Three-letter roots: the key to Quranic words

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Root	Word	Meaning
ع ل م	عِلْم	knowledge
ع ل م	عالِم	scholar
ع ل م	عَلِيم	all-knowing
ع ل م	عَلَّمَ	to teach
ر ح م	رَحْمَة	mercy
ر ح م	رَحِيم	especially merciful

وَءَاتَيْنَٰهُمَا ٱلْكِتَٰبَ ٱلْمُسْتَبِينَ

Quran 37 : 117

Root ك ت ب: the word means “the book”.

وَإِذَا جَآءَكَ ٱلَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِـَٔايَٰتِنَا فَقُلْ سَلَٰمٌ عَلَيْكُمْ كَتَبَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ ٱلرَّحْمَةَ أَنَّهُۥ مَنْ عَمِلَ مِنكُمْ سُوٓءًۢا بِجَهَٰلَةٍ ثُمَّ تَابَ مِنۢ بَعْدِهِۦ وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَنَّهُۥ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

Quran 6 : 54

Past verb from the root ك ت ب, followed by its subject.

يَأْتُوكَ بِكُلِّ سَحَّارٍ عَلِيمٍ

Quran 26 : 37

Root ع ل م, pattern فَعِيل: having much knowledge.

نُزُلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ

Quran 41 : 32

Root ر ح م, same pattern فَعِيل.

All lessons

Next lesson

See also

The Arabic alphabet: all 28 letters