

## Sarf - The rules for تَعْلِيل - A summary of اَجُوف and نَاقِص

We already know that there are three letters in the Arabic alphabet which are called حُرُوفِ عِلَّتٍ (or the *weak* letters), namely و and ا and ي. The presence of these letters within the base letters of a verb will cause certain changes to occur which can change the final form of the verb. In this post, Insha Allah, I will list down the rules which deal with تَعْلِيل occurring at the لام position and the ع position of the verb. Most of these rules have already been encountered when we discussed the اَجُوف and the نَاقِص verb (discussed [here](#) and [here](#)). Since there are quite a few of these rules, and because we will see many of them in future صَرَف discussions, therefore it is beneficial to list these at one place for reference purposes.

Rules for اَجُوف:

1. Simple Change to Alif rule: Whenever there is a مُتَحَرِّكٌ weak letter i.e. a واو or a ي preceded by a مَفْتُوح letter, change the واو or ي to ا. See [here](#) for examples of this rule
2. The مِيزَانٌ rule: Any واو which is سَاكِنٌ and is preceded by a كَسْرَةٌ will change to ي. See [here](#) for examples of this rule
3. Whenever the ع position of a passive ماضى is a واو or ي remove the vowel from the letter before it and transfer the كَسْرَةٌ to this letter. See [here](#) for examples of this rule

4. Whenever there is a مُتَحَرِّك weak letter i.e. a واو or a ي preceded by a سُكُون , transfer the vowel from the weak letter to the letter before it. Now, if the vowel being transferred is a فَتْحَة then change this letter to an ا. See [here](#) for examples of this rule

Rules for نَاقِصٌ:

1. The Edge Rule: It states that “any لام position و (i.e. occurring at the *edge* of a word) preceded by a كَسْرَة will change to ى”. This is depicted by the first ماضى conjugation of رَضِيََ which was originally رَضِيَو. See [here](#) for examples of this rule
2. Fourth Position or Beyond Rule: If a و comes in the fourth position or later in a word and it is not preceded by a ضَمَّة or a سَاكِن, it changes into a ى. See [here](#) for examples of this rule
3. Whenever there is a لام position و or ى preceded by a ضَمَّة or a كَسْرَة, make the و or the ى as سَاكِن. Now, if the و or ى is preceded by an appropriate short vowel and followed by an appropriate long vowel (see [here](#) for this discussion) then drop this و or ى. The change of يَدْعُوْنَ to يَدْعُونَ is handled by this rule
4. If there is a و or ا or ي at the end of a verb then they are dropped in case of جَزَمٌ. For example, لَمْ يَدْعُوْ which was originally لَمْ يَدْعُوْ or لَمْ يَرْمِيْ which was originally لَمْ يَرْمِيْ

Hopefully this list will come in handy for the students of صَرَفٌ when dealing with أَجَوَفٌ and نَاقِصٌ

verb. Insha Allah, in the future, I will post about other هفت اقسام and their governing rules as well.