

Verb Tenses - Past, Present, and Future رحلتي إلى هاواي

Verbs are action words that describe a state of being - running, being, living, dying, anything and everything in-between.

Most languages have irregular verbs, such as the verb 'to be' in English. We say 'I am' and 'She is' and 'They are' without even thinking about the fact that words like 'am' 'is' 'are' and even 'to be' are totally different words that in no way resemble one another.

Arabic won't do you like that! Every verb has a core 'word' or 'root' and 'pattern' that stays exactly the same, no matter who you're talking about. Once you memorize the basic verb conjugations, you know all of the verb conjugations for every verb in Arabic. Every. Single. Verb.

Here are all the verb tenses used in Arabic:

المضارع - present tense

This chart below shows the verb conjugations for present tense in Arabic. The blank is to fill in any verb on earth in Arabic. The second one is seeing the verb conjugation in action.

If you know this chart, you can conjugate every verb in Arabic! There are no irregular verbs.

	Plural		Single	
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أَنَا	1st Person (me/I/us/we)	أَحِبُّ	نَحْنُ	نَحِبُّ
أَنْتَ	2nd Person (m.) (you)	تَحِبُّ	أَنْتُمْ	تَحِبُّونَ تَحِبُّوا تَحِبُّونَ تَحِبُّوا
أَنْتِ	2nd Person (f.) (you)	تَحِبُّينَ تَحِبُّينَ تَحِبُّينَ تَحِبُّينَ		
هُوَ	3rd Person (m.) (he/him/they)	يَحِبُّ	هُمْ	يَحِبُّونَ يَحِبُّوا يَحِبُّونَ يَحِبُّوا
هِيَ	3rd Person (f.) (she/her)	تَحِبُّ		

You may have noticed that for أَنْتَ أَنْتُمْ and هُمْ there are two choices - either وَن or وَا for the ending for هُمْ and أَنْتُمْ and أَنْتِ or يَ for the ending for أَنْتِ.

When do you use which one?

Use the endings with the ن when the verb is at the start of the sentence, or only the noun comes before it:

هل أنت تحبين فلافل؟

هل أنت وسامر ومحمد تحبون فلافل؟
هل سامر ومحمد وجسيكا يحبون فلافل؟

But when there is an أن or other particles or verbs in front, it takes the other ending. See the difference between the verbs حب and أكل below:

هل أنت تحبين أن تأكلي فلافل؟
هل أنت وسامر ومحمد تحبون أن تأكلوا فلافل؟
هل سامر ومحمد وجسيكا يحبون أن يأكلوا فلافل؟

الماضي - past tense

The past haunts everyone. Except the past in Arabic! Conjugating past tense verbs is very easy **BECAUSE THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Isn't Arabic beautiful? Ain't life grand?

Here is a simple chart. Note that all past tense conjugations only attach to the **end** of the word (never at the beginning):

	Plural		Single	
نا _____ (na) ذهبنَا we went	نَحْنُ	تُ _____ (tu) ذهبتُ I went	أنا	1st Person (me/I/us/we)

تُمْ _____ (toom) ذهبتُمْ ya'll went	أَنْتُمْ	تَ _____ (ta) ذهبتَ you went	أَنْتَ	2nd Person (m.) (you)
		تِ _____ (ti) ذهبتِ you went	أَنْتِ	2nd Person (f.) (you)
وَ _____ (oo) ذهبوا they went	هُمْ	ا _____ (a) ذهبَ he went	هُوَ	3rd Person (m.) (he/him/they)
		تِ _____ (at) ذهبتِ she went	هِيَ	3rd Person (f.) (she/her)

المستقبل - future tense

The future is of concern to everyone. Except Arabic students because it's so easy!

Technically there isn't a future tense in Arabic - all you have to do is add a single word or letter to any present tense verb you want to put in the future. It just depends on how formal you want to be and what dialect you're using.

In فصحي, simply add a س to the verb you want to put in the future.

I will eat	سأكل
You will eat	ستأكلين
They will eat	سيأكلون

If you want to be extra fancy, use the word سَوْفَ instead of just a س (the س is short for سَوْفَ)

I will eat	سوف أكل
You will eat	سوف تأكلين
They will eat	سوف يأكلون