

Rules Pertaining to the Dual Form

115. How many types of nouns are there?

116. How is the dual form formed?

117. How is a *maqsūr* noun put into the dual form?

118. How is a *mamdūd* noun put into the dual form?

119. How are nouns whose third root letter becomes erased put into the dual form?

115. There are three types of nouns: singular (a noun that indicates one item), dual (a noun that indicates two items), and plural (a noun that indicates more than two items).

116. The dual form is formed by adding an *alif* and *naḥn* to the end of the singular noun when it is in the nominative case, for example: **حَضَرَ الرَّجُلَانِ** or by adding a *yā'* and *naḥn* to the end of the singular noun when it is in the accusative or genitive cases, for example: **إِشْتَرَى الْكِتَابَيْنِ**.

117. A trilateral *maqsūr* noun is put into the dual form returning its *alif* into its original state, for example **عَمَّا** becomes **عَمَوَانِ**. If it is formed from a noun with more than three letters the *alif* is changed into a *yā'*, for example: **المُصْطَفَى** becomes **المُصْطَفَيَانِ**. If the *yā'* of a *manqūṣ* noun is erased it is returned when put into the dual form, for example: **هَادٍ** becomes **هَادِيَانِ**.

118. If the *mamdūd hamzah* was added to put the noun in the feminine case it will be changed to a *wāw*, for example: **حَمْرَاءَ** becomes **حَمْرَاوَانِ**. If it was an original part of the word it will remain, for example: **قَرَاءَ** becomes **قَرَاءَانِ**. If it was changed into an *hamzah* from a *wāw* or a *yā'* it is permissible to do one of the two previous actions, for example one can say **دُعَاءَانِ** or **دُعَاوَانِ**.

119. The third root letter in nouns whose third root letter is erased, for example **أَب** returns when put into the dual form, for example: **أَبْوَانِ**. There are exceptions, for example: **يَد** becomes **يَدَانِ**.

Source URL:

<https://www.al-islam.org/elementary-arabic-morphology-3-rashid-al-shartuni/rules-pertaining-dual-for-m>