

Broken Plurals in Arabic

Patterns, grammatical treatment, and the singular-feminine rule

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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** — the internal shape of the singular is restructured — قَلَمٌ → أَقْلَامٌ. Suffixing is how SOUND plurals work.
2. **True** — it must be learnt word by word or checked in a dictionary — recognition, not production, is the goal.
3. **False** — broken plurals take tanween and decline through all three cases: أَقْلَامٌ / أَقْلَامًا / أَقْلَامِ.
4. **c) As singular feminine** — predicates and adjectives agree as singular feminine — though the English translation stays plural.
5. **a) and c)** — neither matches the sound endings. آيَاتٌ is a sound feminine plural; مُؤْمِنُونَ a sound masculine plural.
6. **أَلْبَيُوتُ الْكَبِيرَةُ** — أَلْبَيُوتُ is a non-rational broken plural, so its صِفَةٌ is singular feminine, copying definiteness and case as usual.
7. **Rafa' أَقْلَامٌ · nasab أَقْلَامًا · jarr أَقْلَامِ** — exactly the 85% tanween pattern of any singular ism.
8. **الْأَسْمَاءُ** — broken plural of اِسْمٌ. Its adjective الْحُسْنَى is singular feminine (the alif maqsuura is itself a feminine sign) — the broken-plural rule applied in the Quran.
9. Broken plural of صَحِيفَةٌ (scroll), in jarr after فِي. The adjective is singular feminine in jarr — all four properties copied as if the noun were singular feminine.
10. Like irregular English plurals, broken plurals restructure the word instead of following the standard pattern. Shortcut: any plural NOT ending in ثَاتٌ / ثَاتٍ / ثَاتِ is broken.

Marking: points shown beside each question

Total = 25 pts