

The Diminutive Pattern

173. What is the diminutive pattern?

174. What are the rules of the diminutive pattern?

175. When is the letter after the diminutive $y\text{َ}$ given a *fathah*?

173. The diminutive pattern is a form which indicates smallness, degradation or love. For example: **وَلَدٌ** (boy) becomes **وَلَدٌ** (small boy)

174. The rules of the diminutive pattern are:

- The first letter of the word must be given a *dummah*
- The second letter must be given a *fathah* and if it is a weak letter it is put in its original form and then given a *fathah*
- Then the diminutive $y\text{َ}$ is added after the second letter without any vowel sign
- The next letter is given a *kasrah* except in some cases where it is given a *fathah*

175. The letter after the diminutive $y\text{َ}$ is given a *fathah* if it is followed by a $t\text{َ}$ or an *alif*. For example: **زُهْرَةٌ** (flower) becomes **زُهَيْرَةٌ** (small flower).

Source URL:

<https://www.al-islam.org/elementary-arabic-morphology-2-rashid-al-shartuni/diminutive-pattern>