

Sarf - المضارع - The Present and Future Tense

مُضَارِع is the tense in Arabic which conveys the meaning of both present (simple and continuous) and future tenses. The context and situation of the usage will determine which of the above three are meant to be conveyed. It is what is called the *Imperfect* tense in English i.e. the action is either going on or is still to start.

Unlike the ماضى , the مُضَارِع is peculiar in its nature because it is characterized by the presence of one of the 4 letters, namely ن ، ي ، ت ، ا (hamza, taa, ya'a, nun) at the start of a word . Thus a مُضَارِع verb will have one of these 4 letters as a prefix. Plus, unlike the ماضى, the endings of مُضَارِع verbs do not follow a set pattern but are rather based on loose groupings. Mentioned below are the prefix and suffix rules for the 14 conjugations:

Prefix Rules:

1. **Conjugation** 1,2,3, and 6 will have ي as prefix
2. **Conjugations** 4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12 will have ت as a prefix
3. **Conjugation** 13 will have ا as a prefix
4. **Conjugation** 14 will have ن as a prefix

Suffix Rules:

1. 5 conjugations will have no suffix at all i.e. the last letter of the word will be the base letter of

the verb. These are conjugations 1,4,7, 13, and 14

2. 9 conjugations are further subdivided into 4 groups:

- The 4 duals (3rd person *Dual* Masculine/Feminine, 2nd person *Dual*

Masculine/Feminine) will have an ending consisting of an **الف** followed by a **ن** with a

kasra e.g. **تَفْعَلَانِ** . These are conjugations 2,5,8, and 11

- The 2 Masculine Plural Conjugations, number 3 and 9, will end in **ونٌ** i.e. **و** preceded by

a *dhamma* and succeeded by a **ن** with a *fatha* e.g. **يَفْعَلُونَ**

- The 2 Feminine Plural Conjugations, number 6 and 12, will end with a *sukun* on the

laam position of the verb followed by a **ن** with a *fatha*

- The 2nd person *Singular* Feminine, conjugation number 10, has the suffix **ينَ** i.e. a *yaa*

saakin plus a **ن** with a *fatha* e.g. **تَفْعَلِينَ**

The Table below lists all these

يَفْعَلُ	He does
يَفْعَلَانِ	They (Dual, Male) do
يَفْعَلُونَ	They (Plural, Male) do
تَفْعَلُ	She does
تَفْعَلَانِ	They (Dual, Female) do
يَفْعَلْنَ	They (Plural, Female) do
تَفْعَلُ	You (Singular, Male) do
تَفْعَلَانِ	You (Dual, Male) do
تَفْعَلُونَ	You (Plural, Male) do
تَفْعَلِينَ	You (Singular, Female) do

تَفْعَلَانِ	You (Dual, Female) do
تَفْعَلْنَ	You (Plural, Female) do
أَفْعَلُ	I do
نَفْعَلُ	We do

The passive voice for the مُضَارِع is constructed by:

1. Putting a *fatha* on the second last letter (if not already a *fatha*)
2. Adding a *dhamma* to the prefix

Thus, يَنْصُرُ becomes يُنصَرُ (he is helped, he is being helped, or he will be helped).

Adding لا in front of both active and passive voice of the مُضَارِع will negate it