(al) Definite Particle  آلُ - حُرفُ تَعْرِيْفُ

The definite particle  آلُ is prefixed to an ism which is  ذَٰلِكَ (indefinite) and it causes it to become  مَعْرِفَةُ (definite), and it also causes the tanween at the end to be dropped. The definite particle (al) corresponds to the English ‘the’.

This is a doctor. 

The doctor is sitting.  الطَّبِيُّـبُ جَالِسُ

The Arabic alphabet consists of 28 letters. Of these 14 are called Solar Letters  الحُرُوْفُ الشَّمَسِيَّةُ, and the other 14 are called Lunar Letters  الحُرُوْفُ القَمْرِيَّةُ.

In the articulation of the Solar Letters the tip or the blade of the tongue is involved in the pronunciation. The tip or the blade of the tongue does not play any part in the articulation of the Lunar Letters, (refer to lesson 3, pg.19 Madinah bk.1).

When  آلُ is prefixed to an ism beginning with a Solar Letter the laam of ‘al’ is not pronounced but is written, and the first letter of the ism takes a shaddah ـ. For example,  الشَّمْسُ (ash-shamsu).

When  آلُ is prefixed to an ism beginning with a Lunar Letter the laam of ‘al’ is pronounced and written. For example,  القَمْرُ (al-qamaru).

In the definite particle  آلُ (al) the ـ (a) is known as  هَمْزَةُ الوَصْلُ the Connecting Hamzah. If it is not preceded by a word it will be
pronounced with the vowel marking ـ (fathah). If it is preceded by a word it is dropped in pronunciation, though remains in writing.

The student is sitting and the teacher is standing, *(wa l-mudarrisu...)*.

is a beneficial sentence (*حمَلَة مُفِيَّة*), and it is made up of 2 parts known as *(إِبْنَاءَةُ المُبْتَدَأَ وَالْخَبِيرُ)* (al-mubtada wa l-khabar).

(1) *المبَتَدَأ* is from the Arabic word *إِبْنَاءَ* meaning the beginning or starting, and from its origin is that it comes at the beginning of the sentence.

(2) *المبَتَدَأ* is an ism that is the subject of talk or discussion.

(3) *المبَتَدَأ* (marfoo’) meaning it takes a dhammah or dhammadtaa on the last letter of the ism.

(4) in its *أَصْلُ (origin)* precedes *(الْخَبِيرُ (the khabar)).

(5) in its *أَصْلُ (origin)* is *(مَعْرَفَة (definite)).
الخبر

(1) is that which comes after أصلُ (origin).

(2) gives information or news about المبتدأ، and by which it completes a benefit with المبتدأ.

(3) in its أصل (origin) is (indefinite).

(4) is مرفوع (marfoo’) meaning it takes a dhammah or dhammataan on the last letter of the ism.

الجملة الإسمية

The mosque is near. المسجد قريب