



Resolving Common Makharij Concerns

A brief guide to find the root and solution of common problems in learning and teaching the Makharij.

الف	Pronounced by producing a sound from the bottom of your throat without tightening any muscles like the English “a” sound in “allow”. If it sounds like the letter ع, you’re tightening the muscles in your throat.	ض	Pronounced by making the side of the tongue touch the gums on the same side of the mouth, along with raising the back and middle of the tongue to create a “full mouth” sound. If it sounds like the letter د, you’re using the front of the tongue with your gums instead of the side, and if it sounds like the letter ظ, you’re using the front of the tongue with the edge of the front teeth.
ء		ط	Pronounced like the English “t” sound, along with raising the back and middle of the tongue to create a “full mouth” sound. If it sounds like the letter ت, you’re not raising the back and middle of the tongue.
ث	Pronounced like the English “th” sound in the word “thin”. If it sounds like the letter س, you’re making the tongue touch the bottom teeth instead of the edge of the top teeth.	ظ	Pronounced like the letter “ذ”, along with raising the back and middle of the tongue to create a “full mouth” sound. If it sounds like the letter د, you’re not raising the back and middle of the tongue. If it sounds like the letter ز, you’re making the tongue touch the bottom teeth instead of the edge of the top.
ح	Pronounced by tightening the muscles in the middle of the throat and breathing out. If it sounds like the letter ه, you’re not tightening the muscles. If it sounds like the letter خ, you’re tightening the muscles at the top of the throat instead of the middle.	ع	Pronounced by tightening the muscles in the middle of the throat and producing a sound. If it sounds like the letter ء, you’re not tightening the muscles.
خ	Pronounced by tightening the muscles at the top of your throat and breathing out. If it sounds sharp like the letter ك, you’re raising the back of the tongue instead of tightening the throat muscles. It should be a soft continuous sound, and sound “full mouth” by raising the back of the tongue.	غ	Pronounced by tightening the muscles at the top of your throat and producing a sound. If it sounds like the letter خ, you’re not producing a sound, but just breathing out. It shouldn’t sound like the hard English “g” sound in the word “golf”, but a soft continuous sound. It should also sound “full mouth” by raising the back of the tongue.
ذ	Pronounced like the English “th” sound in the word “that”. If it sounds like the letter ز, you’re making the tongue touch the bottom teeth instead of the edge of the top teeth.	ق	Pronounced by lifting the back of the tongue to the furthest part of the back of the mouth and producing a sound. If it sounds like the letter ك, your tongue isn’t raised far back enough. If it sounds like the letter خ, you’re tightening the muscles at the top of your throat.
ر	Pronounced by saying the English “r” sound along with raising the back of the tongue to create a “full mouth” sound.	ك	Pronounced by lifting the back of the tongue to the back of the mouth, but closer to the front, and producing a sound. If it sounds like the letter ق, your tongue is raised too far back. If it sounds like the letter خ, you’re tightening the muscles at the top of your throat.
Full mouth		ه	Pronounced like the English “h” sound in the word “hat” by breathing from the bottom of your throat without tightening any muscles. If it sounds like the letter ح, you’re tightening the muscles in your throat.
ز	Pronounced like the English “z” sound in the word “zoo”. If it sounds like the letter د, you’re making the tongue touch the top teeth instead of the bottom.		
ص	Pronounced like the English “s” sound, along with raising the back and middle of the tongue to create a “full mouth” sound. If it sounds like the letter س, you’re not raising the back and middle of the tongue.		