

1. Nouns for instruments and vessels

(١) أَسْمَاءُ الْأَلَّةِ وَالْوِعَاءِ

Like other languages, Arabic has to cope with the constantly increasing terminology in the area of science and technology. In doing so, standard Arabic rarely adopts foreign words, but rather translates the foreign-language concepts into Arabic (تَعْرِيبٌ). To create new words there are several patterns for describe machines, devices and instruments. The technical vocabulary of Arabic is full of these expressions:

مِفْعَلٌ

sickle	مِنْجَلٌ	←	مِنْجَلٌ	file	مِبْرَدٌ	←	بَرَدٌ
spindle	مَعْزُلٌ	←	غَزَلٌ	cannon	مِدْفَعٌ	←	دَفَعٌ
steering wheel	مِفْوَدٌ	←	قَادٌ	borer	مِنْقَبٌ	←	ثَقَبٌ

مِفْعَالٌ

key	مِفْتَاحٌ	←	فَتَحٌ	plough	مِحْرَاثٌ	←	حَرَثٌ
scissors	مِفْرَاضٌ	←	قَرَضٌ	bellows; pump	مِنْفَاخٌ	←	نَفَخٌ
saw	مِنْشَارٌ	←	نَشَرٌ	nail	مِسْمَارٌ	←	سَمَرٌ

مِفْعَلَةٌ

washing machine	مَغْسَلَةٌ	←	غَسَلٌ	shovel	مِجْرَةٌ	←	جَرَفٌ
broom	مِكْسَةٌ	←	كَسَّسٌ	(turning) lathe	مِحْرَطَةٌ	←	خَرَطٌ
hammer	مَطْرَقةٌ	←	طَرَقٌ	refinery	مِصْفَاهٌ	←	صَفَا

فَعَالَةٌ

washing machine	غَسَالَةٌ	←	غَسَلٌ	plane	طَيَّارٌ	←	طَارٌ
(fruit)press	عَصَارَةٌ	←	عَصَرٌ	excavator	حَفَارَةٌ	←	حَفَرٌ
submarine	غَواصَةٌ	←	غَاصٌ	mixer	خَلَاطَةٌ	←	خَلَطٌ
kindler	قَدَّاحَةٌ	←	قَدَّحٌ	bicycle	دَرَاجَةٌ	←	دَرَجٌ
(nut)cracker	كَسَّارَةٌ	←	كَسَّرٌ	headphone	سَمَاعَةٌ	←	سَمَعٌ
glasses	نَظَارَةٌ	←	نَظَرٌ	mill	طَحَانَةٌ	←	طَحَنٌ