

Day 7:

PART 1: SUMMARY OF THE ENTIRE SESSION:

We began a new 'semester' of sorts on day 7. This and the next two days of work will be related to the فعل. In this session, we concentrated our focus on the past tense فعل called الفعل الماضي

1. The endings of the past tense فعل identify the pronoun that *does* that فعل.
2. When a pronoun is attached to a فعل , the student must
 - a. Identify that attached pronoun (trace is back to its original form and meaning)
 - b. Ignore it and translate the فعل to which it is attached first.
 - c. Finally translate the attached pronoun that was ignored in step b.
3. In Arabic, there can be two kinds of 'doers'; the kind that are embedded inside the فعل and the kind that aren't pronouns and are mentioned after the فعل. Such doers have to be in رفع and replace the pronoun doers that come embedded inside the فعل.

PART 2: THE PAST TENSE

1. Every فعل is at the very least composed of a verb and a pronoun hiding inside it. For this reason, I don't like to use the word "verb" for فعل and just try to use فعل itself. We looked at a bunch words much like the following list:

نَصَرَ (stuck) ضَرَبَ (struggled) جَاهَدَ (asked for forgiveness) اسْتَعْفَرَ (completed) تَنَافَسَ (helped) أَنْفَقَ (spent) كَتَبَ (wrote) دَرَسَ (studied) دَرَسَ (killed) قَتَلَ (fought) قَاتَلَ (worked extremely hard) اجْتَهَدَ (disbelieved) كَفَرَ (associated) أَشْرَكَ (told the truth) صَدَقَ (submitted) أَسْلَمَ (believed) آمَنَ

2. We observed that the ending sound 'a' or فتحة is an indication on each of the words above that the doer in each of the cases above is هو or he. If we change that ending for any of the above from فتحة to ث, the doer would be هي or she. For instance نصر ends with 'a', so we translate 'He helped'. نَصَرَتْ ends with 'at' so we translate 'She helped'. We took both of these cases, نصر and نَصَرَتْ and added that if we were to supplement either of them with an أَلِف at the end, the doers would be doubled. So while نَصَرَ means 'He helped', نَصَرَا means 'Both of them helped'. Similarly while نَصَرَتْ means 'She helped', نَصَرَتَا means 'Both of them helped'. Finally we noted that these words can be supplemented

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with either an و (oo) at the end yielding the doers 'they' or with a ن at the end making the doers 'those women'. So while نَصَرَ means 'He helped', نَصَرُوا means 'They helped' and نَصَرْنَ means 'Those women helped'. These observations have been summarized on the first two rows of the chart on page 33. I'm reiterating just the Arabic version here for a few words from the above list:

نَصَرَ نَصَرًا نَصَرُوا

نَصَرْتُ نَصَرْتَا نَصَرْنَ

اسْتَعْفَرَ اسْتَعْفَرَا اسْتَعْفَرُوا

اسْتَعْفَرْتُ اسْتَعْفَرْتَا اسْتَعْفَرْنَ

جَاهَدَ جَاهَدَا جَاهَدُوا

جَاهَدْتُ جَاهَدْتَا جَاهَدْنَ

3. For the next six conjugations, we noted that so long as the student knows their أَنْتَ pronouns really well, they can conjugate without much difficulty. This is so because the past tense فعل rhyme with the أَنْتَ group of pronouns (rows three and four of the chart on page 18) by taking the endings off them and tacking them on to themselves.

Here's how it works:

نَصَرْتُمْ becomes أَنْتُمْ نَصَرْتُمَا becomes أَنْتُمَا نَصَرْتِ becomes أَنْتِ

نَصَرْتِنَّ becomes أَنْتِنَّ نَصَرْتِنَا becomes أَنْتِنَا نَصَرْتِي becomes أَنْتِي

It is quite logical that when the endings match with أَنْتَ family of pronouns, those pronouns serve as the doers of that فعل. In other words, the does of نَصَرْتِ is أَنْتِ and therefore the meaning is 'You helped'. These conclusions are compiled in rows 3 and 4 of the chart on page 33.

4. The last two conjugations are 'I' and 'we' and those are نَصَرْتُ and نَصَرْنَا respectively. Converting some of the words above, we would get كَفَرْتُ and كَفَرْنَا, ضَرَبْتُ and ضَرَبْنَا,

إِجْتَهَدْنَا and إِجْتَهَدْتُ , إِسْتَعْفَرْنَا and إِسْتَعْفَرْتُ

STUDENTS MUST MEMORIZE THE ENTIRE CHART AND KNOW FULL WELL HOW TO USE IT IN IDENTIFYING THE PRONOUN DOERS IN THE CLASS EXERCISES.

PART 3: WHEN ATTACHED PRONOUNS ARE THROWN IN THE MIX

Before properly understanding this part of the lesson you must ensure how to yield answers from the words on page 34 based on the standard sample offered on page 33.

During the study of إضافة on Day 5, we were introduced to pronouns in their original/ independent vs. attached forms.

We already know points a, b and c from before but this lesson is about point d:

- Pronouns attached to an اسم are جَرَّ because they are always مضاف إليه.
- Pronouns attached to a حرف الجرَّ are always جَرَّ.
- Pronouns attached to a حرف النصب are always نصب.
- Pronouns attached to a فعل (past, present or command) are always نصب because they are details/ objects (مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ) of the فعل.

In order to understand point d, we studied some examples on pages 35 and 36 where the attached pronouns are color coded. The examples on pages 37 and 38 are not color-coded but the process outlined below applies to both the same way:

When a فعل has an attached pronoun, your first job is to (i) ensure that it is fact an attached pronoun based out of page 18 (the grey cells). (ii) Once you are sure that it is an attached pronoun, ignore it. Pretend that it isn't there and concern yourself only with the فعل to which it is attached. For instance, if you read نَصَرْتَنِي, your first job is to identify that in fact نِي, is the attached pronoun version of أَنَا on page 18. Now that you've recognized it, ignore and concentrate exclusively on نَصَرْتَ. نَصَرْتَ ends with a ت like أَنْتَ, therefore نَصَرْتَ means 'You (sing masc) helped'. Now you can add the pronoun that you were to ignore in the beginning. نِي means 'me' so the complete translation of نَصَرْتَنِي will be 'You helped me'. See if you can apply these principles and correctly translate the following into English:

- نَصَرُونَا
- نَصَرْنَاهُمْ
- نَصَرْتِكَ
- نَصَرْتَهَا
- نَصَرْتُهُمَا
- نَصَرَاهُنَّ
- نَصَرْتَكُمَا
- نَصَرْتُمَاهُ

Answers (try to complete the exercise yourself before checking)

1. They helped us, 2. We helped them, 3. She helped you, 4. You helped her, 5. I helped both

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of them, 6. Both of them helped them (fem.pl), 7. They (fem pl) helped both of you, 8. Both of you helped him.