5 : NOMINAL SENTENCE

There are two types of sentences in the Arabic language:

- Nominal sentence (الجُمْلة الإسْميّة)
- Verbal sentence (الجُمْلة الفِعْليّة)

★ A Nominal Sentence (الجُمْلة الإسْميّة)

A nominal sentence is a sentence that starts with a noun/ pronoun.

Its two essential components are:

- The Subject (المُبْتَدأ)
- The Predicate (الخَبَر), literally means 'the information' in Arabic.

Examples:

المُبْتَدأ - الطّعامُ جَيِّدٌ - الخَبَر

المُبْتَدأ - هذه مَدْرَسَةٌ - الخَبَر

★ Subject of a Nominal Sentence (المُبْتَدأ)

- The subject (المُبْتَدأ) usually consists of a noun, a pronoun, a demonstrative, an interrogative, or a proposition in the nominative case (مَرْفُوع).
- It is always definite (المعرفة).
- Nouns are definite with "ال". Hence, nouns with "ال" can be (المُبْتَدأ)
- Pronouns and Demonstratives are generally definite. Hence, they can be (المُبْتَدأ).

★ Predicate of a Nominal Sentence (الخَبَر)

- The information (الخَبَر) is not a normal verb but rather the verb "to be" (is, am, are, is not, etc.) which itself is not actually mentioned in Arabic but rather understood.
- It may be a noun (phrase), indefinite adjective, or adverb denoting place/time in the nominative case (مَرْفُوع) as well.

o It is always indefinite (النكرة).

NOMINATIVE CASE (مَرْفُوع)

Generally, words that end with dhamma [ُ] when definite and
dhammatain [ٌ] when indefinite.

★ **Subject & Predicate Agreement**

The subject and predicate of a Nominal sentence must agree in:

o Gender (Masculine or Feminine)

♦ If the subject is masculine, then the predicate should also be masculine.

♦ Both subject and predicate should agree in gender meaning that both should
have the same gender. Examples:

The story is long - القِصَّةُ طَوِيلَةٌ (Feminine)
Travelling is fun - السَفَرُ مُمتِعٌ (Masculine)

o Number (Singular, Dual or Plural)

♦ If the subject is Dual, then the predicate should also be dual.

♦ Both subject and predicate should agree in number meaning that both should
be singular, dual or plural. Examples:

She is a Lawyer - هِيَ مُحَامِيَةٌ
They (both) are tidy - هُمَا مُرَتَّبَانِ
The doctors left - الأَطِبَاءُ غَادَرُوا