The Declension of Nouns
(For A250/650 Students)
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I

Most nouns are fully declinable, i.e. all three case endings appear on the end of the word depending on, for example, whether a noun is the subject (فاعل أو مبتدأ) of the sentence, the direct object of the verb, or the object of a preposition (i.e. following a preposition).

1) When the noun is the subject of the sentence (whether فاعل أو مبتدأ), it is مرفوع, i.e. it takes ضمة if indefinite, one ضمة if definite. For example:

A man went to the market.
ذَهَبَ رَجُلٌ الي السُوق

The man went to the market.
ذَهَبَ الرَجُلُ الي السُوق

2) When the noun is the direct object, it is موصوب, i.e. it takes فتحة if indefinite, one فتحة if definite. For example:

I saw a man.
رأيتُ الرَجلَ

I saw the man.
رَأيتُ الرَجلَ

3) When the noun is the object of a preposition, it is مجرور, i.e. it takes كسرة if indefinite, one كسرة if definite. For example:

I greeted a man.
سَلَمْتُ على الرجل

I greeted the man.
سلمت على الرجل

II

The Dual المثنى
1) When the noun is the **subject** of the sentence (whether **فاعل او مبتدأ**), it is **مرفوع**, i.e. it ends in **-ان** whether **indefinite or definite**. For example:

Two men went to the market.

The two men went to the market.

The two men went to the market.

2) When the noun is the **direct object** **OR the object of a preposition**, it is respectively **مصبوب** and **مجرور** ending in **-ئين**. For example:

I saw two men.

I saw the two men.

I greeted two men.

I greeted the two men.

III

The Sound Masculine Plural **الجمع المذكر السالم**

1) When the noun is the **subject** of the sentence (whether **فاعل او مبتدأ**), it is **مرفوع**, i.e. it ends in **-ون** whether **indefinite or definite**. For example:

Employees went to work.
The employees went to work.
ذَهَبَ الموظفونَ إلى العمل

2) When the noun is the direct object OR the object of a preposition, it is respectively منصوب and مجرور ending in -يْنَ. For example:

I saw some employees.
رَأَيْتُ موظفِيْنَ
I saw the employees.
رأيت موظفين
I greeted some employees.
سَلَمْتُ عَلَى موظفيْنَ
I greeted the employees.
سلمت على الموظفين

IV

The Sound Feminine Plural

1) When the noun is the subject of the sentence (whether فاعل أو مبتدأ), it is مرفع, i.e. it ends in -ات if indefinite and -اتُ if definite. For example:

Some students went to school.
ذَهَبَ طالباتٌ إلى المدرسة
The students went to school.
ذَهَبَتْ الطالباتُ إلى المدرسة
2) When the noun is the **direct object OR the object of a preposition**, it is respectively **مَصَوب** and **مَجُرُور** ending in -اتٍ if **indefinite** and -اتِ if **definite**. For example:

I saw some employees. 

I saw the employees. 

I greeted some employees. 

I greeted the employees.