

Sarf - The Irregular Verb - ناقص - Part 1

Disclaimer: This post is due to a major contribution from Humairah (blogging [here](#)). Any mistakes, of course, are mine.

As we have already [learned](#), ناقص verb is one which has و or ى at its لام position. For the purpose of

illustration we will take three examples of a ناقص verb: دَعَا (*he called*), which comes from

نَصَرَ *baab*, رَمَى (*he threw*), which comes from ضَرَبَ *baab*, and رَضِيَ (*he was pleased*), which

comes from سَمِعَ *baab*. In this post I will, Insha Allah, deal with the ماضى conjugations of the

ناقص verb.

ناقص of ماضى:

Below, I will list the ماضى conjugations for both دَعَا and رَمَى. Note that the تَعْلِيل only occurs in the

first 5 conjugations of both these verbs. I will Insha Allah also explain why the تَعْلِيل occurs in each

case. We will deal with رَضِيَ separately later in this post, Insha Allah.

1	دَعَا	رَمَى
2	دَعَا	رَمَى
3	دَعَا	رَمَى
4	دَعَتْ	رَمَتْ
5	دَعَيْنَا	رَمَيْنَا

6	دَعُونَ	رَمَيْنَ
7	دَعَوْتَ	رَمَيْتَ
8	دَعَوْتُمَا	رَمَيْتُمَا
9	دَعَوْتُمْ	رَمَيْتُمْ
10	دَعَوْتُ	رَمَيْتُ
11	دَعَوْتُمَا	رَمَيْتُمَا
12	دَعَوْتُنَّ	رَمَيْتُنَّ
13	دَعَوْتُ	رَمَيْتُ
14	دَعَوْنَا	رَمَيْنَا

In the Arabic Language certain pronunciation issues arise when weak letters are preceded by

inappropriate vowels. For example, it is difficult to pronounce a و which is مُتَحَرِّكٌ and is preceded by a ضَمَّة or a ى which is مُتَحَرِّكٌ and is preceded by a فَتْحَة. In such cases we implement rules which change these weak letters to other, pronounceable, letters coupled with a shift in the vowel itself from one letter to another. Thus, for تَعْلِيلٌ to occur the و or ى need to be مُتَحَرِّكٌ and need to be preceded by inappropriate vowels.

On the other hand, a و which is سَاكِنٌ and is preceded by a ضَمَّة is very normal; similarly a ى

which is سَاكِنٌ and is preceded by a كَسْرَة is very normal. Moreover, a و or ى preceded by a

فَتْحَة is also considered normal for pronunciation. Now, if you note that in the above table there is no

تَعْلِيلٌ from the 6th conjugation downwards because in there the و or ى is سَاكِنٌ and is preceded by

a normal vowel i.e. a فَتْحَة.

First conjugation: [Recall](#) that whenever a و or ی is preceded by a letter with a فَتْحَة on it the و or ی is changed to ا; thus, the first conjugation was actually دَعَوَ which changed into دَعَا due to the simple change to *alif* rule. The same is true for رَمَى which was initially رَمَى

Second conjugation: This should actually be دَعَوَا rhyming with فَعَلَا . However, the simple change to *alif* rule will cause it to become دَعَا which is difficult to pronounce and thus the final *alif* will drop leaving us with دَعَا . Note that this is exactly the same as the first conjugation so there is actually no تَعْلِيل allowed here. Thus the final form remains دَعَوَا

Third conjugation: Rhyming with فَعَلُوا this should be دَعَوُوا . The first و changes to ا due to the simple change to *alif* rule, leaving us with دَعَاوَا . This form, however, has two سَاكِن letters coming together in it therefore we drop the first ا leaving us with دَعَوَا

Fourth Conjugation: This was originally دَعَوَتْ rhyming with فَعَلَتْ . The و changed to ا causing it to become دَعَاتْ . Because of the gathering of سَاكِن letters the ا is dropped leaving us with دَعَتْ

Fifth Conjugation: This was originally دَعَوْتَا rhyming with فَعَلْتَا . The و changed to ا giving us دَعَاتَا . It is important to note here that in this last form the ت is actually سَاكِن but has to carry a

فَتَحَّة because of the final ا which is the pronoun of duality. Thus the ا in the middle will drop

because of gathering of two ساكِن letters leaving us with دَعَتَا

All the above rules can be equally applied to the first five conjugation of the رَمَى table.

As for رَضِيَ the only تَعْلِيل is in the 3rd conjugation, all other rhyming with the

corresponding conjugations of سَمِعَ

1	رَضِيَ
2	رَضِيَا
3	رَضُوا
4	رَضِيَتْ
5	رَضِيْتَا
6	رَضِيْنَ
7	رَضِيَتْ
8	رَضِيْتُمَا
9	رَضِيْتُمْ
10	رَضِيَتْ
11	رَضِيْتُمَا
12	رَضِيْتُنَّ
13	رَضِيَتْ
14	رَضِيْنَا

First conjugation: It was actually رَضِيَوُ but changed its form due a rule which is called the *edge rule*.

It states that “any لام position و (i.e. occurring at the edge of a word) preceded by a كَسْرَةٌ will

change to *ي*“. This rule deals with the concept of ‘small تَعْلِيل’ whereby one letter changes to another but the form of the verb is not disfigured: رَضِيَ still rhymes with سَمِعَ .

Note: this ‘small تَعْلِيل’ happens in all 14 conjugations for رَضِيَ

Third conjugation: The 3rd conjugation was originally رَضِيُوا (rhyming with سَمِعُوا) which is hard for pronunciation since the *ي* is preceded by a ضَمَّة . Moreover, this *ي* here is then followed by a *و* which makes it even harder on the tongue. In this case, the ضَمَّة moved from *ي* to *ض*, which lost it كَسْرَةً . The *ي* is then dropped because it is left with a *و* which is سَاكِن . The *و* cannot be dropped since it is a pronoun (denoting ‘they, group of males’).

This concludes our discussion of introducing the ماضِي for the نَاقِصُ verb. The next post, Insha Allah, will deal with the مُضَارِع of the نَاقِصُ verb.