Negating Verbs:

Past

لم

the particle لم. used to make a statement negative in the past:

لم أذهب إلى المكتبة.

*I didn’t go to the library.*

You learned that the verb that goes with لم is in the present tense (as in the English example above, we don’t say “I didn’t *went* to the libray”). This is *generally* true. However, if the verb has a long vowel in it, that long vowel will drop out after لم . This would not be such a big issue, except that a surprisingly large number of Arabic verbs have a long vowel in them.

Note for example:

لم أرك

*I haven’t seen you*

The verb is أرى (“I see”) but the alif maqsuura drops out because of the لم. It is important to be able to figure out what the base verb is, otherwise you will be confused when you see a verb with لم .



What do the following mean:

لم أزر الشرق الأوسط.

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لم أقل ذلك.

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لم أرد أن أذهب إلى الصف اليوم

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Be careful – this rule does not apply with لن

