

How you tell a verb — and what is left over

The second half of Bāb al-Kalām. Lesson 1 gave you the four signs of a noun; this one gives the four signs of a verb, and then defines the particle by the fact that neither set works on it. Follow this sheet while the lesson plays.

THE TEXT

وَالْفِعْلُ يُعْرَفُ بِقَدْ، وَالسِّينِ، وَسَوْفَ،
وَتَاءِ التَّائِيثِ السَّاكِنَةِ.
وَالْحَرْفُ: مَا لَا يَصْلُحُ مَعَهُ دَلِيلُ الْإِسْمِ
وَلَا دَلِيلُ الْفِعْلِ.

Wa-l-fi'lu yu'rafu bi-qad, wa-s-sīni, wa-sawfa, wa-tā'i t-ta'nīthi s-sākina. Wa-l-ḥarfū: mā lā yaṣluḥu ma'ahu dalīlu l-ismi wa-lā dalīlu l-fi'l.

The **verb** is known by *qad*, by the *sīn*, by *sawfa*, and by the quiescent *tā'* of the feminine.

And the **particle** is that with which neither the mark of the noun nor the mark of the verb will serve.

THE FOUR SIGNS OF A VERB

Sign		What it attaches to	Example
قَدْ	qad	Past <i>and</i> present	<i>qad qāma</i> — he has indeed stood; <i>qad yaqūmu</i> — he sometimes stands
السِّينِ	sa- , the <i>sīn</i>	Present only	<i>sa-yaqūmu</i> — he will stand, soon
سَوْفَ	sawfa	Present only	<i>sawfa yaqūmu</i> — he will stand, later
تَاءِ التَّائِيثِ	the quiescent tā'	Past only	<i>qālat, kānat</i> — the <i>tā'</i> carries no vowel

Any one of them settles it. You never need two, and you will rarely see even one — which is why the test is *can this word take qad*, not *does it have qad*.

THE PARTICLE, DEFINED BY WHAT FAILS

Try	On a noun	On a verb	On a particle
The alif-lām, tanwīn, khafḍ	works	no	no
<i>qad, sa-, sawfa, the tā'</i>	no	works	no

The bottom-right corner is the definition. A ḥarf is what survives both tests failing — *min, ilā, 'an, fī, lam, inna, the bā', the lām*. This is why the particles have to be learned as a list rather than recognised by a sign.

WORKED EXAMPLE — HADITH 1, SECOND HALF

Word	It is	Because
كَانَتْ	fi'l	The quiescent tā' of the feminine — sign four, and visible. It also tells you the verb is past.
هَاجَرَتْهُ	ism	No verb sign will attach; and it takes the possessive <i>-hu</i> , which only a noun does.
يُصِيبُهَا	fi'l	No sign is present — and it is still a verb, because <i>sa-</i> would attach to it: <i>sa-yuṣībuhā</i> . The test is what the word accepts.
هَاجَرَ	fi'l	<i>Qad</i> would attach: <i>qad hājara</i> . Past, and carrying no sign at all.

Two of the four verbs here show no sign. If you had waited to see one, you would have called them nouns.

NOW YOU — THE REST OF HADITH 1

Write **ism**, **fi'l** or **ḥarf**, then name the sign — or the test — that told you. Where nothing is visible, say which sign *would* attach.

وَإِنَّمَا لِكُلِّ امْرِئٍ مَا نَوَىٰ

Word	It is	The sign, or the test that would work
نَوَىٰ		
امْرِئٍ		
لِ		
مَا		

The last one is the hard case, and it is honest to say so: مَا is a ḥarf in some constructions and an ism in others. Here it is an ism — “that which he intended”. Lesson 3 gives you the reason.

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