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Facilitating the Learning of Arabic for Devotional Studies

Taysir Ta'allum al-Lughah al-'Arabiyyah li al-Dirāsah al-Ta'abbudiyyah

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Lesson 4

Intro to Grammar: Particles

Particles (حروف/حرف) are key ingredients to understanding both the meaning.

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ

In our example here, from Surah al-Nas, the بِ is impacting both the word رَب and the word الناس. Let's break down **why**.

First, we have an idafah at the end of our ayah: رَبُّ النَّاسِ. **Now note:** the first part of our **idāfah** has a **ḍammah** on the ب. This is because **it's the first term of an idāfah** which means, “the Lord of mankind”. The reason why it changes to have a **kasrah** on the ب is because of the **ḥarf**. This particular **ḥarf** is what causes **possession**. In Arabic we call this حرف الجرّ. And any noun affected by a **ḥarf al-jarr** is then in **the state of possession**, or **majrūr**, in Arabic terminology.

Intro to Grammar: Pronouns and Their Suffixes

It can be confusing, when trying to identify and isolate a word and determine if it's a noun or a verb, to differentiate between the noun/verb and its pronoun suffix (we'll discuss verb prefixes in a separate lesson when we get into verbal conjugation). Here's a helpful chart in looking at nouns and verbs with pronoun suffixes.