Masdar

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VywE7oSxZY4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAC7Qimfk4o>

Many sentences use verbal nouns, called a مصدر in Arabic. These are equivalent to English words like “swimming” “eating” etc. This is important to know, because the مصدر is used far more often in Arabic than in English. Remember, these words are nouns. A good test is to see if they could be replaced by a common noun (like “pizza” or “cats”).

 I like reading –> I like pizza (OK)

 I like to read –> I like to pizza **X**

In the list below, which sentences have the equivalent of a مصدر?

I like swimming.

I like to dance.

She knows how to swim.

He is good at diving.

In most cases, you can express the same idea either way:

أحب السباحة.

أحب أن أسبح.

A verbal noun represents a change in the form of a verb which allows it to be used as a noun in a sentence. For example, the verbal noun in English for “to read” is “reading.” You would say, for example, “Reading is good for you.” In the previous sentence, “reading” is the subject. If you say “I love reading Arabic books” you have made “reading” the direct object. In this section we will study the derivation and some of the uses of the verbal noun in Arabic.