

The Imperative

51. What is an imperative?

52. What is an imperative formed from?

53. Is the last syllable of an imperative declinable or indeclinable?

54. What vowel sign does the glottal stop of an imperative receive?

55. What is a *was/* glottal stop?

56. What is a *qat'* glottal stop?

57. What should be done if the speaker wants to use the imperative in the first or third person?

51. The imperative verb is used to ask something from the listener in the present or in the future. For example: كُنْ (be) and اُكْتُبْ (write)

52. The imperative is formed from the aorist tense by:

- erasing the aorist letter from the beginning of the word, for example: تَتَقَدَّمُ becomes تَقَدَّمْ (precede)
- then, adding a glottal stop if the verb is a single trilateral verb or starts with an added glottal stop. The glottal stop is a *qat'* glottal stop if the verb has four letters and a *was/* glottal stop if it has more or less than four letters. For example: ضَرَبَ becomes يَضْرِبُ then becomes اِضْرِبْ (hit) or أَحْسَنَ becomes يُحْسِنُ then becomes اِحْسِنْ (act well)

53. The last syllable of an imperative is indeclinable, it does not change. It is indeclinable upon:

- a *sakān* if the last letter is not a weak letter, for example: اُنْصُرْ (help)
- erasing the weak letter of defective verbs, for example يَرْمِي becomes اِرْمِ (throw) or يُعْطِي becomes اَعْطِ (give)

● erasing the *n* if the verb is connected to the dual *alif*, the plural *waw* or the *y*' personal pronoun, for example: **أَنْصِرَا** (you two people help)

54. The imperative glottal stop:

● is given a *dummaḥ* if the second root letter of a three letter verb has a *dummaḥ* in the aorist tense. For example: **أَنْظُرْ** (look)

● is given a *fathah* if it is a four letter verb. For example: **أَكْرَمْ** (be generous)

● is given a *kasrah* in other than these two cases. For example: **إِعْلَمْ** (know) and **إِضْرِبْ** (hit) and **إِنطَلِقْ** (begin) and **إِسْتَعْلِمْ** (seek knowledge).

55. A *wasl* glottal stop is pronounced at the beginning of a sentence, for example: **إِجْلِسْ يَا رَجُلُ** (Sit, oh man.), but is not pronounced in the middle of a sentence, for example: **يَا رَجُلُ اجْلِسْ** (Oh man, sit.)

56. A *qat'* glottal stop is pronounced in the beginning of a sentence, for example: **أَقْبِلْ يَا رَجُلُ** (Accept, oh man.), and in the middle of a sentence, for example: **يَا رَجُلُ اقْبِلْ** (Oh man, accept.)

57. The imperative used for the first or third person has a special form which is called the imperative by *lām* where a jussive *lām* is added to the beginning of the aorist tense verb and takes a *kasrah*, for example: **لِيَضْرِبْ لَأَوْدَبْ** (He must hit to teach manners), except if it is after a *f*' or *waw*, in this case it is given a *sakn*, for example: **فَلتَنْطِبْ نَفْسَكَ** (feel comfortable).

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