

# ALI 620: Learning Arabic Thru the Quran

Wednesdays Jan 5 – Feb 16, 2022

**Description:** The course has seven sessions via Zoom, we will go through some of the common suras to learn words which occur often in the Quran and derive simple rules of Arabic grammar.

Besides using *The Phrase-by-Phrase English Translation of the Quran* by Syed Ali Quli Qarai, we will use the text *Qur'anic Language Made Easy* by Hafiza Iffath Hasan. Participants can use any Quran translation.

# Du'a before reciting the Quran

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ \* اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ  
اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي نَشَرْتُ عَهْدَكَ، وَكِتَابَكَ، فَاجْعَلْ نَظْرِي فِيهِ عِبَادَةً، وَقِرَائَتِي فِيهِ  
فِكْرًا، وَفِكْرِي فِيهِ إِعْتِبَارًا، وَلَا تَجْعَلْ قِرَائَتِي قِرَاءَةً لَا تَدُبَّرُ فِيهَا، بَلِ اجْعَلْني  
أَتَدَبَّرُ آيَاتِهِ وَأَحْكَامِهِ، إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الرَّؤُوفُ الرَّحِيمُ

*In the name of Allah, the Beneficent the Merciful. O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad. O Allah I have opened Your Pledge and Your Book. So, make my looking at it worship, and my reciting it thoughtful, and my thinking on it, a means of deriving lessons; and do not make my recitation without reflection. Rather make me ponder over its verses and its rules. Surely You are the Kind, the Merciful.*

# Special spellings in the Quranic Text

Note, Ibrāhīm is spelled differently in the Quran (see p. 36 in the text) compared to what is found in Arabic books or even in Du'ās. There is a short alif on 'raa' and independent 'yaa' like a superscript between 'haa' and 'mim.' Similarly, in the word الرَّحْمَان a short alif appears on mim (الرَّحْمَن) instead of long alif after mim. Other words which are spelled differently in the Quran are: سَلِيمَن، سُبْحَن، الْخَسْرَيْن; in all these a short alif appears as a superscript in the Quran. This short alif is known as اَلْفٌ خَنْجَرِيَّةٌ – the dagger alif. When this alif appears over a letter, it has same effect as a long alif, and it has the function of long vowel in pronunciation. The above three words will appear as: سَلِيمَانُ، سُبْحَانُ، الْخَاسِرَيْنَ in Arabic books besides the Quran.

# Nouns: Ma'rifah and Nakirah

The following has been taken from **Lessons 9** from our Text. Nouns can either be *Ma'rifah* (مَعْرِفَةٌ) or *Nakirah* (نَكِيرَةٌ). *Ma'rifah* means proper noun e.g., مُحَمَّدٌ (Muhammad) or definite noun, e.g., الْكِتَابُ (the book), which is done by prefixing the article أَلْ and removing the tanwīn. Proper nouns are proper names given to a certain person or place. E.g., اِبْرَاهِيْمٌ and مَكَّةٌ – Ibrāhīm and Makkah. Note: Proper noun *Ibrāhīm* here does not carry tanwīn as was the case with the word Muhammad.

Common nouns are names given to living and non-living beings and all of them with double damma (see the table on p. 35 in the Text).

*Harakāt* (singular *harakah*) are the vowel signs (damma, fatha and kasra) that are placed on letters of nouns, verbs and particles. Adding a harakah on the last letter based on grammatical rules is known as putting *I'rab* (اِعْرَابٌ). The default i'rab of a noun is damma.

See Quranic examples of ma'rifah and nakirah in Lesson 9 p. 36 of the text.

# More about nouns

Examples of proper nouns (ma‘rifah) from the Text in Lesson 9 (p. 35) & Holy Quran are:

مُوسَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ مَرْيَمَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَحْمَدُ مَكَّةَ آدَمُ عَيْسَىٰ جِبْرِيلُ نُوحٌ يُوسُفُ

Note that there is no standard rule for a proper noun. On the last letter, some have double damma, some have single damma, some have alif maqsura and some have *taa marbutah*.

On the other hand, all **nakirah** nouns have double damma at the end.

خَتَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَعَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِمْ ۖ وَعَلَىٰ أَبْصَارِهِمْ غِشَاوَةٌ ۖ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ 2:7  
كَصَيْبٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فِيهِ ظُلُمَاتٌ وَرَعْدٌ وَبَرْقٌ 2:19

2:7 Allah has set a seal on their hearts and their hearing, and there is a **blindfold** on their sight 2:10 and there is a painful **punishment** for them because of the lies they used to tell. 2:19 Or that of a **rainstorm** from the sky, wherein is **darkness**, **thunder** and **lightning**

When we add the definite article ‘al’ to nakirah nouns they become ma‘rifah.

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ 2:11 وَاللَّهُ مُحِيطٌ بِالْكَافِرِينَ 2:19 وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً 2:22 فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ ۖ أَعَدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ 2:24

*When they are told, ‘Do cause corruption on **the earth**,’ and Allah besieges **the faithless**. and He sends down water from **the sky** then beware of **the Fire** whose fuel will be humans and stones, prepared for **the faithless**.*

# Homework on *Ma'rifah* and *Nakirah* Nouns

Study **Lesson 9** in our **Text** to read definitions of above nouns. **Highlight** the nouns which are *ma'rifah* and underline those which are *nakirah*.

وَالْفَجْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ ﴿٢﴾ وَالشَّفْعِ وَالْوَتْرِ ﴿٣﴾ وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَسِرَ ﴿٤﴾ هَلْ فِي ذَلِكَ قَسَمٌ لِّذِي  
حِجْرٍ ﴿٥﴾ أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِعَادٍ ﴿٦﴾ إِرْمَ ذَاتِ الْعِمَادِ ﴿٧﴾ الَّتِي لَمْ يُخْلَقْ مِثْلُهَا فِي الْبِلَادِ ﴿٨﴾ وَثَمُودَ  
الَّذِينَ جَاءُوا الصَّخْرَ بِالْوَادِ ﴿٩﴾ وَفِرْعَوْنَ ذِي الْأَوْتَادِ ﴿١٠﴾ الَّذِينَ طَغَوْا فِي الْبِلَادِ ﴿١١﴾ فَأَكْثَرُوا فِيهَا  
الْفُسَادَ ﴿١٢﴾ فَصَبَّ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّكَ سَوْطَ عَذَابٍ ﴿١٣﴾ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَبِالْمِرْصَادِ ﴿١٤﴾ فَأَمَّا الْإِنْسَانُ إِذَا مَا ابْتَلَاهُ  
رَبُّهُ فَأَكْرَمَهُ وَنَعَّمَهُ فَيَقُولُ رَبِّي أَكْرَمَنِ ﴿١٥﴾ وَأَمَّا إِذَا مَا ابْتَلَاهُ فَقَدَرَ عَلَيْهِ رِزْقَهُ فَيَقُولُ رَبِّي أَهَانَنِ ﴿١٦﴾ كَلَّا ۚ بَلْ  
لَّا تُكْرَمُونَ الْيَتِيمَ ﴿١٧﴾ وَلَا تَحَاضُونَ عَلَىٰ طَعَامِ الْمِسْكِينِ ﴿١٨﴾ وَتَأْكُلُونَ التُّرَاثَ أَكْلًا لَّمًّا ﴿١٩﴾ وَتُحِبُّونَ  
الْمَالَ حُبًّا جَمًّا ﴿٢٠﴾ كَلَّا إِذَا دُكَّتِ الْأَرْضُ دَكًّا دَكًّا ﴿٢١﴾ وَجَاءَ رَبُّكَ وَالْمَلَكُ صَفًّا صَفًّا ﴿٢٢﴾ وَجِيءَ  
يَوْمَئِذٍ بِجَهَنَّمَ ۚ يَوْمَئِذٍ يَتَذَكَّرُ الْإِنْسَانُ ۚ وَأَنَّىٰ لَهُ الذِّكْرَىٰ ﴿٢٣﴾ يَقُولُ يَا لَيْتَنِي قَدَّمْتُ لِحَيَاتِي ﴿٢٤﴾ فَيَوْمَئِذٍ لَا  
يُعَذِّبُ عَذَابَهُ أَحَدٌ ﴿٢٥﴾ وَلَا يُوثِقُ وَثَاقَهُ أَحَدٌ ﴿٢٦﴾ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ﴿٢٧﴾ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ  
رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً ﴿٢٨﴾ فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي ﴿٢٩﴾ وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي ﴿٣٠﴾

# Definitions of grammatical words

A **noun** is a name of any living being, object or idea.

A **pronoun** is a word used instead of a noun.

An **adjective** is a word which describes a noun.

An **adverb** adds information about a verb, an adjective or another adverb. In the sentence *speak slowly*, 'slowly' is an adverb informing us how to speak, thus telling us more about verb.

**Harakāt** (singular **harakah**) are the vowel signs (damma, fatha and kasra) that are placed on letters of nouns, verbs and particles. Adding a harakah on the last letter based on grammatical rules is known as putting an **i'rab** (إعراب).

Nouns and adjectives having the i'rab of damma are said to be in the **nominative** case.

Nouns and adjectives having the i'rab of fatha are said to be in the **accusative** case.

Nouns and adjectives having the i'rab of kasra are said to be in the **genitive** case.

# Lesson 10: Effects of placing the definite article

The messenger	الرَّسُولُ	=	رَسُولٌ	+	الرَّ
The book	الْكِتَابُ	=	كِتَابٌ	+	الرَّ
The people	النَّاسُ	=	نَاسٌ	+	الرَّ
Your messenger	رَسُولُكُمْ	=	كُمْ	+	رَسُولٌ
My servants	عِبَادِي	=	يَ	+	عِبَادٌ
Their hearts	قُلُوبُهُمْ	=	هُمْ	+	قُلُوبٌ
Messenger of Allah	رَسُولُ اللَّهِ	=	اللَّهُ	+	رَسُولٌ
Punishment of grave	عَذَابُ الْقَبْرِ	=	الْقَبْرِ	+	عَذَابٌ
Verse of the throne	آيَةُ الْكُرْسِيِّ	=	الْكُرْسِيِّ	+	آيَةٌ



# Quranic āyāt: conversion of indefinite to definite

Let us look closely at all the verses/phrases appearing on pages 38 & 39 in Lesson 10 of the Text. Note we are referring to page numbers written in the Text by hand. Note the following points:

Q 2:107 <sup>قُلْ</sup> أَلَمْ تَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ

Here the possessive indicator ‘of’ in *the kingdom of the heavens and the earth*, is represented by kasra under *taa* of *al-samawat*. The word *al-ardh* is connected by *waw*, so it also carries kasra.

تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْحَكِيمِ

Notice in Q31:2 the spelling of the word آيَاتُ instead of normal Arabic آيَاتُ

The kasra under letter baa of al-kitab indicates possession. Al-Hakim is the adjective and follows the al-kitab in gender, case and being definite.

Q 2:89 فَلَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ - *So may the curse of Allah be on the faithless!*

Here the kasra under last letter of the word Allah indicates possession ‘of’.

# Homework on Lesson 10

Translate the phrases in **bold** from the following verses taken from an earlier sura in the Quran. Note the phrases have been composed by connecting a nakirah noun to ma'rifah noun.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ ۖ \* هُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ مِنْهُ آيَاتٌ مُحْكَمَاتٌ هُنَّ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ \* رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ جَامِعُ النَّاسِ لِيَوْمٍ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ ۗ \* إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَنْ تُغْنِي عَنْهُمْ أَمْوَالُهُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُهُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا ۗ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمْ وَقُودُ النَّارِ \* قَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ آيَةٌ فِي فِئَتَيْنِ التَّكْفَا ۗ فِئَةٌ تُقَاتِلُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَأُخْرَى كَافِرَةٌ \* زِينٌ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ الشَّهَوَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ وَالْبَنِينَ وَالْقَنَاطِيرِ الْمُقَنْطَرَةِ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ وَالْفِضَّةِ وَالْخَيْلِ الْمُسَوَّمَةِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ وَالْخَرْثِ ۗ ذَلِكَ مَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ۗ وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ حُسْنُ الْمَآبِ \* وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ \* قَالَ رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِنْ لَدُنْكَ ذُرِّيَّةً طَيِّبَةً ۗ إِنَّكَ سَمِيعُ الدُّعَاءِ .

Meaning of some of the words included in the above phrases:

أُمُّ = mother; جَامِعٌ = gatherer; وَقُودٌ = fuel; سَبِيلٌ = path, way; الشَّهَوَاتُ = lusts, desires; مَتَاعٌ = comfort, provision. الْمَآبُ = destination; سَرِيعٌ = quick, swift; سَمِيعٌ = listener.

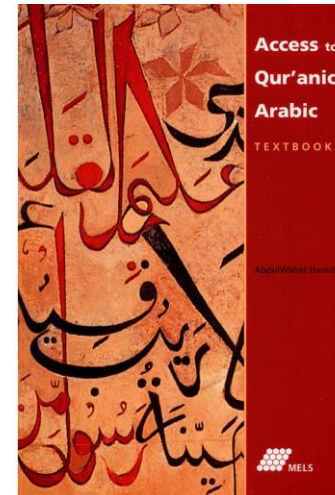
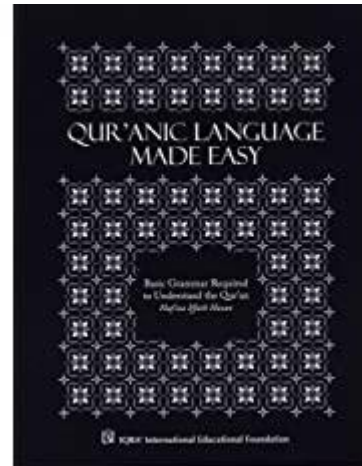
Bonus question: Identify phrases constructed by joining a nakirah noun to a ma'arifah noun in Surat al-Bayyinah (No. 98) of the Quran.

# Notes

# The texts for the course

Level 1 lessons & text at <https://academyofislam.com/ali-607/>

Ali Quli Qarai	Hafiza Iffat Hasan	AbdulWahid Hamid
<i>The Qur'an: with a phrase-by-phrase English translation</i>	<i>Qur'anic Language Made Easy</i>	<i>Access to Qur'anic Arabic</i>



# References