

INDEPENDENT USAGE — When the Arabic demonstrative pronoun is used without a noun, it corresponds in usage to the English demonstrative pronoun. If the antecedent is identified somewhere in the sentence, the demonstrative pronoun agrees with it in gender and number; the case depends on the function of the demonstrative pronoun in the sentence. If the reference is not identified, the masculine singular form is used.

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This [is] George and that [is] Laila.

hādhā jōrj wa-tilka laylā.

- . **hādhā** *this*: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with **jōrj** → masc. sing., subj. → nom.
- . **jōrj** *George*: proper name, masc. sing. def., predicate, antecedent of **hādhā**
- . **wa-** *and*: conjunction
- . **tilka** *that*: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with **laylā** → fem. sing., subj. in verbless sentence → nom.
- . **laylā** *Laila*: proper name, fem. sing. def., predicate, antecedent of **tilka**

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What [is] this and what [is] that?

mā **hādhā** wa-mā **dhālika**?

- . **mā** *what?*: interrogative pronoun, subj.
- . **hādhā** *this*: demonstrative pronoun, no antecedent → masc. sing., predicate
- . **wa-** *and*: conjunction
- . **mā** *what?*: interrogative pronoun, subj.
- . **dhālika** *that*: demonstrative pronoun, no antecedent → masc. sing., predicate

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DEMONSTRATIVE PHRASE — When the Arabic demonstrative pronoun is used with a noun, it corresponds in usage to the English demonstrative adjective (see *What is a Demonstrative Adjective?*, p. 54). The demonstrative phrase consists of the demonstrative pronoun + the definite article **-l-** + the noun. The demonstrative pronoun agrees with the following noun in gender and number and both go in the same case appropriate for their function.

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Where did you buy this book?

'ayna i-**sh**taray-ti **hādhā** -l-**kitāb**-a?

- . **'ayna** *where?*: interrogative adverb
- . **i-**sh**tarayti** *you bought*: verb, 2nd pers. fem. sing., perfect
- . **hādhā** *this*: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with **-l-**kitāb**** → masc. sing. acc.
- . **-l-**kitāb**** *book*: noun, masc. sing. def., dir. obj. of verb → acc.

- 80 *When did these (two) letters arrive?*
 matā waṣal-at **hāt-āni -l-risālat-āni?**
 . **matā** *when?:* interrogative adverb
 . **waṣalat** (*she*) *arrived:* verb, 3rd pers., agrees with subj.'s gender
 l-risālat-āni → fem., verb precedes subj. → sing., perfect
 . **hātāni** *these (two):* demonstrative pronoun, agrees with
 -l-risālat-āni → fem. dual, nom.
 . **-l-risālat-āni** *two letters:* noun, fem. dual def., subj. of **waṣalat**
 → nom.

- 90 *What came in that letter yesterday?*
 mādhā jā'-a 'amsi fī **tilka l-risālat-i?**
 . **mādhā** *what?:* interrogative pronoun, subj. of **jā'a**
 . **jā'a** (*he*) *came:* verb, 3rd pers. masc. sing., perfect
 . **'amsi** *yesterday:* adverb
 . **fī** *in:* preposition
 . **tilka** *that:* demonstrative pronoun, agrees with **l-risālati** →
 fem. sing. gen.
 . **l-risālati** *letter:* noun, fem. sing. def., obj. of **fī** → gen.

To choose the correct form of the demonstrative pronoun, follow these steps.

- 100 1. LOCATION:
 a) antecedent is near the speaker or addressee → **hādhā**
 b) antecedent is away from both the speaker and addressee
 → **dhālika**
2. GENDER AND NUMBER:
 a) if antecedent is mentioned → pronoun agrees with it in gender and number
 b) if no antecedent is mentioned → pronoun masculine singular
- 110 3. CASE:
 a) pronoun in independent usage → based on its function in the sentence
 b) demonstrative pronoun and noun in demonstrative phrase → based on their function in the sentence

Here is a chart you can use as reference.

	NEAR SPEAKER OR ADDRESSEE		FAR FROM SPEAKER AND ADDRESSEE	
	hādhā <i>this, that, these, those</i>		dhālika <i>that, those</i>	
ANTECEDENT GENDER:	Masc.	Fem.	Masc.	Fem.
NUMBER: Singular	hādhā	hādhihi	dhālika	tilka
Dual Nom. Gen./Acc.	hādh-āni hādh-ayni	hāt-āni hāt-ayni		
Plural	hā'ulā'i		'ulā'ika	

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Do you see **that** on the horizon?

hal tarā **dhālika** ^ʿalā -l-'ufuq-i?

- . **hal**: interrogative particle, changes statement to question
- . **tarā** you see, verb, 2nd pers. masc. sing., imperfect
- . **dhālika** that over there [far from speaker and addressee]: demonstrative pronoun, no antecedent → masc. sing.
- . ^ʿalā on: preposition
- . -l-'ufuqi the horizon: noun, masc. sing. def., obj. of ^ʿalā → gen.

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That [is] a great idea [of yours].

hādhīhi fikrat-u-n mumtāzat-u-n.

- . **hādhīhi** that [near the person addressed]: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with antecedent **fikratun** → fem. sing., subj. → nom.
- . **fikratun** idea: noun, fem. sing. indef., predicate in verbless sentence → nom.
- . **mumtāzatun** excellent: adjective, agrees with **fikratun** → fem. sing. nom. indef.

This [is] the picture of the new house.

hādhīhi šūrat-u -l-bayt-i -l-jadīd-i.

- . **hādhīhi** this [near the speaker]: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with antecedent **šūratu** → fem. sing. def., subj. in verbless sentence → nom.
- . **šūratu** picture: noun, fem. sing., 1st term of gen. construct → def., predicate in verbless sentence → nom.
- . -l-bayti (of) the house: noun, masc. sing. def., 2nd term of gen. construct → gen.
- . -l-jadīd-i new: adjective, agrees with -l-bayti → masc. sing. gen. def.

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I bought some apples; I'm giving you **these two**.

'i-**sḥtaray**-tu ba^ʿd-a -l-tuffāḥ-i; sa-'u^ʿtī-ka **hāt-ayni**.

- . 'i-**sḥtaraytu** I bought: verb, 1st pers. sing., perfect
- . **ba^ʿda** some: noun, masc., sing., obj. of 'i-**sḥtaraytu** → acc.
- . -l-tuffāḥi apples: collective noun → masc. sing. def., 2nd term of gen. construct → gen.
- . sa- will: future particle
- . 'u^ʿtī I give: verb, 1st pers. sing., imperfect
- . -ka you: suffixed pronoun, 2nd pers. sing., ind. obj. of 'u^ʿtī → acc.
- . **hātayni** these two [near the speaker]: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with implied antecedent **tuffāḥatayni** two apples → fem. dual, obj. of 'u^ʿtī, → acc.

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Who [is] **that man**?

man **dhālika** -l-rajul-u?

- . **man** who?: interrogative pronoun, subj. in verbless sentence
- . **dhālika** that [away from speaker and addressee]: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with antecedent -l-**rajulu** → masc. sing. nom.
- . -l-**rajulu** man: noun, masc. sing., predicate in verbless sentence → nom.

I came with those students.

ji'-tu ma^ʿa 'ulā'ika -l-ṭullāb-i.

- . ji'tu *I came*: verb, 1st pers. sing., perfect
- . ma^ʿa *with*: preposition
- . 'ulā'ika *those [away from speaker and addressee]*: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with antecedent -l-ṭullābi → masc. pl. gen.
- . -l-ṭullābi *students*: noun, masc. pl. def., obj. of ma^ʿa → gen.