

Nahw - The Phrase

In the last post we defined the concept of the Sentence, also called **مركب مفيد**. Now we define the other part, **مركب غير مفيد**, or *Phrase*. A *Phrase* is essentially a group of words which does not convey a complete idea e.g. *tall boy, intelligent girl* etc. We will start by defining two kinds of phrases:

1. **Noun / Adjective Phrase**: This kind of phrase is made up of two **اسم**, the first being a noun and the second an adjective. The first **اسم** is called **موصوف** and the second is called **صفة**. Unlike in English, where the adjective precedes the noun, in Arabic the noun will come before the adjective e.g. **الولد الطويل** (tall boy) or **البنات الرشيدة** (intelligent girl)

Rules for **صفة / موصوف** phrase:

- Both **موصوف** and **صفة** should agree in *Gender*
- Both **موصوف** and **صفة** should agree in *number* e.g. **الولدان الطويلان** (two tall boys)
- Both **موصوف** and **صفة** should agree in definiteness i.e. both should either be definite or indefinite e.g. **ولدٌ طويلٌ** (a tall boy) or **الولد الطويل** (tall boy)
- Both **موصوف** and **صفة** should be in the same *grammatical state*

2. **Possessive Phrase**: This phrase is also made up of two **اسم**, which are linked together in a

possessive structure e.g. رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ (messenger of Allah). The possessor is termed as مضاف إليه

(here the word اللّٰه) and the possessed is termed as مضاف (here the word رَسُولُ)