

L 9

## Gender (جنس)

There are two genders in Arabic: masculine (مذكر) and feminine (مؤنث).

Objects as well as humans are considered to be masculine or feminine in their words.

Words ending with **Tā' marbuta** (ة) are almost always feminine; whereas words which do not end with it are mostly masculine.

المعلمة	←	المعلم
صابرة	←	صابر
مؤمنة	←	مؤمن

A number of words denoting *feminines* do not end with *Tā' marbuta*:

- Words for persons which are feminine **by nature**: أم (mother), أخت (sister), بنت (daughter).
- The names of **most countries and of all cities**, such as: عراق (Iraq)
- Designations of parts of the body which exist in **pairs**, such as: يد (hand), عين (eye), أذن (ear).
- Some words are **always used as feminines**, such as: أرض (earth), شمس (sun).
- Some words are used as **either masculine or feminine**, such as: سكين (knife), سوق (market), سماء (sky).