

## جمع سالم و جمع التکسیر - Sound plurals and broken plurals

Plurals in Arabic are either sound (جمع السالم) or broken (جمع التکسیر). A sound masculine plural has a suffix added to the end, either an additional ون or ين depending on its grammatical case. A sound feminine plural has an additional ات as a suffix.

Examples of sound masculine plurals:

مُسْلِمُونَ مسلمين  
قَائِمُونَ قائمين  
ساجدون ساجدين  
كافرون كافرين  
مُسْتَغْفِرُونَ مستغفرين

Traits and professions are often made plural on this pattern.

Examples of sound feminine plurals:

مُسْلِمَات  
مُؤْمِنَات  
طَالِبَات  
مُعَلِّمَات

Broken plurals are nouns whose initial vowel structure has changed. When becoming a plural its initial short vowel can change or a letter itself is added or dropped.

كِتَابٌ - كُتُبٌ  
رَجُلٌ - رِجَالٌ  
دَرْسٌ - دُرُوسٌ  
طَالِبٌ - طُلَّابٌ

Whenever you memorize a word, also memorize its plural, You will find the plural of a noun listed in the Hans Wehr dictionary after the abbreviation *pl.*

Here are some examples:

Example 1:

نجم *najm* pl. نجوم *nujūm*, انجم *anjum*  
celestial body; star; lucky star; constellation, asterism; (coll.) herbs, herbage,

There are two plurals for this word.

Example 2:

علم *‘ilm* knowledge, learning, lore; cognizance, acquaintance; information; cognition, intellection, perception, knowledge; (pl. علوم *‘ulūm*) science; pl. العلوم the (natural) sciences | علما وعملا *‘ilman*

Because Hans Wehr is a dictionary of modern written Arabic, the plural here is translated into modern Arabic as science or the (natural) sciences. In classical Arabic the word العلوم means sacred sciences or the religious sciences.

Example 3:

اشراف *‘ašraf* pl. شرفاء *šurafā’*, شريف *šarīf*  
*ašraf* distinguished, eminent, illustrious, noble, highborn, high-bred; honored,

Every descriptive noun (adjective) will have a plural. There are two plurals for this word.

Example 4:

جديد *jadīd* pl. جدد *judud*, *judad* new, recent; renewed; modern; novel, un-

There are two different ways to vowel the plural for this word.

Example 5:

اسد *asad* pl. اسد *usud, usd*, اسود *usūd*,  
آساد *āsād* lion; الأسد *al-asad* Leo (sign of the zodiac);

There are four different plurals for this word.