

Tips to Master the Arabic Language

Tip 4: Structuring Your Future Mastery of the Arabic Language

Bismillaah wal-Hamdulillaah, Assalaamu Alaykum!

This Tip is connected to [Tip 2](#) so you may want to revisit and read that tip again. Tip 2 was related being practically prepared for maximizing your learning potential by combining the innovative [LearnArabic.Com](#) platform with the time-tested traditional method of pen and paper. It was recommended that you have a series of classified notebooks into which your learning will be preserved.

In this tip we are going to be mapping out a tactical strategy, so this lesson is all about strategic and tactical warfare and how you are going to structure your future mastery (*inshaa'Allaah*) of the Arabic language. When you set out to learn Arabic you have to declare war. This war is declared on many different fronts. It's a war against laziness. It's a war against wasting time. It's a war against ignorance and being classified as non-Arab (because you can't speak the Arabic language). You get the idea... either you declare war and take pre-emptive action... or the circumstances of your life which prevent you from being victorious in your goal will continue being the victor over you.

So let's continue... and let's map out the strategy...

We start with sounds... the tongue, the tongue makes sounds, individual letters, consonants, and they are expressed. Collections of sounds (letters) together are uttered by billions of people. However, what we are concerned with is the Arabic language. So in the Arabic language, this expression is *al-lafdh* (اللفظ), which refers to all sounds produced by the tongue. Because the possible combination of all letters is very large, a very large number of expressions will be meaningless. By way of example,

the combination of *daal-yaa-laam-zaay* (ديلز), so these types of expressions are known as *muhmal* (محمل), meaningless, because this combination of letters does not have a meaning in the Arabic language. Then we have that which is *mawdoo'* (موضوع), expressions which have a designated meaning, so for example the combination *kaaf-alif-taa-baa* (كاتب) means "a writer." So this is meaningful expression, it indicates a meaning that is known and understood. So obviously, we are only concerned with this type of expression.

Now this type of meaningful expression can either consist of a single word (مفرد) or it can consist of more than one word. So either we have a word on its own, *mufrad*, (مفرد), which means "isolated, solitary" or we have a series of words which are said to be *murakkab*, (مركب), which means "composite, composed."

It is from here now that your study of the Arabic language branches off into two separate areas. So either you will be studying words in their **isolated, solitary forms** or when they are **composed**.

Let us now focus on the solitary forms. All words in the Arabic language can only fall into one of three categories. Either it is a **noun** (اسم), or it is a **verb** (فعل), or it is neither of these two and therefore a **particle** (حرف). And nouns and verbs are the key primary areas of study. So when we study words in their solitary forms we are really studying "*structure*" and "*form*," in other words the form and shape of words, how they are formed and what meanings they produce. So here we get two areas of study, the **morphology of nouns** and the **morphology of verbs**.

And at this point, the battlefield should start to take shape, as in the terrain in which you will be fighting your war. So the morphology of nouns is all about noun patterns, forms and meanings. And as for verb morphology, then this has two areas, **a) verb forms** and **b) verb conjugations**. So either you will be studying verb forms and the meanings they represent or how to conjugate verbs (for gender, tense and number). Each of these areas has to be studied in-depth.

The individual comes before the collective, and the study of the isolated (مفرد) comes before the study of the composed (مركب). So having a solid foundation in this area first will make your war easier to wage, and this field of knowledge is known as al-Sarf (الصرف).

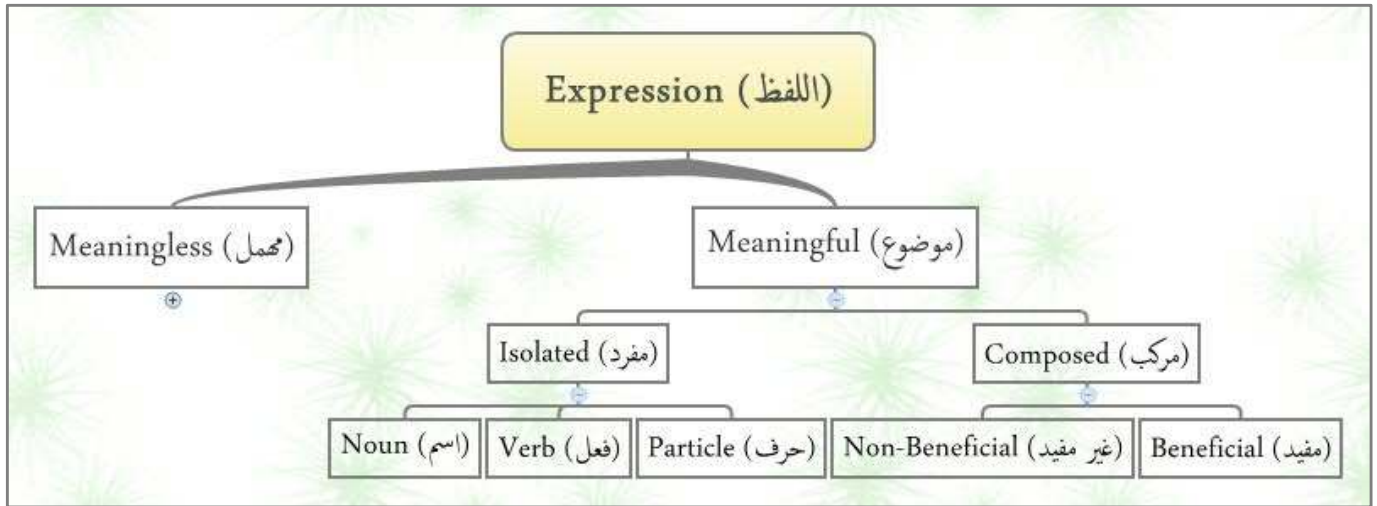
Then we move over to the composed expressions, where we have more than one word expressed together. This is divided into two categories. That which is beneficial (مفيد) and that which is not beneficial (غير مفيد). So the non-beneficial are phrases such as, "a tall man (رجل طويل)" it does not provide a full complete meaning, and likewise, when we say "the state minister (وزير الدولة)" it does not provide a full beneficial meaning to the listener. However, when we say for example "a tall man entered the house (دخل البيت رجل طويل)" or "the state minister travelled to Madinah (سافر وزير الدولة إلى المدينة)", then we have provided a full complete meaning and we have a complete, meaningful sentence.

The study of sentences and relationships of words to each other within sentences and how their forms and structures change depending on factors and a study of those factors, then this is known as al-I'raab (الإعراب).

So let's map out the terrain then, this is what we have, we are entering the land of expression (اللفظ), and this is your battlefield:

- (محمل) - the meaningless expression. You can ignore these, they are no threat to you. Treat this like the grass, flowers and the likes. You don't need to be concerned with them.
- (موضوع) the meaningful expression. and this is divided into two:
 - (مفرد) - the solitary word. Here you have two battles, the battle against nouns and the battle against verbs. Your key skill to get you through this battle will be one of *structural engineering*. The battle against the particle (حرف) is easy as there is not much to it. The battle against the noun (اسم) requires more effort and that against the verb (فعل) is more challenging.
 - (مركب) - the composed word. Here you are concerned with the meaningful sentence in particular. This is a battle of dynamics, knowing the states and conditions of the players on the field (nouns and verbs) arranged in rows, and what factors (عوامل) affect the individual players and in what ways.

Let's visualize the terrain in the form of a map:



From the above, you now have a visual overview of the warzone - this is the **battle terrain**. Now the next question is what is the best way to wage the war. So far, we've just mapped the terrain, where the battle is and where you need to take it to. But what about the most efficient way to fight it? **Well, I'm going to have to let you into a secret. And the secret is that you have to already know Arabic to fight this war in the best and most efficient way.**

O dear! I know what you are thinking... "*Where do I begin then?! And what comes first, the chicken or the egg?!*" Well let me explain. Real Arabic mastery is only gained by studying Arabic through Arabic itself. This is because there are certain texts you have to study and master to truly grasp the Arabic language and to start seeing the miraculous nature of the Qur'an and the beauty of the language itself. And unfortunately, these core texts are in Arabic! **So what you have to do is to get yourself to a sufficient level of basic Arabic to start studying Arabic seriously through Arabic itself (rather than through your native tongue).** If you want to be a cut above the 98% who are taking just the average, haphazard way of learning Arabic then this is the

approach you have to take. And this is the methodology here at [LearnArabic.Com](http://www.learnarabic.com). Our Beginners Elementary Course is aimed at provide the core solid fundamentals of enough basic Arabic (grammar) that will allow you to read and understand to a level where you can then progress to where the serious learning takes place, studying Arabic through Arabic and in particular through certain very specific core texts which cover the fields that we have highlighted in this article.

The objective behind this course is take you from zero knowledge (starting with the alphabet) and to gradually and solidly build the right foundations, making sure you have enough experience along the way through the use of tools, apps, exercises and the likes. It will take you to a sufficient level of Arabic grammar whereby you are ready to move to a higher level to study Arabic from certain core texts. It is really then that you are ready to fight the battle.

Visit <http://www.learnarabic.com> and start your journey to Arabic language mastery using a unique, innovative platform that makes learning easy and fun and is set in the scene of an exciting adventure!