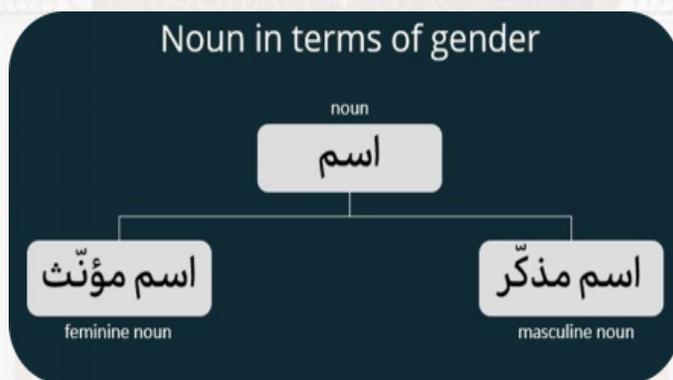


2 : GENDER (Masculine and Feminine)

In the Arabic language, a binary gender system is applied, wherein every noun is categorically assigned either a masculine (مذكر) or feminine (مؤنث) gender. This contrasts with languages like English, where nouns do not carry inherent gender. The incorporation of gendered nouns adds complexity to the language, as exemplified by words such as "كتاب" (kitab), which is masculine, and "مائدة" (ma'idah), which is feminine.



★ Feminine Noun Categories in Arabic

In Arabic, nouns can be classified as feminine based on two distinct criteria:

I. Morphological Feminine Ending [(تاء مربوطة (ة) - tā' Marbūta]:

Nouns that end with the suffix ة (ta marbuta) are considered feminine. Examples include:

سيارة - Car	مكتبة - Library	صورة - Picture
-------------	-----------------	----------------

II. Semantic Reference to Females :

Nouns that refer to female individuals, regardless of their ending, are also considered feminine. Examples include:

أم - Mother	بنت - Girl
-------------	------------

A tā' marbūta, is a tied up taa (the two ends of tā' mafluha are joined)

ت ← ة

★ Additional Feminine Noun Categories in Arabic

Beyond the primary categories, certain Arabic nouns exhibit femininity without conforming to the typical morphological or semantic indicators. These include:

- Most paired body parts are considered feminine, such as:

عين - eye	يد - hand	رجل - leg
-----------	-----------	-----------

Exceptions include:

الحاجبان - Eyebrows (masculine)	الخدود - Cheeks (masculine)
---------------------------------	-----------------------------

- Natural Features of the Earth

Most natural features of the earth are feminine, including:

صحراء - Desert	شمس - Sun	بحر - Sea/ Ocean
----------------	-----------	------------------

Exceptions include:

قمر - Moon (masculine)	نهر - River (masculine)
------------------------	-------------------------

- Geographical and Tribal Names

Most names of countries, cities, and tribes are feminine, including:

مصر - Egypt	العراق - Iraq	اليابان - Japan
-------------	---------------	-----------------

- Certain religious terms exhibit femininity:

In Arabic, certain religious terms exhibit femininity within Qur'anic terminology, such as:

Paradise - جنة (feminine)	Hellfire - جهنم (feminine)
---------------------------	----------------------------

★ **General Rule:** In Arabic, nouns are generally considered masculine unless there's a specific reason to treat them as feminine. These reasons can include the presence of a tā' (ة) marbūṭa, the noun referring to a female, being a paired body part, or falling under the category of natural features or place names.

