

Number in Arabic — Singular and Dual

How Arabic marks one and two — and why it matters for the Quran

The Language of Quran · Book One · Lesson L04-P1 · Watch the lesson at ilmhub.org

A gentle reminder: these model answers are for checking, not studying. Reading them before attempting the quiz is futile — nothing is learnt that way. Attempt the full quiz from memory first; the struggle to recall is where the learning happens. Then return here and mark your own work honestly.

1. **False** — Arabic has three: مُفْرَد (one), مُثْنَى (exactly two), جَمْع (three or more).
2. **True** — fixed, with no exceptions anywhere in Arabic.
3. **False** — سَلَمَانُ and لِسَانُ are not duals — a genuine dual ends in اُنِ with a kasra on the nun.
4. **b) Place a fatha on the last letter** — always fatha — never damma or kasra — then add the suffix.
5. **a) and c)** — both end in اُنِ with kasra on the nun. سَلَمَانُ (Salman) and بُسْتَانُ (garden) only look similar.
6. مَدْرَسَتَانِ · مُؤَمِّنَيْنِ · مَسْجِدَانِ — the ة converts to a regular ت before the suffix is added.
7. "The two hypocrites are liars" — a nominal sentence (definite dual subject, indefinite dual predicate). Without the definite article it becomes a descriptive phrase: "two lying hypocrites" — no longer a complete message.
8. Feminine (the taa' from a converted ة), dual (exactly two), and rafa' (the اُنِ ending). One suffix carries gender, number and case at once.
9. Both nasab and jarr — the dual shares the single ending يِنِ for both. You need only distinguish rafa' from non-rafa' in the dual.
10. An 18-cell grid built from one base word (مُسْلِمٌ): three cases × singular/dual × masculine/feminine (36 words with اَلْ added). Completing it practises all four properties of the ism at once.

Marking: points shown beside each question

Total = 25 pts