

4. Adjective and its Noun صِفَةٌ وَ مَوْصُوفٌ

Look at the following phrases and their translations:

a true Muslim	مُسْلِمٌ صَادِقٌ	a pious person	رَجُلٌ صَالِحٌ
a small book	كِتَابٌ صَغِيرٌ	a trustworthy uncle	خَالَ أَمِينٌ
a big mosque	مَسْجِدٌ كَبِيرٌ	a beautiful house	بَيْتٌ جَمِيلٌ

These phrases are said to be composed of صِفَةٌ (adjective) and مَوْصُوفٌ (the noun of the adjective). To translate these into Arabic, just reverse the order of the words (Muslim مُسْلِمٌ and then true صَادِقٌ) and put tanveen () on each of them. The tanveen could be َ or ِ or ُ depending upon the context in which this phrase is used.

The rules are similar to those of مُبْتَدَأٌ - خَبْرٌ (subject and predicate) except that in case of صِفَةٌ وَ مَوْصُوفٌ :

1: The order of the words is reversed; and

2: If the first word is attached with اَلْ, then the second will also have اَلْ attached to it.

For e.g., using the same phrases given above, we will have:

the true Muslim	اَلْمُسْلِمُ الصَّادِقُ	the pious person	اَلرَّجُلُ الصَّالِحُ
the small book	اَلْكِتَابُ الصَّغِيرُ	the trustworthy uncle	اَلْخَالَ اَلْأَمِينُ
the big mosque	اَلْمَسْجِدُ الكَبِيرُ	the beautiful house	اَلْبَيْتُ الْجَمِيلُ

And remember, as in case of مُبْتَدَأٌ - خَبْرٌ (subject and predicate), if the first word is feminine, the second should also be feminine. Further, if the first word is dual or plural, the second should also be dual or plural in number, i.e, the two words should agree in **gender and number** with respect to each other. For example:

the true Muslim man	اَلْمُسْلِمُ الصَّادِقُ	the true Muslim woman	اَلْمُسْلِمَةُ الصَّادِقَةُ
the true Muslim men	اَلْمُسْلِمُونَ الصَّادِقُونَ	the true Muslim women	اَلْمُسْلِمَاتُ الصَّادِقَاتُ

===== Exercises for Lesson No. 4 =====

Try to translate the following sentences and phrases. Notice the difference in Arabic construction for a simple sentence (مُبْتَدَأٌ وَخَبَرٌ) and for adjective and its noun (صِفَةٌ وَ مَوْصُوفٌ).

The house is big.

the big house

The slave is
pious.

the pious slave

The Muslim is
truthful.

the truthful
Muslim

The path is
straight.

the straight path

The uncle is
pious.

the pious uncle

The aunt is pious.

the pious aunt