

Definite and Indefinite Nouns

123. What is an indefinite noun?

124. What is a definite noun?

125. How many types of definite nouns are there?

126. How is an indefinite noun made definite?

123. An indefinite noun is a noun that is common amongst a certain species, not specific to any one of the instances. For example: قَلَمٌ (pen) and بُسْتَانٌ (garden).

124. A definite noun is a noun that indicates a specific instance from a species. For example: الْقَلَمُ (the pen) and الْبُسْتَانُ

125. There are six forms of definite nouns:

- Proper nouns: سُلَيْمَانٌ (Solomon)
- Pronouns: أَنَا (I)
- Demonstrative pronouns: هَذَا (this)
- conjuncts: الَّذِي (he who)
- Made definite by a *alif-lam*: الرَّجُلُ (the man)
- Compliment of a prefixed noun : كِتَابُ الرَّجُلِ (The man's book)

126. A common noun is made definite in the following ways:

- if an *alif-lam* is added to it (and the nunation is erased if it was nunated). For example: كِتَابٌ (a book) becomes الْكِتَابُ (the book).
- if it is contracted with a definite noun (and the nunation is erased if it was nunated). For example: كِتَابِي

(my book).

Source URL:

<https://www.al-islam.org/elementary-arabic-morphology-2-rashid-al-shartuni/definite-and-indefinite-nouns>