The Rules of Tajweed

أَحْمَدُ لَهُ الْبَلاَغَةَ وَالْحَلَّةَ وَالْمَلَامِحَ عَلَى رَسُولِ اللّهِ

- 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, “وَرَتَّلَ الْقُرْآنَ بِتََّرَيِّلٍ” That is “And, recite the Qur’an with Tarteel.”

Hadrat 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 (الحنع): 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 (المركة): 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 م or ن.

- **Rule:** The nasal tone (المنة) should be heard in both cases.

- **Examples:** الله، ليلة، آثار، لبرم، شهم
Rule 2: م with Sukun

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

CASE 1: MERGING (التداعم)

- 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 (الغناة) should be heard in this case.
- Examples: منكم فريضًا، كمن من (pronounced as أم من with nasal tone)

CASE 2: HIDING (الخفاء)

- 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 (الغناة) should be heard in this case also.
- Examples: في ذكركم بلاء، فأحكم بيتكم، أمرتم بالله

CASE 3: APPEARANCE (الاظبار)

- 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 (الغناة) should NOT be heard in this case.
- Examples: لملككم تانون، ذلكم الله ربكهم 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: حكيمٰنا حكيمٰنا حكيمٰنا

• In fact tanween is considered as ن because it is pronounced as ن with sukun. حكيمٰنا is pronounced as حكيمٰنا.

• We have to notice the letter which follows the ن with sukun and tanween. There are four cases:

CASE 1: Appearance (الإطلاع)

• Definition: The existence of any of the following six letters after the ن or tanween: ء، ه، خ، ع، غ

• Rule: The ن or tanween should be pronounced normally. The nasal tone (اللفة) should NOT be heard in this case.

• Examples: إبن أنا، أئية أكاد، ينون، تنجلو، علم خيبر، من عمل، حليما غفورا

CASE 2: Conversion (الإقلاب)

• Definition: The existence of the letter ب after the ن or tanween.

• Rule: The ن or tanween should be converted into a م. In this case the rule of م (Rule 2, Case 2) should be applied here.

• Examples: م، بعد م، بعد (first convert to م، بعد and then apply Rule 2, Case 2) ينونكم، صميم بصير، علم ذوات الصدور.
CASE 3: MERGING

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

٥، ٤، ٣، ٢، ١، ر

These letters are combined in one word یملون.

- Rule: Both ُن (or tanween) and the following letter should be pronounced as one letter with shadda. The nasal tone (النَّة) should be heard for only four letters out of the six. These four letters are combined in the word یندو. The nasal tone should NOT appear for the remaining two letters ٢، ر.

- Examples: ٢قول مَّرْيَل (pronounced as ٢مَّرْيَل with nasal tone) مَّرْيَل هَذِئِيْل للْمَّنْقَذِئين؛ (pronounced as مَّرْيَل مَّرْيَل without nasal tone) مَّرْيَل مَّرْيَل.

CASE 4: HIDING

- Definition: The existence of the rest of the letters after the ُن or tanween.

- Rule: The ُن or tanween should be pronounced midway between the appearance (الْطَّيْار) and merging (الْدَّغَام). The nasal tone (النَّة) 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: أَن صَدَوْكِ، مَن ذَا الْذُّبَى، مُنْقَذِئ، أَيَام مُّمَ، تَوَلَا كَرَمَان، عَدَاب شَدِيد.
Rule 4: Strong and Soft Letters (حروف ألفاظم والتقيق أو الاستفتاء)

- 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 ألفاظم أو الاستفتاء)

- Definition: The existence of any of the following letters

 CONCATENATION

These letters are combined in three words خص ضبط خط.

- Rule: These letters are always strong. They should be magnified when pronounced. If you circle your lips when pronouncing them, it will help.

- Examples: خالدين، ألفاظم، يضدون، يضربون، يضبخون، الإشباح، بيذرت.

CASE 2: SOFT LETTERS (حروف التفريق أو الاستفتاء)

- 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

- Definition: The existence of the majestic ل, i.e., the word أَلْلَهُ or أَلَّهُمُ

- Rule:
  1) It should be magnified when it comes after fat’ha or damma.
    - Examples: صَدَقَ اللَّهُ، يَطْبِعُ اللَّهُ.
  2) It should be softened when it comes after kasra.
    - Examples: ﷺ وَلَّهُمَّ ﷺ.

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), (۵۸۲۸۲۸۲۸).
  2) If it has a kasra on it ⇒ Soften (soft letter), (۵۸۲۸۲۸۲۸).
  3) If it has a sukun after a fat’ha or a damma ⇒ Magnify (strong letter), (۵۸۲۸۲۸۲۸).
  4) If it has a sukun after a kasra ⇒ Soften (soft letter), (۵۸۲۸۲۸۲۸).
  5) If it has a sukun after a hamzat wasl ⇒ Magnify (strong letter), (۵۸۲۸۲۸۲۸).
  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:

۵۸۲۸۲۸۲۸
Rule 5: The Shaking Letters 

- Definition: The existence of any of the following letters with sukun 
  
  \( \mathbf{ق، ص، ر، ج، ذ} \) 

  These letters are combined in two words \( قطبل جد \).

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

- Examples: أُحَبِّبْتُ، أَنْبَرَخُ، بَيْدَى، مُحَيْطُ، أَلْفَرِيق
Rule 6: The Whispering Letters (حروف آلهٰمس)

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

خ، خ، ش، ش، ف، ف

These letters are combined in three words حَثّه شخَصَ نسْكَث.

- Rule: The breath should run along with these letters when pronouncing them.

- Examples: مَشْكَيْن، كَذَبْت، أَهْل.
Rule 7: Merging Similar Letters

- 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) إذّبّت ⇒ pronounced as إذّبّت
2) رِمَحُتِبْنِهم ⇒ pronounced as رِمَحُتِبْنِهم
3) يلِدُّهُ الله ⇒ pronounced as يلِدُّهُ الله
4) قُلّ تَابُ لَفَقَةً ⇒ pronounced as قُلّ تَابُ لَفَقَةً. Notice that ُ should not be shaken here.
5) وَذَٰلِكَ الْقَبَّةُ ⇒ pronounced as وَذَٰلِكَ الْقَبَّةُ
6) إِرْكَمُنَا ⇒ pronounced as إِرْكَمُنَا
7) قُلّ لِمّمِهِ ⇒ pronounced as قُلّ لِمّمِهِ
8) قُلّ رَبّ ⇒ pronounced as قُلّ رَبّ
9) يَدْرِيكمَ ⇒ pronounced as يَدْرِيكمَ
10) قُلّ قُلّكَمِّمِهِ ⇒ pronounced as قُلّ قُلّكَمِّمِهِ.
Rule 8: Extension (النُدٌ)

- Definition: The appearance of a hamza, shadda, or sukun, after any of the three madd letters.

- Definition: The madd letters:
  1) The "ُ" 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 (حركات), 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 (النُدٌ المُتَنَفِّل 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 (أربعة حركات).

- Examples: أَسْتَأَءَ، أَشْدَأَ، بِيَتَتَ

CASE 2: SEPARATED OPTIONAL EXTENSION (النُدٌ المُتَنَفِّل المنعم)

- 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.

- Examples: ُيَا أُميَّة الْقَاسِ، إِنَّمَا أَنَا بِنَيْنِي إِسْرَائِيْلِ

CASE 3: COMPULSORY EXTENSION

- 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.

- Examples: ُقُلُوُّوا، خَلَّوُوا، الْمَلَكَةُ، الْمَلَكَةُ، الْمَلَكَةُ

CASE 4: STOPPING SUKUN EXTENSION

- 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 اسْتَقَامَ، خَالِدُونَ، رَبُّ الغَالِبِينِ، عَذَابَ أَلِيمٍ
CASE 5: LETTERS EXTENSION

- 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

\[
ع، س، ل، ء، م، ن، ق، ص
\]

These letters are combined in two words 

- 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: 

\[
ال، ط، ك، م، ن، ح، م
\]

Notice the letters 

in the above example.

second situation:

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

\[
ح، ء، ط، ا، ه، ر
\]

These letters are combined in two words 

- 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: 

\[
ال، ط، ك، م، ن، ح
\]

Notice the letters in the above example.