

# The Basic Rules Of Tajweed (Hafs) Recitation

## UNDERSTANDING THE LETTERS

There are over seventy rules of tajweed but below are some of the basic principles.

### Makhrāj- Origin

The 29 Arabic letters originate from 17 places in the mouth giving each letter a distinct sound. During recitation the sound of each letter must be pronounced clearly.

### Sifat-Attributes

Each letter is pronounced in a particular way; some are soft or sharp with abrupt or soft endings.

#### Tanween-Nunation

When there is a double *fatha* (◌َ◌َ) or double *kasra* (◌ِ◌ِ), you add the 'n' sound to the letter.

#### Saakin-Vowel Omission

When you add a *Sukoon* (◌ْ) on a letter, it's called *Saakin*. For example,

*Noon Saakin* (نْ). An Arabic syllable can be open (ending with a vowel) or closed (ending with a consonant). Closed

syllables are denoted by *Sukkon* (◌ْ). So

*Noon Saakin* (نْ) is the letter *Noon* without a vowel ending.

#### Mushaddad-Gemination

A letter with a *Shadda* (◌ّ) on top is called *Mushaddad*. The consonant is doubled. Instead of writing the letter twice, Arabic places a W-shaped sign called *Shadda* (◌ّ), above it.

#### Huroofe Halaqi-Throat Letters

The following letters are called *huroofe halaqi* because they originate from the *halaq* (throat):

ء ه ع غ خ

## THE SOUNDS

### Ikhfa

*Ikhfa* means to pronounce the letter with a light sound from the nose and is applied when any of the following letters

appear after a *noon saakin* (نْ) or

*tanween* (◌َ◌َ):

ت ث ج د ذ ز س ش  
ص ض ط ظ ف ق ك

**Ghunna** When the letter noon has a *shadda* (◌ّ) or a *meem* (◌م), it is pronounced through the nose.

### Noon Saakin & Tanween

When there is a *noon saakin* (نْ) or

*tanween* (◌َ◌َ) the following rules apply:

**Izhar:** If *huroofe halaqi* appears after *noon saakin* or *tanween*, there is no nasal sound.

**Idgham:** If ي ر م ل و ن appear incorporated

with *noon saakin* (نْ) or *tanween* (◌َ◌َ) it is pronounced with a nasal sound.

**Qalb:** If the letter *Baa* (ب) appears after

the *noon saakin* (نْ) or *tanween* (◌َ◌َ), the letter *noon* (ن) is changed into *meem* (◌م) and is recited with a nasal sound.

**Ikhafa:** There is a light nasal sound when the following letters appear after the *noon*

*saakin* (نْ) and *tanween* (◌َ◌َ):

ت ث ج د ذ ز س ش  
ص ض ط ظ ف ق ك

### Meem Saakin

The following rules are applied

with *meem saakin* (◌مْ):

**Izhar:** If *huroofe halaqi* appears after

*meem saakin* (◌مْ), there is no nasal sound, except for letters *baa* (ب) and *meem* (◌م).

**Idgham:** If *meem saakin* (◌مْ) appears

after another *meem* (◌م) appear, they are incorporated. **Ikhafa:** When the letter *baa* (ب)

appears after *meem saakin* (◌مْ) there will be a slight nasal sound.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

### Ra

The letter *Ra* (ر) can be pronounced in a strong sounding 'full mouth' or in a light sounding 'empty mouth'.

**Pronounced with full mouth when:**

- Ra* (ر) has *fatha* (◌َ) or a *dhamma* (◌ُ)
- There is a *fatha* (◌َ) or a *dhamma* (◌ُ) before a *Ra saakin* (رْ)
- There is a *fatha* (◌َ) or a *dhamma* (◌ُ) and a *shadda* (◌ّ) on *Ra* (ر)

**Pronounced with empty mouth when:**

- Ra* (ر) has a *kasra* (◌ِ) below it (رِ)
- There is a *kasra* (◌ِ) before a *Ra saakin* (رْ)
- There is a *kasra* (◌ِ) and a *shadda* (◌ّ) on *Ra* (رِ)
- There is a *Yaa Saakin* (يْ) before a *Ra* (ر) and you decide to stop in the sentence

### Laam

The letter *Laam* (ل) can also be pronounced with a full mouth or an empty mouth.

**Full mouth:** *fatha* (◌َ) or a *dhamma* (◌ُ)

appears before the word Allah (الله) The

*laam* (ل) in Allah (الله) is pronounced with a full mouth.

**Empty mouth:** *kasra* (◌ِ) appears before

the word Allah (الله). The *laam* (ل) in

Allah (الله) is pronounced with empty mouth.

### Elongation (Maad)

The following vowels elongate the consonant that precedes them:

*Alif Saakin* (اْ) that has a *fatha* (◌َ) before it

*Waaw Saakin* (وْ) has a *dhamma* (◌ُ)

before it *Yaa Saakin* (يْ) has a *kasra* (◌ِ)

before it. *Waaw Saakin* (وْ) and *Yaa*

*Saakin* (يْ) has a *fatha* (◌َ) before it.