

3. The genitive construction

(٣) الْإِضَافَةُ

A noun cannot only be modified by an adjective, but also by a following noun in the genitive. The two nouns form a compound phrase called الْإِضَافَةُ (genitive construction) with الْمُضَافُ (annexed or 1st part of the construction) and الْمُضَافُ إِلَيْهِ (attribute or 2nd part of the construction). الْمُضَافُ is always without an article and without nunation in the case required by the function of the noun. If الْمُضَافُ إِلَيْهِ is definite, الْمُضَافُ is considered definite too and if الْمُضَافُ إِلَيْهِ is indefinite, الْمُضَافُ is considered indefinite as well.

الْمُضَافُ وَالْمُضَافُ إِلَيْهِ

This is the house **of a man**.

هَذَا بَيْتُ رَجُلٍ.

الرَّفْعُ

This is the house **of the man**.

هَذَا بَيْتُ الرَّجُلِ.

He is in the house **of a man**.

هُوَ فِي بَيْتِ رَجُلٍ.

الْجَرُّ

He is in the house **of the man**.

هُوَ فِي بَيْتِ الرَّجُلِ.

I saw the house **of a man**.

رَأَيْتُ (شَفْتُ) بَيْتَ رَجُلٍ.

النَّصْبُ

I saw the house **of the man**.

رَأَيْتُ (شَفْتُ) بَيْتَ الرَّجُلِ.

If الْمُضَافُ ends in ة , it is pronounced as [t] (even in colloquial language).

pronounced:

šanṭatu l-mu'allimati

This is the bag of the teacher.

هَذِهِ هِيَ شَنْطَةُ الْمُعَلِّمَةِ.

الرَّفْعُ

pronounced:

šanṭati l-mu'allimati

The pen is in the bag of the teacher.

الْقَلَمُ فِي شَنْطَةِ الْمُعَلِّمَةِ.

الْجَرُّ

pronounced:

šanṭata l-mu'allimati

I saw the bag of the teacher.

شَفْتُ شَنْطَةَ الْمُعَلِّمَةِ.

النَّصْبُ

الْإِضَافَةُ (genitive construction) expresses possession and belonging:

the employee of an international firm

مُوظَّفٌ شَرِكَةِ دَوْلِيَّةٍ

the employee of the international firm

مُوظَّفٌ الشَّرِكَةِ الدَّوْلِيَّةِ

the beginning of a political initiative

بِدَايَةُ مَبَادَرَةٍ سِيَاسِيَّةٍ

the beginning of the political initiative

بِدَايَةُ الْمَبَادَرَةِ السِّيَاسِيَّةِ

الْإِضَافَةُ with مَنْ is used to ask about the owner of something:

Whose house is this?

بَيْتُ مَنْ هَذَا؟

The الْإِضَافَةُ often creates stable word combinations:

a new **students dorm** (the new dorm of students)

the new **students dorm** (the new dorm of the students)

بَيْتُ طَلَبَةِ جَدِيدٍ / بَيْتُ الطَّلَبَةِ الْجَدِيدِ

a new **car key** (the new key of a car)

the new **car key** (the new key of the car)

مِفْتَاحُ سَيَّارَةٍ جَدِيدٍ / مِفْتَاحُ السَّيَّارَةِ الْجَدِيدِ