

## هفت اقسام - Categories of Irregular Verbs - Sarf

We have already [seen](#) how variations in verb patterns in the Arabic Language can take place due to 6 reasons, 3 of which deal with a difference in the number of base letters and the vowel pattern of the verb. In this post I will give a listing of the other 3 reasons with an example of each, Insha Allah.

These 3 are related to irregularities i.e the presence of certain letters within the verb. Following is a list of these irregularities :

- The presence of a همزة
- The presence of a weak letter i.e. a واو or a ياء
- The last two base-letters being the same letter i.e. a doubled letter (حرف مشدد)

Based on the presence or absence of one of these reasons the scholars of *Sarf* have divided the Arabic

verbs in 7 categories, or to give the Persian term for it, in هفت اقسام

Type name	Characteristic	Example
صحيح	No weak letters;no duplication of letters	نَصَرَ , كَرُمَ
مهموز	أ anywhere in the base verb	قرأ , سأل , أكل
مثال	واو or ياء at the front	وَعَدَ , يَسُرُّ
أجوف	واو or ياء at the ع position	قَوْلَ , بَيْعَ
ناقص	واو or ياء at the ل position	رَمَى , دَعَا
لَفيف	Two weak letters in the verbs	وَقَى , طَوَى
مُضَاعَف	Second and third letter same	مَرَّ , فَرَّ

Category 3, 4, 5, and 6 all involve a واو or a ياء and verbs falling under these categories are collectively called معتل .

This brief introduction is a prelude to the vast part of *Sarf* which deals with irregularities in Arabic verbs. I will, Insha Allah, post more detail about each of these categories in the near future.