



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ALI 703: Quranic Arabic & Ilm, Level 3

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Online on Zoom. NY/Toronto time – 7 – 8:10 pm

Session 5: Tuesday, December 16, 2025

InshāAllah, we will simplify Quranic language. We will begin with a brief *tafsir* of short surahs. At this level, we will continue learning grammatical rules on nouns covered in Lesson 9 onwards in *Qur'anic Language Made Easy* by Hafiza Iffath Hassan..

سُورَةُ الْفِيلِ (No. 105) Sūrat al-Fil

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ。أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ ۝ ۱ ۝ أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضْلِيلٍ ۝ ۲ ۝ وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طِيرًا أَبَايِلَ ۝ ۳ ۝ تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ مِّنْ سِجِّيلٍ ۝ ۴ ۝ فَجَعَلَهُمْ كَعَصْفٍ مَّا كُوِّلٌ ۝ ۵ ۝

Bismillāh. Have you not regarded how your Lord dealt with the army of the elephants? (1) Did He not make their stratagems go awry, (2) and send against them flocks of birds (3) pelting them with stones of shale, (4) thus making them like chewed-up straw? (5)

Applying tajwīd rules when reciting the sūrah:

- 1) every verse, including *basmalah*, ends with a long vowel, so the rule of *madd* applies.
- 3) ensure to pronounce the following letters with correct *makhārij*: ح x 4, ع x 5, ص x 2, ط x 1 and ض x 1.
- 4) The rule of *idghām* will apply *tanwīn* at the end of بِحِجَارَةٍ and كَعَصْفٍ .

Simple tafsīr of Sūrat al-Fīl

Bismillāh. This Meccan sūrah and Quraysh together are considered as one sūrah and must be recited together in the *wājib* prayers after al-Fātihah. It recounts the outcome of the attack on Makkah by the Abyssinian governor of Southern Arabia, Abraha b. al-Shabbah al-Ashram and the people (riders) of the elephant. Reports vary on the number of elephants involved, from 1 to 12. Abrahah's army was miraculously destroyed at Wadi Muhassir by a flock of small birds that Allah set upon them. That year became to be known as 'Ām al-Fīl and the Prophet was born in it. People developed a strong conviction about the eminence of the Ka'bah. Imam al-Sādiq: Whoever recites al-Fīl in his obligatory prayers, then on the Day of Judgement, every plain, mountain, and valley will bear witness that he was of those who prayed obligatory prayers. The sūra shows that man's well-planned schemes can easily be thwarted by Allah, when He wills. He can use small birds to destroy huge army of elephants. The army was not only destroyed but decimated, leaving them like devoured straw (*Tafsir Tadabbur*, 30th Juz', pp. 642 – 651).

Answer to Homework on Lessons 7 - 10

1. Translate the phrases in **bold** composed of *nakirah* and *ma'rifah* nouns

وَلَا يَحْضُرُ عَلَى طَعَامِ الْمِسْكِينِ * نَارُ اللَّهِ الْمُوْقَدَةُ * تِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ * كِتَابَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ * لَوْ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ

Vocabulary: طَعَام = feed; مِسْكِينٌ = needy, destitute; يَوْمٌ = day/duration, حُدُودٌ = limits/bounds

Feeding of the needy; The fire of/from Allah, The limits set by/of Allah. The Book of Allah. And the Day of Hereafter.

2. Identify *ma'rifah* phrases by underlining them in the first 20 verses of al-Baqarah.

3. **Prepositions** in Sūrat al-Balad (No. 90) and the nouns impacted by the prepositions.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ. لَا أُقْسِمُ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ ١ وَأَنْتَ حِلٌّ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ ٢ لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي كَبِدٍ ٣ أَيْحَسَبُ أَنَّ لَنْ يَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ ٤ يَقُولُ أَهْلَكْتُ مَا لَبَدًا ٥ أَيْحَسَبُ أَنَّ لَمْ يَرَهُ أَحَدٌ ٦ أَمْ نَجْعَلُ لَهُ عَيْنَيْنِ ٧ وَلِسَانًا وَشَفَتَيْنِ ٨ وَهَدَيْنَاهُ النَّجْدَيْنِ ٩ فَلَا اقْتَحَمَ الْعَقَبَةَ ١٠ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْعَقَبَةُ ١١ فَلَكُّ رَقَبَةٌ ١٢ أَوْ إِطْعَامٌ فِي يَوْمٍ ذِي مَسْعَبَةٍ ١٣ يَتِيمًا ذَا مَقْرَبَةٍ ١٤ أَوْ مِسْكِينًا ذَا مَتْرَبَةٍ ١٥ ثُمَّ كَانَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَوَاصَوْا بِ-الصَّبَرِ ١٦ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِ-الْمَرْحَمَةِ ١٧ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ ١٨ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِ-آيَاتِنَا هُمْ أَصْحَابُ الْمَشَأْمَةِ ١٩ عَلَيْهِمْ نَارٌ مُؤْصَدَةٌ ٢٠

Essential definitions of grammatical words

A **pronoun** (*dhamīr*) is a word used instead of a noun. It can be attached (*muttasil*) or detached (*munfasil*).

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).

Tanwin: means putting an ‘n’ sound at the end of a word. We often notice double *fathah*, *kasrah* and *dammah* at the end of the words. It takes place of an indefinite article in English represented by ‘a’ or ‘an’. Adding (ال) *al* and removing tanwīn gives you definite form.

Lesson 11: al-sifah wal-mawsuf

A noun in a sentence is known as **mawsūf**, i.e., a person or a thing which is being described. The adjective in that sentence which describes the noun is known as **sifah**. Today's night (1st of Rajab) is *laylatun mabārakatun* (ليلة مباركة) which means a blessed night. Here *laylatun* is mawsūf and *mubarakatun* in sifah. Similar in a descriptive phrase كِتَابٌ مُّبِينٌ (a manifest book), *kitāb* is mawfsūf and *mubīn* is sifah.

Note in a descriptive phrase the adjective follows the noun in 1) gender, 2) number, 3) being definite or indefinite and 4) I'rāb (being nominative, accusative or genitive). Here are a few examples from Surat Yasin

	الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ		وَالْقُرْآنُ الْحَكِيمُ
	مِنْ رَبِّ رَحِيمٍ		عَلَى صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ
	صِرَاطٌ مُّسْتَقِيمٌ		الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ
	حَصِيمٌ مُّبِينٌ		وَأَجْرٌ كَرِيمٌ
	الْخَلَاقُ الْعَلِيمُ		إِمَامٌ مُّبِينٌ

Lesson 11 –more examples

The adjectives are **highlighted** in the descriptive phrases underlined:

4:14 وَمَن يَعْصِي اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَتَعَدَّ حُدُودَهُ يُدْخِلُهُ نَارًا خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَلَهُ عَذَابٌ **مُّهِينٌ**

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَهُم إِلَى أَمْوَالِكُمْ **ج** إِنَّهُ كَانَ حُوَّبًا **كَبِيرًا** 4:2 ، وَإِذَا حَضَرَ الْقِسْمَةَ أُولُو الْقُرْبَى وَالْيَتَامَى وَالْمَسَاكِينُ فَارْزُقُوهُم مِّنْهُ وَقُولُوا لَهُمْ قَوْلًا **مَعْرُوفًا** 4:7 وَمَن يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ يُدْخِلُهُ جَنَّاتٍ بِحْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا **وَذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ** 4:13 ، وَلَا الَّذِينَ يَمْوِتونَ وَهُمْ كُفَّارٌ **ج** أُولَئِكَ أَعْتَدْنَا لَهُمْ عَذَابًا **أَلِيمًا** 4:18 ، وَعَاشُرُوهُنَّ **بِالْمَعْرُوفِ** **ج** فَإِنْ كَرِهْتُمُوهُنَّ فَعَسَى أَنْ تَكْرُهُوا شَيْئًا وَيَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ **خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا** 4:19 ، وَكَيْفَ تَأْخُذُونَهُ وَقَدْ أَفْضَى بَعْضُكُمْ إِلَى بَعْضٍ وَأَخَذْنَ مِنْكُمْ مِّيثَاقًا **غَلِيظًا** 4:21 ، إِنْ تَحْتَنِبُوا كَبَائِرَ مَا تُنْهَوْنَ عَنْهُ نُكَفِّرُ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَنُدْخِلُكُمْ مُّدْخَلًا كَرِيمًا 4:31 ، وَأَعْتَدْنَا **لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابًا مُّهِينًا** 4:37

Lesson 12: highlight the possessive phrases

Highlight and translate the possessive phrases in the following Quranic passages using the vocabulary we have covered so far and or by using any translation of Surat Maryam and Surat al-Falaq.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ * ذِكْرُ رَحْمَتِ رَبِّكَ عَبْدَهُ زَكَرِيَا ۝ ۲۰ ۲۰ قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَنَا رَسُولُ رَبِّكِ لِأَهَبَ لَكِ عَلَامًا زَكَرِيَا ۝ ۱۹ ۱۹ قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ آتَانِيَ الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا ۝ ۳۰ ۳۰ ذَلِكَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ ۝ قَوْلُ الْحَقِّ الَّذِي فِيهِ يَمْتَرُونَ ۝ ۳۴ ۳۴ إِذَا تُتْلَى عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُ الرَّحْمَنِ خَرُّوا سُجَّدًا وَبُكِيرًا ۝ ۵۸ ۵۸ وَمَا نَنَزَّلُ إِلَّا بِأَمْرِ رَبِّكَ ۝ ۶۴ ۶۴ . . . رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنُهُمَا فَاعْبُدُهُ وَاصْطَبِرْ لِعِبَادَتِهِ ۝ هَلْ تَعْلَمُ لَهُ سَمِيًّا ۝ ۶۵ ۶۵

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ * قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ ۝ ۱ ۱ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ ۝ ۲ ۲ وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ ۝ ۳ ۳ وَمِنْ شَرِّ النَّفَاثَاتِ فِي الْعُقَدِ ۝ ۴ ۴ وَمِنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ ۝ ۵ ۵

Good news about Quranic vocabularies

Bismillāh. Arabic is very rich in words. It has over **12,302, 912** words – that is 25 times the number of words in English language and 82 times that of French . . . that is why some Quranic terms do not have exact equivalents in English (*The Clear Quran Dictionary*, p viii). However, to make Quran easy to remember, the Almighty Allah uses only 77,800 words. From these, many words have been repeated in the Quran. The frequently used words make up of 85% of the Holy Quran: 45% of the Quran is made up of 72 words. 20% of the words are made up only 100 words which are nouns. Another 20% of the Quran are made up of 200 words which are verbs. Remaining 15% are what are known as unique words made up of nouns and verbs; for these people use dictionary to find the meanings of these unique words. During the holidays, build your vocabulary of words that appear often in the Holy Quran.

Textbooks for the course

Ali Quli Qarai	Hafiza Iffath Hasan	AbdulWahid Hamid	Dr Mustafa Khattab
The Qur'an: with a phrase-by-phrase English translation	Qur'anic Language Made Easy	Access to Qur'anic Arabic	The Clear Quran Dictionary

