

كَمِ اسْتِفْهَامِيَّةٍ وَ تَمْيِيزٍ

There are two types of Kum:

(2) كَمِ اسْتِفْهَامِيَّةٍ

Kum Istifhaamiyah (interrogative)

(1) كَمِ خَبَرِيَّةٍ

Kum Khabariyah (exclamatory)

Kam Istafhamiah: كَمِ اسْتِفْهَامِيَّةٍ is a question word for asking about an inexplicit number or quantity.

The noun used after Kam is always a singular, indefinite, accusative noun.

The noun which comes after Kam is called Tamyeez of Kam in Arabic grammar¹ and it is a noun which removes the ambiguity or vagueness created by the previous noun.

Note: Sometimes Tamyeez تَمْيِيزٍ of Kam is dropped.

The accusative noun with tanween is written with an alif added at the end.

كِتَابٌ كِتَابٍ كِتَابًا

If the accusative noun has tanween at tayay marbootah no alif is added at the end.

سَيِّرَةٌ سَيِّرَةٌ سَيِّرَةٌ

As Kam is used for asking questions therefore it always occurs in the beginning of the sentence.

لِي أَخٍ وَاحِدٍ.

I have only one brother.

كَمْ أَخَاكَ يَا مُحَمَّدٌ؟

How many brothers you have?

فِي هَذِهِ الْعُرْفَةِ نَافِذَتَانِ -

There are 2 windows in this room.

كَمْ نَافِذَةٌ فِي هَذِهِ الْعُرْفَةِ؟

How many windows in this room?

﴿قَالَ كَمْ لَبِثْتُ ۖ قَالَ لَبِثْتُ يَوْمًا أَوْ بَعْضَ يَوْمٍ﴾ (البقرة: 259)

He said, "How long have you remained?" The man said, "I have remained a day or part of a day."