



The rules of Tajweed

A brief overview of the rules of Tajweed with examples

Full Mouth Letters

The following letters will always be read full mouth, even if they have a kasrah.

حُصَّ صَغَطٍ قِظٌ

قِصَاصٌ

ضِيْزِيٌّ

ظِلَالٌ

The Letter Raa

If a raa has a fathah or dammah, read it with a full mouth. If it has a kasrah, read it with an empty mouth.

رِسَالَاتٌ

طَيْرًا

عَفُورٌ

If it has a tashdeed, look at the harakah on the raa mushdaddad and use the same rules as above.

رِّرٌ

رِرٌّ

If the raa is saakin (whether written with a sukoon or because of waqf), look at the harakah on the letter before it and use the same rules as above.

إِرْسَالٌ

أَكْبَرٌ

مُرْسَلٌ

If you are doing waqf on a raa and the letter before is saakin, look at the harakah on the next letter along and use the same rules as above.

حِجْرٌ

صَبْرٌ

شُكْرٌ

In some exceptional cases, you won't follow the above rules. If you are doing waqf on a raa and the letter before it is a yaa saakin, you'll always pray it with an empty mouth.

خَيْرٌ

If the raa saakin has a full mouth letter after it, you'll pray it with a full mouth even if there's a kasrah before it.

مِرْصَادٌ

If the raa saakin comes after an alif that isn't pronounced, and before that is a letter with a kasrah, you'll pray the raa with a full mouth.

أَمَّ ارْتَابُوا

Laam of Allah

If the word "Allah" comes after a dammah or fathah, read the laam of Allah with a full mouth. If it comes after a kasrah, read it with an empty mouth.

يَشَاءُ اللهُ

مِنَ اللهِ

دِينَ اللهِ

Madd

Madd Asli

If there's an alif with a fathah before it, or a yaa with a kasrah before it, or a waw with a dammah before it, stretch the sound for the duration of one count.

بِحَجَارَةٍ

تَرْمِيمِهِمْ

مَاكُولٍ

Madd Muttasil

If there's an alif followed by a hamzah in the same word, stretch the sound of the alif for the duration of about five counts.

يَشَاءُ

أُولَعِكَ

Madd Munfasil

If there's an alif followed by a hamzah in a different word, stretch the sound of the alif for the duration of about three counts.

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ

الَّذِي أَطْعَمَهُمْ

Madd Laazim

If there's an alif followed by a mushaddad letter, or you're praying the letters of huroof muqatta'at (letters found in the beginning of some surahs on their own), stretch the sound for the duration of five counts.

وَالصَّالِينَ

المص

Madd Aarid

If you're doing waqf on a letter, and before that letter is a madd asli, then stretch the sound of the madd asli for three counts.

عَظِيمٍ

مَاعُونِ

جَنَّاتِنِ

Madd Leen

If you're doing waqf on a letter, and before that letter is a waw or yaa after a fathah, stretch the sound of the fathah with the waw or yaa for the duration of two counts.

مِنْ خَوْفِ

وَالصَّيْفِ

Qalqala

If any of the below six letters come as a saakin, they will produce an “echoing” sound. If you are stopping on a qalqala letter and it has a tashdeed, the echo will be delayed slightly.

قُطِبُ جَدِّ

Meem Mushaddad and Noon Mushadadad

If a meem or a noon has a tashdeed, it will be prayed with ghunnah, a sound from the noise that lasts for two counts.

لِلنَّاسِ
وَأَمَّا

Meem Saakin Rules

Idghaam Shafawi

If a meem saakin is followed by another meem, you'll join them together and add ghunnah.

وَأَمَّنَّهُمْ مِّنْ
أَنَّهُمْ مَّبْعُوثُونَ

Ikhfaa Shafawi

If a meem saakin is followed by a baa, you'll do ikhfaa shafawi, which is praying the meem differently by not making the lips fully meet as you usually do with meem. You'll also add ghunnah.

يَعْلَمُ بِأَنَّ
رَبَّهُمْ بِهِمْ

Izhaar Shafawi

If a meem saakin is followed by another other letter other than the meem and baa mentioned above, you'll pray the meem as usual without joining nor adding ghunnah.

أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ
هُمَّ عَنْ

Noon Saakin and Tanween Rules

Izhaar

If a noon saakin or tanween comes before any of the below six letters of the huroof halaqi, you'll pray the noon saakin and tanween as usual.

ء ه ح غ خ

مِنْ أَهْلِ
مِنْ حَمِيمٍ
سَلَامٌ هِيَ

Qalb

If a noon saakin or tanween comes before a baa, pray the noon saakin or tanween as a meem (it's usually written as a small meem) and do the same sound you do in ikhfaa shafawi by praying the meem differently and not making the lips fully meet.

مِنْ بَعْدِ
يَوْمَئِذٍ بِجَهَنَّمَ

Idghaam

If a noon saakin or tanween comes at the end of a word and before any of the six letters below:

يَزْمَلُونَ

then you won't pray the noon saakin or tanween, but you'll join the sound onto the next letter.

لَنْ تَصْبِرَ
وَإِنْ مِّنْ
فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ
بِزُدًا وَلَا

If from the above letters, there's any of the four letters below:

يَنْمُو

then you'll add ghunnah. If it's a laam or raa, there'll be no ghunnah

لَئِنْ لَّمْ
مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ

Note: You can't do idghaam if the noon saakin or tanween is followed by an Idghaam letter in the middle of a word.

دُنْيَا
قِنْوَانٍ

Ikhfaa

If a noon saakin or tanween comes before any of the fifteen remaining letters (not the six of izhaar and the six of idghaam) you'll do ikhfaa, which means praying the noon sound differently by not making the tongue fully touch the upper gums as you usually do with noon. There will also be a ghunnah.

يَنْظُرُ
عَدَابًا قَرِيبًا
مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
مِنْ لَّدُنكَ
إِنْ شَاءَ

ت ث ج د ذ ز س ش ص ض ط
ظ ف ق ك