

## The comprehensiveness of Arabic Language

Arabic is a language which is known for its brevity and comprehensiveness. As an example, look at the word given below which means: ‘they sought help’. Right away you can see that *three* English words are required to translate this *one* Arabic word. However, there is more to it than meets the eye. This *one* Arabic word conveys *seven* pieces of information to us. Let us see how:

اِسْتَنْصَرُوا

1. نَصَرَ : to help
2. ست : seek
3. The absence of one of the 4 prefixes ا ت ي ن (which makes a future tense verb) plus the *fathah* on ص which renders this word in the past tense.
4. the *fathah* on ص and ت and *kasra* on ا conveys the meaning of active voice ; changing this to a *damma* on ا and ت and a *kasra* ص will change this to a passive voice i.e اُسْتُنْصِرُوا will mean *help was sought from them*
5. و at the end conveys the meaning of masculine gender
6. و at the end conveys the meaning of a group of more than 2 persons
7. و at the end conveys the meaning of third person

