

Nominative Cases of a Noun: Inchoative and Predicate

39. What is an inchoative?

An inchoative is a noun in the nominative case that is mentioned at the beginning of a sentence. For example: **العلمُ نافعٌ** (Knowledge is beneficial.)

40. What is a predicate?

A predicate is a word that completes the meaning of the inchoative. For example: **المطرُ غزيرٌ** (The rain is heavy.)

41. What is the rule regarding inchoatives and predicates?

The inchoative is a definite noun that comes first and a predicate is an indefinite noun, if it is a noun, which comes after the inchoative.

42. Is it possible for an inchoative to be an indefinite noun?

The inchoative can be indefinite if it is useful. For example: **شمسٌ مضيئةٌ ظهرت** (A luminous sun appeared.)

43. When does the predicate come before the inchoative?

The predicate comes before the inchoative if:

- the inchoative is intended by itself. For example: **ما عادلٌ إلا اللهُ** (There is no just being except Allah.). This means that Allah, nothing else, was intended.
- the predicate is a adverbial noun of time or place or a genitive prepositional phrase and the inchoative is indefinite. For example: **في البيتِ لصٌ** (A thief is in the house.)
- the predicate is one of the words that must come at the beginning of a sentence. For example:

أينَ الطريقُ (Where is the path?)

- if the inchoative is connected to a pronoun that refers to the predicate. For example:

في الدارِ صاحبُها (The owner of the house is in the house.)

44. What is a sentence comprised of an inchoative and a predicate called?

A sentence comprised of an inchoative and a predicate is called a nominal sentence. For example: الكسلُ عاقبتهُ الفقرُ (The end of a lazy person is poverty.)

45. How many types of predicates are there?

There are three types of predicates:

- Noun, for example: عليٌ أسدٌ (Ali is a lion.)
- Sentence, for example: الكسلُ عاقبتهُ الفقرُ
- Fragment, for example: بلاءُ الإنسانِ مِنَ اللسانِ (Man's tribulations come from the tongue.)

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