c. The past passive voice: e. g.

1. "The food was eaten":   (كان الطعام مأكولاً/كان أُكل الطعام)
2. "I was deceived":   (أنا كنت خُدعت/مخدوعاً)
3. "The boys were dismissed":   (كان الأولاد مطرودين/كان الأولاد(قد)طردوا)

Solution: 'was' and 'were'(كان)can be neglected in Arabic, as follows:

1. "The food was eaten":   (أُكل الطعام)
2. "I was deceived":   ((أنا) خُدعت)
3. "The boys were dismissed":   (طُرِد الأولاد)

Word Order

The normal order of the words of the Arabic sentence is sometimes different from that of the English sentence whose normal order is as follows: subject-verb-object/complement. In Arabic, however, the normal word order is two types:

1.<u>Nominal word order</u>: Topic and comment/subject and predicate(مبتدأ وخبر): Two nouns, a noun and an adjective, or a noun and a verb when the noun is emphasised.

2. <u>Verbal word order</u>: Verb-subject-object/complement.('2' is more frequent than '1').

Problem 1: The reservation of the English word order:

The English word order is usually translated literally: N-V-O/C into Arabic, regardless of its normal word order, which is possible, but not advisable as a rule unless the noun is emphasised. In the following examples, the word order is normal, and the English subject is not emphasised. Therefore, translating them into English word order in Arabic is not justified:

1. "The diplomat left Damascus for London":   (الدبلوماسي غادر دمشق إلى لندن)
2. "The sky became cloudy":   (السماء تلبدت بالغيوم)
3. "The pupils enjoyed their holiday":   (التلاميذ استمتعوا بإجازتهم/بعطلتهم)

Solution: The change into normal Arabic word order:

In normal cases, the English word order is replaced by the more frequent and normal Arabic word order of: verb–subject-object/complement. The examples can, therefore, be retranslated as follows:

1. "The diplomat left Damascus for London":   (غادر الدبلوماسي دمشق إلى لندن)

2. "The sky was cloudy": (تلبدت السماء بالغيوم)

3. "The pupils enjoyed their holiday": (استمتع التلاميذ بعطلتهم)

where the verb is first, followed by the subject and then the object(1), or the complement(2&3)(see also the previous section).

2. "The sky was cloudy": (تلبدت السماء بالغيوم)

3. "The pupils enjoyed their holiday": (استمتع التلاميذ بعطلتهم)