

The Unique Characteristic of the Second Radical - عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ - of the Three Letter Arabic Verb

Arabic verbs are generally composed of three letters. The scholars of the Arabic grammar call these letters as “**THREE RADICALS**”. Verbs composed of three radicals are called **فِعْلٌ ثَلَاثِيٌّ**.

The verb **فَعَلَ** (he did) has been adopted by the scholars of Arabic grammar as the **NORM** (Pattern, Model, Archetype, Standard or **وَزْنٌ**) for the **الفِعْلُ الثَّلَاثِيُّ** . The letter “**ف**” represents the first radical, “**ع**” the second radical and “**ل**” the third radical.

كَتَبَ (he wrote); here **ك** is the first radical or **فَاءُ الْكَلِمَةِ** ,
ت is the second radical or **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** and
ب is the third radical or **لَامُ الْكَلِمَةِ** .

Now the important fact is that in all the three letter verbs in their root form, which is the **past tense** (**الفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي**) ,

The **first** radical - **فَاءُ الْكَلِمَةِ** , is **always Fatah** .

The **second** radical - **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** , may have **any** of the three vowel signs: **Fatah, Kasrah or Dummah**.

The **third** radical - **لَامُ الْكَلِمَةِ** , is again **always Fatah**.

ذَهَبَ , for instance, has **Fatah** on the second radical, **سَمِعَ** has a **Kasrah** and **كَرَبَ** has a **Dummah**.

On the first and third radicals (**فَاءُ الْكَلِمَةِ و لَامُ الْكَلِمَةِ**) the above verbs have **Fatah**.

Now the same characteristic of the second radical - **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** - of the past tense - **الفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي** - will be observed when the three letter verb is put in the present tense - **الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ** . That is to say that in the **الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ** - **present tense** - the second radical - **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** – may have a **Fatah, Kasrah or Dummah**. In other words, one can say that in the three letter verbs “ **all the action takes place on the second radical عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** ”. This is very nicely and beautifully explained in the following verses.

What is This Riddle in the Form of a Poem?

Can you figure out the subject matter of it?

فَتَحُ ضَمُّ

فَتَحُ كَسْرٍ

فَتَحَتَانِ

ضَمُّ ضَمُّ

كَسْرُ فَتَحٍ

كَسْرَتَانِ

Clue: It deals with the Second Radical – عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ

Are you able to figure out what the poem really means? Try to memorize it.

The Unique Characteristic of the Second Radical - عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ - of the Three Letter Arabic Verb

Fatah will change into Dummah	فَتْحٌ ضَمٌّ	A changes into U
Fatah will change into Kasrah	فَتْحٌ كَسْرٌ	A changes into I
Or Fatah will remain Fatah	فَتْحَتَانِ	A remains same A
Dummah will always be Dummah	ضَمٌّ ضَمٌّ	U will always be U
Kasrah will change into Fatah	كَسْرٌ فَتْحٌ	I will change into A
Or it will remain same	كَسْرَتَانِ	Or I will remain same I

أَبْوَابٌ = Groups.

If in the **الفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي** there is a Fatah on the **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ**

it can change into Dummah in the **الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ** for example (Group A – U) **نَصَرَ : يَنْصُرُ** or

it can change into Kasrah for example (Group A – I) **ضَرَبَ : يَضْرِبُ** or

it can remain same for example (Group A – A) **فَتَحَ : يَفْتَحُ** .

But if it has Dummah on the **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** in **الفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي** then in **الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ**

it will always have Dummah for example (Group U – U) **كُرِمَ : يَكْرُمُ** .

If the **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** has a Kasrah in **الفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي**

it will change into Fatah in **الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ** for example (Group I – A) **سَمِعَ : يَسْمَعُ** or

it will remain same for example (Group I – I) **حَسِبَ : يَحْسِبُ** .

The Conjugation of the Present Tense - الْفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ

	عَلَامَةُ رَفْعِهِ	الْفَاعِلُ	Suffix	Prefix (*)		
He writes	Dummah	But it can also be present in the sentence Hidden = مُسْتَتِرٌ	NIL	يَ	يَكْتُبُ	هُوَ
They (2 men) write	ن	'Alif' of Dual ا (أَلِفْ) - أَلِفُ الْمُثَنَّى	اِنْ	يَ	يَكْتُبَانِ	هُمَا
They (more than 2 men) write	ن	'Waw' of Plural و (وَاو) - وَاوُ الْجَمَاعَةِ	وَنْ	يَ	يَكْتُبُونَ	هُمْ
She writes	Dummah	But it can also be present in the sentence Hidden = مُسْتَتِرٌ	NIL	تَ	تَكْتُبُ	هِيَ
They (2 women) write	ن	'Alif' of Dual ا (أَلِفْ) - أَلِفُ الْمُثَنَّى	اِنْ	تَ	تَكْتُبَانِ	هُمَا
They (more than 2 women) write	مَبْنِيٌّ This form does NOT change	'Nun' of the women kind نَ - نُونُ النِّسْوَةِ	نَ	يَ	يَكْتُبْنَ	هُنَّ
You (man) write	Dummah	Always Hidden Hidden = مُسْتَتِرٌ	NIL	تَ	تَكْتُبُ	أَنْتَ
You (2 men) write	ن	'Alif' of Dual ا (أَلِفْ) - أَلِفُ الْمُثَنَّى	اِنْ	تَ	تَكْتُبَانِ	أَنْتُمَا
You (more than 2 men) write	ن	'Waw' of Plural و (وَاو) - وَاوُ الْجَمَاعَةِ	وَنْ	تَ	تَكْتُبُونَ	أَنْتُمْ
You (woman) write	ن	ي - (أَنْتِ)	يَنْ	تَ	تَكْتُبِينَ	أَنْتِ
You (2 women) write	ن	'Alif' of Dual ا (أَلِفْ) - أَلِفُ الْمُثَنَّى	اِنْ	تَ	تَكْتُبَانِ	أَنْتُمَا
You (more than 2 women) write	مَبْنِيٌّ This form does NOT change	'Nun' of the women kind نَ - نُونُ النِّسْوَةِ	نَ	تَ	تَكْتُبْنَ	أَنْتُنَّ
I (male or female) write	Dummah	Always Hidden Hidden = مُسْتَتِرٌ	NIL	أَ	أَكْتُبُ	أَنَا
We (male or female) write	Dummah	Always Hidden Hidden = مُسْتَتِرٌ	NIL	نَ	نَكْتُبُ	نَحْنُ

(*) Sign of mudaria (عَلَامَةُ الْمُضَارِعِ) which comes in the form of Prefixes i.e. ي, ت, أ, ن.

To **negate** الْفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ, the particle لَا, called حَرْفُ النَّفْيِ (لَا النَّافِيَةُ), is brought before it. For

example: The girl does **not** read: لَا تَقْرَأُ الْبِنْتُ .

The الْفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ also contains the meaning of **future** in itself along with present but prefixing it with (حَرْفُ الْإِسْتِقْبَالِ) سَوْفَ or سَ makes it for future only. For example:

The student **will** write سَوْفَ يَكْتُبُ الطَّلَّابُ or سَيَكْتُبُ الطَّلَّابُ .

For the expression **may** write, the word قَدْ is placed before الْفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ for example: I **may** go to his house: قَدْ أَذْهَبُ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ or she **may** write to him: قَدْ تَكْتُبُ إِلَيْهِ