

**The Cardinal Numbers (الأعداد الأصلية):**

In general Arabic numbers are translated as عددٌ ( Adadun) , but when we use a number in a sentence , we also mention the person / object which we count in numbers. The number is called عددٌ (أعداد. pl) and the object that is counted in numbers is called معدودٌ ( Ma'dudun) in Arabic grammar. For example:

معدودٌ is كُتِبَ and عددٌ is أربعة I have four books, here لي أربعة كُتِبَ

It is worth mentioning here that the use of number is perhaps the most typical in Arabic. As while using a number we have to look at the sentence from three angles:

- (i) How a عددٌ is formed in respect to the gender of the معدودٌ .
- (ii) How the معدودٌ is used; singular or plural and in which case.
- (iii) Which vowel sign will be applied and where to indicate the grammatical position of the عددٌ and معدودٌ as a whole in a sentence as a فاعلٌ به ، مفعولٌ به or مجرورٌ etc.

I am going to discuss the above mentioned angles thoroughly in the following way:

As we know, in respect to the formation, the numbers in Arabic are classified into three categories:

- (i) One- word number. They are from:
  - (a) عشرة (10) up till إثنان (2) واحدٌ (1)
  - (b) The cardinal numbers of tens i.e. عشرون (20) ثلاثون (30) till تسعون (90)
  - (c) Plus the مئة (100), ألف (1000), مليون (1000,000) and بليون 1,000,000,000.
- (ii) Two- word number without ( و ). They are from:

تسعة عشر (19) up till إثنان عشر (12) أحد عشر (11)
- (iii) Two- word number joined together with ( و ). They are from:

تسعة وعشرون (29) up till إثنان وعشرون (22) واحدٌ وعشرون (21)

Likewise from:

(39) تسعة وثلاثون up till (32) إثنان وثلاثون (31) واحد وثلاثون

Up till

(99) تسعة وتسعون up till (92) إثنان وتسعون (91) واحد وتسعون

### **Grammatical rules governing the numbers واحد و إثنان ( 1 & 2):**

The numbers واحد (1) and إثنان (2) are rarely used with their معدود in Arabic. Rather the تنوين ( Tanwinun) at the end of a noun is sufficient to indicate the oneness. Likewise the suffixation of (أن) or (ين) is sufficient to indicate the dual number of a noun. For example

**كتاب : one book and كتابين / كتابان: two books**

However sometimes the numbers واحد and إثنان are used for additional stress. They are used as a صفة after the معدود and the rules of a مركب وصفي govern them in different cases which is given below on the table:

حالات الإعراب Cases	معدود With masculine.	معدود With feminine.
Nominative case	رجلٌ واحدٌ	إمرأةٌ واحدةٌ
Accusative case	رجلاً واحداً	إمرأةً واحدةً
Genitive case	رجلٍ واحدٍ	إمرأةٍ واحدةٍ
Nominative case	رجلانِ إثنانِ	إمرأتانِ إثنانِ
Accusative case	رجلينِ إثنينِ	إمرأتينِ إثنينِ
Genitive case	رجلَيْنِ إثنينِ	إمرأتَيْنِ إثنينِ

### **Grammatical rules governing the numbers 3 till 10 ( من ثلاثة إلى عشرة ) :**

- The numbers ranging from ثلاثة to عشرة always disagree with their معدود in general. If the معدود is masculine the عدد will be feminine and vice-versa.
- The معدود of numbers from 3 to 10 (عشرة to ثلاثة) is always used indefinite plural and in genitive case.
- The different vowel signs are applied on the عدد itself to indicate the grammatical position of the عدد and معدود as a whole in a sentence that is shown on the following table:

حالات الإعراب Cases ( )	معدود With masculine.	معدود With feminine.
Nominative case	ثلاثة رجالٍ	ثلاثُ نساءٍ

Accusative case Genitive case	ثلاثة رجالٍ ثلاثة رجالٍ	ثلاث نساءٍ ثلاث نساءٍ
Nominative case Accusative case Genitive case	عشرة رجالٍ عشرة رجالٍ عشرة رجالٍ	عشر نساءٍ عشر نساءٍ عشر نساءٍ

It is to be noted here that the masculine form of number 8 i.e. ثمانى is a إسمٌ منقوصٌ. In the nominative and genitive cases it will be ثمانى نساءٍ. But in the accusative case it will have فَتْحَةً on the last letter i.e. ثمانى نساءٍ.

If the إسمٌ منقوصٌ happens to be غيرٌ مُنصرفٍ , غيرٌ مُذكّرٍ سالمٍ , or غيرٌ مُنقوصٌ their special rules will be applied to them in the genitive case. For example:

Nominative case	ثلاثة رجالٍ	ثلاثة مكاتبٍ / مدرسينٍ / لياليٍ
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### Grammatical rules governing the numbers 11 to 19 (أحد عشر/ إحدى عشرة إلى تسعة عشر) :

The numbers ranging from أحد عشر to تسعة عشر consist of the units from 1 to 9 and the عشرة. Here we have to take into consideration the rules governing each of them.

- (i) أحد عشر (11) and اثنا عشر (12)
  - (a) Both parts of the numbers أحد عشر and اثنا عشر agree with their معدودٌ in gender. Thus they both are used either masculine or feminine as per the gender of their معدودٌ.
  - (b) Their معدودٌ is always singular indefinite and in the accusative case.
  - (c) Both parts will always have فَتْحَةً on their last letters except the first part of اثنا عشر i.e. اثنا where the rule of مُثَنَّى is applied in deferent cases. These all conditions are shown in the following table:

Cases(حالات الإعراب)	With masc. معدودٌ	With fem. معدودٌ
Nominative case	أحد عشر رجلاً	إحدى عشرة امرأةً
Accusative case	أحد عشر رجلاً	إحدى عشرة امرأةً
Genitive case	أحد عشر رجلاً	إحدى عشرة امرأةً
Nominative case	اثنا عشر رجلاً	اثنتا عشرة امرأةً
Accusative case	إثنى عشر رجلاً	إثنى عشرة امرأةً
Genitive case	إثنى عشر رجلاً	إثنى عشرة امرأةً

It is to be noted here that to say number (11) in Arabic we will not say واحدٌ وإحدى إحدى عشرة and أحد عشر but واحدةً عشرة and إحدى عشرة. But for (21) we can use واحدٌ وعشرون or إحدى وعشرون and أحدٌ وعشرون and عشرون.

- (ii) (19) تسعة عشر (13) ثلاثة عشر :

In numbers ranging from ثَلَاثَةَ عَشَرَ to تِسْعَةَ عَشَرَ, the first part disagrees and second part agrees with the مَعْدُودُ in gender that is shown with example in the following table:

Numbers for male ma'dood (مَعْدُودٌ)		Numbers for female ma'dood (مَعْدُودَةٌ)	
Thirteen men	ثَلَاثَةَ عَشَرَ رَجُلًا	Thirteen women	ثَلَاثَ عَشْرَةَ امْرَأَةً
Fourteen men	أَرْبَعَةَ عَشَرَ رَجُلًا	Fourteen women	أَرْبَعَ عَشْرَةَ امْرَأَةً
Fifteen men	خَمْسَةَ عَشَرَ رَجُلًا	Fifteen women	خَمْسَ عَشْرَةَ امْرَأَةً
Sixteen men	سِتَّةَ عَشَرَ رَجُلًا	Sixteen women	سِتَّ عَشْرَةَ امْرَأَةً
Seventeen men	سَبْعَةَ عَشَرَ رَجُلًا	Seventeen women	سَبْعَ عَشْرَةَ امْرَأَةً
Eighteen men	ثَمَانِيَةَ عَشَرَ رَجُلًا	Eighteen women	ثَمَانِيَ عَشْرَةَ امْرَأَةً
Nineteen men	تِسْعَةَ عَشَرَ رَجُلًا	Nineteen women	تِسْعَ عَشْرَةَ امْرَأَةً

**Grammatical rules governing the cardinal numbers of tens i.e.20,30,40,till 90(عشرون، ثلاثون ، أربعون إلى تسعون):**

- (i)The cardinal numbers of tens are called عُقُودٌ (sing.عُقْدٌ) in Arabic. The varying gender of the مَعْدُودُ does not have any effect on them.  
(ii) Their مَعْدُودُ too is always singular indefinite and in the accusative case.  
(iii)As all the عُقُودُ resemble the جَمْعُ مُذَكَّرٍ سَالِمٍ in their shape so they are given its specific vowel signs in the nominative, accusative and genitive cases.

Cases(حالات الإعراب)	With masc.مَعْدُودٌ	With fem.مَعْدُودَةٌ
Nominative	عشرون رجلاً	عشرون امرأةً
Accusative	عشرين رجلاً	عشرين امرأةً
Genitive	عشرين رجلاً	عشرين امرأةً

Likewise up till تسعون رجالاً/ تسعون امرأةً in nominative case and تسعين رجالاً/ تسعين امرأةً in both of the accusative and genitive cases.

**Grammatical rules governing the numbers 21 to 29 till 91 to 99:**

The numbers ranging from واحدٌ وعشرون to تسعةٌ وعشرون consist of the units from واحدٌ to تسعةٌ and the عشرون . Here we have to take into consideration the rules governing each of them.

- (i) (21) واحدٌ وعشرون and (22) إثنان وعشرون:  
(a) The first part of the numbers واحدٌ وعشرون and إثنان وعشرون agrees with its معدودٌ in gender and is either masculine or feminine according to the gender of its معدودٌ. The second part remains the same.  
(b) The first part of واحدٌ وعشرون i.e. واحدٌ is given any three vowel signs according to the position of the whole phrase in a

sentence. But the first part of إثنان وعشرون i.e. إثنان is used as per the rules of dual of noun. And the second part i.e. عشرون is governed by the rules of the جمع مذكّر سالمّ.

- (c) Their معدودّ is always used singular indefinite and in accusative case.

Cases	With masc. معدودّ	With fem. معدودّ
Nominative case	واحدٌ وعشرون رجلاً	واحدةٌ وعشرون امرأةً
Accusative case	واحداً وعشرين رجلاً	واحدةً وعشرين امرأةً
Genitive case	واحدٍ وعشرين رجلاً	واحدةٍ وعشرين امرأةً
Nominative case	إثنانٍ وعشرون رجلاً	إثنتانٍ وعشرون امرأةً
Accusative case	إثنين وعشرين رجلاً	إثنتين وعشرين امرأةً
Genitive case	إثنين وعشرين رجلاً	إثنتين وعشرين امرأةً

- (ii) (29) تسعةٌ وعشرون to (23) ثلاثةٌ وعشرون:  
In numbers ranging from تسعةٌ وعشرون to ثلاثةٌ وعشرون the first part disagrees with its معدودّ in gender and is either masculine or feminine according to the gender of its معدودّ. The second part remains the same.