

Appendix:Arabic verbs

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Derived stems (sound verbs) [\[edit \]](#)

Arabic verbs are noted for an unusual system of **derivation**. From any particular **root** various verb **stems** may be formed. Western scholars usually refer to these derivations as “form I”, “form II”, ... up through “form XV,” though these designations are not used indigenously, where they are referred to by derivations from the root **ل ف ع** (f- ‘l-). Accordingly, form I would be **فَعَّلَ** (fa‘ala), form II would be **فَعَّلَ** (fa‘ala), etc. These forms refer to trilateral roots (those made of three consonants). There are also quadrilateral roots, made up of four consonants, which come in four forms, “form Iq”, “form IIq”, “form IIIq” and “form IVq”. Trilateral forms XI through XV and quadrilateral forms IIIq and IVq are rare and tend to be intransitive, often stative, verbs (having the meaning “to be or become X” where X is an adjective).

These forms and their associated participles and verbal nouns are the primary means of forming vocabulary in Arabic. All of the examples shown here are the **citation** forms, which in Arabic means the 3rd-person masculine singular perfect (e.g., “he did”, “he wrote”).

Form I [[edit](#)]

Perfective فَعَلَ, فَعِلَ, فَعَّلَ (fa‘ala, fa‘ila, fa‘ula), imperfective يَفْعُلُ, يَفْعَلُ
يَفْعُلُ (yaf‘alu, yaf‘ilu, yaf‘ulu)

This is the simplest basic form of a verb; it gives the general idea of its root. Most verbs are **trilateral**, but there are a few

[illegible]

quadriliteral ones.

- كَتَبَ (kataba, “to write”, literally “he wrote”)
قَتَلَ (qatala, “to kill”, literally “he killed”)
سَلِمَ (salima, “to be safe”, literally “he was safe”)
ضَحِكَ (ḍahika, “to laugh”, literally “he laughed”)
حَبَّ (ḥabba, “to love”, literally “he loved”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-I verbs](#)

Form II [edit] [yoğunlaştırma + oldurgan kip](#)

Perfective فَعَّلَ (fa‘‘ala), imperfective يُفَعِّلُ (yufa‘‘ilu), verbal noun تَفْعِيلٌ (taf‘īl), active participle مُفَعِّلٌ (mufa‘‘il), passive participle مَفْعُولٌ (mufa‘‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) فَعِّلْ (fa‘‘il)

This stem is formed by doubling the second radical. The meaning this form imparts is **intensive**, **causative**, or **declarative**.

- كَتَّبَ (kattaba, “to cause to write”, causative)
قَتَّلَ (qattala, “to massacre”, intensive)
سَلَّمَ (sallama, “to make safe”, causative)

It is frequently used as a **denominative** formation to convert nouns or adjectives into verbs.

- جَنَّسَ (jannasa, “to classify”), from جِنْسٌ (jins, “kind”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-II verbs](#)

Form III [edit] [kalkışma/girişme + işteşlik](#)

Perfective فَاعَلَ (fā‘ala), imperfective يُفَاعِلُ (yufā‘ilu), verbal noun مُفَاعَلَةٌ (mufa‘‘ala), active participle مُفَاعِلٌ (mufa‘‘il), passive participle مَفَاعَلٌ (mufa‘‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) فَاعِلْ (fā‘il)

This stem is formed by lengthening the vowel after the first radical. The meaning this form imparts is often **conative** and always transitive. The **indirect object** of form I is the **direct object** of form III. Thus, the object of the preposition إِلَى (‘ilā, “to”) in كَتَبَ إِلَى أَحْمَدَ (kataba ‘ilā ‘aḥmada, “he wrote to Ahmad”) becomes the direct object of the verb in كَاتَبَ أَحْمَدَ (kātaba ‘aḥmada, “he **corresponded** with Ahmad”).

- كَاتَبَ (kātaba, “to correspond with”)
قَاتَلَ (qātala, “to try to kill”)
سَالَمَ (sālama, “to make peace with”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-III verbs](#)

Form IV [edit]

Perfective أَفْعَلَ (‘af‘ala), imperfective يُفْعِلُ (yuf‘ilu), verbal noun إِفْعَالٌ (‘if‘āl), active participle مُفْعِلٌ (muf‘il), passive participle مَفْعُولٌ (muf‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) أَفْعِلْ (‘af‘il)

This stem is formed by prefixing أ- (‘a-) and dropping the vowel of the first radical. In the imperfect, the أ (‘a) disappears and the regular imperfect prefix takes the vowel u, and the characteristic is i: يُكْتَبُ (yuktibu), yuktību. The meaning this form imparts is usually **causative**.

- أَكْتَبَ (‘aktaba, “to dictate; to make someone write”)
أَخْلَفَ (‘aḵlafa, “to leave, to compensate”)
أَسْلَمَ (‘aslama, “to submit”)

Sometimes it has a **declarative** meaning: to say that someone has a certain quality.

Easy Arabic Measures - Nouns			
Arabic	English	Arabic	English
كاتب	Writer	مكتبة	Library
قاتل	Killer	مقتول	Murderer
سالم	Safe	مسلّم	Submitted
ضحك	Laughter	مضحك	Laughing
حب	Love	محب	Loving
كتبة	Library	مكتبة	Library
قتل	Killing	مقتول	Murderer
سلام	Peace	مسلم	Muslim
ضحك	Laughter	مضحك	Laughing
حب	Love	محب	Loving
كتبة	Library	مكتبة	Library
قتل	Killing	مقتول	Murderer
سلام	Peace	مسلم	Muslim
ضحك	Laughter	مضحك	Laughing
حب	Love	محب	Loving
كتبة	Library	مكتبة	Library
قتل	Killing	مقتول	Murderer
سلام	Peace	مسلم	Muslim
ضحك	Laughter	مضحك	Laughing
حب	Love	محب	Loving
كتبة	Library	مكتبة	Library
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سلام	Peace	مسلم	Muslim
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- **أَحْمَدَ** ('aḥmada) — to consider praiseworthy — from **حَمِدَ** (ḥamida, “to praise”)

Occasionally Form IV is derived from a noun and has an intransitive meaning:

- **أَذْنَبَ** ('aḏnaba, “to sin”) — from **ذَنْبٌ** (ḏanb, “a sin”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-IV verbs](#)

Form V [\[edit\]](#)

Perfective **تَفَعَّلَ** (tafa‘‘ala), imperfective **يَتَفَعَّلُ** (yatafa‘‘alu), verbal noun **تَفَعُّلٌ** (tafa‘‘ul), active participle **مُتَفَعِّلٌ** (mutafa‘‘il), passive participle **مُتَفَعَّلٌ** (mutafa‘‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) **تَفَعَّلْ** (tafa‘‘al)

This stem is formed by prefixing **تَ** (ta-) to form II. The meaning this form imparts is the **reflexive** or **passive** of form II. Out of the **reflexive** also arises the **effective**. This differs from the **passive** in that the latter indicates that the person is the object of, or experiences the effect of, the action of another; whereas the **effective** implies that an act is done to a person, or a state produced in him, whether it is caused by another or himself. ^[1]

- **تَفَرَّقَ** (tafarraqa, “to scatter”, intransitive)
تَخَلَّفَ (taḵallafa, “to hold back from”)
تَسَلَّمَ (tasallama, “to receive the surrender”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-V verbs](#)

Form VI [\[edit\]](#)

Perfective **تَفَاعَلَ** (tafā‘ala), imperfective **يَتَفَاعَلُ** (yatafā‘alu), verbal noun **تَفَاعُلٌ** (tafā‘ul), active participle **مُتَفَاعِلٌ** (mutafā‘il), passive participle **مُتَفَاعَلٌ** (mutafā‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) **تَفَاعَلْ** (tafā‘al)

This stem is formed by prefixing **تَ** (ta-) to form III. The imperfect has the vowel **a** throughout, except for the last: **يَتَكَاتَبُ** (yatakātabu), **yatakātabu**. The meaning this form imparts is **reciprocal** or one of **pretence**.

- **تَقَاتَلَ** (taqātala, “to fight with one another”)
تَكَاتَبَ (takātaba, “to write to each other”)
تَسَالَمَ (tasālama, “to make peace together”)
تَنَاسَى (tanā‘asa, “to pretend to sleep”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-VI verbs](#)

Form VII [\[edit\]](#)

Perfective **إِنْفَعَلَ** (infa‘ala), imperfective **يَنْفَعِلُ** (yanfa‘ilu), verbal noun **إِنْفِعَالٌ** (infi‘āl), active participle **مُنْفَعِلٌ** (munfa‘il), passive participle **مُنْفَعَلٌ** (munfa‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) **إِنْفَعِلْ** (infa‘il)

This stem is formed by prefixing **نَ** (n-) with an **prothetic** vowel (**ا** (i)) where necessary (in-). The meaning this form imparts is **reflexive** or **passive**. Note: this form should not be made from roots whose first radical is **ر** (r), **ل** (l), **ي** (y), **و** (w), **أ** (‘), or **ن** (n), although some people do it.

- **إِنْكَتَبَ** (inkataba, “to subscribe”)
إِنْكَسَرَ (inkasara, “to be broken”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-VII verbs](#)

Form VIII [\[edit\]](#)

Perfective **إِفْتَعَلَ** (ifta‘ala), imperfective **يَفْتَعِلُ** (yafṭa‘ilu), verbal noun **إِفْتِعَالٌ** (ifti‘āl), active participle **مُفْتَعِلٌ** (mufta‘il), passive participle **مُفْتَعَلٌ** (mufta‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) **إِفْتَعِلْ** (ifta‘ilu)

This stem is formed by infixing **تَ** (-ta-) after the first **radical**, and with an **prothetic** vowel (**ا** (i)) where necessary. The meaning this form imparts is the **reflexive** or sometimes **passive**, of the first form.

- **اِقْتَتَلَ** (iqṭatala, “to **fight** with one another”)
- **اِكْتَتَبَ** (iktataba, “to **write** to each other”)
- **اِسْتَلَمَ** (istalama, “to **receive**”)

When the first radical of the root is **ط** (ṭ) , **ض** (ḍ) , **ص** (ṣ) , **ز** (z) , **ذ** (ḏ) , **د** (d) , **ث** (ṯ) , **ت** (t) , or **ظ** (ẓ), the infixed **ت** (-t-) is completely assimilated, or assimilated in voicing or emphasis:

- **اِدْرَكَ** (iddaraka) = **ت** (t) + **دَرَكَ** (daraka) – complete assimilation
- **اِزْدَحَمَ** (izdahama) = **ت** (t) + **زَحَمَ** (zaḥama) – voicing assimilation
- **اِضْطَرَبَ** (iḍṭaraba) = **ت** (t) + **ضَرَبَ** (ḍaraba) – emphasis assimilation; formerly assimilation of both voicing and emphasis when **ط** (ṭ) was a voiced consonant

See also: [Category:Arabic form-VIII verbs](#)

Form IX [[edit](#)]

Perfective **اِفْعَلَّ** (if‘alla), imperfective **يَفْعَلُّ** (yaf‘allu), verbal noun **اِفْعَالٌ** (if‘ilāl), active participle **مُفْعَلٌّ** (muf‘all), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) **اِفْعَلِّ** (if‘all)

This stem is formed by dropping the vowel of the first radical, adding an **prothetic** vowel (**اِ** (i)) as necessary, and doubling the final radical. This form is used by only a small number of verbs denoting color or bodily defect.

- **اِحْمَرَّ** (iḥmarra, “to turn **red**, to **blush**”)
- **اِصْفَرَ** (iṣfarra, “to turn **yellow**, to **pale**”)
- **اِيبَضَّ** (ibyaḍḍa, “to turn **white**”)
- **اِزْرَقَّ** (izraqqa, “to turn **blue**”)
- **اِعْوَجَّ** (i‘wajja, “to be **twisted**”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-IX verbs](#)

Form X [[edit](#)]

Perfective **اِسْتَفْعَلَ** (istaf‘ala), imperfective **يَسْتَفْعِلُ** (yastaf‘ilu), verbal noun **اِسْتِفْعَالٌ** (istif‘āl), active participle **مُسْتَفْعِلٌ** (mustaf‘il), passive participle **مُسْتَفْعَلٌ** (mustaf‘al), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) **اِسْتَفْعِلْ** (istaf‘il)

This stem is formed by prefixing **اِسْت** (-sta-), with an **prothetic** vowel (**اِ** (i)) where necessary, and dropping the vowel of the first **radical**. The meaning this form imparts is to ask or think that the sense of form I should be done.

- **اِسْتَقْتَلَ** (istaqtala, “to **risk** one’s life”)
- **اِسْتَكْتَبَ** (istaktaba, “to ask someone to **write**”)
- **اِسْتَسْلَمَ** (istaslama, “to **submit**, to keep to the **middle of the road**”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-X verbs](#)

Form Iq [[edit](#)]

Perfective **فَعَّلَقَ** (fa‘laqa), imperfective **يُفَعِّلِقُ** (yufa‘liq), verbal noun **فَعْلَقَةٌ** (fa‘laqa), active participle **مُفَعِّلِقٌ** (mufaliq), passive participle **مُفَعَّلَقٌ** (mufa‘laq), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) **فَعَّلِقْ** (fa‘liq)

This is the simplest basic form of a quadriliteral verb. Most verbs are transitive, although a subset with reduplicated roots often are not. This form is similar to form II of trilateral roots.

- **طَفَأَنَ** (ṭam‘ana, “to **pacify**”)
- **تَرْجَمَ** (tarjama, “to **translate**”)
- **هَنْدَسَ** (handasa, “to **engineer**”)
- **قَهَقَهَ** (qahqaha, “to **laugh** loudly”)

The formation is sometimes used to convert nouns into verbs.

- **فَيَلْسُوفَ** (faylasūf, “philosopher”) → **فَلَسَفَ** (falsafa, “to philosophize”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-Iq verbs](#)

Form IIq [\[edit \]](#)

Perfective **تَفَعَّلَ** (*tafaʿla*), imperfective **يَتَفَعَّلُ** (*yatafaʿlu*), verbal noun **تَفَعُّلٌ** (*tafaʿlu*), active participle **مُتَفَعِّلٌ** (*mutafaliq*), passive participle **مُتَفَعَّلٌ** (*mutafaʿla*), imperative (2nd person, m, sg) **تَفَعَّلْ** (*tafaʿla*)

This is a quadriliteral root stem, formed by prefixing **تَ** (*ta*) to form Iq. The meaning this form imparts is the [reflexive](#) or [passive](#) of form Iq. This form is similar to form V of trilateral roots.

- **تَبَلَّوَرٌ** (tabalwara, “to be [crystalized](#)”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-IIq verbs](#)

Other forms [\[edit \]](#)

These forms were already rare in Classical Arabic, and are even more so in Modern Standard Arabic.

Form XI [\[edit \]](#)

- **إِفْعَالٌ** (Form XI)

This stem is formed from form IX by lengthening the vowel after the second [radical](#). This form is very rare and it is usually used only for metrical purposes in poetry as an alternative to form IX. Some scholars ^[2] ^[3] suggest the XI form may have a more volatile meaning than form IX, as well as one slightly more intensive.

Example: **إِحْمَارٌ** (iḥmārra, “to turn [red](#), to [blush](#)”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-XI verbs](#)

Form XII [\[edit \]](#)

- **إِفْعَوْعَلٌ** (Form XII)

Example: **إِحْدَوْدَبٌ** (iḥdawdaba, “to be or become humpbacked”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-XII verbs](#)

Form XIII [\[edit \]](#)

- **إِفْعَوَّلٌ** (Form XIII)

Example: **إِعْلَوَاطٌ** (iʿlawwaṭa, “to ride or mount a camel without a saddle”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-XIII verbs](#)

Form XIV [\[edit \]](#)

- **إِفْعَنْلَلٌ** (Form XIV)

Example: **إِشْحَنْكَاءٌ** (iṣḥankaka, “to be or become caliginous”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-XIV verbs](#)

Form XV [\[edit \]](#)

- **إِفْعَنْلَى** (Form XV)

Example: **إِشْرَنْدَى** (israndā, “to vanquish”)

See also: [Category:Arabic form-XV verbs](#)

Form IIIq [\[edit \]](#)

TODO. Rare.

See also: [Category:Arabic form-IIIq verbs](#)

Form IVq [\[edit \]](#)

TODO. Fairly rare.

- **إِطْمَأَنَّ** (iṭma'anna) (ṭ-m-'-n) — to be **calm**.

إِقْشَعَرَ (iqṣa'arra)

إِسْمَأَزَّ (išma'azza)

See also: **Category:Arabic form-IVq verbs**

Exceptions [\[edit \]](#)

Hamzated verbs [\[edit \]](#)

Verbs are called hamzated if **ء** (hamza) is one of the root consonants (radicals). The phonetical pattern of the conjugation of these verbs doesn't differ from other verbs in all forms but because of the rules of positioning of **hamza**, the spelling is affected in some forms, e.g. the verb **أَكَلَ** ('akala) ('-k-l) has the form **يَأْكُلُ** (ya'kulu) in the imperfect masculine singular and the verb **قَرَأَ** (qara'a) (q-r-') has the form **تَقْرَأِينَ** (taqra'īna) in the imperfect feminine singular.

See also: **Category:Arabic hamzated verbs**

Weak verbs [\[edit \]](#)

TO DO Weak verbs are verbs that have one of the radicals **و** or **ي**.

1. Assimilated verbs (R1 = **و** or **ي**)

Form I: **وَجَدَ** (wajada) - "to find", imperfective **يَجِدُ** (yajidu).

See also: **Category:Arabic assimilated verbs**

2. Hollow verbs (R2 = **و** or **ي**)

Form I: **قَالَ** (qāla) - "to say" **قَالَتْ** (qālat) "she said" but **قُلْتُ**, **قُلْتَ**, **قُلْتِ** (qultu, qulta, qulti, "I said, you *m/f* said"); imperfective **يَقُولُ** (yaqūlu) "he said", **يَقُولْنَ** (yaqulna) "they (f.) said".

See also: **Category:Arabic hollow verbs**

3. Final-weak verbs (R3 = **و** or **ي**), e.g. **مَشَى** (mašā) - "to walk", **رَمَى** (ramā) - "to throw", **حَظِيَ** (ḥaẓiya) - "to be in the good graces of, to enjoy", **بَقِيَ** (baqiya) - "to stay, to remain", **دَعَا** (da'ā) - "to call sb., to summon sb.", **لَقِيَ** (laqiya) - "to meet sb."

See also: **Category:Arabic final-weak verbs**

Other examples of weak verbs:

- **عَلَا** ('alā) - "to rise"
- **عَلَى** ('alā) - "to raise"
- **وَلِيَ** (waliya) - "to follow" (assimilated and final-weak)
- **سَرَوْ** (sarūwa) - "to become honourable"
- **عَنَى** (ġannā) - "to sing" (form II)
- **عَطَى** (ġaṭṭā) - "to cover, to wrap" (form II)
- **أَمَنَ** ('āmana) - "to have faith" (form IV, assimilated)
- **أَوَى** ('āwā) - "to shelter" (form IV, hollow and final-weak (and initially-hamzated))
- **تَغَيَّرَ** (taġayyara) - "to change" (form V)
- **تَطَوَّعَ** (taṭawwa'a) - "to volunteer" (form V)
- **إِتَّهَمَ** (ittahama) - "to accuse" (form VIII, root w-h-m)
- **إِحتَاجَ** (iḥtāja) - "to need" (form VIII)
- **إِزدَوَّجَ** (izdawaja) - "to be doubled" (form VIII)
- **إِستَوْرَدَ** (istawrada) - "to import" (form X)

Quadriliteral verbs [\[edit \]](#)

TODO Quadriliteral verbs are made from roots having four radicals, e.g. **تَرَجَّمَ** (*tarjama*) - "to translate"; **هَنْدَسَ** (*handasa*) - "to engineer"; **قَهَقَهَ** (*qahqaha*) - "to laugh loudly"; **إِطْمَأَنَّ** (*iṭma`anna*) - "to be calm"; or **تَبَلَّوَر** (*tabalwara*) - "to be crystalized".

Geminate verbs [[edit](#)]

TO DO Geminate verbs are verbs that have the second and the third radicals the same, e.g. **مَدَّ** (*madda*) - "to stretch"; **دَلَّ** (*dalla*) - "to indicate"; **ظَنَّ** (*ẓanna*) - "to think"; **أَحَبَّ** (*`aḥabba*) - "to love" (form IV); **اِنْشَقَّ** (*inšaqqa*) - "to split" (form VII); **اِخْتَلَّ** (*iḥtalla*) - "to occupy" (form VII).

References [[edit](#)]

- [^] (Wright, 1967)
- [^] Haywood and Nahmad, 1962, p. 185
- [^] (Wright, 1967)

See also [[edit](#)]

- Appendix:Hebrew verb forms

Categories: [Arabic verbs](#) | [Arabic appendices](#) | [Verb appendices](#)

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