السلام عليكم . Yusuf Mullan here.

In this short presentation I'll teach you a core topic in grammar. This would be the **Parts of Speech**. If you have studied Arabic for any length of time, undoubtedly you have come across these 3 terms: اِسْم [*ism*], فِعْل [*fi'l*] and حَرْف [*harf*].

- اِسْم [*ism*] is generally translated as noun.

- فِعْل [*fi'l*] is verb.

- حَرْف [*harf*] is particle.

We want to develop them, and we want a crystal clear understanding of what these 3 are.

When people speak, they speak in *sentences*. Sentences are made up of *phrases*, and phrases are made up of *words*. So, you have to know the "word". Luckily, in Arabic there are only 3 of them. In English there are more. There are 8+ parts of speech in English.

If we wanted to talk about the parts of speech in Arabic, and give definitions of them, we would revisit the ones we know in English. If you are not familiar with the English parts of speech, that's fine! We will spend a few minutes talking about them. This is more productive than directly trying to define the اِسْم [*ism*], فِعْل [*fi'l*] and حَرْف [*harf*], as you will see.

English Parts of Speech

Very briefly, we have:

1. **Nouns** - entities, places, people, things, objects, concepts.

2. **Pronouns** - smaller words that are used in the place of a noun, when the noun has already been mentioned. There are various kind of pronouns. Examples:
   - Personal Pronoun: *he*, *she they*, *you*, *we*.
   - Interrogative Pronoun: words used to introduce questions. E.g. *who*, *what*.
   - Conditional Pronoun: words used to create conditional statements . E.g. "*whoever* comes to you, honour him".

3. **Adjectives** - modifies a noun. Examples: *tall*, *small*, *ugly*, *beautiful*.

4. **Adverbs** - modifies other than a noun. Examples: "came *quickly*".

5. **Verbs** - action + tense. Examples: *helped*, *helps*, *is helping*, *will help*.

6. **Prepositions** - brings out an attribute of an upcoming word. Examples: *from*, *to.*

- "To" indicates *destination*. "From" indicates *origin*. When you line up the word "from" with an upcoming word and say: "I travelled **from** Basra **to** Koofa". (Basra and Koofa are both names of cities). "From" told us that Basra is the **origin** of the travel. If you take away the "from" and say: "I travelled Basra", then the meaning changes. Now it means I took a tour of Basra.
  The word "from" is incredibly important. It told us something about Basra that otherwise we would not have been able to understand.
- "With" indicates that the upcoming noun is a *tool*. E.g. "I wrote **with** the pen". It is telling us that the pen was a tool for the writing.

7. **Conjunctions** - these again are small words that are used to combine between nouns and verbs. They allow abbreviation, so you don't have to repeat yourself. Examples:
- Zayd **and** Amr came. Instead of having to say "Zayd came. Amr came." You can just use the word "and". There is no need to say "came" twice, Now we have both Zayd and Amr gathered together in being the subject of the verb "came".
- Zayd **or** Amr came. "Or" is telling us that one of the two came, without being specific which one.
- Zayd came, **not** Amr. "Not" is telling us that the earlier is established and the upcoming is being negated. "Coming" is established for Zayd, and simultaneously negated for Amr. I.e. affirmation of the first, and negation of the second.

What all conjunctions have in common is that they are used to <u>combine between nouns and verbs, while allowing for *abbreviation*</u>, so you don't have to repeat yourself and say, for example the verb twice.

8. **Article** – there are only 2 in the entire language:
- The definite article "the", which suggests something particular. E.g. **the** pen.
- The indefinite article "a". E.g. **a** pen, which tells us any of many.

Summary of The English Parts of Speech

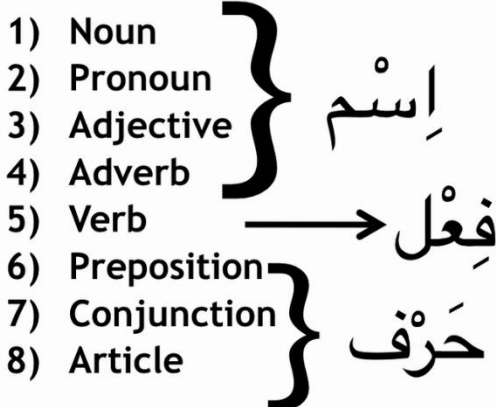| Part of Speech	Brief Definition	Examples
1. Noun	Indicates on place, person, thing.	Zayd, Amr
2. Pronoun	Smaller word, used in place of a noun when the noun has already been mentioned.	He, she Who, what Whoever
3. Adjective	Part of speech that modifies a noun.	Tall, short

4. Adverb	Part of speech that modifies other than a noun.	Quickly
5. Verb	Action + tense	Helped, helping, helps
6. Proposition	Small words that tell us attributes about the upcoming words, that otherwise cannot be understood.	I went **from** Basra, **to** Koofa. • "from" indicates origin • "to" indicates destination
7. Conjunction	Facilitate combining between nouns and verbs without having to repeat yourself.	And, or, not
8. Article	Only 2 in the English language. Definite article "the". Indefinite article "a".	"**the** pen", "**a** pen"

If there are any more parts of speech, then that doesn't really matter. Our point right now is not to exhaust English grammar. We are using this as a bridge to facilitate our understanding of the Arabic Parts of Speech.

Parts of Speech in Arabic

Now, we take اِسْم [*ism*], فِعْل [*fi'l*] and حَرْف [*harf*] and line them up with these 8 Parts of Speech

1. اِسْم [*ism*] corresponds to nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs.

2. فِعْل [*fi'l*] corresponds exactly to verb.

3. حَرْف [*harf*] corresponds to prepositions, conjunctions and articles. (If there are any more, they would come under حَرْف)

Now that we have a good understanding of what اِسْم [*ism*], فِعْل [*fi'l*] and حَرْف [*harf*] correspond to, it is time to give precise definitions for each of them.

Commonalties and Differences Between اِسْم [*ism*], فِعْل [*fi'l*] and حَرْف [*harf*]

In order to define, we spend a few minutes pondering on the commonalities and the differences.

حَرْف [*harf*] doesn't just include one thing, it includes three things. It includes prepositions, conjunctions and articles.

Without any particular order, we will throw up some prepositions, conjunctions and articles. Then we will look at what is common between all of them. We will try to figure what the element is that is the same in all of them. That would be the حَرْف [*harf*]. If it doesn't have that, then it would be the other two (اِسْم [*ism*] or فِعْل [*fi'l*]). We would do the same thing with the other two and try to look for a difference there. What is it that distinguishes the verb from nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs.

We can start by throwing up some prepositions, conjunctions and articles on the screen:

but   or   and   These are all examples of حَرْف [*harf*]. *What do they have in*
in   to   not   *common?* Let's look at their meanings.
the   • "And" indicates *gathering*. E.g. Zayd **and** Amr came. "And"
from   with   a   gathered Zayd and Amr together.
               • "Or" indicates *disjunction*, that it is one of the two the ruling is

applying to, not both (without being specific which one).

- "Not" indicates *affirmation of the first and negation of the second*. E.g. Zayd came, **not** Amr. The "coming" is affirmed for Zayd and simultaneously negated for Amr.
- "In" indicates *containment*. E.g. "The water is **in** the bottle".
- "From" indicates *origin*.
- "With" indicates *utility*.

If you look at all of them, you have to agree that the **commonality** is that they *all* indicate <u>meanings in something else</u>. Because *origin* is not the attribute of the "from", it is an attribute of the *upcoming word*. Like in the example "I went from Basra to Koofa". "From" is the attribute of "Basra". If you remove it, the meaning changes, and that is the element that disappears. The meaning would be "I took a tour".

All حَرْف [*harf*] are all like that.

Contrast that to the word "tree" which would not be a حَرْف [*harf*]. "Tree" is an example of a noun. It indicates trunk, roots, branches, leaves, maybe fruit. All of those things, *are they contained within the tree or are they contained outside the tree?* Clearly, the tree. It is the tree that has the trunk, roots, branches, leaves and fruits.

We have 2 elements here: <u>indicating a meaning in something else</u> vs. <u>indicating a meaning in itself</u>.

If it indicates a **meaning in something else**, then that is the primary ingredient that makes a حَرْف [*harf*] a حَرْف [*harf*].

If it indicates a **meaning in itself**, then that is the primary ingredient that makes it اِسْم [*ism*] **or** فِعْل [*fi'l*].

Since there is more of them, there is something distinguishing the top 4 (nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs) from the verb. And that is **tense**.

The **noun, pronoun, adjective and adverb** indicate meanings in themselves and are **empty of tense**.

Whereas the فِعْل [*fi'l*] **has tense**.

Definition of اِسْم [*ism*], فِعْل [*fi'l*] and حَرْف [*harf*]

اِسْم [*ism*] is the Part of Speech in Arabic that indicates a meaning in itself and is not linked to time. Examples:

- زَيْد (Zayd)
- شَجَرَة (tree)
- قَلَمٌ (pen)
- الشَّمْسُ (the sun)
- الْقَمَرُ (the moon)

فِعْل [*fi'l*] is the part of speech in Arabic that indicates a meaning in itself and is also linked to time. Examples:

- ضَرَبَ (hit)
- سَمِعَ (heard)
- نَصَرَ (helped)
- أَكْرَمَ (honoured)
- اِسْتَنْصَرَ (sought help)

حَرْف [*harf*] is the part of speech in Arabic that does not indicate upon a meaning in itself, but rather in something else. Examples:

- مِنْ (from)

- فِي (in)

- وَ (and)

- أَوْ (or)

So that is it. That is the development of the Parts of Speech.

We did it by surfacing the English Parts of Speech, spending a few minutes on them, and then immediately lining up the Arabic Parts of Speech with the English ones, to try to get a feeling and understanding of what they correspond to. Then we look for the commonalities and differences which then led us to the definitions.

This topic is now totally done. It is done in a way that I don't think you will forget *insha'Allah*. If you were to be made to present it I think you would also do it with confidence.

The answer to my original question. *In spite of dedicating so much time, effort and money, why am I not experiencing the results I was expecting?*

The answer is simple.

It has everything to do with not being aware of the fundamental nature of how the language works. I.e. the approach and method means everything. When you are studying Arabic, as a series of disconnected rules, and long list of words. And you feel that the only way to master the language is to memorise vocabulary and rules, without understanding how the language works, and without appreciating how the Arabic language is different, unique and special, then of course this will overwhelm and disappoint you and not give you the results you are looking for.

It doesn't matter if you are studying online, or studying in a physical classroom, or if you are studying through a live presentation or whether it is pre-recorded. None of that matters! The preferred learning style comes later. **The approach** is the **sole factor** that determines whether the person gets results or not.