal pronoun	ضَمِيرٌ
Relative pronoun	اسْمٌ مُؤَوِّضٌ
The noun rendered definite by the article ال	مُعَرَّفٌ بِالْأَلِفِ

a) A proper noun عَلَمٌ which is the name of a particular person, place or object.



b) A noun which, in virtue of the definite article ال the added to it, specifies the object or person.



2. The indefinite Noun النَّكِرَة

Indefinite nouns do not indicate any particular thing or person, they indicate something in general.

- A student طَالِبٌ 
- A school مَدْرَسَةٌ 
- A city مَدِينَةٌ 

Indefinite nouns usually carry *tanween*.