

## A Student Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic

This accessible grammar provides a concise and user-friendly guide to the structure of Modern Standard Arabic. Using familiar terminology and keeping theory to a minimum, it is suitable for beginning students as well as those at a more advanced level. Detailed descriptions of all types of sentence are given, and numerous tables provide a clear presentation of verbs and nouns. The most familiar grammatical terms are given in Arabic as well as in English in order to help the student identify them, and the index is also presented in both languages for fast and straightforward cross-referencing. Each pattern or rule described is illustrated with authentic examples from a range of real-life contexts such as newspapers, magazines, business communications and the internet, as well as from Arabic literary texts. Clearly organized and practical, this book will be an invaluable reference resource for all learners and teachers of Modern Standard Arabic.

- Concise, accessible and practical
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- Uses familiar terminology and keeps complex theory to a minimum
- Suitable for beginners as well as more advanced students
- Examples are illustrated with authentic examples from real-life contexts

**Eckehard Schulz** is Professor of Arabic Language and Linguistics at the University of Leipzig, and an experienced teacher and translator of the language. His previous books include *Lehrbuch des modernen Arabisch* (1995), *Modernes Arabisch für Fortgeschrittene* (1995), and *Standard Arabic: An elementary-intermediate course* (Cambridge University Press, 2000).

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ECKEHARD SCHULZ



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FOR VERONIKA

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## PREFACE

This book is intended for beginners, intermediate and advanced students, for scholars in linguistics and related fields and also for Arabs grown up in an English-speaking environment who often try to learn Arabic and find difficulties when consulting traditional Arabic grammars.

The Arabic portrayed in this book is not only literary Arabic, rather it is based on contemporary professional practice, i.e. the type of modern Arabic used in newspapers, magazines, official and business communications and the internet, too. On the other hand, it is clear for those who know the history of Arabic that the classical tradition is still alive in quotations from the Koran or from ancient literature and poetry.

This book is slightly different from other grammars because it follows a different approach. Its focus is on Modern Standard Arabic and it pays special attention to what is in use today but does not leave out what else can occur. The terminology is both in English and Arabic and the approach is influenced by the traditional Arabic system of writing grammar, i.e. not to try to press Arabic as a Semitic language into the terminology of English grammar.

In general, I have tried to use the most intelligible and familiar terminology and not to overload the book with too much theory. Arabic terms, although not in full, are given to open the way for the user to find the according passages in traditional Arabic grammars to gain more information about a certain topic and to help the learner to identify these terms when attending Arabic courses in the Arab world.

Not all the rules are explained in detail since the book assumes that the user already knows Arabic and should be able to deduce the rule in question from the examples quoted. In some cases examples are given in which the usage nowadays is different from what Arab grammarians considered acceptable a thousand years ago. To accept this usage does not mean to accept whatever is written, but certain changes, not only in the field of the vocabulary, are in my opinion a quite natural development.

The Arabic dialects are not included in this book because its focus is on (official) written usage, and this usage does not differ dramatically between Morocco in the West and Iraq in the East in the field of grammar.

Finally, I take this opportunity to express my great thanks to all those who helped me with hints and examples and their valuable assistance in checking the text.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to my friend Monem Jumaili who generously provided valuable observations and excellent advice. I am indebted to Yvonne Stägemann who took responsibility for the index. Any remaining errors are my responsibility.

Leipzig 2004

ECKEHARD SCHULZ

## NOTES FOR THE USER

### Abbreviations

a., acc.	accusative case	part.	participle
cf.	compare	prep.	preposition
collect.	collective noun	q.	quadriliteral
colloq.	colloquial	R1	1 <sup>st</sup> radical
def.	definite	R2	2 <sup>nd</sup> radical
e.g.	for example	R3	3 <sup>rd</sup> radical
Eg.	Egyptian	Russ.	Russian
Engl.	English	s.o.	someone
f., fem.	feminine	s.o.'s.	someone's
fig.	figurative sense	sg., sing.	singular
fol.	following	s.th.	something
Fr.	French	Syr.	Syrian
g.	genitive case	th.s.	the same
gram.	grammar	to sb.	to somebody
indef.	indefinite	trans.	transitive
intrans.	intransitive	Yem.	Yemeni
lit.	literal	ث	<i>mutannan</i> = dual
m., masc.	masculine	ج	<i>ġam'</i> = plural
n.	nominative case	م	<i>mu'annaṭ</i> = feminine
off.	official	هـ	see
p.	person		
pl., plur.	plural		

**Transliteration.** The transliteration of the Arabic script follows the pronunciation and not the spelling, e.g.: أَلشَّنْطَة *aš-šaṅṭa* and not *al-šaṅṭa*. The transliteration in this book ignores *Hamza* in initial position, e.g.: إِنْ is given as *inna*, and not as *'inna*.

**Vocalizing (Pointing) and *Hamza*.** The Arabic terms and texts in this book are nearly fully vocalized, except *Hamzat al-waṣl* in the definite article. *Hamzat al-qaṭ'* is always indicated. *Hamzat al-waṣl* <sup>أ</sup> is written as *Alif* without any auxiliary sign.

**Patterns and Forms:** The numerous patterns of Arabic are represented by means of *fa'ala* as model root and its various patterns. The derived forms (stems) of the verbs are indicated by Roman letters (II ... X).

**Index.** The index, which is subdivided into an English and an Arabic index, comprises all essential English and Arabic grammatical and linguistic terms which are used in this book. Its purpose is to facilitate finding the relevant passages.