

Nahw - The concept of حال and ذُو الحال

The concept of حال in نَحْو is used to answer the question “How” or “in what condition”. Thus,

حال is the adjective which describes the state of the فاعِل or مفعول or both. It is always in the state of

ذُو الحال . Additionally, the one being described by the condition is called نصب .

Some examples of this kind of structure are:

- جاءَ زَيْدٌ رَاكِباً (Zaid came riding) Here رَاكِباً is حال for زَيْدٌ which is the فاعِل
- جِئْتُ زَيْدًا نَائِمًا (I came to Zaid while he was sleeping). Here the word نَائِمًا is the
زَيْدًا for the مفعول , which is حال
- كَلَّمْتُ زَيْدًا جَالِسَيْنِ (I talked to Zaid while we were both sitting). Here the word
جَالِسَيْنِ is the حال for both the فاعِل and the مفعول

Notes on the usage of حال and ذُو الحال

It is essential to have a connector between the حال and the ذُو الحال . Sometimes this connector is

depicted by using a و and at other times it is simply the ضَمِير hidden within the verb. For example,

we can say جَاءَ زَيْدٌ يَضْحَكُ or

جَاءَ زَيْدٌ وَهُوَ يَضْحَكُ. In both the cases it means *Zaid came laughing*. However, the first

sentence is the case where the connector is the hidden هُوَ inside the verb whereas in the second sentence the connector is apparent.

ذُو الْحَالِ has to be نَكْرَهَ, it cannot be مَعْرِفَه. On the other hand, even though ذُو الْحَالِ

is usually مَعْرِفَه but if it has to come as نَكْرَه then the structure has to change and the حَال has to come before the ذُو الْحَالِ i.e.

جَاءَ نِي رَاكِبًا رَجُلٌ (a man came to me riding).

Also, حَال can be a sentence as well: If it is a جُمْلَةٌ اِسْمِيَّةٌ then a وَ is added to give the meaning of condition e.g.

لَا تَقْرَبُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنْتُمْ سُكَرَى (Do not come near the prayers when you are intoxicated); if

it is a جُمْلَةٌ فِعْلِيَّةٌ and the فِعْل is in مَاضِي then a قَدْ has to appear before the فِعْل e.g.

جَاءَ زَيْدٌ وَقَدْ خَرَجَ غُلَامُهُ (Zaid came while his servant went)

Hopefully this very brief introduction to the concept of حَال will be sufficient for the students of Classical Arabic as a starting point, Insha Allah.