LECTURE 2

Linguistic **Universals**

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Learning Outcomes

OUTCOMES?....normally we just measure the height of the files!

Learning Outcomes

By the end of today's lecture, you should be able to:

1. **observe and understand the similarities and differences** between different languages

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1. **observe and understand the similarities and differences** **between different languages**

2. **make generalizations** **about the data**

3. **draw conclusions** **based on those generalizations**

Roadmap: Today's Lecture

1. Linguistic Universals
   i. Chomsky: On Human Language
   ii. A definition

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2. Agreement
   i. Noun Phrases
      a. English
      b. French
      c. Arabic
   ii. Making Generalizations
   iii. Discussion

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      a. English
      b. French
      c. Arabic
   ii. Making Generalizations
   iii. Discussion

3. Exit Ticket (Today's Reflection)
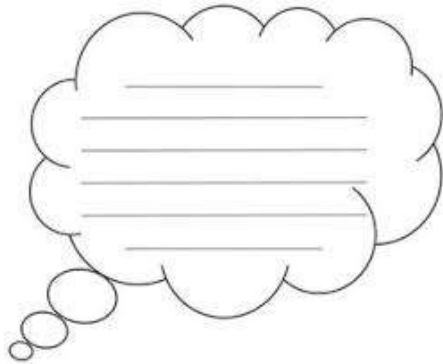
Noam Chomsky: One Human Language
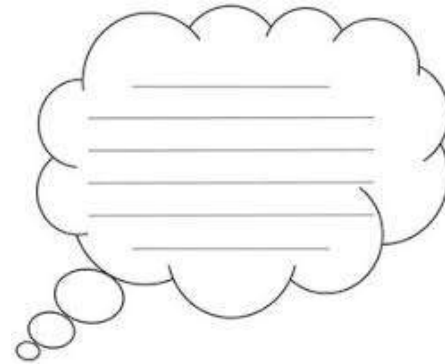

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIJ5jD1jHwo

Reflection

Interesting Fact #1

Interesting Fact #2

So… What are **Linguistic Universals**?

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Linguistic Universals: patterns that occur systematically across natural languages.

In other words, properties shared by all languages. These are also known as **principles.**

Some examples:
- All languages have nouns.
- All languages have verbs.
- All languages have pronominal categories involving at least three persons and two numbers.

Questions

1. What do languages of the world have **in common**?

Questions

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2. How do they **differ** from each other?

Questions

1. What do languages of the world have **in common**?

2. How do they **differ** from each other?

One important aim of most linguistic theories is to pin down what the languages of the world have in common despite their differences.

Questions

But why are we trying to understand these similarities and differences?

Answer:

_____

_____

Is Agreement a Universal Feature? 🤝

Today, we are going to look at three languages:

- ✓ **English**
- ✓ **French**
- ✓ **Arabic (Iranian Arabic)**

to see if we can make any generalizations based on our data.
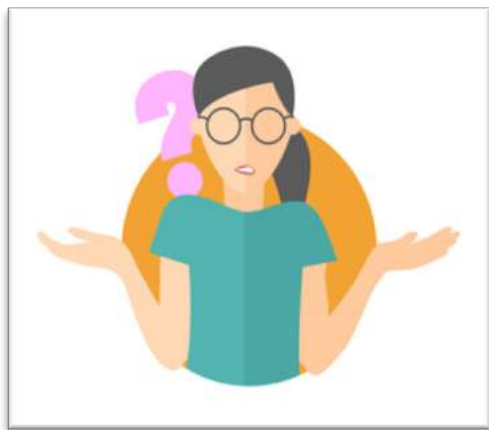
Agreement 🤝

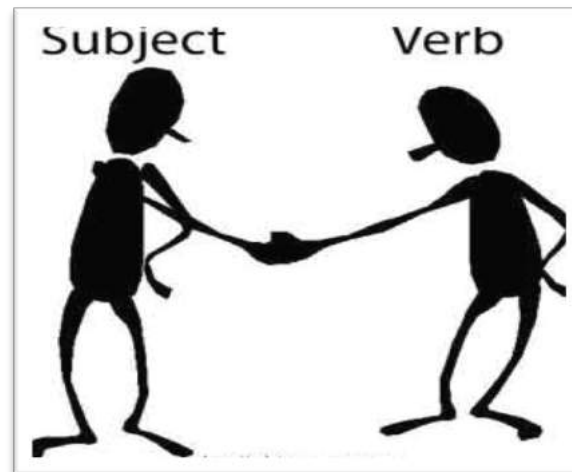
Let me take you on a little journey…

Agreement 🤝

Let me take you on <u>a little</u> journey…

Agreement: a phenomenon in natural languages in which the form of one syntactic category (i.e. verb) changes in order to match the form of another syntactic category (i.e. noun) in a sentence.
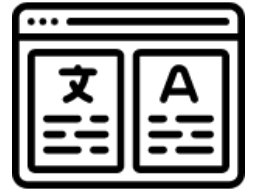
English

English

English
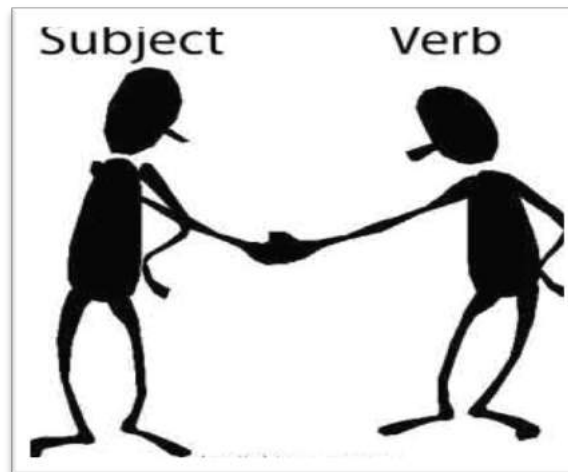
1) The <u>student</u> <u>listen**s**</u> to the teacher.
       N   V

2) The <u>student**s**</u> <u>listen</u> to the teacher.
       N   V

3) *The <u>student</u> <u>listen</u> to the teacher.
       N   V

Question: where else can we see agreement?

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English Nouns

1) student **(sg.)**
2) students **(pl.)**

Question: where else can we see agreement?

English Nouns

1) student **(sg.)**
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Grammatical marker of the
number feature in English: -s

Question: where else can we see agreement?

English Nouns

1) student **(sg.)**
2) students **(pl.)**

Grammatical marker of the number feature in English: -s

Now what if we add a determiner?

Determiners	Examples
Articles	a, an, the
Possessive	my, your, his, her, …
Demonstratives	this, that, these, those
Indefinites	any, some, every, …
Interrogatives	which, whose, …

English

English: Determiners & Modifiers

Det. (demonstrative) + Noun = NP
1) <u>This</u> book-∅
2) <u>These</u> book**s**

Adjective + Noun = NP
1) <u>Four</u> books
2) <u>Small</u> books
3) <u>Four</u> <u>small</u> books
4) The four small books
5) *<u>Four</u>-s <u>books</u>
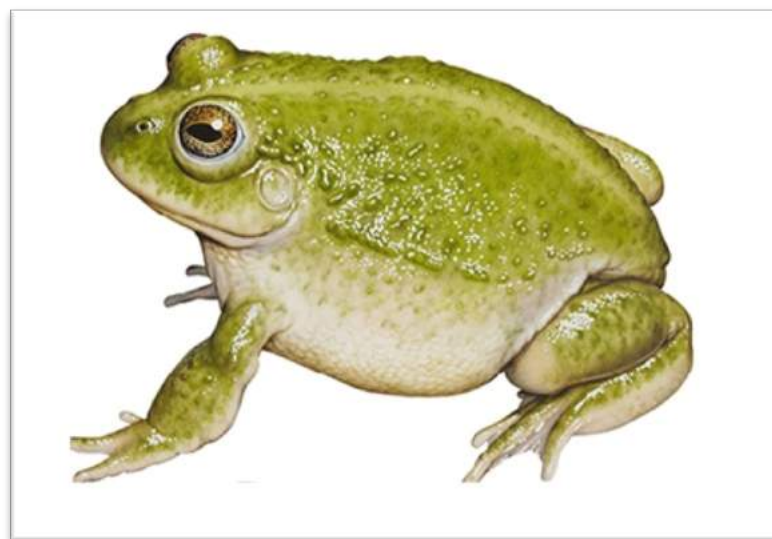6) *Four-s small-s books

English: Generalization
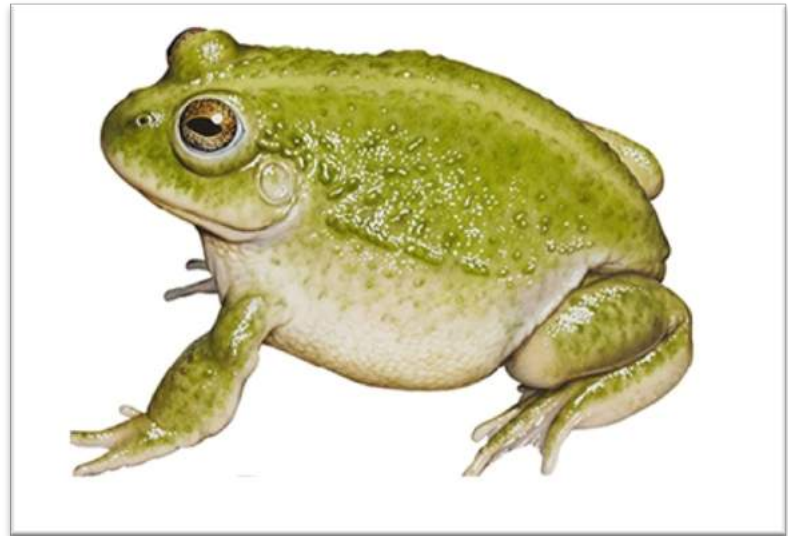
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English: Generalization

There is agreement in NPs English, **<u>BUT</u>** it is relatively limited…

In English NPs, only demonstratives agree with the head noun.

French

French: Determiners

Definite Article + N

1) **le** garçon
2) **l'**étudiant
3) le**s** garçon**s**
4) le**s** étudiant**s**

1) **la** fille
2) **l'**étudiant**e**
3) le**s** fille**s**
4) le**s** étudiant**es**

French: Determiners

Definite Article + N

1) **le** garçon
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1) **la** fille
2) **l'**étudiant**e**
3) le**s** fille**s**
4) le**s** étudiant**es**

Demonstratives + N

1) **ce** graçon
2) **ces** étudiants
3) **cette** fille
4) **ces** étudiant**es**

French: Determiners

Definite Article + N

1) **le** garçon
2) **l'**étudiant
3) le**s** garçon**s**
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Demonstratives + N

1) **ce** graçon
2) **ces** étudiants
3) **cette** fille
4) **ces** étudiant**es**

Generalization:

French: Modifiers

[D + Adj + N]

1) **le** garçon
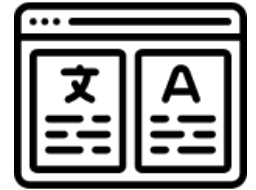2) **le** petite garçon
3) **les** petit**s** garçon**s**

French: Modifiers

[D + Adj + N]

1) **le** garçon
2) **le** petite garçon
3) **les** petit**s** garçon**s**

1) **la** fille
2) **la** petit**e** fill**e**
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French: Modifiers

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1) **le** garçon
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3) **les** petit**es** fill**es**

[D + Adj + Adj + N]

1) **les** quatre petit**s** garçon**s**

French: Modifiers

[D + Adj + N]

1) **le** garçon
2) **le** petite garçon
3) **les** petit**s** garçon**s**

1) **la** fille
2) **la** petit**e** fill**e**
3) **les** petit**es** fill**es**

[D + Adj + Adj + N]

1) **les** quatre petit**s** garçon**s**
2) **les** *quatre**s** petit**s** garçon**s**

1) **les** quatre petit**es** fill**es**
2) **les** *quatre**s** petit**es** filles
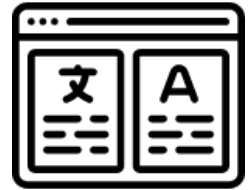
French: Generalization

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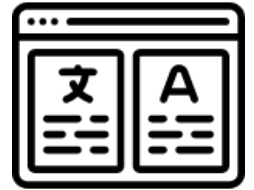_____

French: Generalization

In French,

1. Adjectives agree with the head noun in number and gender.

   [D + Adj + N]

French: Generalization

In French,

1. Adjectives agree with the head noun in number and gender.

    [D + Adj + N]

2. Adjectives (cardinal numbers) do not agree with the head noun in number and gender.

    [D + Adj(Num.) + N]

Pop Quiz

Which of the following statements is **TRUE**?

A. In English, determiners agree with the head noun in gender.
B. In English, adjectives agree with the head noun in number.
C. In French, determiners agree with the head noun in gender.
D. In French, all adjectives agree with the head noun in number.

Pop Quiz

The answer is…
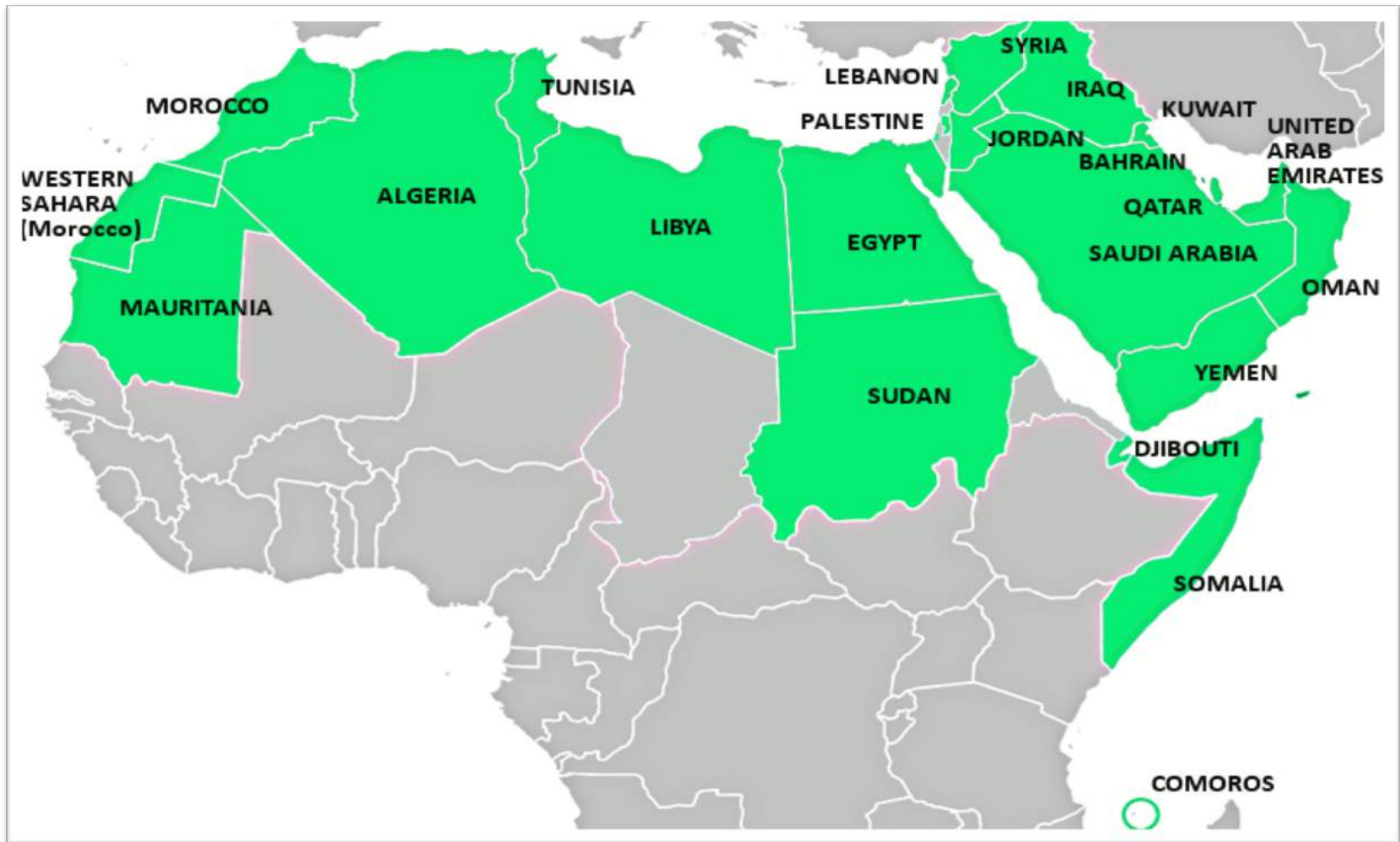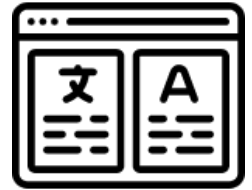
Pop Quiz

Which of the following statements is **TRUE**?

A. In English, determiners agree with the head noun in gender.
B. In English, adjectives agree with the head noun in number.
C. **In French, determiners agree with the head noun in gender.**
D. In French, all adjectives agree with the head noun in number.
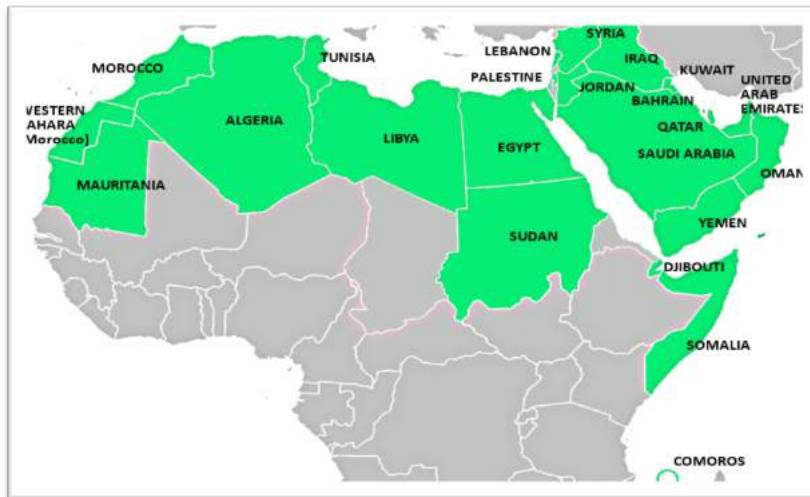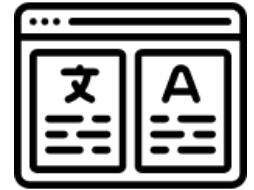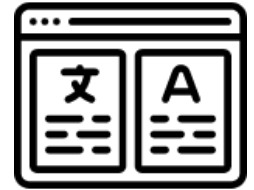
Arabic (Iranian)

Arabic

Arabic

Arabic: Determiners

1) modæres-**∅**

teacher-**mas.sg.**

2) modæres-**æt**

teacher-**fem.sg.**
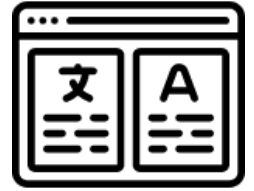
Arabic: Determiners

1) modæres-**∅**

   teacher-**mas.sg.**

2) modæres-**æt**

   teacher-**fem.sg.**

3) **al**-modæres-**∅**

   the-teacher-**mas.sg.**

   The male teacher

4) **al**-modæres-**æt**

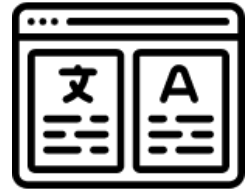   the-teacher-**fem.sg.**

   The female teacher

Arabic: Determiners

3) **al-**modæres**-un**

the-teacher**-mas.pl.**

'The male teachers'

4) **al-**modæres**-at**

the-teacher**-fem.pl.**

'The female teachers'

Arabic: Determiners

3) **al**-modæres-**un**

the-teacher-**mas.pl.**

'The male teachers'

3) **haada** modæres-**∅**

this   teacher-**mas.sg.**

'This male teacher'

4) **al**-modæres-**at**

the-teacher-**fem.pl.**

'The female teachers'

4) **haadaihi** modæres-**æt**

this   teacher-**fem.sg.**

'This female teacher'
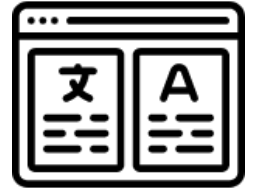
Arabic: Determiners

1) **haaʔulaa** modæres**- un**

   these   teacher-**mas.pl.**

   'These male teachers'

2) **haaʔulaat** modæres**-at**

   these   teacher-**fem.pl.**

   'These female teachers'

Arabic: Determiners

1) **haaʔulaa** modæres**- un**

   these   teacher-**mas.pl.**

   'These male teachers'

2) **haaʔulaat** modæres-**at**

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   'These female teachers'

Arabic: Generalization

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Arabic: Modifiers (Adj + N)
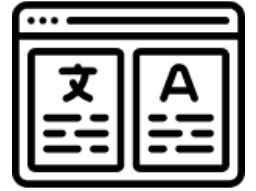
1) **<u>haada</u>**   zoki**-∅**   modæres**-∅**

   this   smart   teacher**-mas.sg.**

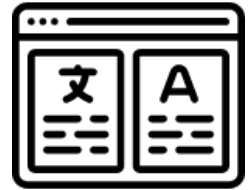   'This smart male teacher'

Arabic: Modifiers (Adj + N)

1) **haada** zoki**-∅**   modæres**-∅**

   this   smart   teacher-**mas.sg.**

   'This smart male teacher'
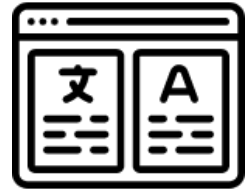

2) **haadaihi**   zoki-**æt**   modæres-**æt**

   this   smart-**fem.sg.** teacher-**fem.sg.**

   'This smart female teacher'

Arabic: Modifiers (cardinal numbers) A + N

1) salas-**æt**   modæres-**un**

   three-**fem.sg**   teacher-**mas.pl**

   'Three male teachers'

Arabic: Modifiers (cardinal numbers) A + N

1) salas-**æt**   modæres-**un**

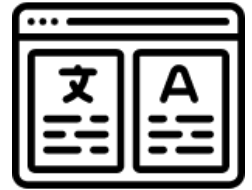   three-**fem.sg**   teacher-**mas.pl**

   'Three male teachers'

2) salas-**∅**   modæres-**at**

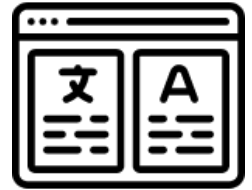   three-**mas.sg**   teacher-**fem.pl**

   'Three female teachers'

Arabic: Modifier

1) salas-**æt**   zoki-**un**   modæres-**un**

   three-**fem.sg** smart-**mas.pl.**   teacher-**mas.pl.**

   'Three smart male teachers'

Arabic: Modifier

1) salas-**æt**   zoki-**un**   modæres-**un**

    three-**fem.sg** smart-**mas.pl.** teacher-**mas.pl.**

    'Three smart male teachers'

2) salas-**∅**   zoki-**at**   modæres-**at**

    three-**mas.sg** smart-**fem.pl**   teacher-**fem.pl**

    'Three female teachers'

Arabic: Generalization

_____

_____

_____

_____

Remembering your little journey

English	Always	Sometimes	Never
Determiners agree with the head noun.			
Adjectives agree with the head noun.			
Adjectives (cardinal numbers) agree with the head noun.			

French	Always	Sometimes	Never
Determiners agree with the head noun.			
Adjectives agree with the head noun.			
Adjectives (cardinal numbers) agree with the head noun.			

Arabic	Always	Sometimes	Never
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Remembering your little journey

English	Always	Sometimes	Never
Determiners agree with the head noun.		✓	
Adjectives agree with the head noun.			✓
Adjectives (cardinal numbers) agree with the head noun.			✓

French	Always	Sometimes	Never
Determiners agree with the head noun.	✓		
Adjectives agree with the head noun.	✓		
Adjectives (cardinal numbers) agree with the head noun.			✓

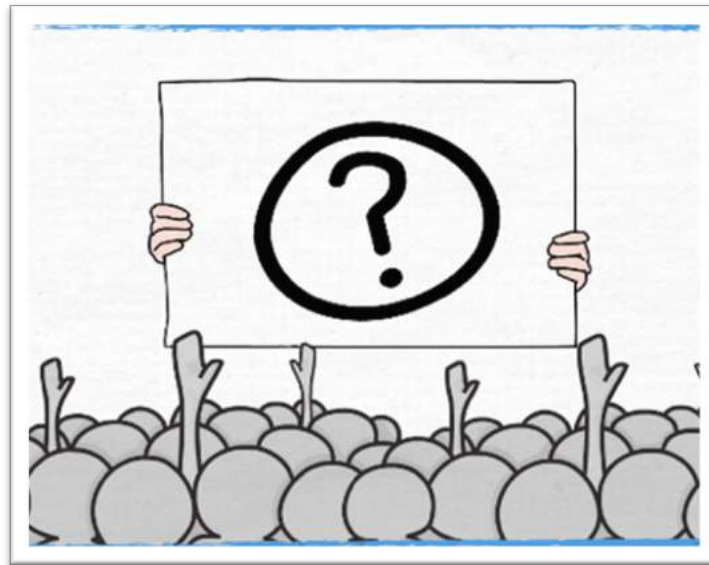| Arabic	Always	Sometimes	Never
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Adjectives agree with the head noun.	✓		
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Wrap Up: Is Agreement a Universal Feature?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Q & A

Exit Ticket