

Noun in Arabic encompasses 5 parts of speech of English language.



# Introduction of Nouns in Arabic

- A word having a meaning is called **كَلِمَةٌ (kalima)**. It is of three types: **إِسْمٌ (ism-noun)**, **فِعْلٌ (fayl-verb)** and **حَرْفٌ (harf-particle)**.
- If a **meaning** is found in any **كَلِمَةٌ (kalima)** and in that **كَلِمَةٌ (kalima)** there is **no mention of time (past, present and future)** then **كَلِمَةٌ (kalima)** is **إِسْمٌ (ism-noun)**.
- In other words an **إِسْمٌ (ism)** is **independent of other words in indicating its meaning. It also does not have any tense**, e.g. **وَلَدٌ (wlad)** – boy, **مُحَمَّدٌ (muhammad)** – specific name, **ضَرَبَ (zaraba)** – to hit, **جَيِّدٌ (jayyid)** – good, **هُوَ (huwa)** – he, **أَنَا (ana)** – I.

# Types of nouns in Arabic



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graph TD; A[Types of nouns in Arabic] --> B[نَكْرَة  
indefinite]; A --> C[مَعْرِفَة  
definite]
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نَكْرَة

indefinite

مَعْرِفَة

definite

## Indefinite Nouns – اِسْمٌ نَكْرَةٌ (ism nakira)

An indefinite noun is a word which refers to a general thing or the name of an unspecific person, place or thing. The word (رَجُلٌ) – a man, does not refer to any specific person. It can refer to any person. The word (طَيِّبٌ) does not refer to any particular good thing. Every good thing can be called (طَيِّبٌ). Other examples – قَرْيَةٌ -village , حَقِيْبَةٌ – A bag

## Definite Nouns – اِسْمٌ مَعْرِفَةٌ (ism ma'arifa)

A definite noun refers to a specific thing. Muhammed (مُحَمَّدٌ) is the name of a particular person. Makkah (مَكَّةٌ) is the name of a specific city. (الرَّجُلُ) – the man - refers to a specific person. Apart from that all pronouns are definite eg: هُوَ -he  
أَنْتَ -you

There are several types of indefinite nouns (إِسْمُ نَكْرَةٍ), two of the main categories are:

إِسْمُ الدَّائِبِ

إِسْمُ الصِّفَةِ

## إِسْمُ الذَّاتِ (ismus zaat)

a word that denotes the being of something, living or non-living,

e.g.

(إِنْسَانٌ) – man,

(فَرَسٌ) – horse,

(حَجَرٌ) – stone.

## إِسْمُ الصِّفَةِ (ismus ssifat)

a word that indicates the quality of something,

e.g.

(جَمِيلٌ) – beautiful,

(قَبِيحٌ) – ugly