

Appendix:Arabic verbs

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Contents

Derived stems (sound verbs)

Arabic verbs are noted for an unusual system of derivation. From any particular root various verb stems may be formed. Western scholars usually refer to these derivations as “form I”, “form II”, ... up through “form XV,” though these designations are not used indigenously, where they are referred to by derivations from the root ف ع ل (f-‘-l). Accordingly, form I would be **فَعَلَ** (fa‘ala), form II would be **فَعَّلَ** (fa‘‘ala), etc. These forms refer to trilateral roots (those made of three consonants). There are also quadrilateral roots, made up of four consonants, which come in four forms, “form Iq”, “form IIq”, “form IIIq” and “form IVq”. Trilateral forms XI through XV and quadrilateral forms IIIq and IVq are rare and tend to be intransitive, often stative, verbs (having the meaning “to be or become X” where X is an adjective).

These forms and their associated participles and verbal nouns are the primary means of forming vocabulary in Arabic. All of the examples shown here are the citation forms, which in Arabic means the 3rd-person masculine singular perfect (e.g., “he did”, “he wrote”).

Form I

Perfective **فَعَلَ**, **فَعِلَ**, **فَعَلَّ** (fa‘ala, fa‘ila, fa‘ula), imperfective **يَفْعُلُ**, **يَفْعِلُ**, **يَفْعَلُّ** (yaf‘alu, yaf‘ilu, yaf‘ulu)

This is the simplest basic form of a verb; it gives the general idea of its root. Most verbs are trilateral, but there are a few quadrilateral ones.

- **كَتَبَ** (kataba, “to write”, literally “he wrote”)
قَتَلَ (qatala, “to kill”, literally “he killed”)
سَلِمَ (salima, “to be safe”, literally “he was safe”)
ضَحِكَ (ḍahika, “to laugh”, literally “he laughed”)
حَبَّ (ḥabba, “to love”, literally “he loved”)

See also: Category:Arabic form-I verbs

Form II

Perfective **فَعَّلَ** (fa‘‘ala), imperfective **يُفَعِّلُ** (yufa‘‘ilu), verbal noun **تَفْعِيلٌ** (taf‘īl), active participle **مُفَعِّلٌ** (mufa‘‘il), passive participle **مُفَعَّلٌ** (mufa‘‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) **فَعِّلْ** (fa‘‘il)

This stem is formed by doubling the second radical. The meaning this form imparts is intensive, causative, or declarative.

- **كَتَبَ** (kattaba, “to cause to write”, causative)
قَتَلَ (qattala, “to massacre”, intensive)

سَلَّمَ (sallama, “to make safe”, causative)

It is frequently used as a denominative formation to convert nouns or adjectives into verbs.

- جَنَّسَ (jannasa, “to classify”), from جِنْسٍ (jins, “kind”)

See also: Category:Arabic form-II verbs

Form III

Perfective فَاعَلَ (fā‘ala), imperfective يُفَاعِلُ (yufā‘ilu), verbal noun مُفَاعَلَةٌ (mufā‘ala), active participle مُفَاعِلٌ (mufā‘il), passive participle مُفَاعَلٌ (mufā‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) فَاعِلِ (fā‘il)

This stem is formed by lengthening the vowel after the first radical. The meaning this form imparts is often conative and always transitive. The indirect object of form I is the direct object of form III. Thus, the object of the preposition إِلَى (‘ilā, “to”) in كَتَبَ إِلَى أَحْمَدَ (kataba ‘ilā ‘aḥmada, “he wrote to Ahmad”) becomes the direct object of the verb in كَاتَبَ أَحْمَدَ (kātaba ‘aḥmada, “he corresponded with Ahmad”).

- كَاتَبَ (kātaba, “to correspond with”)
- قَاتَلَ (qātala, “to try to kill”)
- سَالَمَ (sālama, “to make peace with”)

See also: Category:Arabic form-III verbs

Form IV

Perfective أَفْعَلَ (‘af‘ala), imperfective يُفْعِلُ (yuf‘ilu), verbal noun إِفْعَالٌ (‘if‘āl), active participle مُفْعِلٌ (muf‘il), passive participle مُفْعَلٌ (muf‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) أَفْعِلْ (‘af‘il)

This stem is formed by prefixing أَلْ (‘a-) and dropping the vowel of the first radical. In the imperfect, the أ (‘a) disappears and the regular imperfect prefix takes the vowel u, and the characteristic is i: يُكْتَبُ (yuktibu). The meaning this form imparts is usually causative.

- أَكْتَبَ (‘aktaba, “to dictate; to make someone write”)
- أَخْلَفَ (‘aklafa, “to leave, to compensate”)
- أَسْلَمَ (‘aslama, “to submit”)

Sometimes it has a declarative meaning: to say that someone has a certain quality.

- أَحْمَدَ (‘aḥmada, “to consider praiseworthy”) – from حَمِدَ (ḥamida, “to praise”)

Occasionally Form IV is derived from a noun and has an intransitive meaning:

- أَذْنَبَ (‘aḏnaba, “to sin”) – from ذَنْبٌ (ḏanb, “a sin”)

See also: Category:Arabic form-IV verbs

Form V

Perfective تَفَاعَلَ (tafa‘‘ala), imperfective يَتَفَاعَلُ (yatafa‘‘alu), verbal noun تَفَاعُلٌ (tafa‘‘ul), active participle مُتَفَاعِلٌ (mutafa‘‘il), passive participle مُتَفَاعَلٌ (mutafa‘‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) تَفَاعِلْ (tafa‘‘al)

This stem is formed by prefixing تَ (ta-) to form II. The meaning this form imparts is the reflexive or passive of form II. Out of the reflexive also arises the effective. This differs from the passive in

that the latter indicates that the person is the object of, or experiences the effect of, the action of a another; whereas the effective implies that an act is done to a person, or a state produced in him, whether it is caused by another or himself. [1]

- تَفَرَّقَ (tafarraqa, “to scatter”, intransitive)
تَخَلَّفَ (taḵallafa, “to hold back from”)
تَسَلَّمَ (tasallama, “to receive the surrender”)

See also: Category:Arabic form-V verbs

Form VI

Perfective تَفَاعَلَ (tafā‘ala), imperfective يَتَفَاعَلُ (yatafā‘alu), verbal noun تَفَاعُلٌ (tafā‘ul), active participle مُتَفَاعِلٌ (mutafā‘il), passive participle مُتَفَاعَلٌ (mutafā‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) تَفَاعَلْ (tafā‘al)

This stem is formed by prefixing تَ (ta-) to form III. The imperfect has the vowel a throughout, except for the last: يَتَكَاتَبُ (yatakātabu), yatakātabu. The meaning this form imparts is reciprocal or one of pretence.

- تَقَاتَلَ (taqātala, “to fight with one another”)
تَكَاتَبَ (takātaba, “to write to each other”)
تَسَالَمَ (tasālama, “to make peace together”)
تَنَاسَى (tanā‘asa, “to pretend to sleep”)

See also: Category:Arabic form-VI verbs

Form VII

Perfective اِنْفَعَلَ (infa‘ala), imperfective يَنْفَعِلُ (yanfa‘ilu), verbal noun اِنْفِعَالٌ (infi‘āl), active participle مُنْفَعِلٌ (munfa‘il), passive participle مُنْفَعَلٌ (munfa‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) اِنْفَعِلْ (infa‘il)

This stem is formed by prefixing نَ (n-) with an prothetic vowel (ا (i)) where necessary (in-). The meaning this form imparts is reflexive or passive. Note: this form should not be made from roots whose first radical is ر (r), ل (l), ي (y), و (w), أ (‘), or ن (n), although some people do it.

- اِنْكَتَبَ (inkataba, “to subscribe”)
اِنكَسَرَ (inkasara, “to be broken”)

See also: Category:Arabic form-VII verbs

Form VIII

Perfective اِفْتَعَلَ (ifta‘ala), imperfective يَفْتَعِلُ (yafta‘ilu), verbal noun اِفْتِعَالٌ (ifti‘āl), active participle مُفْتَعِلٌ (mufta‘il), passive participle مُفْتَعَلٌ (mufta‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) اِفْتَعِلْ (ifta‘ilu)

This stem is formed by infixing تَ (-ta-) after the first radical, and with an prothetic vowel (ا (i)) where necessary. The meaning this form imparts is the reflexive or sometimes passive, of the first form.

- اِقْتَتَلَ (iqtatata, “to fight with one another”)
اِكْتَتَبَ (iktataba, “to write to each other”)

اِسْتَلَمَ (istalama, “to receive”)

When the first radical of the root is ط (ṭ) , ض (ḍ) , ص (ṣ) , ز (z) , ذ (ḏ) , د (d) , ث (ṯ) , ت (t) , or ظ (ẓ), the infixed ت (-t-) is completely assimilated, or assimilated in voicing or emphasis:

- اِدْرَكَ (iddaraka) = ت (t) + دَرَكَ (daraka) – complete assimilation
- اِزْدَحَمَ (izdahama) = ت (t) + زَحَمَ (zahama) – voicing assimilation
- اِضْطَرَبَ (iḍṭaraba) = ت (t) + ضَرَبَ (ḍaraba) – emphasis assimilation; formerly assimilation of both voicing and emphasis when ط (ṭ) was a voiced consonant

See also: Category:Arabic form-VIII verbs

Form IX

Perfective اِفْعَلَّ (if‘alla), imperfective يَفْعَلُّ (yaf‘allu), verbal noun اِفْعِلَال (if‘ilāl), active participle مُفْعَلٌّ (muf‘all), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) اِفْعَلِّ (if‘all)

This stem is formed by dropping the vowel of the first radical, adding an prothetic vowel (ا (i)) as necessary, and doubling the final radical. This form is used by only a small number of verbs denoting color or bodily defect. It is frequently connected to an adjective with the form اَفْعَل (‘af‘al); see Appendix:Arabic nominals § Color or defect adjectives.

- اِحْمَرَّ (iḥmarra, “to turn red, to blush”) – اَحْمَر (‘aḥmar, “red”)
- اِصْفَرَ (iṣfarra, “to turn yellow, to pale”) – اَصْفَر (‘aṣfar, “pale”)
- اِبْيَضَّ (ibyaḍḍa, “to turn white”) – اَبْيَض (‘abyaḍ, “white”)
- اِزْرَقَّ (izraqqa, “to turn blue”) – اَزْرَق (‘azraq, “blue”)
- اِعْوَجَّ (i‘wajja, “to be twisted”)

See also: Category:Arabic form-IX verbs

Form X

Perfective اِسْتَفْعَلَ (istaf‘ala), imperfective يَسْتَفْعِلُ (yastaf‘ilu), verbal noun اِسْتِفْعَال (istif‘āl), active participle مُسْتَفْعِل (mustaf‘il), passive participle مُسْتَفْعَل (mustaf‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) اِسْتَفْعِلْ (istaf‘il)

This stem is formed by prefixing سَتَ (-sta-), with an prothetic vowel (ا (i)) where necessary, and dropping the vowel of the first radical. The meaning this form imparts is to ask or think that the sense of form I should be done.

- اِسْتَقْتَلَ (istaqtala, “to risk one’s life”)
- اِسْتَكْتَبَ (istaktaba, “to ask someone to write”)
- اِسْتَسْلَمَ (istaslama, “to submit, to keep to the middle of the road”)

See also: Category:Arabic form-X verbs

Form Iq

Perfective فَعْلَقَ (fa‘laqa), imperfective يُفْعَلِقُ (yufa‘liq), verbal noun فَعْلَقَةٌ (fa‘laqa), active participle مُفْعَلِق (mufa‘liq), passive participle مُفْعَلَق (mufa‘laq), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) فَعْلِقْ (fa‘liq)

This is the simplest basic form of a quadriliteral verb. Most verbs are transitive, although a subset with reduplicated roots often are not. This form is similar to form II of trilateral roots.

- طَمَأَنَّ (ṭam'ana, "to pacify")
تَرَجَّمَ (tarjama, "to translate")
هَنْدَسَ (handasa, "to engineer")
فَهَّقَهُ (qahqaha, "to laugh loudly")

The formation is sometimes used to convert nouns into verbs.

- فَيَلَسُوفَ (faylasūf, "philosopher") → فَلَسَفَ (falsafa, "to philosophize")

See also: Category:Arabic form-Iq verbs

Form IIq

Perfective تَفَعَّلَ (tafa'laqa), imperfective يَتَفَعَّلُ (yatafa'laqu), verbal noun تَفَعُّلٌ (tafa'luqa), active participle مُتَفَلِّقٌ (mutafaliq), passive participle مُتَفَعَّلٌ (mutafa'laq), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) تَفَعَّلْ (tafa'laq)

This is a quadriliteral root stem, formed by prefixing ت (ta) to form Iq. The meaning this form imparts is the reflexive or passive of form Iq. This form is similar to form V of trilateral roots.

- تَبَلَّوَرٌ (tabalwara, "to be crystalized")

See also: Category:Arabic form-IIq verbs

Other forms

These forms were already rare in Classical Arabic, and are even more so in Modern Standard Arabic.

Form XI

- 'if'ālla (Form XI) اِفْعَالٌ

This stem is formed from form IX by lengthening the vowel after the second radical. This form is very rare and it is usually used only for metrical purposes in poetry as an alternative to form IX. Some scholars [2] [3] suggest the XI form may have a more volatile meaning than form IX, as well as one slightly more intensive.

Example: اِحْمَارٌ (iḥmārra, "to turn red, to blush")

See also: Category:Arabic form-XI verbs

Form XII

- 'if'aw'ala (Form XII) اِفْعَوَعَلَ

Example: اِحْدَوْدَبَ (iḥdawdaba, "to be or become humpbacked")

See also: Category:Arabic form-XII verbs

Form XIII

- 'if'awwala (Form XIII) اِفْعَوَّلَ

Example: اِغْلَوَّطَ (i'lawwaṭa, "to ride or mount a camel without a saddle")

See also: Category:Arabic form-XIII verbs

Form XIV

- 'if anlala (Form XIV) اِفْعَلَّلَ

Example: اِسْحَنْكَكَ (isḥankaka, "to be or become caliginous")

See also: Category:Arabic form-XIV verbs

Form XV

- 'if anlā (Form XV) اِفْعَلَّلَى

Example: اِسْرُنْدَى (israndā, "to vanquish")

See also: Category:Arabic form-XV verbs

Form IIIq

TODO. Rare.

See also: Category:Arabic form-IIIq verbs

Form IVq

TODO. Fairly rare.

- اِظْمَأَنَّ (iṭma'anna) (ṭ-m-'-n) – to be calm.
اِشْعَرَ (iqṣa'arra)
اِشْمَأَزَّ (išma'azza)

See also: Category:Arabic form-IVq verbs

Exceptions

Hamzated verbs

Verbs are called hamzated if ء (hamza) is one of the root consonants (radicals). The phonetical pattern of the conjugation of these verbs doesn't differ from other verbs in all forms but because of the rules of positioning of hamza, the spelling is affected in some forms, e.g. the verb أَكَلَ ('akala) ('-k-l) has the form يَأْكُلُ (ya'kulu) in the imperfect masculine singular and the verb قَرَأَ (qara'a) (q-r-'-) has the form تَقْرَأِينَ (taqra'īna) in the imperfect feminine singular.

See also: Category:Arabic hamzated verbs

Weak verbs

TO DO Weak verbs are verbs that have one of the radicals و or ي.

1. Assimilated verbs (R1 = و or ي)

Form I: وَجَدَ (wajada) - "to find", imperfective يَجِدُ (yajidu).

See also: Category:Arabic assimilated verbs

2. Hollow verbs (R2 = و or ي)

Form I: قَالَ (qāla) - "to say" قَالَتْ (qālat) "she said" but قُلْتُ, قُلْتِ, قُلْتُمْ, قُلْتُنَّ (qultu, qulta, qulti, "I said, you / said"); imperfective يَقُولُ (yaqūlu) "he said", يَقُولْنَ (yaqulna) "they (f.) said".

See also: Category:Arabic hollow verbs

3. Final-weak verbs (R3 = و or ي), e.g. مَشَى (mašā) - "to walk", رَمَى (ramā) - "to throw", حَظِيَ (ḥaẓiya) - "to be in the good graces of, to enjoy", بَقِيَ (baqiya) - "to stay, to remain", دَعَا (da'ā) - "to call sb., to summon sb.", لَقِيَ (laqiya) - "to meet sb."

See also: Category:Arabic final-weak verbs

Other examples of weak verbs:

- عَلَا ('alā) - "to rise"
- عَلَّى ('alā) - "to raise"
- وَلِيَ (waliya) - "to follow" (assimilated and final-weak)
- سَرُو (saruwa) - "to become honourable"
- غَنَّى (ḡannā) - "to sing" (form II)
- غَطَّى (ḡaṭṭā) - "to cover, to wrap" (form II)
- أَمَنَ ('āmana) - "to have faith" (form IV, assimilated)
- أَوَى ('āwā) - "to shelter" (form IV, hollow and final-weak (and initially-hamzated))
- تَغَيَّرَ (taḡayyara) - "to change" (form V)
- تَطَوَّعَ (taṭawwa'a) - "to volunteer" (form V)
- إِتَّهَمَ (ittahama) - "to accuse" (form VIII, root w-h-m)
- إِحْتَاجَ (iḥtāja) - "to need" (form VIII)
- إِزْدَوَّجَ (izdawaja) - "to be doubled" (form VIII)
- إِسْتَوْرَدَ (istawrada) - "to import" (form X)

Quadriliteral verbs

TODO Quadriliteral verbs are made from roots having four radicals, e.g. تَرَجَّمَ (tarjama) - "to translate"; هَنْدَسَ (handasa) - "to engineer"; فَهَقَهَ (qahqaha) - "to laugh loudly"; إِظْمَأَنَّ (iṭma'anna) - "to be calm"; or تَبَلَّوَرَّ (tabalwara) - "to be crystalized".

Geminate verbs

TO DO Geminate verbs are verbs that have the second and the third radicals the same, e.g. مَدَّ (madda) - "to stretch"; دَلَّ (dalla) - "to indicate"; ظَنَّ (ẓanna) - "to think"; أَحَبَّ ('aḥabba) - "to love" (form IV); انْشَقَّ (inshaqqa) - "to split" (form VII); اِحْتَلَّ (iḥtalla) - "to occupy" (form VII).

References

1. ^ (Wright, 1967)
2. ^ Haywood and Nahmad, 1962, p. 185

3. ^ (Wright, 1967)

See also

- [Appendix:Hebrew verb forms](#)

Categories:

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