



# الْإِسْتِثْنَاءُ Exception

الْمُسْتَثْنَى  
الْبُرْتَقَالِ



It is a thing that  
is **Expected**.

أَدَاةُ الْإِسْتِثْنَى  
إِلَّا



Most commonly used is **إِلَّا**  
which is **Particle** means **Except**.  
And there are some other  
**Tools of Exception** also used  
which are (سَوَى، غَيْرُ) which are  
**nouns**.  
(مَا خَلَا، مَا عَدَا) these are **verbs**.

الْمُسْتَثْنَى مِنْهُ  
أَحِبُّ الْفَوْكَةِ



It is a thing from  
which **Exception**  
is made.



complete

تَامٌ

If the *mustathna minhu*  
is mentioned.

مُفْرَعٌ

الكلام الناقص  
incomplete/empty

If the *mustathna minhu*  
is not mentioned, and the  
sentence is always:  
Negative  
Prohibitive  
Interrogative



matchless, cut off

مُنْقَطِعٌ

The *mustathna* is  
wholly different from  
*mustathna minhu*



مُتَّصِلٌ

link, joint, connected

The *mustathna* is the  
same kind as  
*mustathna minhu*



غَيْرُ مُوجِبٍ

It is Negative, Prohibitive  
or Interrogative.



مُوجِبٍ

An Affirmative sentence



فعل فاعل  
ماض مستثنى منه  
توكيد استثناء مستثنى

‘All the students have passed except Khālid.’ نَجَحَ الطُّلَابُ كُلُّهُمْ إِلَّا خَالِدًا (1)



This is an example of **الإِسْتِثْنَاءُ** (exception). The *istithnā'* has three elements:

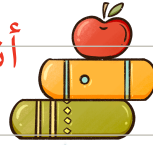
- a) **المُسْتَثْنَى**: it is the thing that is excepted, and in the above example it is خالد.
- b) **المُسْتَثْنَى مِنْهُ**: it is the thing from which exception is made, and in the above example it is الطُّلَابُ.
- c) **أَدَاةُ الإِسْتِثْنَاءِ**: it is the tool of exception which is **إِلَّا** in the above example.

**إِلَّا** is a حَرْفٌ. There are other tools also. These are:

**غَيْرَ** and **سِوَى**. These are nouns.

**مَا خَلَا** and **مَا عَدَا**. These are verbs.

## أنواع الاستثناء



### Kinds of *istithnā'*:

- 1) If the *mustathnā* is of the **same kind** as the *mustathnā minhu*, the *istithnā'* is said to be **مُتَّصِلٌ**.

In the above example خالد is a student.

Here is another example



زُرْتُ **الْبِلَادَ الأُورُوبِيَّةَ** كُلَّهَا **إِلَّا** **اليونانَ**.  
فعل ماض مفعول به نعت توكيد استثناء مستثنى  
مستثنى منه

‘I have visited all the European countries except Greece.’  
-Greece is a European country.



- 2) If the *mustathnā* is **wholly different in kind** from the *mustathnā minhu*, the *istithnā'* is said to be **مُنْقَطِعٌ**, e.g.:



وَصَلَ **الضُّيُوفَ** **إِلَّا** **أَمْتِعَتَهُمْ**.  
فعل ماض فاعل مستثنى منه استثناء مستثنى

‘The guests have arrived except their baggage.’



It is obvious that the baggage is wholly different in kind from the guests.  
The meaning of the sentence is that the guest have arrived, but their baggage has not arrived.

In the Qur’ān, Ibrāhīm عليه السلام says about the idols

﴿ فَإِنَّهُمْ عَدُوٌّ لِي إِلَّا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴾ ٧٧ Surely, they are enemies to me except the Lord of the Universe (26:77).

تعليل ، حرف توكيد ونصب ، اسمها خبر إن حرف استثناء مستثنى منصوب مضاف إليه  
جر منقطع وهو مضاف



# From another point of view the *istithna* is either **تَام** or **مُفَرَّغ**

If the *mustathnā minhu* is mentioned, it is **tāmm** as in the previous examples.

And if it is not mentioned, it is **mufarragh**, e.g.:

ما جاءَ إلا حامداً. ‘Nobody came except Ḥāmid.’

ما رأيتُ إلا حامداً. ‘I saw none but Ḥāmid.’



In the *istithnā' mufarragh*, the sentence is always negative, prohibitive or interrogative.

The sentence containing the *istithnā'* is also of two kinds:

a) an affirmative sentence is called **موجب**, e.g.:

افتح النوافذ إلا الأخيرة. ‘Open the windows except the last one.’

فعل أمر مستثنى منه استثناء مستثنى



b) a negative, prohibitive or interrogative sentence is called **غير موجب**, e.g.:

ما غاب الطلاب إلا إبراهيم. ‘The students were not absent except Ibrāhīm.’

حرف نفي فعل ماض مستثنى منه استثناء مستثنى

(Negative)



لا يخرج أحد إلا الجدد. ‘No one should leave except the new ones.’

الناهية، فعل مضارع مجزوم مستثنى منه استثناء مستثنى

(Prohibitive)



هل يرثب أحد إلا الكسلان / الكسلان؟ ‘Does anyone fail except the lazy?’

استفهام فعل مضارع مستثنى منه استثناء مستثنى

(Interrogative)



## اعراب المستثنى

The *i'rāb* of the *mustathnā* :

The *mustathnā* after *illā*

1) In the *istithnā' munqati'*:

The *mustathnā* is always *manṣūb*, e.g.:

لكل داءٍ دواءٌ إلا الموت. ‘Every sickness has a medicine except death.’

حرف جر واسم مجرور و هو مضاف ، مضاف إليه في محل رفع خبر مقدم مستثنى منه مبتدأ استثناء مستثنى

Death is not a sickness.



2) In the *istithnā' muttaṣil*:

a) If the sentence is *mūjab*, the *mustathnā* is *manṣūb*, e.g.:

يغفر الله الذنوب كلها إلا الشرك. ‘Allāh forgives all the sins except *shirk*.’

فعل مضارع فاعل مستثنى منه توكيد استثناء مستثنى

b) If the sentence is *ghair mūjab*, there are two possibilities:

The *mustathnā* may be *manṣūb*, or may have the same *i'rāb* as the *mustathnā minhu*, e.g.:

Negative (النفي):

ما حضر الطلاب إلا حامداً / حامداً.

‘The students did not attend except Ḥāmid.’

ما سألت الطلاب إلا حامداً / حامداً.

‘I did not ask the students except Ḥāmid.’

ما اتصّلت بالطلاب إلا حامداً / حامداً.

‘I did not contact the students except Ḥāmid.’



Prohibitive (النَّهْيُ):

لا يَخْرُجُ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا حَامِداً / حَامِداً.

‘No one should leave except Hāmid.’

لا تَسْأَلُ أَحَدًا إِلَّا حَامِداً / حَامِداً.

‘Don’t ask anyone except Hāmid.’

لا تَتَّصِلُ بِأَحَدٍ إِلَّا حَامِداً / حَامِداً.

‘Don’t contact anyone except Hāmid.’



Interrogative (الاسْتِفْهَامُ):

هَلْ غَابَ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا حَامِداً / حَامِداً؟

‘Was anybody absent except Hāmid?’

هَلْ رَأَيْتَ أَحَدًا إِلَّا حَامِداً / حَامِداً؟

‘Did you see anyone except Hāmid?’

هَلْ اتَّصَلْتُ بِأَحَدٍ إِلَّا حَامِداً / حَامِداً؟

‘Did you contact anyone except Hāmid?’



إِذَا كَانَ الْإِسْتِثْنَاءُ مُفْرَغًا



3) In the *istithnā' mufarragh*:

Here the *mustathnā* does not have a fixed *i'rāb*. It takes the *i'rāb* it deserves in the sentence, e.g.:

ما رَسَبَ إِلَّا بِلَالٌ. ‘No one failed except Bilāl.’

Here *mustathnā* (بِلَالٌ) is the *fā'il*.



To find out the *i'rāb* it deserves, omit **إِلَّا** and it will become clear to you, e.g.:

If we omit **إِلَّا** in the above example, we get ما رَسَبَ بِلَالٌ and here **بِلَالٌ** is the *fā'il*. This is done only to find out the *i'rāb*. The meaning, of course, is the opposite of what the original sentence means.

And in:

ما رَأَيْتُ إِلَّا بِلَالًا. ‘I saw no one except Bilāl.’

Here **بِلَالًا** is *maf'ūl-bihi* as it is clear from ما رَأَيْتُ بِلَالًا.



There is no problem with the *majrūr* as it is preceded by a preposition, e.g.:

مَا بَحَثْتُ إِلَّا عَنِ خَالِدٍ.

‘I was looking for none except Khālid’,

مَا دَرَسْنَا إِلَّا بِالْجَامِعَةِ الْإِسْلَامِيَّةِ.

‘We did not study in any university except Islamic University.’



Separate pronoun (الضمير المنفصل) comes after (إلا) in the case of selecting.

Note: We have seen in Lesson 27 that only the separable form of the pronoun is used after (إلا).

Here are some examples of this:

لا نَعْبُدُ إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ.



'We worship none but Him.' (not (إله)).

سَأَلَ الْمَدْرَسُ الطُّلَابَ كُلَّهُمْ إِلَّا إِيَّاكَ.



'The teacher asked all the students except you.' (not (إلاك)).



حُكْمُ الْمُسْتَثْنَى بِ غَيْرٍ وَسِوَى

The *mustathnā* after *غَيْرٍ* and *سِوَى*

The *mustathnā* after these words is *majrūr* because it is *muḍāf ilayhi*. Its original *i'rāb* is shown by these two words, e.g.:

نَجَحَ الطُّلَابُ غَيْرَ حَامِدٍ.  
استثناء مستثنى مضاف مضاف إليه فاعل فعل

Here *غَيْرٍ* is *manṣūb* just as *حامداً* is *manṣūb* in

مَا نَجَحَ الطُّلَابُ غَيْرَ حَامِدٍ.  
حرف نفي فعل فاعل استثناء مستثنى مضاف مضاف إليه

Here *غَيْرٍ* may be *manṣūb* or *marfū'* just as *حامداً* may be *manṣūb* or *marfū'* in

مَا نَجَحَ الطُّلَابُ إِلَّا حَامِداً / حَامِدًا.

مَا نَجَحَ غَيْرَ حَامِدٍ.  
حرف نفي فعل ماض استثناء مستثنى مضاف مضاف إليه

Here *غَيْرٍ* is *marfū'* just as *حامداً* is *marfū'* in

مَا سَأَلْتُ غَيْرَ حَامِدٍ.  
حرف نفي فعل فاعل استثناء مستثنى مضاف مضاف إليه

Here *غَيْرٍ* is *manṣūb* just as *حامداً* is *manṣūb* in

The *i'rāb* of *سِوَى* is exactly like that of *غَيْرٍ*, but it is latent as *سِوَى* is a *maḥṣūr* noun. (1)

The *mustathnā* after *مَا خَلَا*، *مَا عَدَا*، *مَا خَلَا*

حُكْمُ الْمُسْتَثْنَى مَا خَلَا وَمَا عَدَا



After these two tools of exception the *mustathnā* is *manṣūb*, e.g.:

اِخْتَبَرْتُ الطُّلَابَ مَا عَدَا ثَلَاثَةً.  
مصدرية فعل ماض مستثنى مفعول به استثناء مفعول به

'I have examined the students except three.'

The poet says

أَلَا كُلُّ شَيْءٍ مَا خَلَا اللَّهَ بَاطِلٌ.  
حرف تنبيه مضاف مضاف إليه مصدرية مستثنى مفعول به مفعول به استثناء

'Lo! every thing, except Allāh, is untrue.'

Here *بَاطِلٌ* should have the *tanwīn*, but it has been omitted for metrical reason.



## أمثلة من القرآن الكريم و الأحاديث



وَمَنْ يَرْغَبُ عَنْ مِلَّةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِلَّا مَنْ سَفِهَ نَفْسَهُ وَلَقَدْ اصْطَفَيْنَاهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَإِنَّهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ لَمِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ ﴿البقرة: ١٣٠﴾

اسم استفهام حرف استثناء اسم موصول بمعنى الذي  
ملغى في محل رفع بدل ضمير  
حرف حصر فاعل مستتر يرغَبُ

And who would reject the faith of Ibrahim except a fool! We certainly chose him in this life, and in the Hereafter he will surely be among the righteous.

فَبَدَّلَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ قَوْلًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي قِيلَ لَهُمْ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِجْزًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَظْلِمُونَ ﴿الأعراف: ١٦٢﴾

استثناء وهو مضاف مضاف إليه

But the wrongdoers among them change the words they were commanded to say. So we sent down a punishment from the heavens upon them for their wrongdoing.

وعن عثمان رضي الله عنه قال : سمعت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يقول : " رباط يوم في سبيل الله خير من ألف يوم فيما سواه من المنازل " (رواه الترمذي وقال : حديث حسن صحيح)

استثناء وهو مضاف مضاف إليه

'Uthman (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) saying: "Spending a day on the frontier in Allah's way is better than one thousand days in any other place."

قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " أَصْدَقُ كَلِمَةٍ قَالَهَا الشَّاعِرُ كَلِمَةٌ لَبِيدٍ إِلَّا كُلُّ شَيْءٍ مَّا خَلَا

مصدرية فعل ماض استثناء

اللَّهُ بَاطِلٌ (صحيح بخارى) مفعول به

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The most true words said by a poet were the words of Labid. He said, i.e. 'Verily, everything except Allah is perishable

## أداة حصر

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ؟

لا = نافية للجنس

إِلَهٌ = اسم لانافية للجنس

← وخبر لا محذوف، والتقدير: حَقٌّ / مَعْبُودٌ / حَقٌّ / مَوْجُودٌ حَقٌّ  
وَقَوْ خَيْرٌ مَرْفُوعٌ بِالضَّمِّ الظَّاهِرَةِ.

إِلَّا = أداة استثناء مُلغاة تفيد حصر

مُلغاة = to cancel.

اللَّهُ = بدل من الخبر المحذوف وَعَلَامَةٌ رَفَعَهُ الضَّمُّ الظَّاهِرُ

## حرف استفتاح و حرف تنبيه



(2) **أَلَا** (alā) is a particle used to draw attention to something important, e.g.:

﴿ **أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِن لَّا يَشْعُرُونَ** ﴾  
 حرف استفتاح حرف تأكيد مبتدأ خبر مبتدأ و عطف حرف استدراك نفى فعل مضارع مرفوع بثبوت النون والواو فاعل و تنبيه ونصب اسمها  
 رفع خبر إنَّ الجملۃ في محل خبر مبتدأ و عطف حرف استدراك نفى

‘Beware, they themselves are the mischief-makers, but they do not perceive.’ (Qur’ān, 2:12).

This particle is called **حَرْفُ اسْتِفْتَا حٍ وَتَنْبِيْهِ** i.e., the particle of commencement and cautioning.



## مصدر

(3) One of the patterns of the *maṣḍar* is **فَعْلٌ** (fa‘l-un), e.g.:

شَرَّحَ ‘he explained’ شَرْحٌ ‘explanation’.



(4) The plural of **دِينَارٌ** (dīnār-un) is **دَنَانِيرٌ** (danānīr-u).



Note that in the singular there is only one **ن**, but in the plural there are two.

There are some other words like **دِيمَاسٌ**، **قِيرَاطٌ**، **دِيَوَانٌ** which form their plural like **دِينَارٌ**.

## إِذَا كَانَ خَبْرُ (كَانَ) ضَمِيرًا



(5) If the *khabar* of **كَانَ** is a pronoun, it may be either attached or separate, e.g.:

In reply to the question:

أَتُرِيدُ أَنْ تَكُونَ قَاضِيًا؟ ‘Do you want to be a judge?’

You may say:

لا، مَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَكُونَهُ. ‘No, I don’t want to be one.’ with the attached pronoun

or:

لا، مَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَكُونَ إِيَّاهُ. with the separate pronoun.



Both **أَكُونَهُ** and **أَكُونَ إِيَّاهُ** are right.



