



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Summary

Arabic Grammar (Nahw)

Lesson 84: Coordinative Particles (حروف العطف)

Sheikh Mohammad Baghernejad

Aw (Or) - Continued:

4. **Permissibility:** When the speaker intends for the listener to choose one of the conjoined elements, while it is permissible to combine them.
5. **Division/Categorization:** When the speaker intends to divide a general term mentioned before the first conjoined element.
6. **Termination of a Limit:** When the speaker intends to clarify the limit of a ruling. In this case, the present tense verb after it is put into the accusative case by an implied *an* (أَنْ), treating it as analogous to *ilā* (إِلَى - "to").

Amma (أما - "Or/But rather"):

It is of two types: Connected (*muttasilah*) and Disconnected (*munqati'ah*).

- The **Connected** type is used in two contexts:



- After the Hamza of Equivalence (همزة التسوية), in which case its meaning is that of *wa* (and) and it conjoins a sentence to a sentence.
- After an interrogative Hamza that seeks specification along with *Amma*, in which case its meaning is that of *aw* (or) and it conjoins a sentence to a sentence.
- The **Disconnected** type means "correction" or "turning away" (*al-idrāb*) and often contains an element of questioning. It conjoins a sentence to a sentence.

Immā (إِما - "Either... or"):

Its meaning is the attribution of something to one of two (or more) conjoined elements. It is used in contexts like doubt, ambiguity, permissibility, detail, and choice. Its conditions are: the conjunction *wāw* must be mentioned before it, the other *immā* must precede it before the first conjoined element, and it conjoins a single word to a single word.

Lā (لَا - "Not/But not"):

Its meaning is the affirmation of the ruling for what precedes it and its negation for what follows it. Its conditions are: a positive statement must precede it, it must not be accompanied by another conjunction, its two conjoined elements must be mutually exclusive,



and its conjoined word must be a single word, e.g., "‘Alī stood, not ‘Amr."

Bal (بل - "Rather/But"):

Its meaning is "correction" and "diverting." If a positive statement precedes it, it renders what comes before it as if left unstated (without a ruling) and diverts the ruling to what comes after it, e.g., "‘Amr stood, **rather**, ‘Alī [did]." It affirms the ruling for the first element and establishes its opposite for the second if a prohibition or negation precedes it, e.g., "Do not let ‘Amr stand, **but rather** ‘Alī," and "‘Amr did not stand, **but rather** ‘Alī."

Lākin (لكن - "But/However"):

Its meaning is "exception" or "rectification" (*al-istidrāk*), and it conjoins only a single word to a single word. It has two conditions:

1. It must not be accompanied by *wāw* (و).
2. A negation or prohibition must precede it, e.g., "‘Amr did not stand, **but** ‘Alī [did]."