

Unit 1

Nouns, pronouns and adjectives: masculine

A **noun** is a name of any living being, object or idea.

A **pronoun** is a word used instead of a noun.

An **adjective** is a word which describes a noun.

Tanwin means putting an 'n' sound at the end of words. An extra dammah denotes an 'n' sound:

rajulu رَجُلٌ

rajulun رَجُلٌ

The **NQ** sign shows that a sentence is not from the Qur'an.

In Arabic, there are only two genders - masculine and feminine.

Masculine

Nouns

The three nouns below are all masculine.

رَجُلٌ a man كِتَابٌ a book أَمْرٌ a command

In English, **a** or **an** is called the indefinite article; it is written separately from the word to which it refers. You will notice that there is no separate word for **a** or **an** in Arabic. The tanwin **ـ** at the end of the three words above tells us that we are referring to **a man**, **a book**, **a command**.

Pronouns

If we speak **about** any of the above nouns, we use the pronoun هُوَ meaning 'he'.

In Arabic we can combine the pronoun هُوَ with each of the above nouns to form a complete sentence.

1. هُوَ رَجُلٌ He is a man. NQ

2. هُوَ كِتَابٌ It is a book. NQ

3. هُوَ أَمْرٌ It is a command. NQ

Notice in sentences 2 and 3 above, we use the word 'it' to translate هُوَ. In English we cannot say 'He is a book' or 'He is a command'. In Arabic we can. هُوَ can be a person, a thing or an idea.

Also in the above, there is no word for 'is' in Arabic. We often have to add the word 'is' (or 'are', 'am', 'was', 'were' or other parts of the verb 'to be') when we translate from Arabic to English.

We can also use the word هَذَا **this** or ذَلِكَ **that** with the above words to form complete sentences.

هَذَا رَجُلٌ This is a man. NQ ذَلِكَ رَجُلٌ That is a man. NQ

هَذَا كِتَابٌ This is a book. NQ ذَلِكَ كِتَابٌ That is a book. NQ

هَذَا أَمْرٌ This is a command. NQ ذَلِكَ أَمْرٌ That is a command. NQ

Adjectives

In line 2 opposite, the noun قُرْءَانٌ has an adjective مَجِيدٌ.

In Arabic, the adjective follows its noun and must agree with it.

The noun قُرْءَانٌ is singular, masculine and ends with tanwin **ـ**; its adjective مَجِيدٌ must also be singular, masculine and end with tanwin **ـ**.

(You can tell whether a word is masculine or feminine when you study Unit 2.)

In lines 3, 5, 9 and 11 opposite, each noun has an adjective. Notice how each adjective agrees with its noun:

قُرْءَانٌ كَرِيمٌ a noble Qur'an

ذِكْرٌ مَبَارَكٌ a blessed reminder

إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ one God

صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ a straight way

فَصَبْرٌ جَمِيلٌ

Sabr is beautiful

We translate the word *sabr* as 'patience' in line 15 opposite. However, *sabr* has a much wider meaning. It has the sense of courage, firmness, endurance and perseverance. *Sabr* is mentioned many times in the Qur'an. It is an important quality of a believer in God.

It is a Qur'an. 85: 21	هُوَ قُرْآنٌ	1	
It is a glorious Qur'an. 85: 21	هُوَ قُرْآنٌ مُّجِيدٌ	2	
Indeed, it is a noble Qur'an. 56: 77	إِنَّهُ لَقُرْآنٌ كَرِيمٌ	3 ■	
This is a reminder. 21: 24	هَذَا ذِكْرٌ	4	
This is a blessed reminder. 21: 50	هَذَا ذِكْرٌ مُّبَارَكٌ	5	
This is only a human being. 23: 24	مَا هَذَا إِلَّا بَشَرٌ	6 ■	مَا not
He (was) only a servant. 43: 59	إِنَّ هُوَ إِلَّا عَبْدٌ	7 ■	إِنَّ not
He is a believer. 20: 112	هُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ	8	إِلَّا except, but
He is One God. 6: 19	هُوَ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ	9	بَشَرٌ human being
This is a way. 19: 36	هَذَا صِرَاطٌ	10	جَمِيلٌ beautiful
This is a straight way. 19: 36	هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُّسْتَقِيمٌ	11	
This is a day. 11: 77	هَذَا يَوْمٌ	12	
That is a day. 11: 103	ذَلِكَ يَوْمٌ	13	
That is the Book. 2: 2	ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ	14 ■	
So, patience is beautiful. 12: 83	فَصَبْرٌ جَمِيلٌ	15 ■	

Notes for text above

- **Line 3:** Many sentences without a verb in Arabic begin with the particle **إِنَّ** which may be translated as 'surely' or 'indeed'. The **هُ** attached to **إِنَّ** stands for **هُوَ**. **إِنَّهُ** may be translated as 'Indeed he' or 'Indeed it' - or simply as 'He is' or 'It is'.
 Prefixed to (or added before) the word **قُرْآنٌ** is the letter **لَ**. This **لَ** is called 'the lam of emphasis'.
- **Lines 6 & 7:** Here the word **مَا** means 'not'. The particle **إِنَّ** also signifies 'not' when followed by **إِلَّا**

which means 'except' or 'but'. **مَا** or **إِنَّ** followed by **إِلَّا** has the sense of 'only', 'nothing but', 'no more than'.
 • The word **عَبْدٌ** refers to the Prophet Jesus, peace be on him.

■ **Line 14:** The noun **كِتَابٌ** begins with the definite article **الْ** *the*. It ends with a single dammah. A word with **الْ** cannot have tanwin.

■ **Line 15:** The letter **فَ** is joined to **صَبْرٌ**.
فَ means 'and', 'and so' or 'therefore'.