

**ADJECTIVAL FORMS**  
**the adjective in Syrian Arabic**

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## Preface



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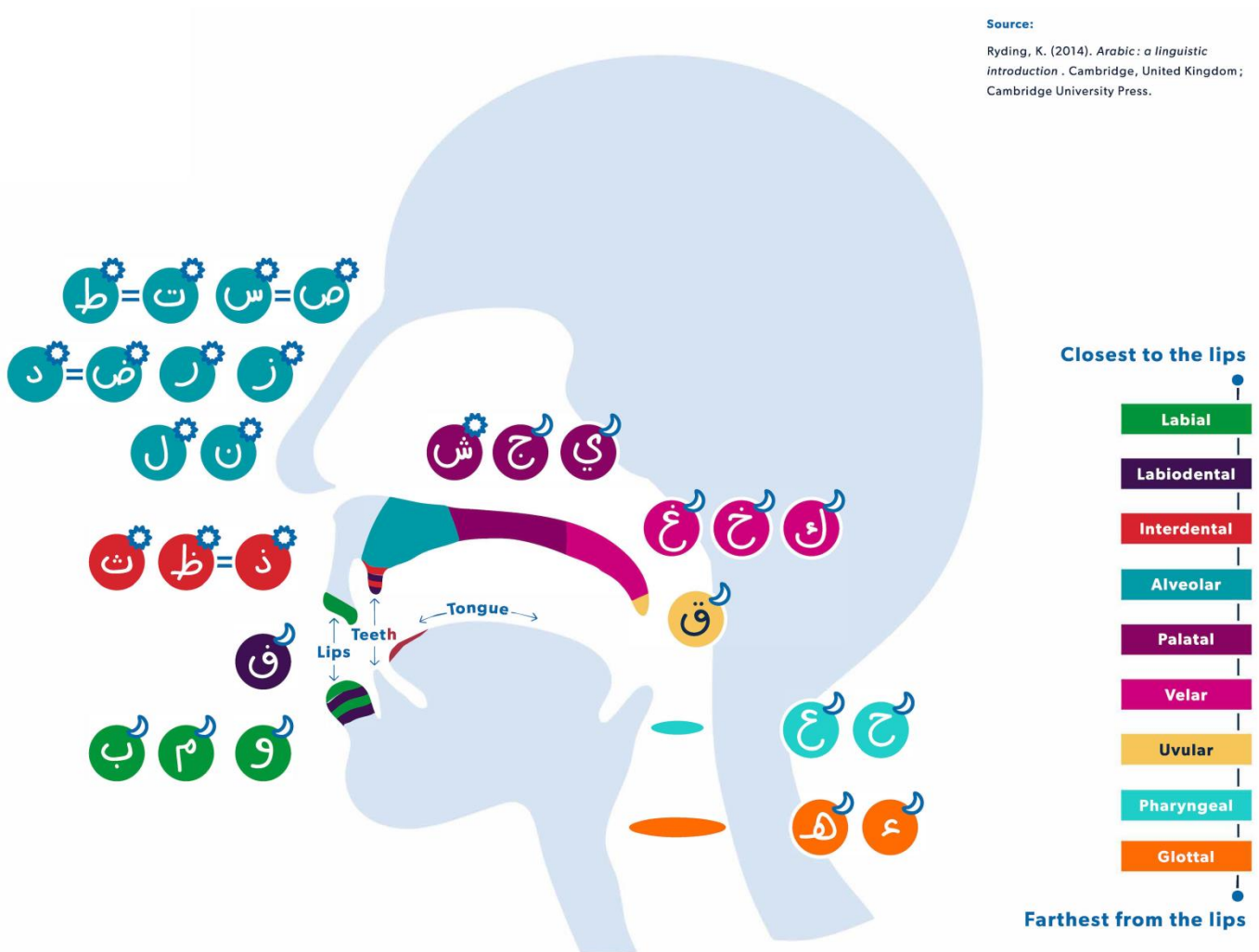
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# Transliteration and Pronunciation

## Pronunciation of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) :

Source:

Ryding, K. (2014). *Arabic: a linguistic introduction*. Cambridge, United Kingdom; Cambridge University Press.



In this book, we use a system of transliteration of the Arabic script.

consonants	b	d	d	D	f	g
	ب	د	ذ	ض	ف	غ

consonants	h	j	k	l	m	n
	ه	ج	ك	ل	م	ن

consonants	q	Q	r	s	s	š
	ق	ق	ر	س	ث	ش

consonants	S	t	t	T	w	x
	ص	ت	ث	ط	و	خ

consonants	y	z	Z	2	3	7
	ي	ز	ظ	ء	ع	ح

non-Arabic consonants	č	g	p	v
	چ	گ	پ	ف

short vowels	a	e	i	o	u	é
	fat7a	kasra	kasra	Damma	Damma	neutral

long vowels	aa	ee	ii	oo	uu
	ا	ي	ي	و	و

hamza	2a	2e	2i	2o	2u	2é
	أ	إ	إ	أ	أ	أ؛ إ

hamza	2aa	2ee	2ii	2oo	2uu
	آ	إي	إي	أو	أو

taa2 marbuuTa	a	e	et
	ة	ة	ة

### Some explanations :

In Syrian Arabic, some consonants and vowels are pronounced differently compared to MSA. Two consonants disappear completely in Syrian Arabic :

ذ	is pronounced either <b>d</b> or <b>z</b>
ث	is pronounced either <b>t</b> or <b>s</b>
ق	is pronounced as the <b>hamza</b> (glottal stop)
Q	is pronounced as the MSA <b>qaaf</b>

The **hamza** when used as the second or last root letter of a word tends to be replaced by **y**, for example, **daa2iman** 'always' in MSA becomes **daayman** in Syrian Arabic.

Consonants **t, d, s** and **z**, when attached to **emphatic consonants** (**T, D, S** and **Z**) are changed into emphatic consonants as well, for example **Dtarr** becomes **DTarr** 'to force, compel'.

The **n** is usually pronounced **m** when it appears in front of a **m** or a **b**. Thus, **nmana3** is pronounced **mmana3** 'be banned', **nba3at** is pronounced **mba3at** 'be sent'. The **n** is also usually assimilated with an **l** or a **r**. Thus, **2a7san-lak** is pronounced **2a7sal-lak** 'best for you'.



## Vowels in Syrian Arabic

In this book, the **e** is pronounced as the French [é]. However, the **é** is a **neutral vowel** which is pronounced differently depending on regional dialects ; sometimes as the French [é], as a schwa [ə] or as an [i]. In addition, **ee** is pronounced as a long French [é] and not as a long English [i]. Finally, **u** is pronounced as [u] in 'rude'.

In MSA, there are only three vowels :

a	is noted by the <b>fat7a</b>
i	is noted by the <b>kasra</b>
u	is noted by the <b>Damma</b>

In Syrian Arabic, there are also sounds **e**, **o** and depending on the regions **é** that are actually former vowels of standard Arabic that have suffered a quality loss.

vowels in MSA	a	i	u
first quality loss	a	e	o
second quality loss	é	é	é

Moreover, **diphthongs** tend to disappear in Syrian Arabic :

ay	becomes <b>ii</b> or <b>ee</b>
aw	becomes <b>uu</b> or <b>oo</b>

Thus,

The MSA	kayf	becomes	kiif	in Syrian Arabic
The MSA	bayt	becomes	beet	in Syrian Arabic
The MSA	yawm	becomes	yoom	in Syrian Arabic
The MSA	jaw3aan	becomes	juu3aan	in Syrian Arabic

## Other particularities of the neutral vowel

The pronunciation of the neutral vowel **é** differs depending on the speaker, but also from the same speaker. Indeed, its tone can be **influenced by the other vowels around**.

For example, the word **kélme** 'word' is sometimes pronounced **kilme** or **kelme** by the same speaker, and this, only a few minutes apart, depending on the other words that are around or even sometimes in a more or less haphazard way.

The word **mhémm** 'important', sometimes pronounced with **u**, **muhémm** is pronounced **muhemm** or **muhomm** due to the influence of the **u**.

Other speakers, on the other hand, tend to keep this vowel in a tone close to the French **é** and **the learner, is advised to do as such, at least at the beginning, to make the task easier**.

## The helping vowel @

The helping vowel, noted @ in this book, is always short and pronounced as the **neutral é**, which varies depending on the regional dialect (**schwa**, **e** or a sound close to **i**).

It differs from the other vowels in the sense that its appearance **is only due to an ease of pronunciation** and therefore **has no effect on the meaning** or shape of the word in question. It « doesn't really exist ».

It appears to **avoid** a cluster of **three consecutive consonants** in order to help pronunciation. For example, we say **byé7@mlu** 'they wear', **m3all@mti** 'my teacher', **qab@l ma** 'before (that)', **ba3@dma** 'after (that)' or **sétt @qlaam** 'six pens', etc.

## The attaching taa2

The **attaching taa2** or **taa2 marbuuTa** is a feminine marker. It is written ð and in its attached form to a preceding letter ã and is pronounced **a** or **e** depending on the preceding letter.

pronounced [e]		ب	ت	ث	ج			د
pronounced [a]	ا					ح	خ	
pronounced [e]	ذ	ر	ز	س	ش			
pronounced [a]		ر				ص	ض	ط
pronounced [e]				ف		ك	ل	م
pronounced [a]	ظ	ع	غ		ق			
pronounced [e]	ن		و	ي	پ	چ	گ	ڦ
pronounced [a]		ه						

Only the letter **r** can give both sounds **a** or **e** to the **attaching taa2**. However, we don't choose whether we pronounce **a** or **e**, some words have to be pronounced **-re** and others **-ra** and, unfortunately, we can't guess the pronunciation, we need to know the word. Thus, we say **siire** 'conversation', **2éjiire** 'a maid', **jiire** 'a neighbor', **bézre** 'a seed', **Dfiire** 'a tress' but **nabra** 'an emphasis', **Tayyaara** 'a plane', **baqara** 'a cattle', **Dérra** 'a parakeet'.

The letters which give the sound **a** to the **attaching taa2** are the « hard » consonants.

labial	ب	م	و	پ					
labiodental	ف	ڦ							
interdental	ث	ذ	ظ						
alveolar	ت	د	ر	ز	س	ص	ض	ط	ل
palatal	ج	ش	ي	چ					
velar	خ	غ	ك	گ					
uvular	ق								
pharyngeal	ح	ع							
glottal	ه								

Moreover, when the word holding the **attaching taa2** is in an **iDaafa** construction, it is always pronounced **-et**: **7afle** 'party' becomes **7aflet muusiiqa** 'concert' and **qéSSa** 'story' becomes **qéSSet haz-zalame** 'that fellow's story'.

## The different adjectival forms

Adjectives can be identified by the different shapes that define them. However, these forms are not exclusively dedicated to adjectives.

For example, the **Faa3eL** form, which corresponds to the **active participle**, can be used to designate a noun, an adjective or serves as a verbal substitute.

	NOUN	ADJECTIVE	VERBAL SUBSTITUTE
	<b>šaare3</b>	<b>faa7eš</b>	<b>raaye7</b>
	<i>(a) street</i>	<i>ugly</i>	<i>who's going (away)</i>

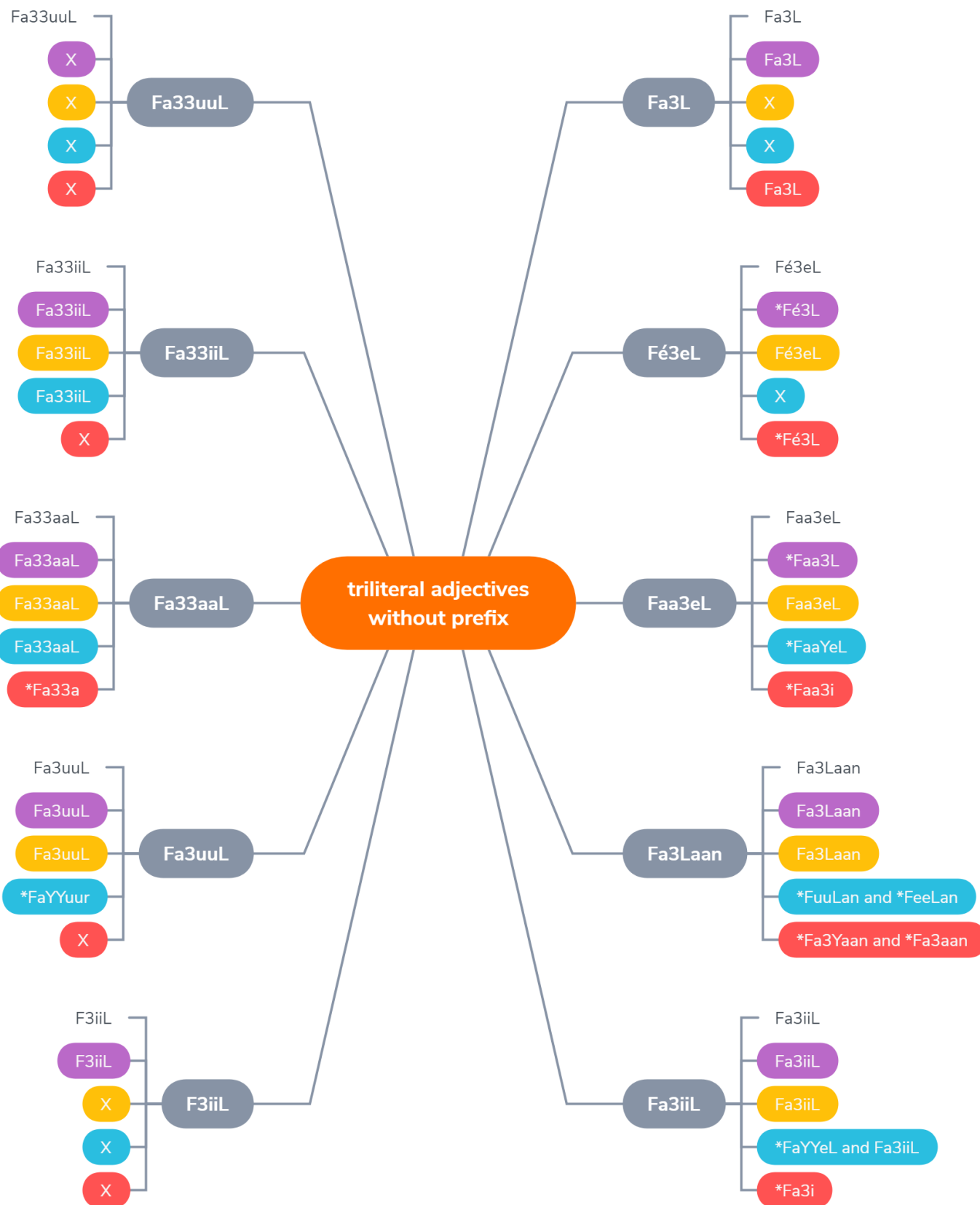
This is because Arabic grammar does not distinguish between elements like adjectives, nouns, adverbs, etc. It distinguishes only three categories of words: verbs, nouns and particles. However, it is interesting to re-categorize these words, especially according to their translation.

As in English, adjectives are also not always distinguishable from nouns, especially for personal adjectives. For example, **méslem** 'Muslim' refers to both the adjective and the noun, as does the word 'Muslim' in English.

Adjectives can take three forms: the **singular masculine**, the **singular feminine** and the **plural**, which is not generally not gendered. The **dual** is absent. However some speakers may use a dual form of the adjective when it completes a dual noun, for example, **él-3énSureen él-kimyaa2iyyeen** 'the two chemical elements', **although this is rare**. Indeed, there are no strict grammatical rules regarding Arabic dialects.



# Trilateral adjectival forms without prefix

There are 10 trilateral forms without prefixes that can give adjectives:



## The form Fa3L

The form **Fa3L** doesn't have initial weak or hollow root.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
صعب Sa3@b	صعبة Sa3be	صعاب S3aab	<i>difficult</i>
حَرَّ 7arr	حرّة 7arra	حرّين 7arriin	<i>hot, spicy</i>
			
			
رخو raxu	رخوة raxwe	رخوين raxwiin	<i>flabby, nonchalant</i>

**fjj** 'raw, green (said of fruit)', **fas@x** 'canceled', **bar@d** 'cold', **fax@m** 'elegant, majestic', **nayy** 'raw (said of meats)', **Sa77** 'true, just, correct', **sah@l** 'easy', **Dax@m** 'enormous, big, heavy', **7ayy** 'living', **7add** 'sharp' are of form **Fa3L**.

## The form Fé3eL

There are no hollow roots of the form **Fé3eL**. Geminate and defective roots, lose the second vowel of the form, giving **Fé3L**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
<p>بشع</p> <p>béše3</p>	<p>بشعة</p> <p>béš3a</p>	<p>بشعين</p> <p>béš3iin</p>	<p><i>ugly</i></p>
<p>مّر</p> <p>mérr</p>	<p>مّرّة</p> <p>mérra</p>	<p>مّرّين</p> <p>mérriin</p>	<p><i>bitter</i></p>
<p>وسخ</p> <p>wésex</p>	<p>وسخة</p> <p>wésxa</p>	<p>وسخين</p> <p>wésxiin</p>	<p><i>dirty</i></p>
<p>حلو</p> <p>7élu</p>	<p>حلوة</p> <p>7élwe</p>	<p>حلوين</p> <p>7élwiin</p>	<p><i>beautiful, cute</i></p>

**wé3er** 'uneven, bumpy, lumpy', **xéšen** 'rough, inaccurate, rudimentary, rugged', **xéTer** 'dangerous', **šére7** 'airy, healthy', **lébeq** 'skilled', **méren** 'agile', **réTeb** 'moist, muggy', **3éker** 'cloudy, murky', **7émeq** 'bad-tempered, impulsive', **7érr** 'free, liberal', **déle3** 'pampered, tasteless', **déseem** 'greasy, stodgy, heavy (said of a meal)', **wé7eš** 'wild, savage, brutal' are of form **Fé3eL**.

Some adjectives of this form tend to drop the second vowel: **séx@n** 'hot, feverish', **bék@r** 'intact, virgin, pure', **méz@3** 'restless, troubled', etc.



## The form Faa3eL

Geminate roots lose the last vowel and give **Faa3L**. All hollow roots **w** are changed into **y**, so we say **xaayef** 'scared' and not **xaawef**, root x-w-f. The only exception is for both hollow and defective roots such as **haawi** 'windy', root h-w-y. In addition, the **hamza** is sound **saa2er** 'outraged'. Finally, the defective roots are assimilated to the last vowel of the form : **Faa3i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
بارد baared	باردة baarde	بردين bardiin	<i>cold</i>
شاذّ šaazz	شاذّة šaazze	شواذّ / شاذّين šawaazz / šaazziin	<i>weird</i>
واسع waase3	واسعة waas3a	واسعين waas3iin	<i>vast</i>
خائف xaayef	خيفة xaayfe	خافين xaayfiin	<i>scared</i>
غلي ḡaali	غلية ḡaalye	غليين ḡaalyiin	<i>expensive</i>

**qaasi** 'mean, nasty, severe', **qaader** 'qualified, able, competent', **šaaTer** 'intelligent, shrewd, ingenious', **taafeh** 'futile, pointless', **Taale3** 'ascending, rising', **waaDe7** 'clear, visible, legible', **xaaDe3** 'obedient', **xaaser** 'defeated, beaten', **yaabes** 'dried, dried-up', **faayen** 'miserly, stingy, tight-fisted', **kaaser** 'obstinate, stubborn', **naafe3** 'favorable, advantageous', **qaa7el** 'arid', **naašef** 'dried', **jaayeD** 'suffering, unwell', **jaare7** 'sharp, spiky, charming', **haayem** 'thirsty', **faager** 'gaping, wide-open', **faaDi** 'hollow, vacant, unoccupied, available', **faa7eš** 'ugly', **baaqi** 'remaining', **7aarr** 'spicy, hot, welcoming', **3aaTel** 'spoiled, mean, useless', **3aajel** 'in a hurry, urgent, fast', **2aaxer** 'last', **2aasef** 'sorry', **3amm** 'common, public, popular', **3aaqel** 'reasonable' are of form **Faa3eL**.

## The form Fa3Laan

Concerning hollow roots, they either get assimilated to the first vowel of the form, giving **Fuu3aaL** when the medial root is **w** and **Fee3aaL** when the medial is **y**. Be careful, for some adjectives, both cases are possible, **xuufaan** or **xeefaan** 'scared', **juu3aan** or **jee3aan** 'hungry'.

However, hollow **hamazated** roots have no influence, **ya2saan** 'desperate'. When a root is both hollow and defective, they behave as sound, but the root **w** is changed to **y**, **rayyan** 'irrigated, swampy, marshy', root r-w-y, **3ayyaan** 'sick, ill', root 3-y-y.

Concerning defective roots, they are sound, but here again, **w** is changed to **y**, **šaqyaan**, root š-q-w. There is only one exception in which the weak root is assimilated to the long vowel **aa** of the form and disappear completely, giving **Fa3aan**, **malaan** 'full, filled', root m-l-y. However, the sound form **malyaan** is possible as well.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
لهفان lahfaan	لهفانة lahfaane	لهفانين lahfaaniin	<i>anxious, greedy</i>
حنّان 7annaan	حنّانة 7annaane	حنّانين 7anaaniin	<i>affectionate</i>
وسنان wasnaan	وسنانة wasnaane	وسنانين wasnaaniin	<i>dozing, drowsing</i>
جوعان juu3aan	جوعانة juu3aane	جوعانين juu3aaniin	<i>hungry</i>
ملان malaan	ملانة malaane	ملانين malaaniin	<i>full, filled</i>

**bardaan** 'cold', **7aznaan** 'sad', **šab3aan** 'full, replete', **gayraan** 'jealous', **kasbaan** 'winning', **kaslaan** 'lazy, idle', **na3saan** 'somnolent', **sakraan** 'drunk', **ta3baan** 'tired', **za3laan** 'angry, upset' are of form **Fa3Laan**.

## The form Fa3iiL

Regarding hollow roots, the vast majority have their medial root doubled and changed to **y**, giving **FaYYeL**. For example **Tayyeb** 'tasty, good', root T-y-b, **mayyet** 'dead', root m-w-t, **hayyen** 'easy', root h-w-n. However, some remain sound as **3awiiS** 'difficult, complex', **Tawiil** 'long', etc.

Defective roots are assimilated to the last vowel and disappear completely, giving **Fa3i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
رذيل raziil	رذيلة raziile	رذيلين / أرذال / رذال raziiliin / 2arzaal / rzaal	<i>treacherous, devious</i>
خفيف xafiif	خفيفة xafiife	خفاف xfaaf	<i>light, agile</i>
وخيم waxiim	وخيمة waxiime	أوخام / وخام 2awxaam / wxaam	<i>noxious, harmful</i>
ميت mayyet	ميتة mayyte	موتى / ميتين mawta / mayytiin	<i>dead, deceased</i>
ذكي zaki	ذكية zakiyye	أذكيا 2azkiya	<i>intelligent, smart</i>

**2akiid** 'sure, certain', **2aSiil** 'authentic, noble', **3afiif** 'chaste', **3adiim** 'poor, miserable', **3ajiiB** 'admirable, wonderful, stunned', **badii3** 'exotic, original', **bari**, **barii2** 'innocent', **basiit** 'deranged, crazy, naive, insignificant, simple, flat', **baTii2**, **baTi** 'slow', **galiiz** 'rude', **ka2iib** 'melancholic', **kaliil** 'weary', **mariiD** 'sick, ill', **naziih** 'upright, honest', **naZiir** 'equal, fair', **qabii7** 'hideous, indecent, ugly', **qadiim** 'ancient, decrepit', **rašiiq** 'slender, light, fast', **raxiim** 'soft, smooth', **sa3iid** 'lucky, happy, fortunate', **safiih** 'insolent', **šariif** 'honorable, noble', **saxiif** 'petty, futile', **saxi** 'generous', **Tariif** 'funny, amusing', **wa7iid** 'alone, solitary, unique', **wajiiz** 'concise, succinct', **xabiis** 'hypocritical, crafty, smart', **xaSiib** 'fertile, fecund', **xabiir** 'experienced', **ra7iim** 'merciful, forgiving', **baliid** 'lazy', **Sarii7** 'frank, honest', **rašiid** 'reasonable, sensible', **jamiil** 'pretty, beautiful' are of form **Fa3iiL**.

## The form F3iiL

The form **F3iiL** is only used with sound roots.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
تقيل tqiil	تقيلة tqiile	تقال tqaal	<i>heavy</i>
جديد jdiid	جديدة jdiide	جدااد jdaad	<i>new</i>



**b3iid** 'distant, far-off', **D3iif** 'skinny, weak', **bxiiL** 'stingy, miserly, tight-fisted', **kbiir** 'big, fat', **ktiir** 'many, much', **mni7** 'good, fine', **rxiiS** 'cheap', **nDiif** 'clean', **S7ii7** 'whole', **smiin** 'fat, fatty', **Zgiir**, **Sgiir** 'little, young' are of form **F3iiL**.

## The form Fa3uuL

Defective roots are not use with pattern **Fa3uuL**, except with the **hamza** which doesn't influence the form, **kafuu2** 'skillful'.

So only hollow roots modify the form. The medial root is doubled and changed to **y**, giving **FaYYuuL**. Only the **hamza** remains sound, **ra2uuf** 'merciful, forgiving'.

The adjectives of this form have the particularity of not having to wear the **attaching taa2** to be used as a feminine. Thus, **xajuul** 'shy, timid' can qualify **a man and a woman**. While **xajuule** will only qualify **a woman**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
<p>خجول</p> <p>xajuul</p>	<p>خجولة</p> <p>xajuule</p>	<p>خجولين</p> <p>xajuuliin</p>	<p><i>shy, timid</i></p>
<p>حنون</p> <p>7anuun</p>	<p>حنونة</p> <p>7anuune</p>	<p>حنونين</p> <p>7anuuniin</p>	<p><i>tender, gentle</i></p>
<p>وقور</p> <p>waquur</p>	<p>وقورة</p> <p>waquura</p>	<p>وقورين</p> <p>waquuriin</p>	<p><i>dignified</i></p>
<p>غَيّور</p> <p>ḡayyuur</p>	<p>غَيّورة</p> <p>ḡayyuura</p>	<p>غَيّورين</p> <p>ḡayyuuriin</p>	<p><i>jealous</i></p>

**3ayyuuq** 'elegant', **7aquud** 'resentful, bitter, embittered', **7asuud** 'envious', **basuul** 'brave', **katum** 'reserved, quiet, shy', **laduud** 'tenacious, relentless', **faxuur** 'proud', **Da7uuk** 'joyful', **bašuuš** 'jovial, jolly', **dayyuus** 'ugly, awful', **kaduud** 'hard-working', **naSuu7** 'honest, sincere', **qanuu3** 'easily influenced, satisfied', **šakuur** 'skinny', **waduud** 'friendly', **Tamuu7** 'ambitious', **xaDuu3** 'docile, obedient', **xanuu3** 'servile', **Zanuun** 'wary, suspicious', **xaduum** 'obliging, helpful, considerate', **Sabuu7** 'cheerful (giving good mood in the morning)' are of the form **Fa3uuL**.

## The form Fa33aaL

Only defective roots have an influence on this pattern. The last root fuses with the long **aa** of the form, which gives **Fa33a**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
جذاب jazzaab	جذابة jazzaabe	جذابين jazzaabiin	<i>charming, seductive</i>
حساس 7assaas	حساسة 7assaase	حساسين 7assaasiin	<i>sensitive, easily hurt</i>
وضّاح waDDaa7	وضّاحة waDDaa7a	وضّاحين waDDaa7iin	<i>glittering, dazzling</i>
بيّاع bayyaa3	بيّاعة bayyaa3a	بيّاعين bayyaa3iin	<i>commercial</i>
بكي bakka	بكاية bakkaaye	بكايين bakkaayiin	<i>whiny, whingey</i>

**jawwaal** 'itinerant, ambulant', **maSSaaS** 'absorbent', **gayyaar** 'jealous', **jallaab** 'attractive', **7akka** 'talkative, chatty', **7abbaab** 'nice, kind, friendly, likable', **naqqaal** 'itinerant, ambulant', **rannaan** 'resounding', **šaffaaf** 'limpid, transparent', **Tawwaaf** 'floating' are of the form **Fa33aaL**.

## The form Fa33iiL

This form is never used with defective roots. Furthermore, all the other types of root have no influence on the pattern. It remains sound.

The plural of the adjectives of the pattern **Fa33iiL** are generally formed just like the feminine.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
بَرِيد barriid	بَرِيْدَة barriide	بَرِيْدَة barriide	<i>sensitive to cold</i>
شَكِيك šakkiik	شَكِيْكَ šakkiike	شَكِيْكَ šakkiike	<i>skeptical</i>
أَكِيْل 2akkiil	أَكِيْلَة 2akkiile	أَكِيْلِيْنَ 2akkiiliin	<i>gluttonous</i>
زَوِيْق zawwiiq	زَوِيْقَة zawwiiqa	زَوِيْقَة zawwiiqa	<i>elegant, pretty</i>

**bakkiir** 'early', **habbiiT** 'cowardly, craven', **jabbiir** 'resistant, tough', **7abbiis** 'worried', **nakki7** 'wary, suspicious', **Sa77ii7** 'just, correct', **šagǧiil** 'laborious, hard-working', **šalliif** 'dishonest, who scams', **šarriib** 'heavy drinker', **Sarriif** 'spendthrift, big spender', **Ta77iiš** 'scrapper, aggressive', **xawwiif** 'cowardly, fearful, nervous, timid', **lammii3** 'bright, shiny' are of form **Fa33iiL**.

## The form Fa33uuL

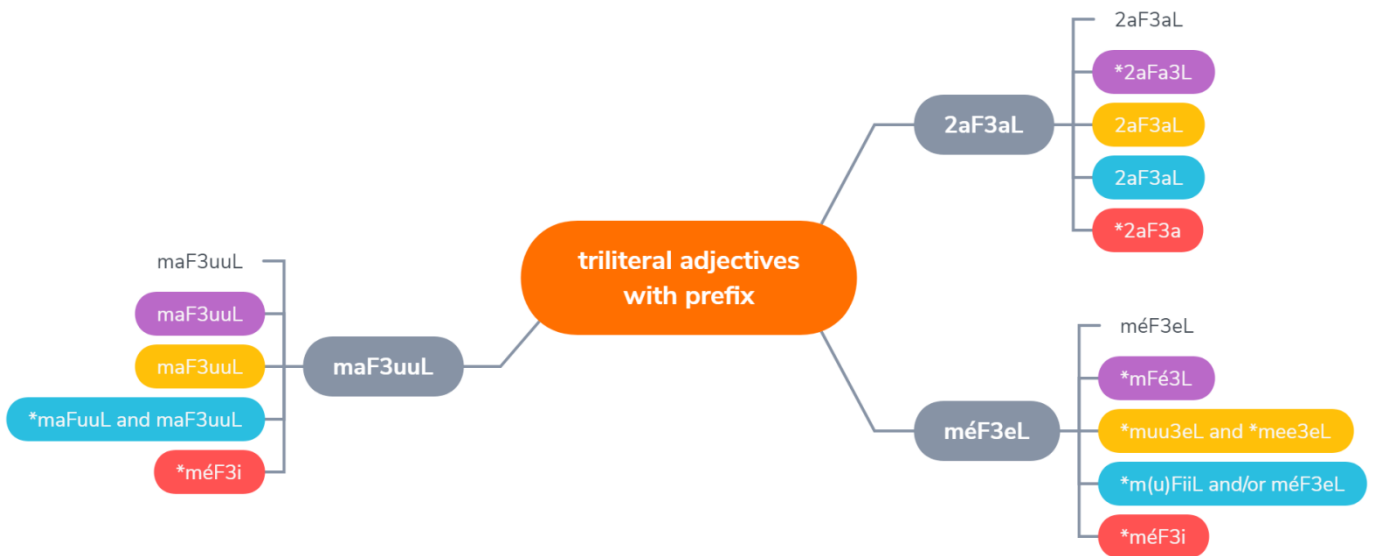
This form **is not used in Syrian Arabic**. However, some people consider the hollow adjectives of the **Fa3uuL** form, which see their weak root doubled and changed to **y**, giving **FaYYuuL**, are an integral part of this form.

**7abbuub** is sometimes heard as 'loving, kind', but it is still much less used than **7abbaab**.



# Triliteral adjectival forms with prefix

Triliteral adjectival forms can take a prefix, either **2-** or **m-**.



## The form 2aF3aL

The adjectival form **2aF3aL** is used for color and physical defect adjectives 'deaf, mute, blind, etc'. It should not be confused with the elative form **2aF3aL**.

The geminate roots see the second short vowel of the form moved before: **2aFa3L**.

The hollow roots have no influence on the masculine form, however, in the feminine, the hollow root merges with the first vowel **a** of the pattern giving **oo** if the root is **w** and **ee** if the root is **y**. In the plural, the weak root shows itself completely, giving **uu** or **ii**.

Defective roots fuse with the last vowel, giving **2aF3a**.

The feminine and plural form lose the initial **alif**. In addition, the female form is not marked by the **taa2 marbuuTa** but by an **alif + hamza**. However, the final **hamza** is often omitted by the native speakers in writing and generally ignored orally, which does not lengthen the final **-a** sound. The plural form is either **Fé3L** or **Fé3Laan**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
أخضر 2axDar	خضراء xaDra	خضر xéD@r	green
أصم 2aSamm	صماء Samma	صمّان / صمّ Sémm / Sémmaan	deaf
أيمن 2ayman	يمناء yamna	يمن yém@n	right-handed
أعور 2a3war	عوراء 3oora	عور 3uur	one-eyed
أعمى 2a3ma	عمياء 3amya	عميان 3émyaan	blind

**2a7maq** 'bad-tempered, impulsive, insane', **2a3raj** 'lame', **2a3zab** 'single, unmarried', **2abkam** 'mute', **2azraq** 'blue', **2az3ar** 'dishonest', **2aSlá3** 'bald (not completely)', **2aqra3** 'bald (completely)', **2alfat** 'stupid', **2ahbal** 'retarded, dull-witted', **2abyaD** 'white', **2aswad** 'black' are of form **2aF3aL**.

## The form méF3eL

Geminate roots lose the last vowel and move the neutral one before : giving **mFé3L**.

Initial weak roots replace completely the neutral vowel, giving **muu3eL** when the initial is **w**, and **mee3eL** when it is a **y**. If it's **hamza**, the pattern remains sound, **mé2sef** 'regrettable, unfortunate'.

Hollow roots may modify the form, but not always. For example, **méjwez** 'paired' and **méhyeb** 'great, amazing' remain sound. **mTii3** 'obedient' and **mufiid** 'useful, helpful' are modified. And **mxiiif** or **méxyef** 'alarming' and **mrii7** or **mérye7** 'comfortable, relaxing' have both possibilities. We observe that the medial **w** is changed to **y**. We either have the sound form or **m(u)FiiL**.

Defective roots are assimilated to the last vowel, giving **méF3i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مسلم méslem	مسلمة més@lme	مسلمين més@lmiin	<i>muslim</i>
مهمّ mhémm	مهمّة mhémme	مهمّين mhémmiin	<i>important</i>
موجع muuje3	موجعة muuj3a	موجعين muuj3iin	<i>painful</i>
مخيف mxiiif / méxyef	مخيفة mxiiife / méx@yfe	مخيفين mxiiifiin / méx@yfiin	<i>alarming</i>
معدّي mé3di	معدية mé3diyye	معديين mé3diyyiin	<i>contagious</i>

**mé2zi** 'harmful, poisonous, toxic', **mél7ed** 'atheist', **méxleS** 'loyal, sincere', **mxéll** 'immoral', **msémm** 'venomous, poisonous', **mésmen** 'caloric, calorific', **mérDi** 'satisfying', **mméll** 'annoying, boring', **méfje3** 'terrible, catastrophic', **méD7ek** 'funny, amusing', **mébhej** 'joyful' are of form **méF3eL**.

## The form maF3uuL

Hollow roots have no influence on this pattern, **maTuuš** ‘stunned, knocked out’, **ma3uuuj** ‘curved, twisted’, except for the word **mahuul** ‘extraordinary, incredible, unbelievable’ where the medial **w** disappear in the long uu of the form, **maFuuL**.

Defective roots give the form **méF3i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
متروك matruuk	متروكة matruuke	متروكين matruukiin	<i>abandoned, deserted</i>
مجنون majnuun	مجنونة majnuune	مجانين majaaniin	<i>crazy</i>
موجود mawjuud	موجودة mawjuude	موجودين mawjuudiin	<i>present, located</i>
مهول mahuul	مديونة mahuule	مهولين mahuuliin	<i>extraordinary</i>
مقلي méqli	مقلية méqliyye	مقليين méqliyyiin	<i>fried</i>

**mağfuur** ‘acquitted, forgiven’, **mamSuuS** ‘absorbed’, **ma3buud** ‘worshipped’, **maskuur** ‘broken’, **mahrus** ‘crushed’, **ma7ZuuZ** ‘lucky’, **maTluub** ‘requested’, **mahbuul** ‘crazy’, **manzuum** ‘perveted, damaged, out of order’, **ma3tuuh** ‘stupid’, **ma7muul** ‘transported’, **mélwi** ‘twisted’, **maš7uut** ‘crossed out’, **ma3quul** ‘reasonable’, **ma7šuum** ‘modest, prudish’, **mab3uut** ‘sent’, **mabluul** ‘moist, wet’, **mafquud** ‘lost, astray’, **mağluuq** ‘closed’, **majbuur** ‘forced, compelled’, **mamnuu3** ‘forbidden, illegal’, **manSuur** ‘glorious’, **ménsi** ‘forgotten’, **maqTuu3** ‘cut, interrupted’, **maqtuul** ‘killed’, **marsum** ‘drawn’ are of form **maF3uuL**.

# Participles of the forms 2 to 10

Participles of the forms 2 to 10 can also serve as adjectives :



## The form mFa33eL

Only defective roots have an influence on this pattern. They give **mFa33i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مرشّح mrašše7	مرشّحة mrašš7a	مرشّحين mrašš7iin	<i>who has a cold</i>
مصمّم mSammem	مصمّمة mSamméme	مصمّمين mSammémiin	<i>persistent</i>
موزّع mwazze3	موزّعة mwazze3a	موزّعين mwazze3iin	<i>distributing</i>
مبيّن mbayyen	مبيّنة mbayyne	مبيّنين mbayyniin	<i>clear, explicit</i>
مخّلي mxalli	مخّلية mxallye	مخّليين mxallyiin	<i>gone</i>

**m3affen** 'moldy, rotten', **m7allef** 'sworn in', **mdabbeq** 'sticky', **mbawweZ** 'frozen', **msahhel** 'laxative', **msakken** 'calming, soothing, relaxing', **mxarreb** 'destructive' are of form **mFa33eL**.

## The form mFa33aL

Only defective roots have an influence on this pattern. They give **mFa33a**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
معلّم m3allam	معلّمة m3allme	معلّمين m3allmiin	<i>cultivated, educated</i>
مبلّل mballal	مبلّلة mballale	مبلّلين mballaliin	<i>moist, soaked</i>
موقّت mwaqqat	موقّطة mwaqqate	موقّتين mwaqqatiin	<i>temporary</i>
مدوّر mdawwar	مدوّرة mdawwara	مدوّرين mdawwariin	<i>rounded, circular</i>
مسمّى msamma	مسمّاية msammaaye	مسمّايين msammaayiin	<i>named</i>

**m2abbad** 'eternal, timeless', **m3addad** 'multiple, diverse', **m7annak** 'experienced', **mbakkar** 'premature', **mbaššaT** 'lying (down)', **mfawwaq** 'dominant', **mğaffal** 'stupid, inexperienced', **mjarrad** 'stripped, bare', **mkassaf** 'intensive, concentrated', **mlabbak** 'suspicious, wary', **mlahhaf** 'impatient', **mqawwas** 'vaulted, arched', **mwarram** 'swelled' are of form **mFa33aL**.

## The form mFaa3eL

Only defective roots have an influence on this pattern. They give **mFaa3i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مسافر msaafer	مسافرة msaafra	مسافرين msaafriin	<i>traveling, itinerant</i>
مقاصص mqaaSeS	مقاصصة mqaaSeSa	مقاصصين mqaaSeSiin	<i>punisher</i>
مواطن mwaaTen	مواطنة mwaaTne	مواطنين mwaaTniin	<i>citizens'</i>
مجاوب mjaaweb	مجاوبة mjaawbe	مجاوبين mjaawbiin	<i>asked, surveyed</i>
ملاقي mlaaqi	ملاقية mlaaqiyye	ملاقيين mlaaqiyyin	<i>who found</i>

**mjaaweb** literally means 'who has answered (to a question)'.

**mnaaseb** 'appropriate', **mnaafeq** 'hypocritical', **m7aareb** 'war, warlike', **m3aaqed** 'contractual', **msaaber** 'constant, resistant, tenacious' are of form **mFaa3eL**.



## The form mFaa3aL

Only defective roots have an influence on this pattern. They give **mFaa3a**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مناقض mnaaqaD	مناقضة mnaaqaDa	مناقضين mnaaqaDiin	<i>contradictory</i>
مقاصص mqaaSaS	مقاصصة mqaaSaSa	مقاصصين mqaaSaSiin	<i>punished</i>
مواطر mwaatar	مواترة mwaatara	مواترين mwaatariin	<i>regular, successive</i>
مضايق mDaayaq	مضايقة mDaayaqa	مضايقين mDaayaqiin	<i>embarrassed</i>
ملاقي mlaaqa	ملاقاة mlaaqaaye	ملاقين mlaaqaayiin	<i>found</i>

**mxaalaf** 'transgressing, disparate', **mzaaman** 'simultaneous', **mwaajah** 'opposite, facing', **mšaabah** 'consistent with, similar', **mnaawab** 'irregular', **m7aayad** 'neutral' are of form **mFaa3aL**.

## The form méF3eL (AP of form 4 verbs)

This form is rare and is distinct from the preceding **méF3eL** form as this one corresponds to active participles of form 4 verbs.

Geminate roots lose the last vowel and move the neutral one before : giving **mFé3L**.

Initial weak roots replace completely the neutral vowel, giving **muu3eL** when the initial is **w**, and **mee3eL** when it is a **y**.

Hollow roots get assimilated to the second vowel, giving **méFiiL**.

Defective roots are assimilated to the last vowel, giving **méF3i**.

masculin	féminin	pluriel	traduction
مكرم mékrem	مكرمة mék@rme	مكرمين mék@rmiin	<i>honorable</i>
مصرّ mSérr	مصرّة mSérra	مصرّين mSérriin	<i>insistent</i>
مودع muude3	مودعة muud3a	مودعين muud3iin	<i>deposing</i>
مفيل mé7iit	مفيلة mé7iite	مفيلين mé7iitiin	<i>neighboring, bordering</i>
مغري mégri	مغرية mégriyye	مغريين mégriyyiin	<i>tempting, attractive</i>

## The form méF3aL

Geminate roots lose the last vowel and move the neutral one before : giving **mFa3L**.

Initial weak roots replace completely the neutral vowel, giving **muu3aL** when the initial is **w**, and **mee3aL** when it is a **y**.

Hollow roots get assimilated to the second vowel, giving **méFaaL**.

Defective roots are assimilated to the last vowel, giving **méF3a**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مكرم mékram	مكرمة mékrame	مكرميين mékramiin	<i>honored</i>
*مفعل mFa3L	مفعلة mFa3Le	مفعليين mFa3Liin	x
مودع muuda3	مودعة muuda3a	مودعيين muuda3iin	<i>categorized, filed</i>
مباح mébaa7	مباحة mébaa7a	مباحيين mébaa7iin	<i>allowed, permitted</i>
مخفي méxfa	مخفاية méxfaaye	مخفايين méxfaayiin	<i>hidden, incognito</i>

We didn't find any active participle of this pattern used in daily speech which is geminated. Thus, we left the f-3-l presentation root in capital letters.

**mé3jab** 'admiring, impressed', **méTlaq** 'absolute', **mérhaq** 'exhausted, overworked', **mébham** 'confused' are of form **méF3aL**.

## The form métFa33eL

Only defective roots have an influence on this pattern. They give **métFa33i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
متحفّظ mét7affeZ	متحفّظة mét7affZa	متحفّظين mét7affZiin	<i>careful, cautious</i>
متردّد métradded	متردّدة métraddede	متردّدين métraddediin	<i>uncertain, perplexed</i>
متوحّش métwa77eš	متوحّشة métwa77še	متوحّشين métwa77šiin	<i>brutal, savage, wild</i>
متهوّر méthawwer	متهوّرة méthawwra	متهوّرين méthawwriin	<i>audacious, reckless</i>
متربّي métrabbi	متربّية métrabbye	متربّيين métrabbyiin	<i>educated, well raised</i>

**mét2ahheb** ‘ready’, **mét2assef** ‘sorry’, **métfatte7** ‘open’, **métfawweq** ‘dominant’, **métgayyer** ‘changeable, variable’, **médjawwez** ‘married’, **métkabber** ‘arrogant, proud, haughty’, **métkallef** ‘mannered’, **métkarrer** ‘frequent, regular’, **mét7ammel** ‘hardy’ are of form **métFa33eL**.

## The form métFa33aL

Only defective roots have an influence on this pattern. They give **métFa33a**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
متفَعَّل * métFa33aL	متفَعَّلة métFa33aLe	متفَعَّلِين métFa33aLiin	x
متفَعَّل * métFa33aL	متفَعَّلة métFa33aLe	متفَعَّلِين métFa33aLiin	x
متيسَّر métyassar	متيسَّرة métyassara	متيسَّرِين métyassariin	<i>possible, available</i>
متفَعَّل * métFa33aL	متفَعَّلة métFa33aLe	متفَعَّلِين métFa33aLiin	x
متبَنَّى métbanna	متبَنَّاية métbannaaye	متبَنَّايِين métbannaayiin	<i>adopted</i>

We didn't find any active participle of this pattern used in daily speech which is sound, geminated or hollow. Thus, we left the f-3-l presentation root in capital letters.

**mét2axxar** 'delayed' is also of the form **métFa33aL**.

## The form métFaa3eL

Only defective roots have an influence on this pattern. They give **métFaa3i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
متناسق métnaaseq	متناسقة métnaasqa	متناسقين métnaasqiin	<i>coherent, symmetrical</i>
*متفاعل métFaa3eL	متفاعلة métFaa3eLe	متفاعلين métFaa3eLiin	x
متواضع métwaaDe3	متواضعة métwaaD3a	متواضعين métwaaD3iin	<i>humble, modest</i>
متناول métnaawel	متناولة métnaawle	متناولين métnaawliin	<i>affordable, accessible</i>
متناهي métnaahi	متناهية métnaahye	متناهيين métnaahyiin	<i>extreme</i>

We didn't find any active participle of this pattern used in daily speech which is geminated. Thus, we left the f-3-l presentation root in capital letters.

**mét3aadel** 'uniform, balanced', **métfaa2el** 'confident, optimistic', **métlaazeq** 'adjacent', **métjaamel** 'attentive, considerate, kind', **métšaابه** 'comparable, similar', **métsaame7** 'merciful, tolerant', **métzaamen** 'simultaneous' are of form **métFaa3eL**.

## The form métFaa3aL

Only defective roots have an influence on this pattern. They give **métFaa3a**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
متبادل métbaadal	متبادلة métbaadale	متبادلين métbaadaliin	<i>mutual, reciprocal</i>
*متفاعل métFaa3aL	متفاعلة métFaa3aLe	متفاعلين métFaa3aLiin	x
*متفاعل métFaa3aL	متفاعلة métFaa3aLe	متفاعلين métFaa3aLiin	x
مدجاوز méджаawaz	مدجاوزة méджаawaze	مدجاوزين méджаawaziin	<i>exceeded</i>
متحاشى mét7aaša	متحاشاية mét7aašaaye	متحاشايين mét7aašaayiin	<i>avoided, dodged</i>

We didn't find any active participle of this pattern used in daily speech which is geminated or with an initial weak root. Thus, we left the f-3-l presentation root in capital letters.

**métnaawal** 'reachable, within range' is of form **métFaa3aL**.

## The form ménFé3eL

This pattern is sometimes pronounced **ménFa3eL**.

Geminate roots are glued together and replace the second neutral vowel by **a**, **ménFa3L**.

Hollow roots get assimilated to the second and last vowels of the form, giving **ménFaaL**.

Defective roots fuse with the last vowel and give **ménFé3i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
منفصل ménféSel	منفصلة ménféSle	منفصلين ménféSliin	<i>untied, separate</i>
منبلّ ménball	منبلة ménballe	منبلين ménballiin	<i>wet</i>
منوجع ménwéje3	منوجعة ménwéj3a	منوجعين ménwéj3iin	<i>hurt, injured, wounded</i>
منهان ménhaan	منهانة ménhaane	منهانين ménhaaniin	<i>humiliated</i>
منقري ménqéri	منقرية ménqérye	منقريين ménqéryiin	<i>read</i>

**mén7éder** 'steep, craggy, sloping', **ménfé3el** 'agitated, excited', **ménféred** 'isolated, lonely, solitary', **ménkésér** 'broken, defeated', **ménmé3es** 'crushed', **ménséjem** 'compatible' are of form **ménFé3eL**.



## The form ménFa3aL

**This form is unused** as it corresponds to passive participles of form 7 verbs which are intransitive and thus, don't accept passive participles. Moreover, for the few transitive verbs of this form, the passive participle is still unused.

## The form méFt3eL

This pattern is sometimes pronounced **méFta3eL**.

Geminate roots are glued together and replace the second neutral vowel by **a**, **méFta3L**.

Initial weak roots are assimilated to the **t** of the form, giving **métté3eL**.

Hollow roots get assimilated to the second and last vowels of the form, giving **méFtaaL**. Except for the word **mézdéwej** 'mixed-sex, double, dual' due to the fact that the Arabic root z-w-j comes from Aramaic **zawga** which is a late loan of Greek **zeûgos**. This root always remains sound.

Defective roots fuse with the last vowel and give **méFté3i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مزدحم mézdé7em	مزدحمة mézdé7me	مزدحمين mézdé7miin	<i>full, packed, dense</i>
مضطّر méDTarr	مضطّرة méDTarra	مضطّرين méDTarriin	<i>forced, compelled</i>
متّسع méttése3	متّسعة méttés3a	متّسعين méttés3iin	<i>spacious, vast</i>
مرتاح mértaa7	مرتاحة mértaa7a	مرتاحين mértaa7iin	<i>comfortable</i>
منتسي méntési	منتسية méntsiyye / tésyé	منتسيين méntsiyyiin / tésyiin	<i>forgotten</i>

**mé3tédel** 'moderate, temperate', **mé3témed** 'decided', **mé7téšem** 'modest, polite, proper, prudish, timid', **mébtéhej** 'happy', **mébtéli** 'saddened, heartbroken', **métdarreb** 'progressive', **méjtéhed** 'studious, hard-working', **méltébes** 'ambiguous, obscure', **méqténe3** 'convinced', **méqtéSed** 'thrifty', **méstéwi** 'cooked', **méttébe3** 'attentive', **méntébeh** 'careful, cautious' are of form **méFt3eL**.

## The form méFta3aL

Geminate roots are glued together, **méFta3L**.

Initial weak roots are assimilated to the **t** of the form, giving **métta3aL**.

Hollow roots get assimilated to the second and last vowels of the form, giving **méFtaal**



Defective roots fuse with the last vowel and give **méFta3a**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مبتدل mébtadal	مبتدلة mébtadale	مبتدلين mébtadaliin	<i>banal, common</i>
محتلّ mé7tall	محتلة mé7talle	محتلين mé7talliin	<i>occupied, invaded</i>
متفق méttafaq	متفقة méttafaqa	متفقين méttafaqiin	<i>agreed</i>
مستاد méStaad	مستادة méStaaDe	مستادين méStaaDiin	<i>hunted, fished</i>
محتوى mé7tawa	محتوية mé7tawaaye	محتوايين mé7tawaayiin	<i>included</i>

**mé7tamal** 'plausible, probable', **méxtaSar** 'brief, short, concise', **méštabah** 'suspect', **méntaxab** 'elected, chosen' are of form **méFta3aL**.

## The form méF3aLL

Initial weak and defective roots don't exist in this form.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مشعرّ méš3arr	مشعرّة méš3arra	مشعرّين méš3arriin	<i>hairy</i>
مصفرّ méSfarr	مصفرّة méSfarra	مصفرّين méSfarriin	<i>yellow, pale</i>
			
معوجّ mé3wajj	معوّة mé3wajje	معوّجين mé3wajjiin	<i>twisted, curved</i>
			

**mé7marr** 'reddening', **mézharr** 'flowery, radiant, bright' are of form **méF3aLL**.

## The form méstaF3eL

Geminate roots are glued together and neutralize the last vowel, giving **méstFé3L**.  
 Initial weak roots have no influence on this pattern, except for **méstaahel** 'worthy of'.  
 Hollow roots get assimilated to the last vowel and produce a long **ii**, **mést(a)Fiil**.  
 Defective roots fuse with the last vowel, **méstaF3i**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مستعجل mésta3jel	مستعجلة mésta3@jle	مستعجلين mésta3@jliin	<i>in a hurry, expeditious</i>
مستمّر méstmérr	مستمرة méstmérra	مستمريين méstmérriin	<i>lasting, continual</i>
مستوجب méstawjeb	مستوجبة méstaw@jbe	مستوجبين méstaw@jbiin	<i>provoking</i>
مستفيد mést(a)fiid	مستفيدة mést(a)fiide	مستفيدين mést(a)fiidiin	<i>benefitting</i>
مستكري méstakri	مستكرية méstak@rye	مستكريين méstak@ryiin	<i>renting</i>

**mésta7sen** 'preferring', **mést3édd** 'prepared, ready', **méstaahel** 'worthy of', **méstahlek** 'consuming', **méstakber** 'haughty, arrogant' are of form **méstaF3eL**.

## The form méstaF3aL

Geminate roots are attached together, **méstaFa3L**.

Hollow roots are assimilated to the last vowel producing a long aa, **méstaFaaL**.

Defective roots fuse with the last vowel disappearing completely, **méstaF3a**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مستعمل mésta3mal	مستعملة mésta3male	مستعملين mésta3maliin	<i>used</i>
مستحبّ mésta7abb	مستحبة mésta7abbe	مستحبين mésta7abbiin	<i>commendable</i>
مستورد méstawrad	مستوردة méstawrade	مستوردين méstawradiin	<i>imported</i>
مستعار mésta3aar	مستعارة mésta3aara	مستعارين mésta3aariin	<i>borrowed</i>
مستدعى méstad3a	مستدعاة méstad3aaye	مستدعائين méstad3aayiin	<i>mandated, invoked</i>

**mésta7san** 'preferred', **méstab3ad** 'unlikely', **méstašaar** 'consulted' are of form **méstaF3aL**.

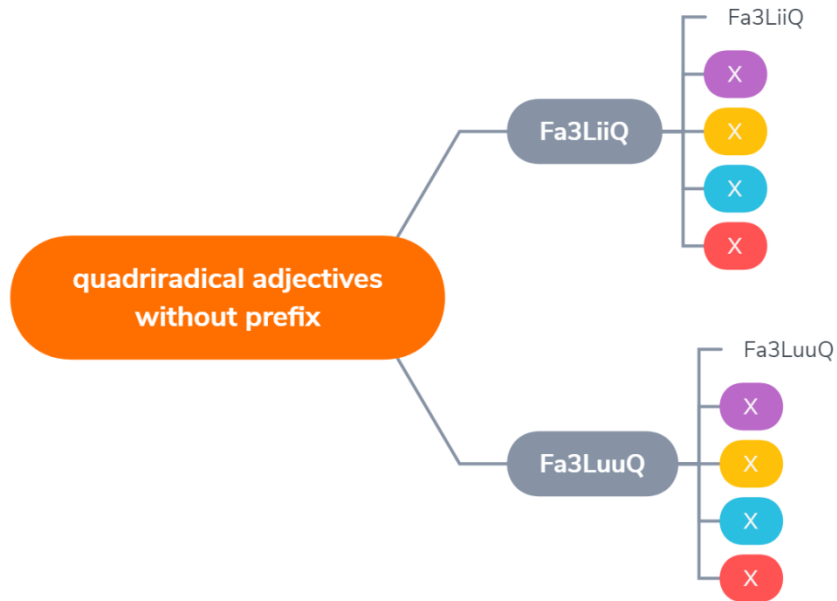
## Pseudo-quadrilateral adjectival forms

Regarding adjectives, **we are not going to separate pseudo-quadrilateral adjective forms from four-root forms since they are identical.**

These forms can therefore be found in the chapter on quadrilateral adjectival forms.

# Quadrilateral adjectival forms without prefix

There are only two quadrilateral adjectival forms without prefix :





## The form Fa3LiiQ

This form is only used with sound and non-geminate roots.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
تنحير tan7iir	تنحيرة tan7iira	تنحيرين tan7iiriin	<i>stubborn, obstinate</i>



**zangiil** or **zankiil** 'rich', **3afriit** 'disruptive, impish, cheeky', **3amliiq** 'giant, very tall', **3amriiT** 'giant, huge, big', **7aSmiis** 'stingy, tight-fisted, meticulous, parsimonious', **bahmiiT** 'demanding, greedy', **darwiiš** 'naive, miserable, pathetic', **naqriis** 'judicious, meticulous, observant', **šantiir** 'stupid, brutish lout', **3aT3iiT** or **3at3iit** 'very strong, burly, beefy' are of form **Fa3LiiQ**.

## The form Fa3LuuQ

This form is only used with sound and non-geminate roots.

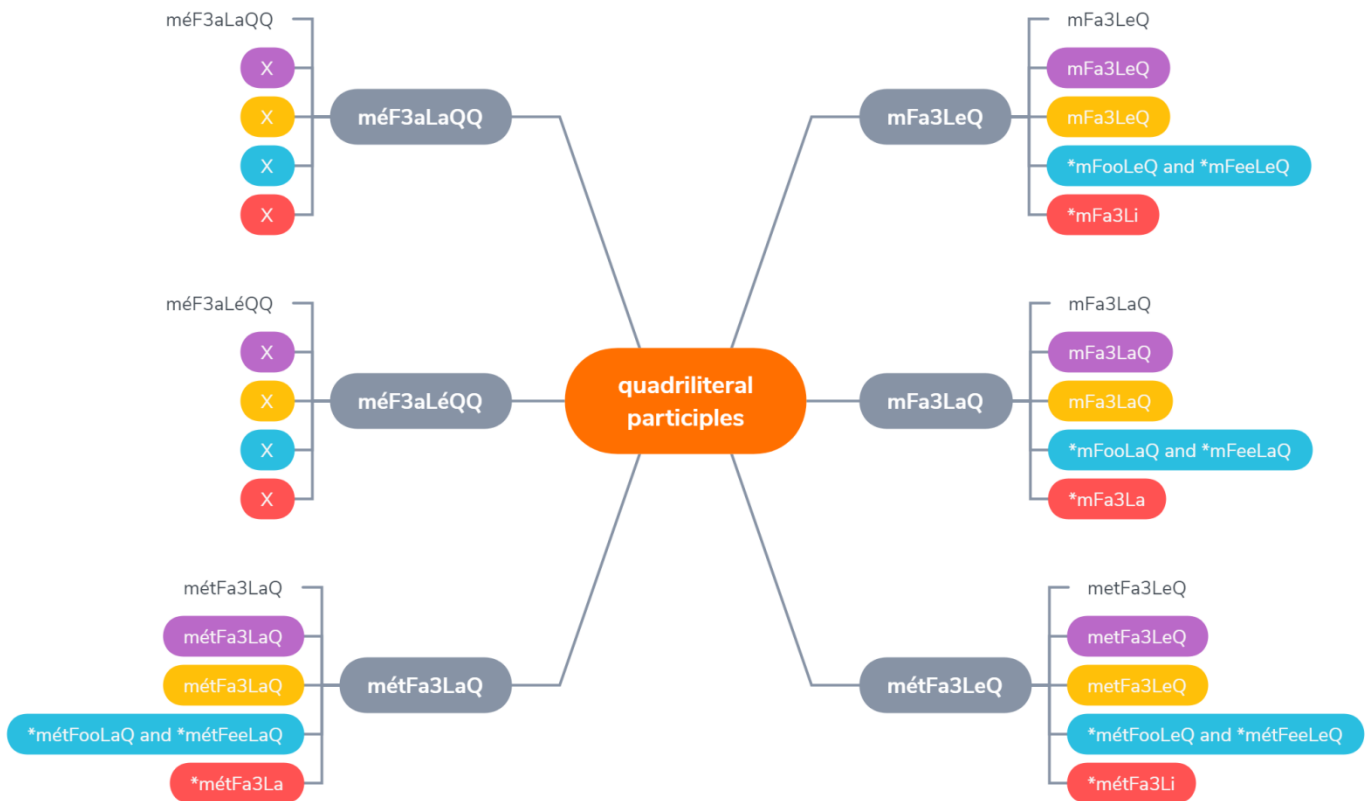
masculine	feminine	plural	translation
حربوق	حربوقة	حربوقين	
7arbuuq	7arbuuqa	7arbuuqiin	<i>smart, crafty</i>



**da3buul** 'chubby, small and fat, stocky', **da7buur** 'beloved, loved (said of children)', **dakduuk** 'small and fat, chubby', **danduuf** 'poor, petty', **farkuuš** 'clumsy', **ganduur** 'elegant', **jalbuuT** 'gullible, young', **jarbuu3** 'skinny, puny', **karfuu7** 'clumsy', **laqluuq** 'weak, lazy', **namruud** 'insolent, rebellious, disobedient, tyrannical, ungrateful', **qadquud** 'skinny, puny', **qal3uuT** 'dirty, mucky, filthy, disgusting', **šal3uuT** (rather used in Lebanon) 'bad-tempered, scrapper', **šaršuu7** 'rushed, slipshod, neglected', **TarTuu3** 'absent minded, silly' are of form **Fa3LuuQ**.

# Participles of quadrilateral verbs

Quadrilateral verbs also have their own participles with the prefix **m-**.



## The form mFa3LeQ

Hollow roots are assimilated to the first vowel of the pattern giving **mFooLeQ** when it's a **w** and **mFeeLeQ** when it's a **y**.

Defective roots fuse with the last vowel of the form, **mFa3Li**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مفستك mfastek	مفستكة mfas@tke	مفستكين mfas@tkiin	<i>depressed</i>
*مبسلل mbaslel	مبسلة mbaslele	مبسليين mbasleliin	<i>smooth talker</i>
*موشوش mwašweš	موشوشة mwaš@wše	موشوشين mwaš@wšiin	<i>whispering</i>
مكولك mkoolek	مكولكة mkoolke	مكولكين mkoolkiin	<i>flattering</i>
مفرشي mfarši	مفرشية mfaršiyye / šye	مفرشييين mfaršiyyiin / šyiin	<i>who has brushed</i>

Participles **mbaslel** and **mwašweš** are rarely used in daily speech.

**mbaTbeT** 'puny, sickly', **mbargel** 'granular', **mbaqwel** 'colorless, drab' are of form **mFa3LeQ**.

## The form mFa3LaQ

Hollow roots are assimilated to the first vowel of the pattern giving **mFooLaQ** when it's a **w** and **mFeeLaQ** when it's a **y**.

Defective roots fuse with the last vowel of the form, **mFa3La**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
معنظ m3anTaZ	معنظة m3anTaZa	معنظين m3anTaZiin	<i>arrogant</i>
مشرط mšarTaT	مشرطة mšarTaTa	مشرطين mšarTaTiin	<i>damaged, torn</i>
موسوس mwaswas	موسوسة mwaswase	موسوسين mwaswasiin	<i>neurotic, obsessed</i>
مدودح mdooda7	مدودحة mdooda7a	مدودحين mdooda7iin	<i>hanged</i>
مفرجى mfarja	مفرجاية mfarjaaye	مفرجاين mfarjaayiin	<i>shown</i>

**msabsab** 'loose, wide', **mfarTas** 'flattened', **mTalsam** 'narrow-minded', **m7andas** 'tan, tanned', **mTanbal** 'lazy, idle', **mfazlak** 'conceited', **mjanzar** 'rusty', **mzeebaq** 'clumpy, sticky, viscous', **mkahrab** 'electrified', **mdamšaq** 'civilized' are of form **mFa3LaQ**.

## The form métFa3LeQ

Hollow roots are assimilated to the first vowel of the pattern giving **métFooLeQ** when it's a **w** and **métFeeLeQ** when it's a **y**.

Defective roots fuse with the last vowel of the form, **métFa3Li**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مدهور méddahwer	مدهورة méddah@wra	مدهورين méddahw@riin	decadent
*متفعلق métFa3LeQ	متفعلقة métFa3LeQa	متفعلقين métFa3LeQiin	x
*متفعلق métFa3LeQ	متفعلقة métFa3LeQa	متفعلقين métFa3LeQiin	x
*متفولق métFooLeQ	متفولقة métFooLQa	متفولقين métFooLQiin	x
*متفعلي métFa3Li	متفعلية métFa3Liyye	متفعليين métFa3Liyyiin	x

We didn't find any active participle of this pattern used in daily speech which is geminated or with an initial weak, hollow or defective root. Thus, we left the f-3-l presentation root in capital letters.

## The form métFa3LaQ

Hollow roots are assimilated to the first vowel of the pattern giving **métFooLaQ** when it's a **w** and **métFeeLaQ** when it's a **y**.

Defective roots fuse with the last vowel of the form, **métFa3La**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مترجم méttarjam	مترجمة méttarjame	مترجمين méttarjamiin	<i>translated</i>
*متعلق métFa3LaQ	متعلقة métFa3LaQa	متعلقين métFa3LaQiin	x
*متعلق métFa3LaQ	متعلقة métFa3LaQa	متعلقين métFa3LaQiin	x
*متفوق métFooLaQ	متفولة métFooLaQa	متفولين métFooLaQiin	x
*متفعلي métFa3La	متفعلاية métFa3Laaye	متفعلايين métFa3Laayiin	x

We didn't find any active participle of this pattern used in daily speech which is geminated or with an initial weak, hollow or defective root. Thus, we left the f-3-l presentation root in capital letters.

## The form méF3aLéQQ

There are only sound and non-geminate roots of this pattern.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مشمقزّ	مشمقزة	مشمقزّين	
méšmaqézz	méšmaqézze	méšmaqézziin	<i>repulsed, nauseated</i>





## The form méF3aLaQQ

There are only sound and non-geminate roots of this pattern.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
مقشعرّ	مقشعرّة	مقشعرّين	
méqša3arr	méqša3arra	méqša3arriin	<i>shivery, trembling</i>



## The relationship adjective or nisba

The suffix **-i** or **nisba** (**nésbe** in dialectal pronunciation) is used to form adjectives **in relation with the underlying word**.

It can be used to indicate a **geographical origin**.

noun	translation		nisba	translation
suuriya	<i>Syria</i>	→	suuri	<i>Syrian</i>
yaabaan	<i>Japan</i>	→	yaabaani	<i>Japanese</i>
éš-šaam	<i>Damascus</i>	→	šaami	<i>Damascene</i>
7alab	<i>Aleppo</i>	→	7alabi	<i>Aleppine</i>

It is also used to indicate a **characteristic**.

ba7r	<i>sea</i>	→	ba7ri	<i>nautical, marine</i>
jabal	<i>mountain</i>	→	jabali	<i>mountain, alpine</i>
7kuume	<i>government</i>	→	7kuumi	<i>governmental</i>
7arb	<i>war</i>	→	7arbi	<i>military</i>
balad	<i>city</i>	→	baladi	<i>municipal, city</i>

It also serves to indicate **appearance**, and often **color**.

béndqa	<i>hazelnut</i>	→	béndqi	<i>nut-brown</i>
bénn	<i>coffee beans</i>	→	bénni	<i>coffee-colored</i>
balgám	<i>phlegm</i>	→	balgami	<i>phlegmy, viscous</i>
raml	<i>sand</i>	→	ramli	<i>sandy</i>

The suffix **-i** can be added to a suffix **-aan** forming **-aani**. It also serves to form **adjectives of spatial locations** and adjectives with **a more complex meaning, futher** from the underlying word.

fooq	<i>above, on</i>	→	fooqaani	<i>superior</i>
ta7t	<i>below, under</i>	→	ta7taani	<i>inferior</i>
wésT	<i>middle</i>	→	wésTaani	<i>central</i>
barra	<i>outside</i>	→	barraani	<i>foreign</i>
3aql	<i>common sense</i>	→	3aqlaani	<i>rationalist</i>

There is also a suffix **-aawi** that applies when the underlying name ends up in **-a** or **-e**.

noun	translation		nisba	translation
barra	<i>outside, external</i>	→	bérraawi	<i>wild</i>
dénye	<i>world</i>	→	dényaawi	<i>terrestrial</i>
farde	<i>unit of a pair</i>	→	férdaawi	<i>unique</i>
sama	<i>sky</i>	→	samaawi	<i>celestial, cosmic</i>
fransa	<i>France</i>	→	fransaawi	<i>French</i>

There is a suffix **-ji** (sometimes pronounced **dji**) that comes from Turkish suffixes **-ci, -ci, -cu, -cü** and **-çi, -çi, -çu, -çü** that transform a word into a noun of occupation. Their plural forms is just like the feminine, with the addition of a final **taa2 marbuuTa**.

7aka	<i>to talk</i>	→	7akwaaji	<i>talkative</i>
7iile	<i>ruse</i>	→	7iyalji	<i>crafty, deceitful</i>
nékte	<i>prank</i>	→	nékatji	<i>joking, light-hearted</i>
looTa3	<i>to waste time</i>	→	looTa3ji	<i>lazy, idle</i>
Saara3	<i>to fight against</i>	→	mSaara3ji	<i>scrapper</i>

These adjectives follow the same morphological rules as the words from which they are derived.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
سوري suuri	سورية suuriyye	سوريون / يين suuriyyuun / yyiin	Syrian
جباري jabali	جبلية jabaliyye	جبلية jabaliyye	mountain, alpine
فوقاني fooqaani	فوقانية fooqaaniyye	فوقانيين / يان fooqaaniyyiin / yyaan	superior
فرنساوي fransaawi	فرنساوية fransaawiyye	فرنساويون / يين fransaawiyyuun / yyiin	French
نكتجي nékatji	نكتجية nékatjiyye	نكتجية nékatjiyye	joking, light-hearted

## Loanwords from other languages

Some adjectives used in Syria are **borrowed** from other languages and are therefore **not directly related to a Semitic root, nor to a form seen previously**.

Often, Syrians borrowed words from Turkish, due to the geographical proximity of the two countries, and French, due to the history of the French mandate on Syria and Lebanon. However, Turkish also has a lot of loanwords and French aswell, perhaps to a lesser extent. Some words were transmitted from language to language. Turkish having a lot of loanwords from Farsi, we also find them in Syrian Arabic.

For example, the word **kaaki** 'khaki' was borrowed from Farsi **xaaki** (the Turks say **haki**) but the Persians borrowed it themselves from the Japanese **kaki**.

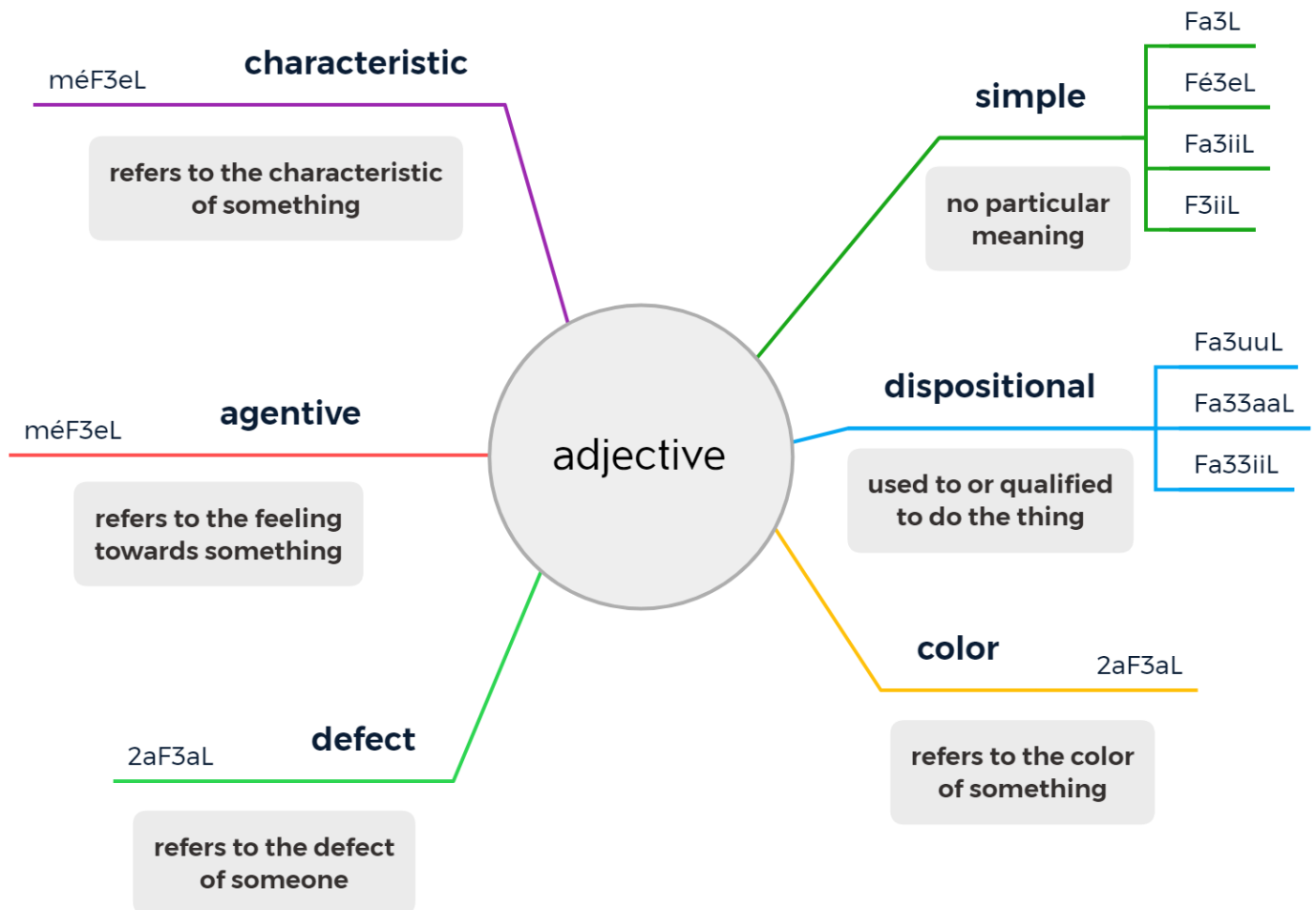
Syrian	translation		borrowed from	
baaj	<i>beige</i>	→	turc, farsi	<i>bej</i>
beej	<i>beige</i>	→	français	<i>beige</i>
šiik	<i>chic</i>	→	français	<i>chic</i>
klaass	<i>class, classy</i>	→	français	<i>classe</i>
klaassiik	<i>classical, classic</i>	→	français	<i>classique</i>
xaam	<i>raw, naive</i>	→	farsi	<i>xaam</i>
Saaġ	<i>intact, pure</i>	→	turc	<i>sağ</i>
kaaki	<i>khaki</i>	→	farsi, japonais	<i>khaaki ; kaki</i>
lastiiki	<i>elastic, elasticized</i>	→	français	<i>élastique</i>

We observe that some loanwords take the suffix **-i** to become adjectival (following the rule of **nisba** seen above). This is the case of **lastiiki** 'elastic, elasticized'. The word **lastiik** is used only for the noun 'an elastic (band)'.

These adjectives are **invariable, except those that follow the nisba rule** (like **lastiiki**), which will simply follow the rules of agreement of other adjectives in **nisba**.

# Meanings and etymology of the adjectival forms

For this chapter, we will set aside the forms of the active and passive participles that we will detail in a dedicated section. But to sum up, the **active participles** refer to the **doer of the action** of the underlying verb while the **passive participles** refer to the **object** of the underlying verb.



## Etymology of the forms Fa3L and Fé3eL

The form **Fa3L** comes from classical **Fa3L** while the form **Fé3eL** comes from the classical forms **Fa3L**, **Fi3L**, **Fu3L**, **Fa3aL**, **Fa3iL**. These forms do not give any particular meaning.

## Etymology of the forms Fa3iiL and F3iiL

The form **Fa3iiL** is the same than in MSA. It's the « basic form » to make adjectives and it doesn't give any particular meaning. The pattern **F3iiL** is just a variation of **Fa3iiL**.

## Etymology of the forms Fa3uuL, Fa33aaL and Fa33iiL

These patterns give **dispositional adjectives** : the thing qualified by the adjective is used to or qualified to do the action of the underlying verb.

The form **Fa3uuL** is not modified and comes from the MSA pattern **Fa3uuL**.

adjective	translation		UL verb	translation
<b>xajuul</b>	<i>shy, timid</i>	→	xéjel	<i>to be embarrassed</i>
<b>xanuu3</b>	<i>servile, docile</i>	→	xana3	<i>to submit</i>
<b>Da7uuk</b>	<i>joyful</i>	→	Dé7ek	<i>to laugh</i>
<b>7anuun</b>	<i>loving, affectionate</i>	→	7ann	<i>to be compassionate</i>

La forme **Fa33aaL** n'a pas été modifiée et correspond donc à la forme **Fa33aaL** de l'arabe classique. Cette forme est aussi utilisée pour les noms d'occupation.

The form **Fa33aaL** has not been modified and therefore corresponds to the MSA form **Fa33aaL**. This form is also used for occupational nouns.

<b>jazzaab</b>	<i>charming, attractive</i>	→	jazab	<i>to attract, appeal</i>
<b>jabbaar</b>	<i>colossal, powerful</i>	→	jabar	<i>to force, strain</i>
<b>maSSaaS</b>	<i>absorbing</i>	→	maSS	<i>to suck</i>
<b>naqqaal</b>	<i>traveling, itinerant</i>	→	naqal	<i>to transport, escort</i>
<b>haffaaf</b>	<i>lively, agile</i>	→	haff	<i>to walk at a quick pace</i>
<b>7akka</b>	<i>talkative</i>	→	7aka	<i>to talk</i>
<b>šagğaal</b>	<i>hard-working</i>	→	štağal	<i>to work</i>

The form **Fa33iiL** comes from MSA **Fa33iiL**.

<b>2akkiil</b>	<i>gluttonous</i>	→	2akal	<i>to eat</i>
<b>barriid</b>	<i>sensitive to cold</i>	→	barad	<i>to cool down, be cold</i>
<b>jabbiir</b>	<i>resistant, tough</i>	→	jabar	<i>to compel, constrain</i>
<b>la33iib</b>	<i>playful, player</i>	→	lé3eb	<i>to play</i>
<b>xawwiif</b>	<i>fearful, apprehensive</i>	→	xaaf	<i>to be afraid of, scared of</i>

These adjectives refer to a **habit** unlike active participle. For example, **barriid** 'sensitive to cold' and **baared** 'who is cold', **Sabuur** 'patient (usually)' and **Saaber** 'who waits (currently)', **sakuut** 'discreet, not talkative' and **saaket** 'who is quiet (currently)', etc.



## Etymology of the form Fa33uuL

This form has not been modified and derives from the MSA **Fa33uuL**. As with the Syrian form, it is also rarely used in MSA. In general, it gives a meaning of **intensity**.

## Etymology of the form 2aF3aL

La forme **2aF3aL** n'a pas été modifiée et correspond donc au classique **2aF3aL**. Cette forme fait principalement référence aux adjectifs décrivant une **couleur** ainsi qu'à ceux décrivant un **défaut**.

The pattern **2aF3aL** has not been modified and therefore corresponds to the MSA **2aF3aL**. This pattern mainly refers to adjectives describing a **color** as well as those describing a **defect**.

adjective	translation	adjective	translation
<b>2abraš</b>	<i>grey</i>	<b>2a3raj</b>	<i>lame</i>
<b>2aSfar</b>	<i>yellow</i>	<b>2a3ma</b>	<i>blind</i>
<b>2aswad</b>	<i>black</i>	<b>2abraS</b>	<i>leprous</i>
<b>2abyaD</b>	<i>white</i>	<b>2abtar</b>	<i>disabled</i>
<b>2axDar</b>	<i>green</i>	<b>2ahbal</b>	<i>stupid, retarded</i>

Certains adjectifs de cette forme ne correspondent pas à ces deux catégories, **2alsan** 'éloquent', **2alfat** 'gaucher', **2ayman** 'droitier', **2a7las** 'milleux, sucré', **2abraš** 'nyctalope'.

Some adjectives of this form do not correspond to these two categories, **2alsan** 'eloquent', **2alfat** 'left-handed', **2ayman** 'right-handed', **2a7las** 'unctuous, honeyed', **2abraš** 'who has a night vision'.

## Etymology of the form méF3eL

The pattern **méF3eL** is derived from the MSA **muF3iL**. The first vowel **u** is sometimes kept by some speakers, including for the geminate roots: **muhémm** 'important' instead of **mhémm**, **mumken** 'possible' instead of **mémken**, etc.

L'adjectif de la forme **méF3eL** est généralement un **adjectif d'agent**. Il est lié à un verbe dont le sujet est inanimé et l'objet animé, par exemple dans le verbe **waja3** 'faire mal', *c'est quelque chose qui fait mal à quelqu'un*. Son adjectif de la forme **méF3eL** est **muuje3** 'douloureux'.

The **méF3eL** adjective is usually **agentive**. It is related to a verb whose subject is inanimate and the object an animate, for example in the verb **waja3** 'to hurt', *it is something that hurts someone*. Its adjective of the form **méF3eL** is **muuje3** 'painful'.

adjective	translation		UL verb	translation
<b>mégri</b>	<i>tempting, attractive</i>	→	ğara	<i>to tempt</i>
<b>mén3eš</b>	<i>refreshing</i>	→	né3eš	<i>to refresh, reinvigorate</i>
<b>méqleq</b>	<i>worrying</i>	→	qalaq	<i>to worry, trouble</i>
<b>mérye7</b>	<i>comfortable</i>	→	rayya7	<i>to ease, relieve</i>
<b>mérbe7</b>	<i>profitable, lucrative</i>	→	rabba7	<i>to make (so) win</i>
<b>muuje3</b>	<i>painful</i>	→	wéje3	<i>to hurt</i>
<b>mméll</b>	<i>boring, dull</i>	→	maal	<i>to bore</i>

L'adjectif de la forme **méF3eL** sert aussi à caractériser, on parle alors d'**adjectif caractéristique**. Ils sont **dérivés de noms communs**.

The adjective of the form **méF3eL** is also used to characterize, then we call it a **characteristic adjective**. They are derived from nouns.

adjective	translation		UL noun	translation
<b>méxTer</b>	<i>dangerous</i>	→	xaTar	<i>danger</i>
<b>mésmen</b>	<i>caloric, calorific</i>	→	sam@n	<i>butter, fat</i>
<b>méšmes</b>	<i>sunny</i>	→	šams	<i>sun</i>
<b>métlej</b>	<i>snowy</i>	→	tal@j	<i>snow</i>

## Etymology of the forms Fa3LiiQ and Fa3LuuQ

These patterns give simple adjectives derived from quadrilateral roots. They do not give any particular meaning to adjectives.

## Particularity of some words of form Fa3aaL

In Arabic, the words **7alaal** 'lawful thing', **7araam** 'illegal thing' and **tamaam** 'just, exact, complete, whole', all of the **Fa3aaL** form are not adjectives **but nouns**. However, in English, **7alaal** and **7araam** are used only in an adjectival way: *7alaal meat, a 7alaal restaurant, etc.*

And besides, in Arabic too, they are sometimes used in a rather adjectival way: **bént 7alaal** 'a brave girl', **2éb@n 7alaal** 'a legitimate son', **bént 7araam** 'nasty, ungrateful woman', etc. Same thing for **tamaam** : **séne tamaame** 'a whole year', **és-saa3a xamse tamaam** 'it's five o'clock', etc.

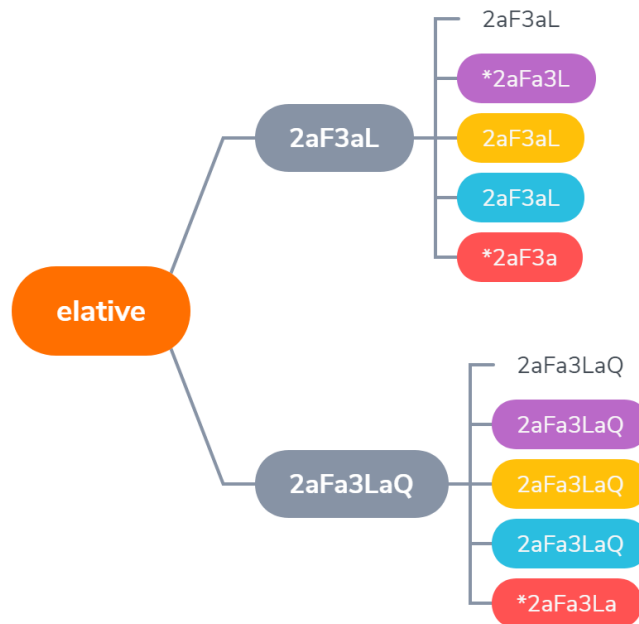
However, the majority of the words in this form are never used as adjectives: **jamaal** 'beauty', **zamaan** 'time', **salaam** 'salvation, security, peace', **šabaab** 'young guys', **Sabaa7** 'morning', **ġazaal** 'gazelle', etc. This is why this form is considered nominal even though, in fact, the words **7alaal**, **7araam** and **tamaam** are sometimes used adjectively.

# The elative form, absolute and relative superlative

Technically, **the elative is a noun**, but since they are, for the vast majority, derived from adjectives, we will deal with it here.

The elative form **2aF3aL** gives a sense of **absolute superlative** '(the) most' and also **relative superlative** 'more (than)'. It should not be confused with the other **2aF3aL** form of color and defect adjectives.

This elative form **is not used for nisba adjectives**.



Some examples of derivations :

elative	translation		adjective	translation
<b>2aS3ab</b>	<i>most, more difficult</i>	→	Sa3@b	<i>difficult</i>
<b>2awsax</b>	<i>dirtiest, dirtier</i>	→	wésex	<i>dirty</i>
<b>2abrad</b>	<i>coldest, colder</i>	→	baared	<i>cold</i>
<b>2axfat</b>	<i>hungriest, hungrier</i>	→	xaftaan	<i>hungry</i>
<b>2aTwal</b>	<i>longest, longer</i>	→	Tawiil	<i>long, tall</i>
<b>2akbar</b>	<i>biggest, bigger</i>	→	kbiir	<i>tall, big</i>
<b>2aTma7</b>	<i>most, more ambitious</i>	→	Tamuu7	<i>ambitious</i>
<b>2ajzab</b>	<i>most, more seductive</i>	→	jazzaab	<i>seductive</i>

## Elative of trilateral adjectives

Geminate roots are glued together giving **2aFa3L**. The defective roots, disappear into the last vowel of the pattern, giving **2aF3a**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
أَبْشَع 2abša3	أَبْشَع 2abša3	أَبْشَع 2abša3	<i>ugliest, uglier</i>
أَجَدَّ 2ajadd	أَجَدَّ 2ajadd	أَجَدَّ 2ajadd	<i>newest, newer</i>
أَوْسَع 2awsa3	أَوْسَع 2awsa3	أَوْسَع 2awsa3	<i>most, more spacious</i>
أَفِيد 2afyad	أَفِيد 2afyad	أَفِيد 2afyad	<i>most, more useful</i>
أَزْكَى 2azka	أَزْكَى 2azka	أَزْكَى 2azka	<i>most, more intelligent</i>

## Elative of quadrilateral adjectives 2aFa3LaQ

Only defective roots have an influence on this pattern. They fuse with the last vowel to disappear completely and give **2aFa3La**.

masculine	feminine	plural	translation
أَبْحَح 2aba7ba7	أَبْحَح 2aba7ba7	أَبْحَح 2aba7ba7	<i>most, more spacious</i>
أَشْرَط 2ašarTaT	أَشْرَط 2ašarTaT	أَشْرَط 2ašarTaT	<i>most, more damaged</i>
أَوْسَوْس 2awaswas	أَوْسَوْس 2awaswas	أَوْسَوْس 2awaswas	<i>most, more neurotic</i>
أَقْوَشَع 2aqawša3	أَقْوَشَع 2aqawša3	أَقْوَشَع 2aqawša3	<i>most, more boastful</i>
<b>أَفْعَلَى*</b> 2aFa3La	<b>أَفْعَلَى</b> 2aFa3La	<b>أَفْعَلَى</b> 2aFa3La	x

We didn't find any elative of this pattern used in daily speech which has a defective root. Thus, we left the f-3-l presentation root in capital letters.



## Some precisions on the elative form

### The elative and the form 2aF3aL

One may wonder how to use the elative with the adjectives of colors or defects of the **2aF3aL** pattern. In MSA, they are not supposed to be used although in practice this is sometimes the case. In Syrian Arabic, they can be used.

Thus **2abyaD** can be translated as 'white' and sometimes, depending on the context, '(the) whitest, whiter'. **2amlas** means 'smooth, soft' and sometimes '(the) softest, softer', etc.

### The elative with several adjectives of the same root

When several adjectives have the same root, their elatives are obviously the same. In fact, some elatives take on several different meanings, which you have to guess from the context. For example, **2absaT** can be translated as 'funniest, funnier' if you consider that it comes from **mabsuuT** 'happy', but also 'simplest, simpler' if you consider that it derives from **basiiT** 'simple'. Similarly, **2aswa** can be translated as 'straightest, straighter (without angles or curves)' or 'most, more direct (without detours)' or 'most, more cooked' or 'most, more ripe'. Same thing for **2akbar** which translates as 'biggest, bigger, greatest, greater' or 'oldest, older'. **2amla7** can translate 'best, better' from **mlii7** 'good' (**mnii7** variant) or 'saltiest, saltier' from **méle7** 'salted'.

However, most elatives have a single meaning that is fixed by use. For example, **2abrad** could be derived from **baared** 'cold' or **barriid** 'sensitive to cold'. Yet **2abrad** only means 'coldest, colder' and never 'most, more sensitive to cold'. If one wishes to say 'most, more sensitive to cold', one must use the construction with **2aktar** 'most' which is itself the elative of **ktiir** 'much'.

### Some elatives non-derived from adjectives

There are some elatives that are **not derived from adjectives**, but from nouns.

elative	translation		UL noun	translation
<b>2ašwab</b>	<i>hottest, hotter (weather)</i>	→	šoob	<i>heat, warm wind</i>
<b>2arjal</b>	<i>most, more manly</i>	→	rějjaal	<i>man</i>
<b>2ašwa</b>	<i>least, less</i>	→	šwayye	<i>a little</i>
<b>2abdar</b>	<i>as soon as possible, earlier</i>	→	badri	<i>the early morning</i>
<b>2aġbaš</b>	<i>as soon as possible, earlier</i>	→	ġabše	<i>dawn</i>
<b>2aš3ar</b>	<i>best, better poet</i>	→	šaa3er	<i>poet</i>
<b>2ašTan</b>	<i>most, more evil</i>	→	šeeTan	<i>devil</i>
<b>2azwad</b>	<i>more</i>	→	zyaade	<i>increase, surplus</i>
<b>2asfal</b>	<i>lowest, lower, below</i>	→	séf@l	<i>the bottom</i>

The elative **2arjal** 'most, more manly' is really derived from **rějjaal** 'man' and not the adjective **rějjaali** which is a nisba adjective that can't be derived into an elative.

The elative **2abdar** 'as soon as possible, earlier (in the morning)' is rarely used in Syria and is instead said in Jerusalem and other Palestinian areas.

Although **šeeTan** 'devil' is a quadrilateral noun, the elative **2ašTan** 'most, more evil, deceitful' follows the trilateral form and the hollow root **y** is dropped. It is the only exception.

The elative **2azwad**, or **2azyad**, is used adverbially in a sense of 'more'. **2asfal** can also take an adverbial meaning of 'below, at the bottom'.

### The elative 2a7san 'best, better'

The elative **2a7san** 'best, better' is derived from the adjective **7asan** 'good' which is never used in Syrian Arabic and replaced by **mnii7** or **mlii7**. Moreover, **2amna7** ou **2amla7** are rarely used.

Generally, we consider that **2a7san** is the elative of **mnii7** and **mlii7**.

### The elative and the agreement

The elative forms are generally unvariable. However, there is indeed a female form **Fé3La** (and even plural forms, but never used in Syrian Arabic), but which is, in fact, almost never used, even in MSA where it is only used with very few elatives.

In fact, it is always better to use it invariably.

The elative can be used in the dual, even though this remains rare : **él-2a7saneen** 'the best two'.