

Unit 2

Nouns, pronouns and adjectives: feminine

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.

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

The three nouns below are all feminine. They are feminine because they end with a **ta'** *marbutah* - ة or ة :

امْرَأَةٌ a woman جَنَّةٌ a garden آيَةٌ a verse

If we speak **about** any of the above nouns, we use the pronoun **هي** which means 'she'.

We can combine the pronoun **هي** with each of the above nouns to form a complete sentence in Arabic.

1. هي امرأةٌ She is a woman. NQ
2. هي جنةٌ It is a garden. NQ
3. هي آيةٌ It is a verse. NQ

Notice that in sentence 2 and 3 above, we use the word 'it' to translate **هي**. In English we cannot say 'She is a garden' or 'She is a verse'. In Arabic we can.

هي can refer to a person, a thing or an idea. (**هي** can also mean 'they' in Arabic when it refers to the plural of certain nouns. For an example, see line 15 opposite.)

Again, notice that there is no word for 'is' in the above Arabic sentences. And there is no separate word for 'a' - you know why.

We can also use the feminine words **هذه** *this*, and **تلك** *that*, with the above words to form complete sentences.

هذه امرأةٌ This is a woman. NQ	تلك امرأةٌ That is a woman. NQ
هذه جنةٌ This is a garden. NQ	تلك جنةٌ That is a garden. NQ
هذه آيةٌ This is a verse. NQ	تلك آيةٌ That is a verse. NQ

Feminine words which do not end with ة .

In line 9 opposite, the word **نار** *fire*, is feminine even though it does not end with a ة .

There are a few other words like this which are feminine:

(i) words which refer to females: **أم** a mother **أخت** a sister

(ii) parts of the body which occur in pairs are usually feminine:

يد a hand عين an eye أذن an ear قدم a foot

(iii) other words which have to be learnt individually:

شمس a sun	سماء sky, heaven	حرب a war	نفس a soul, person
سبيل a way	الأرض the earth	جهنم hell	دار a house

Harder than stone

In line 15 opposite, the

word **هي** refers to

قلوب or 'hearts'. God

says that some peoples' hearts do become like stone or even harder. Water gushes out from rocks but nothing good, like truth or compassion, comes from a hardened human heart.

Check the context

The word **فتنة** in line 1 opposite means 'a test' or 'a trial' in the verse quoted. However, the word **فتنة** has a wide variety of meanings. In popular usage, it is often used to mean trouble, discord or dissension. In the Qur'an, it is used in the sense of oppression and persecution (2: 191) where it is described as 'worse than killing'. It is also used in the sense of 'confusion' (3: 7), 'temptation' (4: 91) and 'harm' (5: 71). Check the context in which a word is used to determine its meaning.

It is a test. 39: 50	هِيَ فَتْنَةٌ 1	
It (was) deserted. 2: 258	هِيَ خَاوِيَةٌ 2	
It is a word. 23: 100	إِنَّهَا كَلِمَةٌ 3 ■	كَلِمَةٌ a word
It is a tree. 37: 64	إِنَّهَا شَجَرَةٌ 4 ■	شَجَرَةٌ a tree
It is a cow. 2: 67	إِنَّهَا بَقْرَةٌ 5 ■	بَقْرَةٌ a cow
And indeed Paradise—it is the abode. 79: 41	فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَى 6 ■	مَأْوَى abode
Indeed, this is a reminder. 73: 19	إِنَّ هَذِهِ تَذَكُّرَةٌ 7	بَقْرَةٌ a cow
This is Jahannam. 36: 63	هَذِهِ جَهَنَّمُ 8	نِعْمَةٌ a favour
This is the fire. 52: 14	هَذِهِ النَّارُ 9	حَيَّةٌ a snake
This is my way. 12: 108	هَذِهِ سَبِيلِي 10	حِجَارَةٌ stone
That (was) a nation. 2: 134	تِلْكَ أُمَّةٌ 11	
That (was) a favour. 26: 22	تِلْكَ نِعْمَةٌ 12	
That is the Paradise. 19: 63	تِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ 13	
It is a snake. 20: 20	هِيَ حَيَّةٌ 14	
And so, they (are) like stone. 2: 74	فَهِيَ كَالْحِجَارَةِ 15 ■	

Notes for text above

■ **Lines 3, 4 and 5:** إِنَّ and إِنَّهَا — the هَا attached to إِنَّ stands for هِيَ. إِنَّهَا may be translated simply as 'she is' or 'it is'.

■ **Line 6:** The word الْجَنَّةُ ends with a fat-hah because it is controlled by إِنَّ. A فَ is joined to the إِنَّ.

■ **Line 8:** The word جَهَنَّمُ ends with a single dammah; it does not take tanwīn. Some nouns

referring to places and the names of people do not take tanwīn.

■ **Line 15:** Here, the word هِيَ means 'they' and refers to قُلُوبٌ hearts, which is mentioned earlier in the verse.

• The letter كَ attached to the alif of the definite article الَّ, means 'like'. كَ causes the word حِجَارَةٌ to end in a kasrah.