

Unit 36

Derived Forms of the Verb - Form X

Meaning Patterns

A Form X verb often denotes asking, taking or using for oneself the idea contained in the root verb as in *istaghfara*, to ask for forgiveness.

It may also have the idea of 'considering' as in *istahsana*, to consider good, to approve.

This is a commonly used Form and often denotes asking, taking or using for oneself the idea contained in the root verb.

Form X - Past

All Form X verbs in the past tense are formed by placing a sukun on the first root letter of the verb and prefixing this by **اَسْت**. The alif at the beginning takes a hamzatu-l wasl.

Form I he ate, tasted

طَعَمَ

غَفَرَ

he forgave

Form X he asked for food

اَسْتَطَعَمَ

اَسْتَغْفَرَ

he asked for forgiveness

The suffixes of a Form X verb in the past are the same as for all verbs in the past.

Form X - Present

The Present active of all Form X verbs follows the same pattern:

- The vowel on the first prefixed letter has a fat-hah;
- The vowel with the second root letter is a kasrah;
- The suffixes are the same as for a Form I verb in the present.

Past Active he sought forgiveness

اَسْتَغْفَرَ

اَسْتَعَانَ

he sought help

Present Active he seeks forgiveness

يَسْتَغْفِرُ

يَسْتَعِينُ

he seeks help

Imperative Seek forgiveness!

اَسْتَغْفِرُوا

اَسْتَعِينُوا

Seek help! - pl.

Examples of active and passive participles and the verbal noun:

Active participle one who seeks forgiveness

مَسْتَغْفِرٌ

مَسْتَعِينٌ

one who seeks help

Passive Participle one from whom forgiveness is sought

مَسْتَغْفَرٌ

مَسْتَعَانٌ

one from whom help is sought

Verbal Noun seeking forgiveness

اَسْتِغْفَارٌ

اَسْتِعَانَةٌ

seeking help

Meaning Patterns

A Form X verb often denotes asking, taking or using for oneself the idea contained in the root verb - as in example (i) below. It may also have the idea of 'considering' as in example (ii) below:

(i) اَسْتَغْفَرَ he asked for forgiveness - from غَفَرَ, he forgave

(ii) اَسْتَحْسَنَ he considered good, he approved - from حَسَنَ, it was good, fine

خَرَّ he fell down

اَسْتَطَاعَ / يَسْتَطِيعُ he was able/he is able

قَرْيَةٌ a town, village

مَائِدَةٌ a table, a meal

هَوَى / يَهْوِي to desire

أَجَلٌ a term

The fruits of Salat

We are commanded to seek God's help through reliance on sabr and immersion in Prayer. The human being is prone to mood swings between exultation and despair. Life is both a source of enjoyment and a long test. Often problems seem to be so many and so never-ending. The only real solution is to be always optimistic of God's guidance and grace. This is the source of sabr and the fruit of regular Salat.

So he asked his Sustainer for forgiveness and fell down in prostration. 38: 24

1 ■ فَاسْتَغْفِرْ رَبَّهُ وَخَرَّ رَاكِعًا

And the angels prostrated, all of them together. 38: 73

2 ■ فَسَجَدَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ كُلُّهُمْ أَجْمَعُونَ

...Till, when they both reached the people of a village and asked its people for food, but they refused. 18: 77

3 ■ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَتَىٰ أَهْلَ قَرْيَةٍ اسْتَطَعَمَا أَهْلَهَا فَأَبَوْا

Is it not so, that everytime a messenger came to you with what you yourselves do not like, you became arrogant? 2: 87

4 ■ أَفَكُلَّمَا جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ بِمَا لَا تَهْوَىٰ أَنفُسُكُمْ اسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ

And Mūsa came to them with clear teachings (but) they remained arrogant on earth. 29: 39

5 ■ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَهُمْ مُوسَىٰ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ

Could your Sustainer send down on us a repast from heaven? 5: 113

6 ■ هَلْ يَسْتَطِيعُ رَبُّكَ أَنْ يُنَزِّلَ عَلَيْنَا مَائِدَةً مِنَ السَّمَاءِ

I shall ask my Sustainer forgiveness for you - indeed He is the Forgiving, the Merciful. 12: 98

7 ■ سَوْفَ أَسْتَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ رَبِّي إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

You Alone we ask for help. 1: 5

8 ■ إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

And when their term has come, they cannot delay it for a moment nor can they hasten (it). 16: 61

9 ■ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ

If you seek forgiveness for them seventy times, God will not forgive them. 9: 80

10 ■ إِنْ تَسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ سَبْعِينَ مَرَّةً فَلَنْ يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ

So celebrate the praise of your Sustainer, and seek His forgiveness. Indeed, He is Ever Forgiving. 110: 3

11 ■ فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَاسْتَغْفِرْهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا

Seek help in patience and Prayer. 2: 45

12 ■ وَاسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ

And remember when you were few and weak on earth. 8: 26

13 ■ وَأَذْكُرُوا إِذْ أَنْتُمْ قَلِيلٌ مُسْتَضْعَفُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ

Indeed He does not like the arrogant ones. 6: 23

14 ■ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْتَكْبِرِينَ

And Ibrahim's seeking of forgiveness for his father was only due to a promise.. 9: 114

15 ■ وَمَا كَانَ اسْتِغْفَارُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لِأَبِيهِ إِلَّا عَنْ مَوْعِدَةٍ

Notes for text above

■ **Line 1:** The initial alif of the Form X verb takes a hamzatu -l wasl and so is not pronounced when it is linked in pronunciation to a previous letter and vowel.

■ **Line 5:** 'Could your Sustainer...' has the sense of 'Would your Sustainer...'

■ **Line 8:** نَسْتَعِينُ is derived from عَانَ/يَعِينُ, he helped/he helps from which the verbal noun is

عَوْنٌ, help. The root letters are: ع و ن .

■ **Line 10:** سَبْعِينَ مَرَّةً, 'seventy times' is an idiom used in Arabic to mean 'many times'.

■ **Line 13:** مُسْتَضْعَفُونَ is the passive participle, plural, lit. 'those who are considered weak'. Notice the fat-hah on the second root letter.

■ **Line 14:** مُسْتَكْبِرِينَ is the active participle, plural and accusative. Notice the kasrah on the 2nd root letter.