

## BREAD NOVICE

## خَلِينَا نَتَعَلَّمُ الْقَوَاعِدَ!

As a Semitic language, one of the unique features of Arabic is what we call a “root and pattern system,” where related words all share the same 3 (or sometimes 4) consonants in a particular order. You might have noticed this with the words دَرَسَ “lesson” and يَدْرُسُ “he studies”, where both words have a root د ر س , but have different internal vowelings.

In Arabic grammar, we model these different vowel patterns by using a root ل ع ل -- simply the root for “do” in Standard Arabic -- as a stand-in for other possible roots. For example, we could say that دَرَسَ has the pattern فَعَّل and that يَدْرُسُ has the pattern يَفْعُل.

Now, let’s learn about some different possible patterns in Arabic. As you read, see if you can think of words you already know into these patterns!

**Pattern فُعْل**

This pattern is usually associated with basic nouns, or the “core” idea that all other meanings relate to. While it’s possible for the short vowels to vary, the important part of this pattern is that it doesn’t have any long vowels.

**Pattern مَفْعَلَة**

This pattern, alongside the related pattern مَفْعَل, is known as اسم مكان and refers to places associated with the basic noun.

**Pattern مَفْعُول**

This pattern is used as a passive participle, or type of adjective describing something when it has been done in the manner of the above verb.

**Pattern فَعَّال**

This pattern is used for **professional or occupational** nouns. The important parts of this pattern are the shadda on the second root letter and the long alif between the second and third root letters.

**Pattern يَفْعَل**

This pattern is the basic مضارع (non-past tense) form for verbs associated with the basic noun.

**Pattern فُعَيْلَة**

This pattern is called the **diminutive**. It is used to create a noun that indicates smaller size or stature. The diminutive is commonly used in Modern Standard Arabic and western Arabic dialects like Moroccan.

**Pattern فِعَالَة**

This pattern usually indicates a مصدر (verbal noun), like “writing,” for the above verb.

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Now, let's put our knowledge to use! As you probably guessed already, the root for ideas associated with "bread" and "baking" is خ ب ز . Using the above patterns, look at the following words and match each one with the pattern that describes it. Then, using the given meaning associations, take your best guess at what the word means:

Meaning	Pattern	Word
		خبز
		مخبزة
		يخبز
		مخبوز
		خباز
		خبيزة
		الخبازة