

Class Notes for Session 01

Section IV of IV: الْأَمْثَلَةُ الْمُخْتَلِفَةُ*

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In Section III of this session we studied the Table of Pronouns. This table will be reused a lot in our study of conjugation. Here is another table that we will see very often—it is called الْأَمْثَلَةُ الْمُخْتَلِفَةُ [(Table of) Diverse Patterns] (أَمْثَلَةٌ is plural of مِثَالٌ [pattern, model], مُخْتَلِفَةٌ [diverse]).

But, there is something that we need to know before we study the new table—that nearly 99% of verbs (فِعْلٌ [verb]) in Arabic have 3-letter roots. The rest 1% have 4-letter roots—meaning, 4-letter roots occur very rarely. No 2-letter roots, nor 5-letter ones.

For example, let's take يَكْتُبُونَ مَا تَمْكُرُونَ ((إِنَّ رُسُلَنَا يَكْتُبُونَ مَا تَمْكُرُونَ)) [Qur'ān 10:21]. Its مَصْدَرٌ [infinitive¹, literally it means source] is كِتَابَةٌ [to write]; the 3 letters being (ك، ت، ب). In a standard Arabic-English dictionary like the *Hans Wehr*² we will see words arranged alphabetically by their root. If we need to look up يَكْتُبُ, for example, we would look for the entry under كَتَبَ.

Once we know the 3 letters of the مَصْدَرٌ of a verb, we can derive الْأَمْثَلَةُ الْمُخْتَلِفَةُ from it as shown below.

*These lecture notes are from the *Learn Qur'anic Arabic* course being taught by Dr. Yusuf Kavakci at the Islamic Association of North Texas (IANT) in Richardson, Texas. Details and course materials are available online at [<http://www.iant.com/lqabasic.php>].

¹For example, in English, the infinitive form of *was* is *to be*. The infinitive form of *went* is *to go*.

²Hans Wehr, "A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic : (Arab.-Engl.)," Fourth Edition, Edited by J.M.Cowan, Otto Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden, Germany, 1979.

الأمثلة المختلفة

from كَتَبَ [to read]

[Order to مُحَاظِبٍ أَمْرُ الْمُحَاظِبِ	[Present Tense] مُضَارِعٌ	[Past Tense] مَاضِي	
اُكْتُبْ Write!	يَكْتُبُ he writes, or he is writing	كَتَبَ he wrote	الْمَعْلُومُ [Active form]
	يُكْتُبُ he is being written to	كُتِبَ he was written to	الْمَجْهُولُ [Passive form]

Please study the table carefully, and observe the terminology used to mark rows and columns in the table. Also, note that اُكْتُبْ is a command to a singular masculine Addressee (المُحَاظِبِ).

Another example: ((... اُقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ ...)) [Qur'ān 4:66].

الأمثلة المختلفة

from قَتَلَ [to kill]

[Order to مُحَاظِبٍ أَمْرُ الْمُحَاظِبِ	[Present Tense] مُضَارِعٌ	[Past Tense] مَاضِي	
اُقْتُلْ Kill!	يَقْتُلُ he kills, or he is killing	قَتَلَ he killed	الْمَعْلُومُ [Active form]
	يُقْتَلُ he is being killed	قُتِلَ he was killed	الْمَجْهُولُ [Passive form]

Exercise 1.1. Try constructing **الأمثلة المختلفة** from the following 3-letter infinitives:

1. نَصَرَ [to help]
2. سَجَدَ [to prostrate]
3. عَبَادَ [to worship]