

The background features a large, faint watermark of the University of Basrah logo. The logo is circular and contains a central emblem of a palm tree above an open book. The text 'جامعة البصرة' (University of Basrah) is written in Arabic at the bottom, and 'UNIVERSITY OF BASRAH' and 'COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR HUMAN SCIENCES' are written in English around the bottom edge. The year '1975' is visible on both the left and right sides of the emblem.

**English Grammar
Fourth Year
2019-2020**

Asst. Prof. Mahdi Alasadi

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Week 3: The Simple Sentence

Lecture No. 9: Vocatives

Vocatives 1

A vocative is an optional element, usually a noun phrase, denoting the one or more persons to whom the sentence is addressed. It is either a **CALL**, drawing the attention of the person or persons addressed, singling them out from others in hearing, as in [1], or an **ADDRESS**, expressing the speaker's relationship or attitude to the person or persons addressed, as in [2] and [3]:

John, George's ready. [voc S V C] ' [1]

And that, my students, concludes my lecture. [voc S V O_d] [2]

Vocatives 2

My tooth is aching, doctor. [S V voc] [3]

The above sentences show that a vocative may take initial, medial, or final position in the sentence; in its optionality and freedom of position, it is more like an adverbial than any other element of clause structure.

Intonationally, the vocative is set off from the rest of the clause either by constituting a separate tone unit or by forming the tail of a tone unit. The most characteristic intonations are shown above: fall-rise for an initial vocative functioning as a call, and otherwise rise; rise for a vocative functioning as an address.

Forms of Vocatives 1

Vocatives may be:

1. **Names: first name, last name, full name, with or without a title, or a nickname or pet name: David, Caldwell, Sarah Peterson, Mrs. Johnson, Dr. Turner, Ginger.**
2. **Standard appellatives, usually without modification. These include:**
 - **Kinship terms and terms for family relationships (sometimes with initial capitals): mother, father, son, uncle, aunt, grandfather, grandmother; or more familiar forms like mom(my) (AmE), mum(my) (BrE), dad(dy), auntie, granny, grandma, grandpa.**
 - **Titles of respect (sometimes with initial capitals for your): madam, ma'am (esp AmE), sir, my Lord, your Honour, your Excellency, your Majesty, your Ladyship.**
 - **Markers of status (sometimes with initial capitals even for those not so marked here): Mr. President, Prime Minister, Father [for priest], Sister [for a nun], Bishop, professor, doctor, general, major, vicar.**

Forms of Vocatives 2

3. Terms for occupations: waiter, driver, cabbie (informal), barmaid (BrE), bartender (AmE), attendant, conductor, nurse, officer [for a member of the police force].
4. Epithets (noun or adjective phrases) expressing an evaluation:
 - Favorable (some also preceded by my): (my) darling, (my) dear, (my) dearest, (my) love, honey (esp AmE), (my) friend, handsome, beautiful, my) sweetie-pie (esp AmE).
 - Unfavorable (also preceded by you in noun phrases); bastard, coward, fatty, idiot, imbecile, liar, pig, rotter (BrE), skinny, slowcoach (BrE), slowpoke (ArnE), stupid, swine.
5. Nominal Clauses: Whoever's phone rang, go out of my class.