

Proper and Generic Nouns

83. What is a proper noun?
84. What is a generic noun?
85. How many types of generic nouns are there?
86. List the derived generic nouns.
87. What is a noun of place?
88. What is a noun of time?
89. How is a noun of place/time formed from a trilateral verb?
90. How is a noun of place/time formed from a verb with more than three letters?
91. What is an instrumental noun?
92. How is an instrumental noun formed?
83. A proper noun is a noun that denotes a specific person, animal or place. For example: إبراهيم (Abraham), بارود (barūd, the name of a horse) and دمشق (Damascus).
84. A generic noun is a noun that denotes, in an unspecific way, all people, animals or things that fall under one species. For example: رَجُلٌ (man), كَلْبٌ (dog) and مَدِينَةٌ (city).
85. There are two types of generic nouns: derived and apolistic.
86. The derived generic nouns are: nouns of place/time and instrumental nouns.
87. A noun of place is a form that indicates the place that an action took place. For example: مَطْبَخٌ (kitchen).
88. A noun of time is a form that indicates the time that an action took place. For example: مَغْرِبٌ

(evening).

89. A time/place noun is formed from a trilateral verb in the following forms:

1. **مَفْعَل** for verbs whose second root letter has a *dummah* in the aorist tense, for example **يَطْبُخُ** (he is cooking) becomes **مَطْبَخ** (kitchen), for verbs whose second root letter has a *fathah* in the aorist tense, for example: **يَذْبَحُ** (he is slaughtering) becomes **مَذْبَح** (slaughterhouse) and for verbs whose third root letter is a weak letter, for example: **يَرْمِي** (he is shooting) becomes **مَرْمَى** (gun range).
2. **مَفْعِل** for verbs whose second root letter has a *kasrah* in the aorist tense, for example: **يَضْرِبُ** (he is hitting) becomes **مَضْرِب** (camp site).

90. The time/place nouns are formed from verbs that have more than three letters by using their passive aorist tense form and substituting the aorist letter with a *mim* with a *dummah*. For example: **يُسْتَشْفَى** (a cure was sought) becomes **مُسْتَسْفَى** (hospital).

91. An instrumental noun is a form that indicates the thing that the action was performed with. For example: **مِبْرَد** (file).

92. Instrumental nouns are taken from transitive trilateral verbs. There are three forms that they have:

1. **مِفْعَل**: for example: **مِبْرَد** (file)
2. **مِفْعَلَةٌ**: for example: **مِكَنَسَةٌ** (broom)
3. **مِفْعَال**: for example: **مِفْتَاح** (key)

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