

Unit 5

Nouns, and adjectives: number

The noun هُدًى does not change - it has the same form in the indefinite for all case endings. With the definite article it becomes الْهُدَى and does not change its ending.

إِنَّ هُدَى اللَّهِ هُوَ الْهُدَى

Truly God's guidance - it is the (only true) guidance.

الْمُتَّقِينَ

The word muttaqin in line 10 opposite is left un-translated but in line 11 is given as those who are 'God-conscious'. Muttaqin is sometimes translated as the pious, the righteous, those who ward off evil, those who fear God or those who are wary of God. The basic meaning of muttaqin is those who are careful - careful about not overstepping the limits which God in His knowledge and wisdom has set for the guidance and success of human beings. The main purpose of the Qur'an - mentioned at its beginning (2: 2) - is 'guidance for the muttaqin':

هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

Number

In English, a noun or pronoun may be singular or plural. Plural refers to more than one.

In Arabic, a noun or pronoun (as well as an adjective or a verb) may be singular, dual or plural. Dual refers to two of something. Plural refers to more than two.

Read the following from the right to the left: (The nouns are nominative.)

Plural	Dual	Singular
مُسْلِمُونَ Muslims	مُسْلِمَانِ two Muslims	مُسْلِمٌ a Muslim
آيَاتٍ verses	آيَاتَانِ two verses	آيَةٌ a verse
رِجَالٍ men	رِجَالَانِ two men	رَجُلٌ a man
هُمْ they	هُمَا they (both)	هُوَ he
هُنَّ they	هُمَا they (both)	هِيَ she
جَعَلُوا they made	جَعَلَا they both made	جَعَلَ he made

Dual

The dual of nouns and adjectives is formed from the singular by adding بَانِ for the nominative and بَيْنِ for the accusative and genitive. The ة at the end of a singular word is changed into a normal ت to which the dual ending is attached. (For dual masculine, see below. For dual feminine, see the next Unit.)

Plurals

In Arabic, there are three types of plural:

1. Sound masculine plural
2. Sound feminine plural
3. Broken plural

Sound plurals are easy to form. They are so called because the singular forms remain intact or sound. To these are added set endings for masculine plurals and other set endings for feminine plurals. Sound plurals are sometimes called *external plurals*. مُسْلِمُونَ with the set ending تُونَ is an example of a sound masculine plural.

Broken plurals are formed by breaking up the singular pattern by adding new vowels or letters before, in between or after the root letters. رِجَالٌ is an example of a broken plural.

Some words may have both a sound plural and a broken plural.

There are word patterns which will help us to recognise and learn plurals of words in Arabic. (See Unit 39.) At this stage, it is better to learn the plural of each word with its singular.

Sound masculine plural and dual

	Plural	Dual	Singular
nominative	مُسْلِمُونَ	مُسْلِمَانِ	مُسْلِمٌ
accusative	مُسْلِمِينَ	مُسْلِمَيْنِ	مُسْلِمًا
genitive	مُسْلِمِينَ	مُسْلِمَيْنِ	مُسْلِمٍ

Look carefully at the endings of the words above and see what letters and vowels are added to form the dual and plural. Note that the accusative and genitive endings for the dual are the same. For the sound plurals, the accusative and genitive endings are the same.

He is a believer. 4: 24

هُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ 1

They are believers. 8: 4

هُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ 2

And the disbelievers - they are the wrongdoers. 2: 254

وَالْكَافِرُونَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ 3

Those - they are the successful ones. 2: 5

■ 4 أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

Those - they are the losers. 2: 27

■ 5 أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ

Indeed these are truly misguided. 83: 32

■ 6 إِنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ لَضَالُونَ

O my Sustainer! Indeed, these are a people who do not believe. 43: 88

■ 7 يَا رَبِّ إِنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ قَوْمٌ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ

Indeed, God loves the doers of good. 2: 195

■ 8 إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

And I am not from the polytheists. 6: 79

■ 9 وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

And know that God is with the muttaqin. 2: 194

■ 10 وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الْمُتَّقِينَ

This (*lit.* that) is the book - there is no doubt in it ...

■ 11 ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ

...(it is) a guidance for the God-conscious. 2: 2

■ 12 هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

And that is the reward of the doers of good. 39: 34

■ 13 ذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Indeed the hypocrites (shall be) in the lowest depth (of the fire). 4: 145

■ 14 إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ فِي الدَّرَكِ الْأَسْفَلِ

They both (were) in the cave. 9: 40

■ 15 هُمَا فِي الْغَارِ

those	أُولَئِكَ
these	هَؤُلَاءِ
they	هُمُ
a people	قَوْمٌ
they believe	يُؤْمِنُونَ
he loves	يُحِبُّ
doubt	رَيْبٌ

Notes for text above

For each of the plurals in the text above, you should be able to say which is nominative, which is accusative and which is genitive, and why.

Remember that a noun is accusative when it is controlled by particles like **إِنَّ** or when (see Unit 12) it is the object of a verb. For example, in line 14,

إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ is accusative because it is controlled by **إِنَّ**. Some nouns are genitive because they are controlled

by a preposition such as **مِنْ** *from*, **لِ** *for*, or **مَعَ** *with*.

A noun may also be genitive because it shows possession - see **الْمُحْسِنِينَ** in line 13.

■ **Lines 4 & 5:** **أُولَئِكَ** *those*, is the plural both of **ذَلِكَ** and **تِلْكَ**.

■ **Lines 6 & 7:** **هَؤُلَاءِ** *these*, is the plural of both **هَذَا** and **هَذِهِ** *this*.

■ **Line 9:** The **مَا** here means 'not'. This sentence is therefore called a negative sentence.