

Unit 24

The jussive

The Jussive mood (مَجْزُومٌ) of the present tense verb is formed from the indicative as follows:

- The forms which end with the final root letter lose their final vowel altogether and take a sukun, e.g. يَكْتُبُ
- The other forms are the same as in the subjunctive.

The jussive mood has a basic meaning of expressing a wish or a command beginning with 'may' or 'let' as in 'may he write' or 'let him write'. It has other uses in Arabic:

- making a negative command;
- negating the past tense.

Like the subjunctive, it is preceded by particles or 'controllers'.

The conjugation of كَتَبَ in the jussive is as follows

Plural	Dual	Singular	Controllers	
يَكْتُبُوا	يَكْتُبَا	يَكْتُبْ		
يَكْتُبْنَ	تَكْتُبَا	تَكْتُبْ		3.m.
				3.f.
تَكْتُبُوا	تَكْتُبَا	تَكْتُبْ		2.m.
تَكْتُبْنَ	تَكْتُبَا	تَكْتُبِي		2.f.
نَكْتُبْ		أَكْتُبْ		1.m.&f.

The Jussive is used for the following:

(1) Expressing a wish or command

The jussive is used to express a wish or a command - see lines 10, 11, and 13

opposite. In such cases, the jussive is sometimes preceded by لَمْ or by فَ

(فَ + لَمْ). It is then translated as 'May he ...' or 'Let him ...'

فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا Let him do righteous work. 18: 110

(2) Prohibition

The second persons of the jussive mood preceded by لَا express prohibition: See lines 1, 2 3, 4, 5, and 6 opposite.

لَا تَجْعَلْ Do not make (singular).

لَا تَجْعَلُوا Do not make (plural).

(3) Negation of the past tense.

A common use of the jussive is to negate the past tense. In such cases, the jussive is controlled by the particle لَمْ. See lines 7, 8, 9, 14 and 15 opposite.

لَمْ يَعْلَمْ He did not know.

Strengthening of the Jussive

The Jussive is frequently strengthened in the Qur'an by adding نَ to the various endings and is translated into English as 'certainly':

وَلْيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا And Allah shall certainly know those who have been truthful...29:11

لَتَدْخُلَنَّ الْمَسْجِدَ الْحَرَامَ You shall certainly enter the Sacred Mosque...48:27

Cover-up & transparency

'Do not cover up the truth with falsehood nor conceal the truth knowingly.'

For worldly gain, prestige or power over others, people have long been in the business of cover up and dirty tricks. It is sad to see whole so-called civilizations being built on such misrepresentation and distortion. The power of the global media and their ability to 'create' images, give the perpetrators of such distortions a terrible capacity for manipulation. While people should be more vigilant, the perpetrators of such crimes will ultimately be exposed. Transparency will have a new meaning and dimension. All will be revealed.

Do not make with Allah another god (object of worship). 17: 22

1 لَا تَجْعَلْ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ

And do not make equals to Allah. 2: 22

2 وَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا

Do not prostrate to the sun nor to the moon. 41: 37

3 لَا تَسْجُدُوا لِلشَّمْسِ وَلَا لِلْقَمَرِ

And (you both) do not approach this tree. 2: 35

4 وَلَا تَقْرَبَا هَذِهِ الشَّجَرَةَ

Those are the limits of God - so do not approach them. 2: 187

5 تِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ فَلَا تَقْرَبُوهَا

Do not cover up the truth with falsehood. 2: 42

6 لَا تَلْبِسُوا الْحَقَّ بِالْبَاطِلِ

Did He not make their plan go astray? 105: 2

7 أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضْلِيلٍ

Did We not make the earth a cradle? 78: 6

8 ■ أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ الْأَرْضَ مِهْدًا

Didn't you know that God knows whatever is in heaven and on earth? 22: 70

9 أَلَمْ تَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ

So let the human being consider from what he has been created. 86: 5

10 ■ فَلْيَنْظُرِ الْإِنْسَانُ مِمَّ خُلِقَ

So let them worship the Lord of this house. 106: 3

11 فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ

Whoever does an atom's weight of good shall see it. 99: 7

12 وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ

Let him do righteous work. 18: 110

13 فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا

He (Allah) taught the human being what he did not know. 96: 5

14 عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

He did not beget and He was not begotten. 112: 3

15 ■ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ

Notes for text above

■ **Line 8:** The sukun on the ل in نَجْعَلْ is replaced by a kasrah to provide a link in pronunciation to a following word. This is to ease the flow in reading and reciting.

The same principle is applied to other words or particles normally ending with a sukun, such as the first word in line 10.

■ **Line 10:** مِمَّ is short for مَا + مِنْ - from what.

■ **Line 15:** 'He did not beget' means that He was not the father of anyone.

'He was not begotten' means that He was not born to anyone.

يُولَدُ and يُلَدُ (passive) are from the weak verb وُلِدَ / يُلِدُ , he begat/he begets.