

المَصَادِرِ

Verbal Nouns · Masdar

The nouns hiding inside every verb

مَصْدَر

What is a Masdar?

A *verbal noun* is called the Masdar. It represents the *concept* or the *action itself*, without a tense and without specifying a doer. Every verb form has its own masdar pattern, so once you know the verb form, you know its noun.

ALL PATTERNS AT A GLANCE

FORM	VERB	MASDAR	EXAMPLE
II	فَعَّلَ	تَفْعِيلٌ	تَكْسِيرٌ smashing
III	فَاعَلَ	مُفَاعَلَةٌ / فِعَالٌ	مُكَاتَبَةٌ correspondence
IV	أَفْعَلَ	إِفْعَالٌ	إِخْرَاجٌ bringing out, production
V	تَفَعَّلَ	تَفَعُّلٌ	تَعَلُّمٌ learning
VI	تَفَاعَلَ	تَفَاعُلٌ	تَعَاوُنٌ cooperation
VII	اِنْفَعَلَ	اِنْفِعَالٌ	اِنْقِطَاعٌ interruption, outage
VIII	اِفْتَعَلَ	اِفْتِعَالٌ	اِجْتِمَاعٌ meeting
X	اِسْتَفْعَلَ	اِسْتِفْعَالٌ	اِسْتِخْدَامٌ use, usage

Remember this rule: once a verb is turned into a masdar, it drops all elements of time and person. It becomes a **noun** and follows the rules of nouns: it can take ال, case endings, and be the subject of a sentence.

تَفْعِيل

ta'feel

Masdar of Form II

verbal noun of فَعَّلَ · fa''ala

The noun of causing, intensifying or attributing an action. It names the action itself, with no tense and no doer.

VERB · FORM II

كَسَّرَ

kassara
he smashed

→

MASDAR

تَكْسِير

takseer
smashing

The change: كَسَّرَ at the start + ي before the last letter

EXAMPLES: VERB TO MASDAR

تَعْلِيم

from عَلَّمَ
ta'leem
education

تَنْظِيم

from نَظَّمَ
tanzeem
organisation

تَرْتِيب

from رَتَّبَ
tarteeb
arrangement, tidying

CHUNKS IN CONTEXT

التَّعْلِيمُ نُورٌ

at-ta'leemu noor
Education is light

التَّنْظِيمُ مُهِمٌّ

at-tanzeemu muhimm
Organisation is important

أُحِبُّ التَّرْتِيبَ

uhibbu t-tarteeb
I love tidiness

Spot it: the doubled letter of فَعَّلَ disappears. The shadda is replaced by a sukoon and a long ي ← تَكْسِير ← كَسَّرَ ← عَلَّمَ.

مُفَاعَلَةٌ / فِعَال

mufaa'ala (common) / fi'aal (sometimes)

Masdar of Form III

verbal noun of فَاعَلَ · faa'ala

Doing something to or with someone: reciprocal action, or trying to do something. Two patterns: مُفَاعَلَةٌ (common) and فِعَال (sometimes).

VERB · FORM III

كَاتَبَ

kaataba
he corresponded

→

MASDAR

مُكَاتَبَةٌ

mukaataba
correspondence

The change: مُ at the start + ة at the end

PATTERN 1: مُفَاعَلَةٌ (COMMON)

مُجَالَسَةٌ

from جَالَسَ
mujaalasa
sitting with someone

مُسَاعَدَةٌ

from سَاعَدَ
musaa'ada
help, assistance

مُمَارَسَةٌ

from مَارَسَ
mumaarasa
practice

PATTERN 2: فِعَال (SOMETIMES)

قِتَالٌ

from قَاتَلَ
qitaal
fighting

جِدَالٌ

from جَادَلَ
jidaal
arguing, debating

حِوَارٌ

from حَاوَرَ
hiwaar
dialogue, conversation

CHUNKS IN CONTEXT

أُحِبُّ مُجَالَسَةَ الْعُلَمَاءِ

uhibbu mujaalasata l-'ulamaa'
I love sitting with scholars

شُكْرًا عَلَى الْمُسَاعَدَةِ

shukran 'ala l-musaa'ada
Thank you for the help

الْجِدَالُ لَيْسَ حِوَارًا

al-jidaalu laysa hiwaaran
Arguing is not dialogue

Two patterns, one verb form: some Form III verbs take both: جَادَلَ ← مُجَادَلَةٌ / جِدَال. You learn which is more common with each verb.

إِفْعَال

if'aal

Masdar of Form IV

verbal noun of أَفْعَلَ · af'ala

The noun of causing: making someone or something do the action.

VERB · FORM IV

أَخْرَجَ

akhraja

he brought out

→

MASDAR

إِخْرَاج

ikhraaj

bringing out, production

The change: اُ becomes اِ + long ا before the last letter

EXAMPLES: VERB TO MASDAR

إِسْلَام

from أَسْلَمَ

islaam

Islam, submission

إِنْتِاج

from أَنْتَجَ

intaaj

production

إِكْمَال

from أَكْمَلَ

ikmaal

completion

CHUNKS IN CONTEXT

al-islaamu deenu s-salaam

Islam is the religion of peace

الإِسْلَامُ دِينُ السَّلَامِ

haadha intaajun mahalliyy

This is local production

هَذَا إِنْتِاجٌ مَحَلِّيٌّ

ureedu ikmaala l-'amal

I want to complete the work

أُرِيدُ إِكْمَالَ الْعَمَلِ

Spot it: the hamza moves under the alif. اُ in the verb, اِ in the masdar. That kasra is your signal you're looking at a noun, not a verb.

تَفَعَّلَ

tafa"ul

Masdar of Form V

verbal noun of تَفَعَّلَ · tafa"ala

The noun of a gradual or deliberate action done to oneself, or of pretending and acting as if.

VERB FORM V

تَعَلَّمَ
ta'allama
he learned

→

MASDAR

تَعْلَمُ
ta'allum
learning

The change: keep the تَ, and the doubled letter's fatha becomes a ضَمَّة

EXAMPLES: VERB TO MASDAR

تَقَدَّمَ

from تَقَدَّمَ
taqaddum
progress, advancement

تَكَلَّمَ

from تَكَلَّمَ
takallum
speaking

تَذَكَّرَ

from تَذَكَّرَ
tadhakkur
remembering

CHUNKS IN CONTEXT

التَّحَدُّمُ يَحْتَاجُ وَقْتًا

at-taqaddumu yahtaaju waqtan
Progress takes time

أُحِبُّ التَّكَلُّمَ بِالْعَرَبِيَّةِ

uhibbu t-takalluma bil-'arabiyya
I love speaking in Arabic

التَّذَكُّرُ مُفِيدٌ

at-tadhakkuru mufeed
Remembering is beneficial

Only one vowel changes: تَعَلَّمَ ← تَعْلَمُ. Same letters, same shadda. Just fatha → damma on the doubled letter (and the final fatha drops).

تَفَاعُلٌ

tafaa'ul

Masdar of Form VI

verbal noun of تَفَاعَلَ · tafa'ala

The noun of reciprocal action: doing something with one another, mutually.

VERB · FORM VI

تَعَاوَنَ

ta'aawana
they cooperated

→

MASDAR

تَعَاوُنٌ

ta'aawun
cooperation

The change: the fatha before the last letter becomes a ضَمَّةٌ

EXAMPLES: VERB TO MASDAR

تَعَاوَنَ

from تَعَاوَنَ
ta'aawun
cooperation

تَبَادُلَ

from تَبَادَلْ
tabaadul
exchange

تَفَاهُماً

from تَفَاهَمَ
tafaahum
mutual understanding

CHUNKS IN CONTEXT

at-ta'aawunu muhimmun fi l-'amal
Cooperation is important at work

التَّعَاوُنُ مُهِمٌّ فِي الْعَمَلِ

tabaadulu l-afkaari mufeed
Exchanging ideas is useful

تَبَادُلُ الْأَفْكَارِ مُفِيدٌ

at-tafaahumu asaasu s-sadaaqa
Understanding is the foundation of friendship

التَّفَاهُْمُ أَسَاسُ الصَّدَاقَةِ

Twin of Form V: both keep the تَ and switch one fatha to a damma, so تَفَعَّلَ and تَفَاعَلَ are the only two masdars on this list with no added letters.

إِنْفَعَال

infi'aal

Masdar of Form VII

verbal noun of **إِنْفَعَلَ** · infa'ala

The noun of an action that happens to the subject, passive or reflexive in feel.

VERB · FORM VII

إِنْقَطَعَ

inqata'a

it was cut off

→

MASDAR

إِنْقِطَاع

inqitaa'

interruption, outage

The change: the fatha after **ق** becomes a kasra + long **ا** before the last letter

EXAMPLES: VERB TO MASDAR

إِنْقِطَاع

from **إِنْقَطَعَ**

inqitaa'

interruption, outage

إِنْفِجَار

from **إِنْفَجَرَ**

infijaar

explosion

إِنْسِحَاب

from **إِنْسَحَبَ**

insihaab

withdrawal

CHUNKS IN CONTEXT

إِنْقِطَاعُ الْكَهْرَبَاءِ مُزْعِجٌ

inqitaa'u l-kahrabaa'i muz'ij

The power outage is annoying

سَمِعْتُ صَوْتَ الْإِنْفِجَارِ

sami'tu sawta l-infijaar

I heard the sound of the explosion

الْإِنْسِحَابُ قَرَارٌ صَعْبٌ

al-insihaabu qaraarun sa'b

Withdrawal is a difficult decision

The **ا** rule: Forms VII, VIII and X all build their masdar the same way: kasra on the letter after the prefix, long **ا** before the last root letter.

إِفْتِعَال

ifti'aal

Masdar of Form VIII

verbal noun of اِفْتَعَلَ · ifta'ala

The noun of a reflexive action: doing something for oneself.

VERB · FORM VIII

اجْتَمَعَ
ijtama'a
he met, gathered

→

MASDAR

اجْتِمَاع
ijtimaa'
meeting

The change: the ت takes a kasra + long ى before the last letter

EXAMPLES: VERB TO MASDAR

احْتَرَام
from اِحْتَرَمَ
ihtiraam
respect

إِنْتِظَار
from اِنْتَظَرَ
intizaar
waiting

إِسْتِمَاع
from اِسْتَمَعَ
istimaa'
listening

CHUNKS IN CONTEXT

عِنْدِي اجْتِمَاعٌ مُهِمٌّ

'indee ijtimaa'un muhimm
I have an important meeting

الِاحْتِرَامُ أَساسُ الْعَلَاقَاتِ

al-ihтираamu asaasu l-'alaaqaat
Respect is the foundation of relationships

طَالَ الْإِنْتِظَارُ فِي الْمَحْطَةِ

taala l-intizaaru fi l-mahatta
The wait at the station was long

Watch out: اِسْتِمَاع starts with اِسْتِ but it's Form VIII. The root is ع م ع, so the ع is a root letter and the ت is slipped in after it.

اِسْتَفْعَال

istif'aal

Masdar of Form X

verbal noun of اِسْتَفْعَلَ · istaf'ala

The noun of seeking: to seek, request, or consider something.

VERB · FORM X

اِسْتَخْدَمَ

istakhdama
he used

→

MASDAR

اِسْتِخْدَام

istikhdaam
use, usage

The change: the ت takes a kasra + long ا before the last letter

EXAMPLES: VERB TO MASDAR

اِسْتِخْدَام

from اِسْتَخْدَمَ

istikhdaam
use, usage

اِسْتِقْبَال

from اِسْتَقْبَلَ

istiqbaal
reception, welcome

اِسْتِغْفَار

from اِسْتَغْفَرَ

istighfaar
seeking forgiveness

CHUNKS IN CONTEXT

ureedu stikhdaama l-haasoob
I want to use the computer

أُرِيدُ اِسْتِخْدَامَ الْحَاسُوبِ

kaana l-istiqbaalu lateefan
The welcome was kind

كَانَ الْاِسْتِقْبَالُ لَطِيفًا

al-istighfaaru yureehu l-qalb
Seeking forgiveness brings rest to the heart

الْاِسْتِغْفَارُ يُرِيحُ الْقَلْبَ

Spot it: اِسْتَد + three root letters + long ا. Check the root first: اِسْتِغْفَرَ is غ ف ر (Form X), but اِسْتَمَعَ is س م ع (Form VIII).