

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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The Rules of Tajweed

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ.

- Our aim in these notes is to present a summary of the rules of tajweed. Since our goal here is to make it as simple as possible for the beginners, we have presented only the significant and important rules. Those who have experience should consult more rigorous books on this subject.
- We have to mention that this subject “Tajweed” is compulsory for all muslims.
ALLAH said in Surah Muzzammil, Aayat 4, “وَرَتَّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا”. That is “And, recite the Qur’an with Tarteel.”
Hadhrrat Zaid Bin Thaabit (R.A.) said: “Verily, ALLAH loves that the Qur’an be recited in the style in which it was revealed.”

Definitions

- The nasal tone (الغنة): It is a soft voice which comes from the nose appears when pronouncing certain letters. The duration of the nasal tone is two motions (حركتين).
- The motion (الحركة): It is the time spent when you hold OR open your finger.

Rule 1: م and ن with Shadda

- Definition: The existence of a shadda on the letter مَ or نَ.
- Rule: The nasal tone (الغنة) should be heard in both cases.
- Examples: النَّسَاءُ، الْحَبَّةُ، النَّارُ، الْمَرْمَلُ، ثُمَّ

Rule 2: م with Sukun

- We have to notice the letter which follows the م with sukun. There are three cases:

CASE 1: MERGING (الادغام)

- Definition: The existence of another letter م after the م.
- Rule: Both م and the following م should be pronounced as one م with shadda. The nasal tone (الغنة) should be heard in this case.
- Examples: منكم مريضاً، كم من، أم من (pronounced as آمن with nasal tone)

CASE 2: HIDING (الاخفاء)

- Definition: The existence of the letter ب after the م.
- Rule: Both م and ب should be pronounced but without closing the lips completely when pronouncing the م. They are closed only when reaching the ب. The nasal tone (الغنة) should be heard in this case also.
- Examples: وفي ذلكم بلاء، فاحكم بينهم، أمتم بالله

CASE 3: APPEARANCE (الظهار)

- Definition: The existence of the rest of the letters after the م.
- Rule: Both م and the following letter should appear and be pronounced normally. The nasal tone (الغنة) should NOT be heard in this case.
- Examples: لعلكم تتقون، ذلكم الله ربكم له الملك

Rule 3: ن with Sukun and Tanween

- Tanween (definition): It is a convention that applies to the double damma, double fat'ha, or double kassra that appears on the last letter of some words.
- Examples: حَكِيمٌ، حَكِيمًا، حَكِيمٌ.
- In fact tanween is considered as نٌ because it is pronounced as a ن with sukun. حَكِيمًا is pronounced as حَكِيمُنٌ.
- We have to notice the letter which follows the نٌ with sukun and tanween. There are four cases:

CASE 1: APPEARANCE (الْإِظْهَارُ)

- Definition: The existence of any of the following six letters after the نٌ or tanween:
ع، خ، ح، ه، ع، غ
- Rule: The نٌ or tanween should be pronounced normally. The nasal tone (الْفَتْة) should NOT be heard in this case.
- Examples: إِنْ أَنَا، أَتِيَّةٌ أَكَادٌ، يُنْهَوْنَ، تَنْجِتُونَ، عَلِيمٌ خَيْرٌ، مِنْ عَمَلٍ، حَلِيمًا غَفُورًا.

CASE 2: CONVERSION (الْإِقْلَابُ)

- Definition: The existence of the letter ب after the نٌ or tanween.
- Rule: The نٌ or tanween should be converted into a مٌ. In this case the rule of مٌ (Rule2, Case 2) should be applied here.
- Examples: مِنْ بَعْدِ (first convert to مٌ بَعْدِ and then apply Rule 2, Case 2)
يُنْبِتْ لَكُمْ، سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ، عَلِيمٌ يَدَاتِ الصُّدُورِ،

CASE 3: MERGING (الادغام)

- Definition: The existence of any of the following six letters after the نُنْ or tanween:

ي، و، ن، م، ل، ر

These letters are combined in one word يرملون.

- Rule: Both نُنْ (or tanween) and the following letter should be pronounced as one letter with shadda. The nasal tone (الغنة) should be heard for only four letters out of the six. These four letters are combined in the word ينمو. The nasal tone should NOT appear for the remaining two letters ل، ر.
- Examples: قول معروف، (pronounced as مَيَقول with nasal tone) مَنْ يَقول (هدى للمتقين، (pronounced as مَرَّ بهم without nasal tone) مِنْ ربهـم

CASE 4: HIDING (الاخفاء)

- Definition: The existence of the rest of the letters after the نُنْ or tanween.
- Rule: The نُنْ or tanween should be pronounced midway between the appearance (الظهار) and merging (الادغام). The nasal tone (الغنة) should be heard in this case.
- You are to extend the letter before the ن during the nasal tone period. Your mouth should be changed to take the shape of the next letter during this period. The ن is hidden in this time period.
- Examples: أَنْ صدوكم، مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي، مُنْقَلَبًا، أَيامُكُمْ، قولًا كريمًا، عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ

Rule 4: Strong and Soft Letters (حروف التّفخيم والتّريق)

- A strong letter (definition): It is a letter that should be magnified and made strong or thick when pronounced.
- A soft letter (definition): It is a letter that should be softened and made fine or thin when pronounced.
- The arabic letters are classified into four categories:

CASE 1: STRONG LETTERS (حروف التّفخيم أو الإستعلاء)

- Definition: The existence of any of the following letters

خ، ص، ض، غ، ط، ق، ظ

These letters are combined in three words **خص ضغط قط**.

- Rule: These letters are always strong. They should be magnified when pronounced. If you circle your lips when pronouncing them, it will help.
- Examples: **خَالِدِينَ، الصَّلَاةِ، يَضُدُونَ، يَضْرِبُونَ، فَضْبِحُوا، الإِضْبَاحِ، بَطْرَتِ**.

CASE 2: SOFT LETTERS (حروف التّريق أو الإستقال)

- Definition: The existence of any of the rest letters except for ر .
- Rule: These letters are always soft. They should be made fine or thin when pronounced. If you flatten your lips when pronouncing them, it will help.

CASE 3: THE MAJESTIC ل (لَامُ الْجَلَالَةِ)

- Definition: The existence of the majestic ل, i.e., the word الله or اللهم.
- Rule:
 - 1) It should be magnified when it comes after fat'ha or damma.
 - Examples: صدق الله، يطيع الله.
 - 2) It should be softened when it comes after kasra.
 - Examples: بِسْمِ الله، قُلِ اللهم.

CASE 4: THE LETTER ر

Definition: The existence of the letter ر .

- Rule: It is sometimes pronounced as a strong letter and sometimes pronounced as a soft one.
 - 1) If it has a fat'ha or a damma on it ⇒ Magnify (strong letter), (رحيم).
 - 2) If it has a kasra on it ⇒ Soften (soft letter), (الغارمين).
 - 3) If it has a sukun after a fat'ha or a damma ⇒ Magnify (strong letter), (نَزَّزُونَ).
 - 4) If it has a sukun after a kasra ⇒ Soften (soft letter), (فزعون).
 - 5) If it has a sukun after a hamz wasl ⇒ Magnify (strong letter), (من ارتضى).
 - 6) If it has a sukun after a kasra and before a high letter ⇒ Magnify (strong letter).
- Rule no. 6 is an exception of rule 4 and there are only five cases in whole Quran that correspond to this rule:

قِرطاس، فِرقة، إِرصادًا، مِرصادًا، لِبِإِرصاد

Rule 5: The Shaking Letters (حروف أَلْفَلَقَة)

- Definition: The existence of any of the following letters with *sukun*

ق، ط، ب، خ، ذ

These letters are combined in two words قطب جد.

- Rule: These letters should be shaken or rebounded when pronounced.

- Examples: الجنود، البروج، يئديء، مُحيط، الحريق

Rule 6: The Whispering Letters (حروف الهمس)

- Definition: The existence of any of the following letters with *sukun*

خ، ث، ذ، ف، ح، ض، ف، ن، ل، ت

These letters are combined in three words **حثة شخص فسكت**.

- Rule: The breath should run along with these letters when pronouncing them.
- Examples: **مَشْكِين، كَذَّبَتْ، أَهْل**.

Rule 7: Merging Similar Letters (إِدْغَامُ الْحُرُوفِ الْمِثَالَةِ)

- Definition: The existence of two subsequent and similar letters. The first one should have a sukun.
- Rule: Both letters should be pronounced as one letter with shadda.
- Examples:

- 1) إِذْ ذَهَبَ ⇒ pronounced as إِذَّهَبَ.
- 2) رَبِّحْتُمْ بِتِجَارَتِكُمُ ⇒ pronounced as رَبِّحْتُمْ بِتِجَارَتِكُمْ.
- 3) يَلْهَثُ ذَلِكَ ⇒ pronounced as يَلْهَثُ ذَلِكَ.
- 4) لَقَدْ تَابَ ⇒ pronounced as لَقَدْ تَابَ. Notice that ذ should not be shaken here.
- 5) وَذَاتِ طَائِفَةٍ ⇒ pronounced as وَذَاتِ طَائِفَةٍ.
- 6) اِرْكَبْنَا مَعَنَا ⇒ pronounced as اِرْكَبْنَا مَعَنَا.
- 7) قُلْ لَهُمْ ⇒ pronounced as قُلُّهُمْ.
- 8) قُلْ رَبِّ ⇒ pronounced as قُلُّرَبِّ.
- 9) يَذُرْكُمْ ⇒ pronounced as يَذُرُّكُمْ.
- 10) نَخْلِكُمْ ⇒ pronounced as نَخْلِكُمْ.

Rule 8: Extension (المدّ)

- Definition: The appearance of a hamza, shadda, or sukun, after any of the three madd letters.
- Definition: The madd letters:
 - 1) The “أ” which is preceded by a fatha.
 - 2) The “و” which is preceded by a damma.
 - 3) The “ى” which is preceded by a kasra.
- Rule: Extend or lengthen the sound of the madd letters by a duration of two, four, or six motions (حرّكات), depending on the different cases.
- Although there are many cases for madd, we give here five cases only. The rest are in fact consistent with the natural extension (two motions), i.e., normal reading.

CASE 1: CONNECTED NECESSARY EXTENSION (المدّ المتّصل الواجب)

- Definition: The appearance of a hamza after any of the three madd letters in the same word.
- Rule: Extend or lengthen the sound of the madd letters by a duration of four motions (أربع حرّكات).
- Examples: السّمَاءُ، أشدّاءُ، بيئْتُ.

CASE 2: SEPARATED OPTIONAL EXTENSION (المدّ المنفصل الجائز)

- Definition: The appearance of any of the three madd letters at the end of a word followed by a hamza at the beginning of next word.

- Rule: Extend or lengthen the sound of the madd letters by a duration of two (as in natural extension) or four motions (حركتين أو أربع حركات).
- Examples: يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ، إِنَّمَا أَنَا، بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ

CASE 3: COMPULSORY EXTENSION (الْمَدُّ الْأَلْزِم)

- Definition: The appearance of a shadda or sukun after any of the three madd letters in the same word.
- Rule: Extend or lengthen the sound of the madd letters by a duration of six motions (ست حركات).
- Examples: شَاتُوا، حَادُوا، الْحَاةُ، الصَّاحَةُ، الطَّامَةُ

CASE 4: STOPPING SUKUN EXTENSION (الْمَدُّ الْفَارِضُ لِلْمُكُون)

- Definition: The appearance of any of the three madd letters before the last letter of a stopping word (a word that you stop on it so that its last letter has a sukun).
- Rule: Extend or lengthen the sound of the madd letters by a duration of two, four, or six motions.
- Examples: ذُو اتِّقَامٍ، خَالِدُونَ، رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، عَذَابُ أَلِيمٍ

CASE 5: LETTERS EXTENSION (مَدُّ الْحُرُوفِ)

- We have to notice the existence of the letters at the beginning of some Surahs. There are two situations.

First situation:

- Definition: The existence of any of the following eight letters at the beginning of some Surahs

ع، س، ل، ك، م، ن، ق، ص

These letters are combined in two words *عَسَلَكُمْ نَقَصَ*.

- Rule: Extend or lengthen the sound of the madd letters, which appears when pronouncing any of the above letters, by a duration of six motions.
- Examples: *الم، طسم، كَيْبِص، ق، ن، حم*
Notice the letters *م، ل، م، س، م، ك، ع، ص، ق، ن، م* in the above example.

second situation:

- Definition: The existence of any of the following six letters at the beginning of some Surahs

ح، ي، ط، ا، ه، ر

These letters are combined in two words *حَيِّ طَاهِر*.

- Rule: Extend or lengthen the sound of the madd letters, which appears when pronouncing any of the above letters, by a duration of two motions (natural extension).
- Examples: *الم، طسم، كَيْبِص، حم*
Notice the letters *ح، ي، ط، ا، ه* in the above example.