



The Indeclinable Nouns

We have seen that most Arabic nouns are declinable. Some are indeclinable, i.e., they do not indicate their functions by changing their endings. The following groups are indeclinable (*mabni*).

الضَّمَائِرُ

1) **The pronouns** like: أنا، أنت، هو، Likewise *tu* and *hu* in رَأَيْتَهُ (I saw him) are pronouns.

You might have noticed that there are two sets of pronouns. One set is used as *raf* pronouns, and another set as *nasb* and *jarr* pronouns, e.g.:



نَحْنُ طُلَّابٌ

'We are students.'

أَرَأَيْتِنَا؟

'Did you see us?'



هذا بَيْتُنَا.

'This is our house.'

But the changes that the pronouns undergo have no pattern. So each form of the pronoun is regarded as a separate entity. That is why the pronouns are classed as indeclinable though they undergo changes to indicate their functions in the sentence.

أَسْمَاءُ الإِشَارَةِ

2) **Demonstrative pronouns** like: هَذَا، هَذِهِ، ذَلِكَ، هُوَ، هُوَ، أُولَئِكَ، but هَذَانِ and هَذَانِ are declinable (مُعْرَبٌ).

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أَسْمَاءُ المَوْصُولَةِ

3) **Relative pronouns** like: الَّذِي، الَّتِي، الَّذِينَ، اللَّاتِي، but اللَّذَانِ and اللَّتَانِ are declinable.



أَسْمَاءُ الاسْتِفْهَامِ

4) Some interrogative words like: مَنْ، أَيْنَ، مَا، مَتَى، كَيْفَ.



الظُرُوفُ

5) Some adverbs like: الْآنَ، أَمْسٍ، حَيْثُ، إِذَا.



أَسْمَاءُ الْفِعْلِ

6) The verb-nouns A verb-noun is a noun with the meaning of a verb, like:

أَفْأُ 'I am annoyed.'



أَوْ 'I feel pain.'



أَمِينٌ 'Accept.'



الأَعْدَادُ الْمُرَكَّبَةُ

7) Compound numbers These are عَشْرَةٌ up to أَحَدٌ عَشَرَ along with their feminine forms.

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|----|---------------|
| ١١ | أحد عشر |
| ١٢ | إثنا عشر |
| ١٣ | ثلاثة عشر |
| ١٤ | أربعة عشر |
| ١٥ | خمس عشر |
| ١٦ | سبعة عشر |
| ١٧ | ثمانية عشر |
| ١٨ | تسعة عشر |
| ١٩ | عشرون |
| ٢٠ | عشرون |
| ٢١ | واحد وعشرون |
| ٢٢ | اثنان وعشرون |
| ٢٣ | ثلاثة وعشرون |
| ٢٤ | أربعة وعشرون |
| ٢٥ | خمس وعشرون |
| ٢٦ | سبعة وعشرون |
| ٢٧ | ثمانية وعشرون |
| ٢٨ | تسعة وعشرون |
| ٢٩ | عشرون |
| ٣٠ | عشرون |

Only the first part of **إِثْنَا عَشْرَةَ** and **إِثْنَا عَشَرَ** is declinable

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With regard to a *mu'rab* noun we say it is *marfū'*, *manṣūb* or *majrūr*, but with regard to a *mabnī* noun, we say: it is **فِي مَحَلِّ جَرٍّ**, **فِي مَحَلِّ نَصْبٍ**, **فِي مَحَلِّ رَفْعٍ**, i.e., it is in the place of *raf'*, *naṣb* or *jarr*, because a *mabnī* noun cannot be *marfū'*, *manṣūb* or *majrūr*, but it occupies a place that belongs to a *marfū'*, *manṣūb* or *majrūr* noun; and if a *mabnī* noun were to be replaced by a *mu'rab* one it will be *marfū'*, *manṣūb* or *majrūr*, e.g.:

in **رَأَيْتُ بِلَالًا**, the noun **بِلَالًا** is *manṣūb* because it is **المفعولُ بِهِ**, but

in **رَأَيْتُ هَذَا**, the noun **هَذَا** is 'in the place of *naṣb*' because it occupies the same

place as the *manṣūb* **بِلَالًا**.

I saw Bilal

