Arabic B1, lesson 11: the cases and iʿrāb

مَرْفوع
nominative

مَنْصوب
accusative

مَجْرور
genitive

فاعِل
subject of the verb

مَفْعول بِهِ
direct object

حَرْف جَرّ
preposition

مُبْتَدَأ
subject of a nominal sentence

خَبَر
predicate

هُدوء
calm

جَوّ
weather, atmosphere

قَرَأَ الوَلَدُ الكِتَابَ فِي الحَدِيقَةِ.

ثُمَّ سَأَلَ المُعَلِّمَ عَنْ مَعْنَى كَلِمَةٍ.

أَجَابَ المُعَلِّمُ بِهُدُوءٍ وَكَتَبَ الجَوَابَ عَلَى السَّبُّورَةِ.

كَانَ الجَوُّ جَمِيلًا وَالأَوْلَادُ سُعَدَاءَ.

▶ **Show the translation**

In Arabic the **function** of a noun in the sentence is read on its **final vowel** (iʿrāb). There are three cases:

- **nominative** (مَرْفوع): ـُ or ـٌ: the subject of the verb (فاعِل), the subject and predicate of a nominal sentence.
- **accusative** (مَنْصوب): ـَ or ـً: the direct object (مَفْعول بِهِ), the predicate of كانَ , the adverbial of manner.

- **genitive** (مَجْرور): ـِ or ـٍ: after a preposition, and the second term of an idafa.

The tanwin form (ـٌ ـً ـٍ) is the indefinite noun; with the article a simple vowel is used.

Diptotes (مَمْنوع مِنَ الصَّرْف) take neither tanwin nor kasra: in the genitive they take fatha (في مَدارِسَ). They include many broken plurals (سُعَداء, مَدارِس) and most foreign proper names.

In speech the final vowel can often be dropped; for reading a vowelled text it is essential.

The three cases

Function	Case	Definite	Indefinite
subject of the verb	مَرْفوع	الوَلَدُ	وَلَدٌ
direct object	مَنْصوب	الكِتابَ	كِتابًا
after a preposition	مَجْرور	الحَديقَةِ	حَديقَةٍ
2nd term of idafa	مَجْرور	كِتابُ الوَلَدِ	كِتابُ وَلَدٍ

Match each function with its case.

subject of the verb	مَنْصوب
direct object	مَرْفوع

after a preposition	مَجْرور
كانَ predicate of	مَجْرور
2nd term of idafa	مَنْصوب

Check Start again

Write a sentence with a subject, a direct object and a prepositional phrase, and vowel every ending.

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