

# Unit 37

## More on accusative endings

The word **حال** means

condition or circumstance. The word is used in Arabic grammar for the condition or the circumstance at the time when the action of the main verb is taking place. The **hal** is often expressed by a noun in the accusative.

We have already learnt that the accusative is used as a direct object of a verb. We also have had some examples of the accusative being used as adverbs of time and manner.

In this Unit, we give some more examples of the ways in which the accusative is used in Arabic.

### i. Direct objects

You identify a direct object by asking 'whom' or 'what' after the verb.

وَخَلَقَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ He created the night and the day, the sun and the moon.

All the nouns in the above are in the accusative because they are direct objects.

### ii. Adverbs of time

A word which has some element of time is put in the accusative to express an adverb of time:

at morning and evening	بَكْرَةً وَأَصِيلاً	لَيْلاً وَنَهَاراً	by night and day
on the day of Resurrection	يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ	الْيَوْمِ	today
during the journey of winter	رِحْلَةَ الشِّتَاءِ	غَدًا	tomorrow

### iii. Hal

The word **حال** means condition or circumstance. The word is used in Arabic grammar for the condition or the circumstance at the time when the action of the main verb is taking place. The **hal** is often expressed by a noun in the accusative. The words **قياما** *while standing*, and **قعودا** *while sitting*, in line 7 opposite are accusative and are examples of a **hal** construction.

Other examples of a **hal** construction is the word **حمالة** *as the carrier*, in Surah al-Masad and **أفواجا** *in crowds*, in Surah an-Nasr:

وَأَمْرَأَتُهُ حَمَّالَةَ الْحَطَبِ And his wife, as the carrier of firewood. 111: 4

يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا They enter into the religion of God *in* crowds. 110: 2

### iv. Specification

A noun in the accusative is used to specify in which way a verb or adjective is applied. It contains the idea of 'with regard to' or 'in'. For example, the word

**علما** below has the meaning of 'with regard to knowledge' or 'in knowledge':

رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا *My Sustainer, increase me in knowledge*. See lines 10 and 11

opposite for more examples.

### v. Absolute accusatives

A verbal noun in the accusative is placed after its own verb to show that an action is fully completed:

فَصَّلْنَاهُ تَفْصِيلاً We have explained it completely. 17: 2

**تفصيلاً** is the verbal noun of **فَصَّلَ** which is a Form II verb; notice the pattern. **تفصيلاً** is called **مفعول مطلق** or an 'absolute accusative'.

An absolute accusative may be qualified by an adjective to give added strength to the expression. An example of this is **حبا جما** *with boundless love*, in line 15 opposite.

### vi. Accusative for expressing aim or purpose

For examples of this type of accusative, see line 4 opposite.

**They leave you standing**  
While the noble Prophet, peace be on him, was in the middle of a Friday khutbah, a trade caravan arrived in town. The bulk of the congregation heard the commotion and rushed out of the mosque leaving the Prophet standing (line 8 opposite) and preaching. The incident shows that even true believers are sometimes prone to overlook religious obligations and go for 'worldly gain' or 'a passing delight'. In what follows, the Qur'an reminds us that 'what is with God is better than all leisure and all trade'.

This day I have perfected for you your religion. 5: 3

1 الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ

And Allah will judge between you on the Day of Resurrection. 4: 141

2 فَاللَّهُ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

And remember the name of your Lord at morn and evening. 76: 25

3 وَأَذْكُرِ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا

Then Pharoah and his soldiers pursued them out of oppression and tyranny. 10: 90

4 ■ فَاتَّبَعَهُمْ فِرْعَوْنُ وَجُنُودُهُ بَغْيًا وَعَدْوًا

They exchanged God's favour for disbelief. 14: 28

5 بَدَلُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ كُفْرًا

And the servants of the Beneficent are those who walk gently on earth. 25: 63

6 وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا

They remember God standing and sitting. 3: 191

7 يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا

And they left you standing. 62: 11

8 وَتَرَكَوكَ قَائِمًا

Stand up truly devout to God. 2: 238

9 وَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ قَانِتِينَ

In their hearts is a disease and God has increased them in disease. 2: 10

10 فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ فَزَادَهُمُ اللَّهُ مَرَضًا

If you see me I have less wealth and children than you... 18: 39

11 ■ إِنْ تَرَنِ أَنَا أَقَلَّ مِنْكَ مَالًا وَوَلَدًا

We have explained it completely. 17: 12

12 ■ فَصَلَّنَاهُ تَفْصِيلًا

(How is it) that We pour down water abundantly. 80: 25

13 أَنَا صَبَبْنَا الْمَاءَ صَبًّا

When the earth is shaken violently. 99: 1

14 إِذَا زُلْزِلَتِ الْأَرْضُ زِلْزَالَهَا

And you love wealth with boundless love. 89: 20

15 وَتُحِبُّونَ الْمَالَ حُبًّا جَمًّا

#### Notes for text above

■ **Line 4:** *بَغْيًا* is an example of an accusative expressing aim or purpose. *بَغْيًا* has the sense of 'out of oppression', and *عَدْوًا* 'out of tyranny'.

This means that Pharoah and his forces were motivated by the desire to oppress and tyrannize.

■ **Line 11:** Literally, *I am less than you with regard*

*to wealth and children*. These are two examples of tamyiz.

■ **Line 12:** Literally, *We have explained it an explaining*. This is an example of an absolute accusative which gives emphasis to the verb and shows that an action is complete. Other examples of absolute accusatives are in lines 13, 14, and 15.