a) The usual feminine ending, as said in the first lesson, is ـة (closed Ta – أ, e.g. كـةُ a cow, قـرةُ a village, سـامـةُ safety. However, two feminine nouns have a long ـت at the end. They are: أختُ sister, بنتُ daughter.

b) The second feminine ending is known as alif maqsūrah (ألف مَّقَصُورةَ), short alif which is ى pronounced as ā, e.g. سـمـى, لـيـلىِ (names of women), صـغرـىِ (smaller, f.), كـبـرىِ (greater, f.).

c) The third feminine ending is called alif mamdūdah (ألف مَمْدُودةٌ), long alif which is hamzah preceded by alif, e.g. أسـمـاءُ (name of a woman), حـسنـاءُ, عـمـيـاءُ (blind woman), حـسنـاءُ (beautiful woman).

d) There are, however, feminine nouns that do not have any of these endings. They may be classified in the following categories:

1. Names of women, e.g.

   دـينـبُ, هـنـدَة, مـلـيمُ

2. Females, e.g.

   أـمُ mother, عـروـسُ bride, آنـانَ she ass.

3. Parts of the body that are double, e.g.

   عـيـنُ eye, يـدُ hand, أذـنَ ear,
   ذرـأُ arm, رـجـلُ foot, رـبُعُ shank.

4. Names of towns and countries, e.g.

   مـصـرُ Egypt, سورـيـاِ Syria, الهـنـدُ India.

5. Some everyday words, e.g.

   دـارُ house, نـارُ fire, رـيـحُ wind,
   سـمـاءُ sky, شـمـسُ sun, حـربُ war,
   ارـضُ earth, طـرـيقُ way, path.

All the nouns that do not fall in these categories are masculine. You may also say that all nouns are masculine except those that belong to these categories.