

As you have seen earlier, there are two types of plurals in Arabic:

- جمع سالم (Sound plural)
- جمع مكسر (Broken Plural)

Grammatically, a broken plural of a thing (not a person) is treated as a singular feminine word! To remember this 'strange' rule, you can connect it to the punishment that the plurality of this plural is gone and its gender is changed to feminine.

Let us do some exercises to help us learn this rule.

هِيَ بُيُوتٌ وَفِيهَا عِبَادٌ	←	هُوَ بَيْتٌ وَفِيهِ عَبْدٌ
Those are houses and in them are slaves.		It is a house and in it is a slave.
هَذِهِ بُيُوتٌ	←	هَذَا بَيْتٌ
تِلْكَ بُيُوتٌ	←	ذَلِكَ بَيْتٌ
الْبُيُوتُ الَّتِي ---	←	الْبَيْتُ الَّذِي ---
The houses which...		The house which...
أَصْبَحَتِ الْبُيُوتُ جَدِيدَةً	←	أَصْبَحَ الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدًا
The houses became new.		The house became new.
تُصْبِحُ الْبُيُوتُ جَدِيدَةً	←	يُصْبِحُ الْبَيْتُ جَدِيدًا
The houses become new.		The house becomes new.
بُيُوتٌ وَاسِعَةٌ	←	بَيْتٌ وَاسِعٌ

Let us take another word: كِتَابٌ

هِيَ كُتُبٌ وَعَلَيْهَا أَقْلَامٌ	←	هُوَ كِتَابٌ وَعَلَيْهِ قَلَمٌ
هَذِهِ كُتُبٌ	←	هَذَا كِتَابٌ
تِلْكَ كُتُبٌ	←	ذَلِكَ كِتَابٌ
الْكُتُبُ الَّتِي ---	←	الْكِتَابُ الَّذِي ---
أَصْبَحَتِ الْكُتُبُ قَدِيمَةً	←	أَصْبَحَ الْكِتَابُ قَدِيمًا
تُصْبِحُ الْكُتُبُ قَدِيمَةً	←	يُصْبِحُ الْكِتَابُ قَدِيمًا
كُتُبٌ جَدِيدَةٌ	←	كِتَابٌ جَدِيدٌ

Singular feminine words are used to refer to a Broken Plural. These words can be:

هِيَ، هَا، هَذِهِ، تِلْكَ، الَّتِي، فَعَلَتْ، تَفَعَّلَ، فَاعِلَةٌ

You can practice this rule using different words that you studied in the last lesson. We will take 3 examples from the Qur'an:

رَوْحٌ مُّطَهَّرٌ	أَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ
كَتَبْتُ يَدٌ	كَتَبْتُ أَيَدِي
يَجْرِي نَهْرٌ	تَجْرِي أَنْهَارٌ

Let us take 2 examples from the Qur'anic verses:

1. وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ مَنَعَ مَسْجِدَ اللَّهِ أَنْ يُذْكَرَ فِيهَا اسْمُهُ وَسَعَىٰ فِي خَرَابِهَا<sup>ط</sup>
2. هَلْ أُنَبِّئُكَ حَدِيثُ الْعَاشِيَةِ<sup>ط</sup> ① وَجُوهٌ يُّؤَمِّدُ خَاشِعَةً<sup>ل</sup> ② عَامِلَةٌ نَّاصِبَةٌ<sup>ل</sup> ③  
تَصْلِي نَارًا حَامِيَةً<sup>ل</sup> ④ تُسْقَىٰ مِنْ عَيْنٍ انِّيَّةٍ<sup>ط</sup> ⑤