Present Tense Verbs

All Arabic verbs conjugate the same way. We do not have groups of verbs like Spanish or French, nor do we have “irregular” verbs. Here, we have used the verbs سكن to reside, and درس to study, as samples:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Verb\* | Person |
| أًدْرُس | أًسْكُن | أنا |
| تَدْرُس | تَسْكُن | أنْتَ |
| تَدْرُسين | تَسْكُنين | أنْتِ |
| يَدْرُس | يَسْكُن | هُوَ |
| تَدْرُس | تَسْكُن | هِيَ |
| نَدْرُس | نَسْكُن | نَحْنُ |

The letters in red represent what you have to add to the stem. You will notice the stem does not change. Also, every present tense conjugation must have a prefix. Only one has a suffix as well. Lastly, notice that أنْتَ and هِيَ forms are the same. This will be true of every verb.

\* = in formal speech, these verbs (except أنْتِ )can have a short vowel ُ at the end. This is rarely pronounced in normal conversation and will sound a bit stilted, but recognize it when you hear it.

Similarly, plural subjects have their own verb conjugations. You will notice that these look very similar to the singular, but often with a suffix ون:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Verb\* | Person |
| أًدْرُس | أًسْكُن | أنا |
| تَدْرُس | تَسْكُن | أنْتَ |
| تَدْرُسين | تَسْكُنين | أنْتِ |
| يَدْرُس | يَسْكُن | هُوَ |
| تَدْرُس | تَسْكُن | هِيَ |
| نَدْرُس | نَسْكُن | نَحْنُ |
| تَدْرُسون | تَسْكُنون | أنتُم |
| يَدْرُسون | يَسْكُنون | هُم |

Future Tense Verbs

The future is the easiest tense to construct, so it is worth learning along with the present. We simply add the prefix سـَ onto the present. Here, we have again used the verbs سكن to reside, and درس to study, as samples so you can see how simply the process is.:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Verb\* | Person |
| سَأًدْرُس | سَأًسْكُن | أنا |
| سَتَدْرُس | سَتَسْكُن | أنْتَ |
| سَتَدْرُسين | سَتَسْكُنين | أنْتِ |
| سَيَدْرُس | سَيَسْكُن | هُوَ |
| سَتَدْرُس | سَتَسْكُن | هِيَ |
| سَنَدْرُس | سَنَسْكُن | نَحْنُ |