

Tajweed Lesson 1: The Concept of Makharij and Sifaat

The concept of **Makharij** and **Sifaat** is one of the most fundamental topics in the study of **Tajweed**. It is essentially the basis upon which all Tajweed rules are built. Without understanding this concept, it would be very difficult to truly master Quran recitation. However, it is often among the least favorite topics to study for many learners because of how technical and dry it might seem.

Still, if you are starting to learn Tajweed or if you have already learned some rules, following this lesson series will give you important insight into the pronunciation of Arabic letters and help solidify your basic knowledge. This will help you become more confident in your Quran recitation, In shaa Allah.

So let us begin.

What are Makharij and Sifaat

The word **Makharij** is the plural of **Makhraj**, and it literally means an **exit point**. In terms of Tajweed, it refers to the **articulation point** from which a sound is released.

The word **Sifaat** is the plural of **Sifah**, which means a **characteristic**. In Tajweed, it refers to the **characteristics of letters**.

We begin with the more basic concept, which is **Makharij**.

In order to get to know where letters come from exactly, we should first learn the chart of articulation points. This chart gives us an idea about the organs that produce sounds.

The chart shows that there are **five major areas**:

1. The **Oral Cavity**
This is the entire dark blue and green area. It is called **Al-Jawf** in Arabic.
2. The **Throat**
This is the dark blue area and is called **Al-Halq** in Arabic. It is part of the oral cavity.
3. The **Tongue**
This is called **Al-Lisaan**.
4. The **Lips**
These are called **Ash-Shafataan**.
5. The **Nasal Cavity**
This is called **Al-Khaishoom**.

Each of these five areas contains **several points of articulation**. Each point of articulation is called a **Makhraj**.

There are **seventeen** points of articulation in total. These seventeen points produce all the sounds in the Arabic language. You can also think of them as seventeen devices producing the sounds. Each of these devices has a name and produces a number of sounds.

It is important to know that there is some difference among scholars and linguists regarding the exact number of Makharij. Some say there are sixteen. Others say there are fourteen.

In this course, we will follow the division made by **Ibn Al-Jazari**, as it is the most accurate with respect to Quranic recitation and is also easier to understand, In shaa Allah.

How do linguists determine where a sound is produced from

There are two main methods:

1. **Saying the letter with a Shaddah on it**
For example, to determine the place of the letter ا, we say اّ.
For the letter ب, we say بّ.
2. **Using a Hamzah with a Fathah followed by the consonant you want to test**
For example, اُ, أُب, etc.

This can be a useful method for you as well to compare your own articulation and make sure you are pronouncing the letter from the correct Makhraj.

Now that we know the basics of studying Makharij, let us start with the first and easiest area of articulation which is the **Oral Cavity**.

The Oral Cavity (Al-Jawf)

This area is the **Makhraj** of the **three long vowels**, which are:

1. **Alif** preceded by a Fathah
2. **Waaw** preceded by a Dhammah
3. **Yaa** preceded by a Kasrah

These are also called **letters of Madd (Med letters)**.

We call them **Madd letters** or **Haruf Al-Madd**.

It is important to add the word **Madd** after **Waaw** and **Yaa** because these two letters also have another form where they are not functioning as long vowels. In those cases, their pronunciation is different. For now, we are only focusing on the Madd forms.

These three Madd letters do not have a specific point that they finish at like other consonants do. Instead, these vowels finish with the **stopping of the sound**. You are basically **pushing air through your throat**, but that is not the only thing you are doing. The shape of your **lips** and other **organs in your mouth** determine what sound this flow of air produces.

Let us now understand how each of these three letters is produced.

Alif (ا)

Alif is always preceded by a letter with a **Fathah**. It is always used as a Madd letter. When pronouncing Alif in Arabic, the main thing to pay attention to is the **opening of the mouth**.

The mouth should not be **too wide open** and it should not be **too closed** either. It should be somewhere in between – an **average opening**.

Examples:

- قال
- جار

So the opening of the mouth should be an average one to pronounce Alif properly.

Waaw (و)

This is the same process, but now the **lips will be in an O shape**. Again, it should be in an average position.

The O shape should not be **too wide open** or **too tight**. It should be **relaxed and average**.

Examples:

- يقول
- نور

If the shape of the mouth is too open, a hint of the sound of **Alif** will be mixed with the **Waaw**, which is not correct.

There are also other common mistakes related to the sound of Waaw. These are explained in a separate lesson.

Yaa (ي)

This sound is **very similar to Alif**. The only difference is that the **middle of the tongue is raised** when pronouncing the "ee" sound.

Examples:

- كبير
- في
- سبيل

So these were the three letters that are produced from the **mouth cavity** or **Al-Jawf**. They are:

- Alif: Fat-ha followed by Alif
- Waaw: Dhammah followed by Waaw
- Yaa: Kasrah followed by Yaa

Summary of Lesson One

In this first lesson, we had an introduction to the concept of **Makharij** and **Sifaat**.

We learned about the **five main areas** from which a sound is produced.

We learned the **names of some articulation organs**.

We also started learning about the first three letters involving the **mouth cavity** or **Al-Jawf**.

Tajweed Lesson 2: Makharij and Sifaat

In the last lesson, we learned the meaning of **Makharij** and **Sifaat**.

We also learned the names of the **five main areas** from which a sound is produced.

Each of these five areas contains **one or more articulation points** known as **Makharij**.

We began with the **mouth cavity** (called **Al-Jawf** in Arabic), which contains only **one Makharaj**, responsible for pronouncing the **three long vowels**:

- Alif
- Waaw
- Yaa

In this lesson, we move on to the **next area**: the **throat**, which is called **Al-Halq** in Arabic.

The Throat (Al-Halq)

The area of the throat contains **three articulation points**:

1. The **farthest part of the throat**
2. The **middle part of the throat**
3. The **closest part of the throat**

Each of these three articulation points produces **two sounds**.

- The **farthest part** of the throat produces ه (Haa) and ء (Hamza).
 - The **middle part** produces ع ('Ayn) and ح (Haa).
 - The **closest part** produces غ (Ghayn) and خ (Khaa).
-

In This Lesson: The Farthest Part of the Throat

We will focus on the **farthest part of the throat**, which produces the sounds:

- ه (Haa)
- ء (Hamza)

Both of these are produced by **controlling your vocal folds**, also known as **vocal cords**, which are located at the **farthest part of the throat**.

Producing the Letter Haa (هـ)

The sound of **Haa** is produced by **letting air pass through your vocal cords**.

The opening of your vocal cords must be **slightly closed**, not wide open, so that **friction** can occur and the sound is produced.

That light **friction sound** created by air passing through is the sound of **Haa**.

Examples:

- هَا
- هُوَ
- مُهْتَدِينَ

So, air passing through the **slightly closed vocal cords** produces the proper **Haa** sound.

Producing the Letter Hamza (ء)

Hamza produces the **glottal stop sound**, which is the **abrupt cutting off** of air.

It is also produced at the **vocal cords**, but instead of letting air pass, you do the **opposite**:

You **completely close** your vocal cords, stopping air completely. This closure creates the sound of Hamza.

Examples:

- أَتَى
- يَأْكُلُ

So:

- For **Haa**, you **let air pass** through slightly closed vocal cords.
 - For **Hamza**, you **completely close** the vocal cords to stop the air.
-

Common Mistakes with the Letter Haa (هـ)

1. **Opening the vocal cords too widely**

This causes you to **push more air** to produce the sound, which often leads to:

- **Weak sound production**
- **Loss of breath**
- **Incorrect pronunciation**

This mistake is more common when **Haa** is in the **middle of a word** and has **sukoon**.

Example:

- In Surah Al-Fatiha, the word الْمُهْتَدِينَ

Incorrect: Producing a weak or forced **Haa** sound due to improper air control.

Correct: Air should **flow naturally** with slight closure of the vocal cords.

2. **Not pushing enough air when Haa comes at the end of a word**

Especially after a **Madd letter**, a common mistake is to **let the sound fade** without proper air flow.

Example:

- Ending the word فَتْحَةً without a clear **Haa** sound.

Correct: Ensure that enough air is pushed to **make the Haa audible**, especially when stopping at the end of the word and it has **sukoon**.

Common Mistakes with the Letter Hamza (ء)

1. **Vocal cords not fully closed**

This leads to the **Hamza being almost inaudible**, especially in the **middle of a word**.

Incorrect:

- يَأْخُذُ sounds like يَأْخُذُ

Correct:

- Fully **close the vocal cords** to make the **cutting sound** of Hamza.

Example:

- يَأْكُلْ
- أَكَلَ

2. Letting a small gush of air escape after Hamza

This causes a slight **Haa sound to follow the Hamza**, which is incorrect.

Incorrect:

- Saying يَأْكُلْ with a soft **Haa** sound after Hamza

This mistake usually comes from **overemphasizing** Hamza, trying to make it more obvious.

Correct:

- Hamza should be a **pure stop** of air without any **extra breathy sound**.

Hamza = clean and short closure at the vocal cords.

Additional Tip

When Hamza comes at the **end of a word**, like in يَشَاءُ, applying **proper Nabr** (emphasis technique) can help. This is explained in more detail in a separate lesson.

Summary of Lesson Two

- The **throat (Al-Halq)** has **three articulation points**.
- The **farthest part** of the throat produces:
 - هـ (Haa): by **slightly closing** vocal cords and letting air pass

- ء (Hamza): by **completely closing** vocal cords to stop air
- **Common mistakes with Haa:**
 - Opening vocal cords too wide, making the sound weak
 - Not pushing enough air when Haa is at the end of a word
- **Common mistakes with Hamza:**
 - Not fully closing the vocal cords, making it inaudible
 - Releasing too much air, adding a Haa-like sound after Hamza
- **Key advice:** Do **not exaggerate** these sounds but give them **careful attention**. They are easy to produce but also easy to overlook.

Tajweed Lesson 3: Makharij and Sifaat

In Lesson 2, we began studying the **second area of articulation** which is the **throat** (*Al-Halq*). We learned that the throat has **three articulation points**:

1. The **farthest point**, from which come the letters **Hamza (ء)** and **Haa (هـ)**. These were discussed in the previous lesson.
2. The **middle point**
3. The **nearest point**

In this lesson, we focus on the **middle point** of articulation. From this part of the throat, **two letters** are pronounced:

- **Ayn (ع)**
 - **Haa (ح)**
-

Location of the Middle Throat Sounds

Both **Ayn** and **Haa** are produced from the **middle part of the throat**, more specifically from an organ called the **epiglottis**.

The **epiglottis** is a small, flap-like structure at the back of the tongue. It **closes when you swallow** to prevent food from entering the windpipe.

Controlling this part of your throat is essential to properly pronounce **Ayn** and **Haa**.

Producing the Letter Ayn (ع)

The sound of **Ayn** is produced when the **epiglottis is pushed all the way back** to the **wall of the throat**, leaving a **small opening** where the sound is generated.

Important note:

The sound of **Ayn** is **not generated by pushing air out**, but by **vibrating the vocal cords**.

The sound of **Ayn** is a **semi-continuous sound**, meaning it can be **extended**.

Even though we don't extend it unnecessarily when reading the Qur'an, this characteristic helps indicate whether you're producing it correctly.

Correct examples:

- عَلِيم
 - نَعْبُدُ
-

Producing the Letter Haa (ح)

The sound of **Haa** also comes from the **middle throat** and uses the **epiglottis**, but there are key differences:

- The **epiglottis does not go as far back** as it does for **Ayn**.
- The sound of **Haa** is produced by **pushing air out**. The **friction of air** through the small opening between the throat and the epiglottis produces the sound.

Correct examples:

- حَيَّ
- رَبُّكُمْ الْأَعْلَى

So in summary:

- **Ayn:** Push the epiglottis far back; vibrate the vocal cords.
- **Haa:** Do not push the epiglottis too far; instead, push **air** to cause friction.

Practicing Control Over the Epiglottis

How well you can control your **epiglottis** will determine how correctly you can pronounce **Ayn** and **Haa**.

Two Practice Techniques

1. Gargling Neck Position

- Start by positioning your neck as if you're gargling.
- This makes it easier to control the epiglottis.
- Begin with an **Alif sound (Aa)** and gradually push that sound deeper into the throat until it transforms into a proper **Ayn**.

2. Lying Down

- Lie flat on your back and practice both **Ayn** and **Haa**.
- This position gives more control over the throat and epiglottis compared to standing upright.

General Tip

If you're unfamiliar with both **Ayn** and **Haa**, start with **Haa** because it is usually easier, then gradually move toward **Ayn** as your control improves.

Common Mistakes with Ayn (ع)

Mistake 1: Pushing the Epiglottis Too Far

- This makes **Ayn** sound like a **hard, sharp cut** with no continuation.
- It can split a word unnaturally, especially in the middle.

Incorrect:

- نَعْبُدُ pronounced with a harsh **Ayn**

Correct:

- **Ayn** should be soft and semi-extended.
- If you can **extend the Ayn**, you're likely pronouncing it correctly.

Mistake 2: Leaving Too Much Space Between the Epiglottis and Throat

- This causes a **floating Ayn**, which sounds more like **Alif** and lacks the strength of a proper **Ayn**.

Incorrect:

- نَابِدُ

Correct:

- نَعْبُدُ with full throat vibration

Mistake 3: Adding Qalqalah (bounce) when Ayn has Sukoon

- This is incorrect, as **Ayn** should remain a **pure consonant** when it has **sukoon**, with **no bounce**.

Common Mistakes with Haa (ح)

Mistake 1: Pronouncing Haa as Alif or another light vowel

- This happens when you **do not push your epiglottis at all**, leading to a weak sound.

Incorrect:

- أَسنًا pronounced like أَسْنَا

Correct:

- Ensure proper airflow and epiglottis movement to produce **Haa**.

Mistake 2: Assimilating Ayn and Haa When They Follow Each Other

- Since both come from the **same articulation point**, one may unintentionally blend into the other.

Incorrect:

- مِنْهُمْ عَيْنًا becoming مِنْهُمْ عَيْنًا

Correct:

- Pronounce each letter **clearly and separately** even when they are next to each other.

Final Advice

Although **Ayn (ع)** and **Haa (ح)** may seem difficult at first, **regular practice** and **frequent recitation of the Qur'an** will make them easier over time.

May Allah make your learning easy and help you master the pronunciation of His Book.

Tajweed Lesson 4 : Makharij and Sifaat

In this lesson, we continue discussing the **throat area (Al-Halq)** which has **three articulation points**:

1. **Farthest part** – Letters: **Hamza** (ء) and **Haa** (هـ) (discussed in Lesson Two)
 2. **Middle part** – Letters: **Ayn** (ع) and **Haa** (ح) (discussed in Lesson Three)
 3. **Nearest part** – Letters: **Ghayn** (غ) and **Khaa** (خ) (discussed in this lesson)
-

Letters from the Nearest Part of the Throat

We focus on the **last two letters** that come from the **nearest part of the throat**:

- **Ghayn** (غ)
 - **Khaa** (خ)
-

Similarities Between Ghayn and Khaa

- Both sounds make use of **two articulation organs**:
 1. The **root of the tongue** (the farthest part of the tongue)
 2. The **soft palate** (the soft, non-bony area at the back of the roof of the mouth)
 - Both are **continuous sounds**, meaning they can be extended.
-

Letter Ghayn (غ)

- Ghayn is produced when the **root of the tongue** is raised to **almost touch the soft palate**.
- The root of the tongue **should not press against** the soft palate. There must be enough **space** for the sound to **flow continuously**.
- Ghayn is a **voiced sound**:
 - It is produced by **vibrating the vocal cords**, not by pushing air out.

- You should **feel vibration in your throat** when saying غ.
- Correct examples:
 - عَفُورٌ
 - يَغْفِرُ

Letter Khaa (خ)

- Khaa is produced in **almost the same way** as Ghayn:
 - The **root of the tongue** is raised near the **soft palate**.
 - There is **no complete contact** between the two articulators, allowing the sound to flow.
- Key differences:
 - **Khaa** is produced **slightly after** Ghayn in terms of articulation depth.
 - **Khaa** is a **voiceless sound**:
 - Produced by **pushing a gush of air** through the gap between the root of the tongue and the soft palate.
 - No vocal cord vibration should be felt when producing خ.
- Correct examples:
 - خَالِدٌ
 - يَخْرُجُ

Common Mistakes in Pronouncing Ghayn (غ)

Mistake 1: Pressing the Tongue Root Against the Soft Palate

- This causes the sound to **stop** and makes it sound like a **cough** instead of a flowing sound.
- The sound of غ should flow smoothly and be continuous.

Mistake 2: Assimilating Ghayn with Qaaf (ق)

- These sounds are **close in articulation**, so learners may merge them.
- Each sound should be pronounced **clearly and separately**, even when next to each other.

Mistake 3: Adding Qalqalah to Ghayn

- Some learners press too hard, causing a bouncing effect, similar to **qalqalah**, which is **incorrect** because غ is **not a qalqalah letter**.

Mistake 4: Making Ghayn Voiceless

- When Ghayn is surrounded by **voiceless sounds**, learners may pronounce it **without vocal cord vibration**, making it sound like خ.
- Even in such contexts, **Ghayn must remain voiced**.

Incorrect: أَغْفَرْتَ (with voiceless خ)

Correct: أَغْفَرْتَ (with proper voiced غ)

Common Mistake in Pronouncing Khaa (خ)

Mistake: Making the Sound Like Snoring

- This mistake happens when **too much force** is used while pronouncing خ, making it sound like a **nasal or snoring sound**.
- The sound of **Khaa** should come from **deep in the throat**, not from the nasal area or upper mouth.

Incorrect: Snore-like خ
Correct: Deep-throat خ

Example: خَالِدٌ should be pronounced from the **throat**, not the **nasal cavity**.

Summary of the Throat Sounds

The **throat (Al-Halq)** as an articulation area produces **six letters** from **three points**:

1. Farthest Part:

- **Hamza (ء)** – complete closure of vocal cords
- **Haa (هـ)** – slight closure with airflow

2. Middle Part:

- **Ayn (ع)** – vocal cord vibration, epiglottis close to the throat wall
- **Haa (ح)** – airflow through a small opening with less epiglottis movement

3. Nearest Part:

- **Ghayn (غ)** – vocal cord vibration, root of tongue raised near soft palate
- **Khaa (خ)** – voiceless air pushed, same tongue position as غ but slightly more forward

These throat sounds are among the more **challenging** ones in Arabic due to their **deep articulation points**.

With consistent **practice** and **listening**, pronunciation will become more natural, in shaa Allah.

In the next lesson, we will move on to the **next area of articulation**.

Tajweed Lesson 5: Makharij and Sifaat

Area of Articulation: The Tongue (اللسان)

In this lesson, we begin studying the **tongue** as an area of articulation. The tongue is the **most complex** area in terms of makharij (articulation points), producing **18 Arabic letters** from **10 different points**.

Divisions of the Tongue for Makharij Purposes

The tongue is divided into **four areas**:

1. **Deepest part of the tongue** (أقصى اللسان)
 2. **Middle of the tongue** (وسط اللسان)
 3. **Edge of the tongue** (حافة اللسان)
 4. **Tip of the tongue** (طرف اللسان)
-

This Lesson: The Deepest Part of the Tongue

From the deepest part of the tongue, two letters are produced:

- **Qaaf** (ق)
- **Kaaf** (ك)

Each has its own articulation point within this same general area.

Letter Qaaf (ق)

- **Makharij:**
The **deepest part of the tongue** makes **contact with the soft palate** (the soft upper back area of the roof of the mouth).
- **Characteristics:**
 - This is a **strong, deep letter**.

- It involves a **complete contact** between the back of the tongue and the soft palate.
 - The sound is pronounced **without a breathy tone**.
 - Example pronunciation:
قَ - قُ - قِ
 - **Helpful Tip:**
If you're struggling with pronouncing **Qaaf**, and it sounds like an English **K**, try **lying on your back** when practicing. This position helps the tongue naturally settle into the correct position.
-

Letter Kaaf (ك)

- **Makharij:**
Similar movement to **Qaaf**, but **slightly more forward**. The back of the tongue touches **the area between the soft and hard palate**.
 - **Characteristics:**
 - **Voiceless** sound.
 - Produced with **air (Hams)** escaping as you pronounce it.
 - Most noticeable when the **Kaaf has sukoon** (i.e. in a resting position).
 - Example:
إِكْرَامًا - أَرْكُم
-

Comparison Between Qaaf and Kaaf

Feature	Qaaf (ق)	Kaaf (ك)
Area	Deeper – soft palate only	Slightly shallower – between soft & hard palate

Airflow	No airflow (not breathy)	Yes – with hams (breathy)
Vibration	Voiced – uses vocal cords	Voiceless – no vocal cord vibration
Sound	Heavy, emphatic	Light
Example Letters	ق – قُ – قِ	ك – كُ – كِ

Common Mistakes with Qaaf (ق)

1. Exaggerating the depth:

- Producing Qaaf **too deep**, resulting in a sound closer to **Khaa** (خ) or **Ghayn** (غ).
- Example of mistake:
قَالُوا pronounced with a breathy or throaty tone.
- ☒ Correct:
قَالُوا (tongue contacts the soft palate only)

2. Missing Qalqalah on Sukoon:

- When Qaaf has **sukoon** and is not pronounced with **qalqalah**, it becomes **inaudible**.
- Incorrect:
الْحَقَّ (faint or missing sound)
- ☒ Correct:
الْحَقَّ with proper bounce (qalqalah).

Common Mistakes with Kaaf (ك)

1. Adding Qalqalah:

- **Kaaf is not a qalqalah letter**, so there should be **no bouncing effect** when pronouncing it.
- **✗ Incorrect:**
Saying أَرْكُم with a bouncing كَ
- **✓ Correct:**
أَرْكُم with clear **hams** (breathiness), but no qalqalah.

2. Insufficient Hams:

- Especially when Kaaf has sukoon, failing to push out enough air results in a muffled or incorrect sound.
- **✓ Ensure proper airflow** during pronunciation.

Conclusion

The **deepest part of the tongue** produces two important sounds:

- **Qaaf (ق)** – deeper, strong, voiced
- **Kaaf (ك)** – slightly more forward, light, voiceless with **hams**

Understanding the **slight difference in articulation** between them is key to clear, correct Tajweed.

In upcoming lessons, we'll explore the **middle of the tongue**, where more sounds are produced.

Here's a visual summary chart comparing Qaaf (ق) and Kaaf (ك) from Lesson 5:

Visual Summary: Qaaf (ق) vs. Kaaf (ك)

Feature	Qaaf (ق)	Kaaf (ك)
Makharij (Articulation)	Deepest part of the tongue touches soft palate	Deepest part of the tongue touches soft + hard palate
Area in Mouth	Deeper into the throat	Slightly closer to mouth opening
Sound Type	Voiced (vocal cords vibrate)	Voiceless (no vocal cord vibration)
Airflow (Hams)	✗ No airflow (not breathy)	Yes – hams (breathy sound)
Weight	Heavy / emphatic (tafkheem)	Light (no tafkheem)
Qalqalah?	Yes, when saakin	✗ No qalqalah
Common Mistake #1	Making it too deep → sounds like Khaa/Ghayn	Adding qalqalah when it's not needed
Common Mistake #2	Forgetting qalqalah when saakin → inaudible	Not enough airflow when saakin
Examples	قَالَ – أَتَقُولُونَ – الْحَقُّ	كَتَبَ – إِكْرَامَ – أَرْكَامَ

Tajweed Lesson 6: Makharij and Sifaat : Letters of the Tongue – Middle Part

In the last lesson, we began discussing the letters of the tongue. The most important point to remember before continuing is that the tongue is divided into four areas:

- The deepest part of the tongue
- The middle part of the tongue
- The edge of the tongue
- The tip of the tongue

We already discussed the deepest part of the tongue with the letters ك and ق.

In this lesson, we move to the **middle part of the tongue**, which contains the articulation points for the letters ي and ج ش.

1. ج (Jeem)

- ج is produced when the **middle part of the tongue** is raised to make contact with the **hard palate**.
 - Both the **tongue** and the **hard palate** must touch completely for the sound to be correct.
 - The sound of ج in Arabic is called a **plosive** sound. This means:
 - The flow of air is **completely blocked** before the sound is released.
 - The sound **cannot be extended** or maintained.
 - Once released, the sound of ج ends immediately and cannot be stretched.
-

2. ش (Sheen)

- The articulation of ش is **similar** to that of ج in that the **middle part of the tongue** is also raised toward the **hard palate**.
- However, there is **no contact** between the tongue and the palate in ش.
- ش is a **fricative** sound, which means:

- The sound is produced by air **passing through a narrow gap** between the tongue and the hard palate.
 - ش is a **continuous sound**, meaning it can flow as long as air is pushed out.
-

3. ي (Ya)

- In English, this is represented by the letter **Y** and is known as a **semivowel**.
- A **semivowel** is a sound that functions like a vowel in certain conditions.

When is ي a semivowel?

- When ي is **preceded by a letter that has a كسرة**, it functions like a consonant.
- When ي is **preceded by anything other than a كسرة**, it can act like a vowel.

Examples for comparison:

- In words where ي is preceded by a كسرة, it behaves as a consonant.
- In other cases, ي behaves like a vowel.

Articulation of ي:

- It is produced from the **middle part of the tongue** raised towards the **hard palate**.
 - However, the point of articulation is **slightly behind** that of ج and ش.
 - There is also a **gap** that allows air to escape and form the sound of ي.
-

Comparison of the Three Sounds

- ج: A **plosive** sound made by full contact between the tongue and hard palate. It is not continuous.

- ش: A **fricative** sound made with no contact. It is continuous.
- ي: A **semivowel**, produced slightly behind ج and ش, with a small air gap.

Common Mistake

- A common mistake occurs with the pronunciation of ج.
- Some learners leave a **small gap** between the tongue and the hard palate.
- This causes ج to sound like a **continuous fricative**, which is **not correct**.
- This incorrect sound **does not exist in the Qur'an**.
- The correct ج must **fully block the air** before being released.

Summary

The three letters that come from the **middle part of the tongue** are:

- ج
- ش
- ي

These sounds are common in many world languages, so errors are rare.

The main mistake to avoid is **mispronouncing ج** as a continuous sound.

Summary Chart: Letters from the Middle of the Tongue

Letter	Arabi	Articulation Point	Type of Sound	Key Feature	Common Mistake
	c				

Jeem ج	Middle of the tongue touches the hard palate	Plosive (non-continuous)	Complete blockage of air, then release	Leaving a gap makes it a continuous fricative, which is incorrect
Sheen ش	Middle of the tongue raised towards the hard palate without touching	Fricative (continuous)	Air passes through a narrow gap	Rare mistakes; usually pronounced correctly
Ya ي	Middle of the tongue raised slightly behind ج and ش with an air gap	Semivowel	Functions like a consonant or vowel depending on context	Rare mistakes; depends on being preceded by a kasrah for proper function

Tajweed Lesson 7 : Makharij and Sifaat : The Edge of the Tongue – Letter ض

In the previous lessons, we discussed:

- Letters from the **deepest part** of the tongue: ق and ك
- Letters from the **middle part** of the tongue: ش, ج, and ي

Now we move to the **edge of the tongue**, which surrounds the tongue from both sides.

Letters from the Edge of the Tongue

- From **both sides of the tongue**, we produce the letter ض.
 - From the **front edge of the tongue**, we produce **two types of ل** (Lam).
 - In this lesson, we will focus completely on the letter ض and how to pronounce it properly.
-

How to Pronounce ض (with Sukoon)

To produce the pure sound of ض with **sukoon**, two main tongue actions are required:

1. Pressing the Tongue

- The **entire edge** of the tongue contacts the **roof of the mouth**.
- **Only the two sides** of the tongue press against the roof.
- The **front edge** of the tongue **makes contact** but **does not press**.
- This positioning makes the tongue take the **shape of a spoon**:
 - **Sides** are raised and pressed.
 - **Front edge** is touching, not pressing.
- This creates a **space or pocket** where **air is trapped**.

2. Sliding the Tongue

- The tongue **slides slightly forward**, so the front edge comes close to the **back of the upper front teeth**.
 - This **increases the space** behind the tongue, trapping more air and creating **pressure**.
 - The built-up air produces the proper sound of ض.
-

How to Know if You Are Pronouncing ض Correctly

- When you pronounce ض with sukoon inside a word, and then move to the next letter, you should feel **air release from the sides** of the tongue, gently pushing into the cheeks.

Examples:

- فُضِّلَ
- يَضْرِبُ
- If air is released from the **front of the tongue**, not the sides, then the **front edge** is pressing incorrectly.
- This mistake produces the sound of د (Dal) instead of ض.

Special Note on Short Vowels with ض

- The **purest and heaviest** form of ض is when it has **sukoon**, and you use both tongue actions (press and slide).
- When ض carries a **short vowel** like ضَمَّة, فَتْحَة, or كَسْرَة, the **second step** (sliding) is **minimized**.
 - This is because the vowel itself replaces the need for sliding.
- Examples:
 - بِضِدَّهَا
 - ضَرِبَ

Common Mistakes When Pronouncing ض

1. Cutting the Sound of ض in the Middle of a Word

- This happens especially when ض has **shaddah** in the middle of a word.

- It sounds like the word is **split in two**.

Incorrect: فَضْلٌ

Correct: فَضْلٌ

2. Pronouncing ض as a Heavy د (Dal)

- This happens when the **front edge** of the tongue is pressing instead of the sides.
- This makes it sound like a **full-mouth د**, which is incorrect.

Incorrect: وَلَدُهُ

Correct: وَضَعُ

3. Adding فَتْلَةٌ to ض at the End of a Word

- ض is not a **plosive** sound.
- The sound is formed by **air trapped** behind the tongue, not by **air release**.
- Releasing air at the end causes an incorrect **echo** or **qalqala** sound.

Incorrect: A sudden pop or bounce at the end of ض

Correct: A smooth ending with **trapped air**, no release

4. Confusing ض with ل (Lam)

- Some mistakenly pronounce ض as ل due to incorrect tongue positioning.
- This mistake was discussed in detail and should be reviewed for full understanding.

Summary

- ض is produced by **pressing the sides** of the tongue and **sliding it forward** slightly.
- The **front edge** only **touches**, not presses.

- Proper sound comes from **air pressure built behind the tongue**.
- When ض has short vowels, **sliding is reduced**.
- Common mistakes include:
 - Splitting the sound in the middle of words
 - Pressing the front of the tongue
 - Releasing air at the end
 - Mixing it with ل

Summary Chart: Letter ض (Daad) – Edge of the Tongue

Aspect	Details
Letter	ض (Daad)
Articulation Area	Edge of the tongue (both sides) touches the upper molars and roof of mouth
Tongue Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sides: Pressed against roof of mouth - Front edge: Touches only, no pressure
Tongue Shape	Spoon-like (sides raised, middle lowered to trap air)
Two Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Press the sides 2. Slide tongue forward slightly

With Sukoon	Pure, heavy ض sound is produced with both steps (press + slide)
With Short Vowel	Sliding is minimized ; vowel motion replaces the air build-up
Airflow Direction	Sides of the tongue toward the inner cheeks
Correct Sound	Air builds behind the tongue and flows gently from the sides
Incorrect Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air flows from the front → sounds like د (Dal) - Air pops out → Qalqalah mistake
Common Mistakes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Splitting ض within a word 2. Pronouncing it like a heavy د 3. Adding qalqalah at the end 4. Confusing it with ل (Lam)
Diagnostic Tip	After ض with sukoon, check for soft air pushing into cheeks from sides

Tajweed Lesson 8 : Makharij and Sifaat : The Letter ل (Lam)

Introduction

- In this lesson, we study the **letter ل (Lam)**.
- **ل (Lam)** is considered one of the easier letters in Arabic because it exists in many languages around the world.

- However, to pronounce it **properly in Arabic**, we must understand and apply its articulation rules accurately.
-

Articulators (Points of Articulation)

To pronounce ڤ (**Lam**) correctly, two articulators are involved:

1. **The front edge of the tongue.**
 2. **The alveolar ridge**, which is the bony ridge just behind the upper front teeth. It is the same area where the teeth are anchored.
-

How to Pronounce ڤ (Lam)

- Raise the **front edge of the tongue** and press it **against the alveolar ridge**.
 - The pressing must be **firm** with **no space** for air to pass through the middle.
 - Only the **area behind the front eight teeth** should be involved.
 - The **tongue is not spread too wide or too narrow**.
 - **Air escapes** around the tongue — from both sides — which produces the sound ڤ.
 - The **front edge** of the tongue blocks the center, and the **air flows gently from both sides**, giving us the correct sound.
-

Exception: The Word الله

- Normally, ڤ (**Lam**) is a light letter (empty mouth sound).
- However, in the **word الله**, the **Lam becomes full mouth** (heavy), also known as the **dark L** sound.
- In this special pronunciation:

- The **front edge** of the tongue **still presses against the alveolar ridge**, same as usual.
 - But the **back of the tongue is also raised**.
 - This creates a **concave shape**, making the sound **fuller and darker**.
 - The **epiglottis** (the flap at the back of the throat) also pushes slightly backward to enhance the heavy sound.
 - This full mouth **Lam** happens only in "الله" when it is **not preceded** by a **Kasrah**.
 - If "الله" is **preceded by a Kasrah** (like in يالله), then the **Lam remains light**.
-

Common Mistakes in Pronouncing Lam

1. Whistling Lam

- Happens when **only the sides** of the tongue are used with **too much tension**.
- Causes a faint whistling sound.
- **Solution:** Press the **front edge** of the tongue correctly and let air flow **gently from both sides**.

2. Full Mouth Lam in Wrong Places

- Occurs when learners **fail to switch** between full and empty mouth sounds.
- Example: in the word صلاة, both ص and ط are full mouth, but **Lam** should remain **light**.
- Learners mistakenly make it heavy due to surrounding full mouth letters.
- **Solution:** Train to **switch properly** between heavy and light sounds.

3. Assimilation with ن (Noon)

- When **Lam** comes **before Noon**, learners might merge them.

- Mistake: skipping clear pronunciation of **Lam**.
- **Solution:** Pronounce **Lam clearly** before moving to **Noon**.

4. Extending Lam with Shaddah

- Learners sometimes **extend the Lam** sound when it carries **Shaddah**.
- This is wrong because **Shaddah means doubling**, not elongation.
- **Correct method:** Pronounce the **sound twice quickly** (doubling), but **do not** lengthen it.

Summary Chart: Letter ل (Lam)

Aspect	Details
Letter	ل (Lam)
Articulation Point	Front edge of the tongue + Alveolar Ridge (behind upper front teeth)
Tongue Movement	Pressing the front edge firmly with air escaping from both sides
Air Path	From both sides of the tongue
Normal Sound	Light, flowing Lam
Exception (Word: الله)	Full-mouth Lam if not preceded by Kasrah

Dark Lam Production Raise the **back of the tongue** to make sound fuller

Light Lam Used in all words except special cases like الله

Mistake 1 Whistling Lam — caused by tight tongue sides only

Mistake 2 Making Lam heavy when surrounded by full-mouth letters

Mistake 3 Assimilating Lam into Noon — skipping clear Lam pronunciation

Mistake 4 Extending Lam with **Shaddah** — it should be doubled, not stretched

Special Note In بالله or لله, the Lam is **light** because of the preceding **Kasrah**

Tajweed Lesson 9 : Makharij and Sifaat : The Letter ن (Noon)

Introduction

In this lesson, we focus on the letter ن (**Noon**)—how to **pronounce it properly**, what is its مخرج (**articulation point**), and the **common mistakes** associated with it.

The **letter ن (Noon)** is another sound produced using the **edge of the tongue**, just like ل (**Lam**). However, it has unique articulation characteristics that include both **tongue movement** and **nasal resonance**.

How to Pronounce ن (Noon) Correctly

Step 1: Tongue Action

To correctly pronounce ن (**Noon**), the **front edge of the tongue** must:

- **Make full contact** with the **alveolar ridge**, the bony ridge just behind the upper front teeth.
- **No air** should escape through the contact point. The closure must be **complete**.

But where exactly on the **alveolar ridge** should the tongue press?

- The position of **Noon** is **slightly lower and further forward** than **Lam**.
- This means it is **closer to the upper front teeth** and the **outside** of the mouth compared to **Lam**.
- If you imagine the sequence of articulation:
 - First comes **Lam**
 - Then comes **Noon**, which is in **front** of Lam's مخرج.

This contact and closure of the tongue with the alveolar ridge represents **half** of the sound of **Noon**.

Step 2: Nasal Cavity Action (Ghunnah - غنة)

The second essential part of Noon's sound comes from the **nasal cavity**.

- The air must **exit through the nose**.
- This sound from the nose is called غنة (**Ghunnah**).
- Ghunnah forms the **second half** of the sound of **Noon**.

To ensure you're producing this sound correctly, try the following **test**:

- Say ن while **blocking your nostrils** with your fingers.
- If the sound becomes **muffled or unclear**, this is a sign you're using the **nasal cavity** correctly.

Example test:

- Say: ن → now block nose → sound becomes **unclear**
This means the nasal air was involved correctly.

Examples of Noon in Context

Some examples of Noon pronunciation:

- نُور
- أَنْعَمْتَ
- مِنْهُمْ

Each of these includes the characteristics mentioned:

- Correct **tongue placement**
- Proper **nasal resonance** (غنة)

✗ Common Mistakes in Pronouncing ن (Noon)

1. Incorrect Sound at the End of a Word

When **Noon** appears at the **end of a word**, some learners:

- **Give too little sound** → the Noon is almost **skipped** or lost
Example: سَتَعِينَ is mistakenly pronounced like:
 - سَتَاين (skipping the Noon)

- **Give too much sound** → the Noon is **exaggerated** and elongated
Example: منهم is wrongly pronounced like:

○ منهوووم

✓ **Correct Practice:** Show the Noon sound **clearly** with proper length—not too short, not too long.

Say: منهم with **natural clarity** of Noon.

2. Mistake in Noon with Sukoon (ْ) in the Middle of a Word

- A common mistake happens when **Noon with sukoon** appears in the **middle of a word**.
- Learners often make the **Noon unclear** or pronounce it with extra pressure or blending.

Example (especially in Surah Al-Fatiha):

- Incorrect: أنعمت sounds like أدمعت or أنعمت
- Correct: Say clearly: أُنْعِمْتَ

✓ **Emphasize both parts of the Noon:**

- **Complete tongue closure**
 - **Nasal sound (غنة)**
-

3. Making Noon a Full Mouth Letter

- Noon is always an **empty mouth letter** (not full/thick).
- A common mistake is making Noon **heavy** or **full-mouthed** when it is followed by a **full mouth letter**.

Example:

- Incorrect: نَظَرَ is pronounced as if Noon is heavy
 - Sounds like: نَظَرَ with a thick "N"

✓ Correct: Keep Noon **light**, even if followed by a full mouth letter like ظ.
Say: نَظَرَ with a clear, light Noon.

Summary Chart – Letter ن (Noon)

Aspect	Details
Letter	ن (Noon)
Articulation Point	Front edge of the tongue + Alveolar Ridge (closer to upper front teeth)
Tongue Position	Full contact with the alveolar ridge, slightly in front of Lam's position
Air Path	Through the nasal cavity (غنة)
Ghunnah	Yes, essential part of Noon sound
Test for Ghunnah	Block nostrils → sound becomes muffled → correct nasal flow confirmed
Example Words	نُور، أُنْعَمْتَ، مِنْهُمْ
Mistake 1	Incorrect Noon length at the end of words (too short or too long)

Mistake 2 Poor clarity of Noon with sukoon in middle of a word

Mistake 3 Making Noon full mouth due to nearby heavy letters

Correction Tips Proper contact, nasal flow, and maintain Noon's **light** quality always

Tajweed Lesson 10 : Makharij and Sifaat : The Letter ر (Ra')

From the Makharij and Sifat Series

Introduction

In this lesson, we will study one of the most **controversial and often misunderstood letters** in the Arabic language: the letter ر (Ra'). We will learn its **correct makhraj (articulation point)**, how to pronounce it accurately, and examine **common misconceptions and bad habits**.

Variation of Makharij Across Languages

The sound of the letter ر (Ra') has **the most phonetic variations** across world languages. Each language has its own version of the r sound, which is slightly different from the others.

Examples:

- Spanish trill
- French uvular R

- American English alveolar flap
- Arabic trilled ر (Ra')

Depending on your **mother tongue**, you likely have a **default version** of the **r** sound. However, in Quranic Arabic, the ر (**Ra'**) must be learned as a **new and unique sound, not borrowed from your native language**.

Even some **native Arab speakers** trail their **Ra'** too much, which is **not the correct Quranic pronunciation**. Therefore, to learn the **Ra' of the Quran** correctly, one must **forget all previous associations** and approach it as a **new sound**.

How to Pronounce ر (Ra') Properly

To articulate the letter **Ra'**, **two organs make contact**:

1. **The tip of the tongue**
2. **The alveolar ridge** (the bony area behind the upper front teeth)

Comparing Tongue Contact Area

To understand how much of the tongue is used in pronouncing **Ra'**, we compare it with two neighboring letters: ل (**Laam**) and ن (**Noon**)

- In ل (**Laam**): A **large portion** of the tongue tip touches the alveolar ridge
- In ن (**Noon**): A **very small portion** touches the same area
- In ر (**Ra'**): The contact is **between these two extremes** — more than Noon, but less than Laam

This gives a good reference:

- Feel how much tongue you use for ل (**Laam**)
- Feel how little for ن (**Noon**)
- **Find the middle ground** — that is the contact area for ر (**Ra'**)

Exact Placement on the Alveolar Ridge

Now, let us identify **where on the alveolar ridge** the tongue touches for **Ra'**.

- **Ṣ (Noon)** is closer to the **mouth opening** than **Ḍ (Laam)**
- **Ṣ (Ra')** is even **closer to the front** than **Noon**

So in terms of order (from back to front):

- **Ḍ (Laam) → Ṣ (Noon) → Ṣ (Ra')**

That means the **Ra'** is pronounced **closer to the upper front teeth**, but still touches the **alveolar ridge**.

Comparison with American English

The **voiced alveolar tap** found in American English words like:

- "city"
- "witty"

...is the **closest in tongue placement** to the Arabic **Ṣ (Ra')** — **but not the same in technique**.

Makharij Technique of Ṣ (Ra')

1. Tongue Contact

- The **main contact area** is the **upper side of the tongue tip**, pressing slightly against the **alveolar ridge**
- The **very tip** of the tongue is **left free**, creating a **gap for air to escape**

This small **air gap** is critical — it allows the creation of the **fluttering trill** which characterizes the sound of **Ṣ (Ra')**

- Without this gap, the sound would become **blocked** or would result in a **flat or over-trilled sound**

2. Possibility to Extend the Sound

- The technique of **Ra'** allows the sound to be **extended**
- Even though we do **not elongate** Ra' in Quranic recitation, this feature helps in **practicing tongue control and placement**

3. Back of the Tongue and Tafkhim vs Tarqiq

In the Qur'an, ر (Ra') appears in **two forms**:

a. Tafkhim (Full-mouth)

- In these cases, the **back of the tongue is raised**
- This produces a **heavier, deeper sound**
- Common in most occurrences of Ra' in the Qur'an

b. Tarqiq (Empty-mouth)

- Here, the **back of the tongue remains flat**
- The sound is **lighter and sharper**

Examples:

- **Full-mouth:** صَبْرٌ
- **Empty-mouth:** فِرْعَوْنَ

Things to Avoid When Pronouncing ر (Ra')

1. Lips Should Not Move

- Do not **shape your lips into an "O"** while pronouncing Ra'
- This introduces a **lip-rounding sound** that does not belong to Arabic

2. Do Not Use English R Technique

- In English, the tongue is **curled back**, producing a **retroflex R**
- This is not correct for Arabic
- Using this technique will **lead to incorrect pronunciation**

3. Avoid Over-Trilling (Takrir)

- While **Ra'** must include a **single trill**, **excessive trilling** is incorrect
- Each Ra' in the Qur'an requires **just one tap or trill**
- Adding more makes it sound like **multiple Ra' letters**

Examples:

- Correct: مَرْيَمَ — one light trill
- Incorrect: مَرْرَيْمَ — double trill or exaggerated vibration

What If You Cannot Produce Ra' ?

Some people **cannot produce the trill** or **cannot perform the proper Ra' sound** at all. This may be due to:

- Weak tongue muscles
- Improper placement
- Having a speech issue like a **lisp**

There are **exercises** and **routines** that can help:

- These are similar to the exercises used for **speech therapy**
- They aim to strengthen the tongue and improve control for proper trilling

If needed, a **separate lesson** will be prepared for this purpose.

Summary Chart

Aspect	Details
Makharij (Articulation)	Tip of the tongue presses against alveolar ridge, closer to front teeth
Tongue Contact	Partial contact (more than Noon, less than Laam), tiny air gap at tip
Sound Type	One trill (not continuous, not over-trilled)
Technique	Slight pressure, small air gap, air escapes to produce flutter
Full-mouth Ra'	Back of tongue raised (Tafkhim)
Empty-mouth Ra'	Back of tongue flat (Tarqiq)
Things to Avoid	Lip movement, English R, over-trilling

Lesson 11 Makharij and Sifaat : The Letters ط

ت – د

Makharij and Sifaat Series

Introduction

In this lesson, we study **three letters** that **share the same articulation point (makhraj)** but differ in other phonetic traits:

- ط (Tā' – heavy / full-mouth)
- ت (Tā' – light / empty-mouth)
- د (Dāl – light / voiced)

Despite having the **same tongue position**, these letters **sound different** due to **other physical and acoustic factors**, such as:

- **Back of the tongue positioning**
- **Presence or absence of air flow (hams)**
- **Vocal cord vibration (voicing)**

Understanding these subtle differences is key to accurate pronunciation in Quranic recitation.

1. The Letter ط (Tā') – Full-mouth / Heavy Letter

Makhraj and Technique

- The **tip of the tongue** presses firmly against the **alveolar ridge** (just behind the upper front teeth).
- The **back of the tongue is raised**, which makes ط a **heavy or full-mouth letter**.

This raised position **creates depth and resonance** in the sound.

Important Notes

- There is **no space for air to escape** during the articulation.
- The **tongue position is tight and controlled**.
- This tight closure helps build pressure, resulting in the strong and bold sound of ط.

Examples

- طَال
 - أَطِيعُوا
-

2. The Letter ت (Tā') – Empty-mouth / Light Letter

Makhraj and Technique

- Same **tongue tip** placement as ط — pressing against the **alveolar ridge**.
- But here, the **back of the tongue is lowered**, making ت a **light or empty-mouth letter**.

Hams (Breath Sound)

- After pronouncing ت, there is a **faint puff of air** — called **hams**.
- This occurs when the tongue is released from its position, causing the **trapped air** to escape suddenly.

Common Mistake

- **Over-exaggerating the hams** causes ت to sound like س, which is incorrect.
- This happens when the tongue is **too close to the teeth**, imitating the sound of س.

How to Avoid It

- Ensure the tongue is placed on the **alveolar ridge**, not on the teeth.
- Release the tongue gently to allow **natural hams**.

Examples

- تَرَكَتُ
 - قُنْنَةُ
-

3. The Letter د (Dāl) – Voiced / Light Letter

Makhraj and Technique

- **Identical tongue position** and **shape** to ت.
- Same placement: tip of the tongue against the **alveolar ridge**.
- Same tongue pressure.
- But the difference is in the **vocal cords**.

Voicing

- د is a **voiced letter**, which means the **vocal cords vibrate** when it is pronounced.
- In contrast, ت is **voiceless** — the vocal cords do not vibrate.

How to Feel Voicing

- Try pronouncing:
 - س (voiceless)
 - ز (voiced)

Touch your throat while pronouncing:

- ز — you will feel vibration.
- س — no vibration.

The **same difference** applies between:

- ت (voiceless)
- د (voiced)

Examples

- دَعَا
- عَبَدَ

Comparative Summary Table

Letter	Makhraj (Tongue Placement)	Back of Tongue	Hams	Voicing	Weight
ط	Tip of tongue on alveolar ridge	Raised	No	No	Heavy
ت	Tip of tongue on alveolar ridge	Lowered	Yes	No	Light
د	Tip of tongue on alveolar ridge	Lowered	No	Yes	Light

Common Mistakes and Corrections

Mistake 1: Mixing ط and ت

- **Cause:** Failing to raise the back of the tongue while pronouncing ط.
- **Effect:** The ط becomes **light** and sounds like ت.
- **Correction:** Ensure the **back of the tongue is elevated** during ط.

Example:

- Incorrect: قَتَرَى
 - Correct: قَطَرَى
-

Mistake 2: Confusing ت with ط in Close Proximity

- When ت and ط are near each other in a word, the ت may unintentionally become heavy.

Example:

- Word: فُطْنَةُ
 - Mistaken pronunciation: فِطْنَةُ (with heavy ت)
 - Correct pronunciation: فُتْنَةُ
-

Mistake 3: Pronouncing د as ت

- **Cause:** Failing to vibrate the vocal cords when pronouncing د.
- **Effect:** The د becomes **voiceless**, like ت.
- **Correction:** Ensure the **vocal cords vibrate** for د.

Example:

- Incorrect: يَنْتَا (for يَنْتَا)
 - Correct: يَنْتَا
-

Mistake 4: Pronouncing د as a Heavy Letter

- Happens when د follows a heavy letter (like ص or ط) and is unintentionally pronounced with heaviness.
- **Correction:** Remember that د is **always light**, regardless of nearby heavy letters.

Example:

- Incorrect: صَدْر (with heavy د)
 - Correct: صَدْر (light د)
-

Tips for Mastery

- Practice **minimal pairs** (words that differ only in one sound) to train your ear and tongue.

Examples:

- طين VS تين
 - تَرَسْ VS دَرَسْ
 - تَيْنْ VS دَيْنْ
 - Be **mindful of tongue position** and **vocal cord activity**.
 - Use a **mirror and hand on throat** for self-correction during practice.
-

Conclusion

Although ط – ت – د share the same **makhraj**, they differ by:

- **Weight** (heavy vs light)
- **Voicing** (voiced vs voiceless)
- **Presence of Hams**

Mastering these distinctions is essential for accurate Tajweed and clear Qur'anic recitation. With regular practice and mindful articulation, the subtle differences will become more natural.

Lesson 12: The Whistling Letters – س، ز، ص

ص

Makharij and Sifaat Series

Overview

In this lesson, we study the articulation and traits of three closely related letters:

- س (Sīn) — voiceless, light
- ز (Zāy) — voiced, light
- ص (Ṣād) — voiceless, **heavy**

These are part of a group called:

حُرُوفُ الصَّفِير (Al-Hurūf aṣ-Ṣafīr)

“The Whistling Letters” — because of the **whistling-like sound** produced when air passes through a narrow channel formed by the tongue and teeth.

1. Letter س (Sīn) – Voiceless, Light

Makhraj (Articulation Point)

- **Tip of the tongue** touches the **back of the lower front teeth** (from the inside).
- The **contact is not flat** — rather, the **tongue curves slightly inward**, pressing on the **middle root area** of the lower incisors.

Air Passage

- Air flows **above the tongue**, through the small gap between the upper and lower teeth.
- This airflow is what **produces the “whistling” sound**.

Tongue Shape

- **Middle of the tongue** is slightly **raised**.
- **Back of the tongue** is **lowered**.
- This results in a **light / empty-mouth sound**.

Key Trait

- **Voiceless** – the **vocal cords do not vibrate** when pronouncing س.

Examples

- سَلام
- نَسِي

2. Letter ز (Zāy) – Voiced, Light

Makhraj and Tongue Shape

- Identical to **س**:
 - Same **tongue tip** touching the **back of the lower front teeth**.
 - Same **air channel** for whistling.

Key Difference

- **Voiced** — the **vocal cords vibrate** while pronouncing **ز**.

How to Distinguish **س** and **ز**

- Place fingers gently on your throat:
 - Pronounce **س** → no vibration
 - Pronounce **ز** → clear vibration

Examples

- زَكَاةَ
- عَزِيزَ

3. Letter **ص** (Ṣād) – Voiceless, Heavy

Makhraj

- Again, same **tip of the tongue placement** as **س** and **ز**.

Tongue Shape

- **Back of the tongue is raised**, while the **middle is lowered**, creating a **concave shape**.

- This produces a **full-mouth (heavy) sound**.

Key Traits

- **Voiceless**, like س.
- But **heavy / full-mouth**, unlike س and ز.

Examples

- صَبْر
- مَصِير

Comparison Summary Table

Letter	Voicing	Weight	Tongue Tip Placement	Tongue Shape	Whistling Present?
س (Sīn)	Voiceless	Light	Behind lower front teeth	Middle up, back down	✓ Yes
ز (Zāy)	Voiced	Light	Same as س	Same as س	✓ Yes
ص (Ṣād)	Voiceless	Heavy	Same as س	Middle down, back up	✓ Yes

Common Mistakes and How to Fix Them

✗ **Mistake 1: Using the Lips for ز or ص**

- Learners often round or purse their lips to force out the sound, especially with ز.
- **Why it's wrong:** These are **tongue-only letters**; **lips are not involved**.
- **Correction:** Keep the lips relaxed and neutral.

✗ Incorrect: عَزِيز (with lip rounding)
 ✓ Correct: عَزِيز (pure tongue action)

✗ Mistake 2: Weak Whistling in س

- Happens when:
 - The tongue **presses too hard** on the lower teeth.
 - Or the tongue **isn't close enough**, making the air gap too wide.
- **Result:** A muffled or unclear س sound.

✗ Incorrect: No clear whistling
 ✓ Correct: Controlled, centered **s**-like whistle

✗ Mistake 3: س turning into ص near heavy letters

- When س is **adjacent to heavy letters** like ق or ط, some may pronounce it as ص.
- **Cause:** Influence of nearby heaviness.
- **Correction:** Be aware of **context**, but **maintain س as light**.

✗ Incorrect: قَصَصْنَا → sounds like قَصَصْنَا (with heavy س)
 ✓ Correct: قَصَصْنَا

✗ Mistake 4: ص pronounced as س when followed by light letters

- Especially when **ص** has a **kasrah**, learners may **fail to raise the back of the tongue** enough.

✗ Incorrect: نَسِيْب

✓ Correct: نَصِيْب (properly heavy)

Tips for Practice

- Pronounce **س – ز – ص** in sequence to build awareness:
 - سَ
 - زَ (now add voicing)
 - صَ (now add heaviness)
- Use **minimal pairs**:
 - صُور VS سُور
 - سَاد VS زَاد
 - صَبِيْر VS سَبِيْل
- Record yourself and feel throat vibrations to verify voicing differences.

Conclusion

Although **ز, س, and ص** share a **common articulation point**, their distinctions lie in:

- **Voicing**: ز only
- **Heaviness**: ص only
- **Same whistling airflow**

In summary:

Letter	Description
--------	-------------

س	Voiceless, Light
---	------------------

ز	Voiced, Light
---	---------------

ص	Voiceless, Heavy
---	---------------------

Lesson 13: Letters: ث (Thā), ذ (Dhāl), and ظ (Ẓā')

Makharij and Sifaat Series – Tongue Tip Letters

Overview

This lesson focuses on the **last three letters** articulated using the **tip of the tongue**:

- ث (Thā') – Voiceless, Light
- ذ (Dhāl) – Voiced, Light
- ظ (Ẓā') – Voiced, **Heavy**

These three letters share the **same articulation point**, and learning them in **sequential order** helps in mastering the most challenging of the three — Ẓā' (ظ).

1. Letter ث (Thā') – Voiceless, Light

Articulation (Makhraj):

- **Tip of the tongue** touches the **tip of the upper front teeth**.
- Air passes from **both sides** of the tongue.
- The **tongue is not protruding** beyond the lips, nor is it hidden behind the teeth.

📌 Correct placement: **Tip touching tip** — very lightly and naturally.

Traits:

- **Voiceless** – no vocal cord vibration.
- **Light letter** – no heaviness or fullness in the mouth.

Examples:

- ثَمَر
 - مَثَل
 - ثِقَّة
-

2. Letter ذ (Dhāl) – Voiced, Light

Articulation:

- **Identical to ث in tongue placement:** tip of the tongue touching the **tip of the upper front teeth**.

Difference from ث:

- **Voiced** – vocal cords **do vibrate**.
- Everything else (airflow, tongue position) remains the same.

✓ Think of it as a soft "th" in *"this"*, not a "d" or "z".

Examples:

- ذِكر
 - هذا
 - إذن
-

3. Letter ظ (Ẓā') – Voiced, Heavy

Articulation:

- **Same tongue position:** tip of tongue against tip of upper front teeth.

Differences:

- **Voiced** (like ذ).
- **Heavy letter (Tafkheem):**
 - **Back of the tongue is raised** to create a full-mouth sound.
 - Adds depth and echo to the letter.

✓ Think of it as ذ + **heaviness**.

Examples:

- ظَلَمَ
 - نَظَرَ
 - ظَاهِر
-

Step-by-Step Learning Path

To properly learn ظ (Zā'), you must:

1. **Master** ث (Thā') – accurate tongue-tip contact.
2. **Master** ذ (Dhāl) – same articulation + voicing.
3. **Then add heaviness (Tafkheem)** → to produce **Zā'**.

Comparison Table

Letter	Voicing	Weight	Articulation	Notes
ث (Thā')	Voiceless	Light	Tip of tongue to tip of upper front teeth	Similar to "th" in <i>think</i>
ذ (Dhāl)	Voiced	Light	Same as ث	Like "th" in <i>this</i>
ظ (Zā')	Voiced	Heavy	Same as ث and ذ, but with back of tongue raised	Tafkheem sound

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

✗ Mistake 1: Incorrect Tongue Placement

- **Tongue protruding too far:** leads to weak or distorted sound.
- **Tongue behind teeth:** produces د (Dāl) or ذ (Zāy) instead.

-  **Fix:** Make sure **tip touches tip**. Use a **mirror** to check!

✗ Mistake 2: Confusing ذ (Dhāl) with د (Dāl) or ز (Zāy)

- Saying ذِكر as دِكر or زِكر.
- **Fix:** Feel for **vibration** and **tongue on upper teeth**, not behind.

✗ Mistake 3: Confusing ث (Thā') with س (Sīn)

- Saying ثَمَر as سَمَر.
- Saying مَثَل as مَسَل.
- **Fix:** Ensure tongue makes **light contact with upper front teeth**, not behind.

✗ Mistake 4: Confusing ظ (Ẓā') with س or ز

- Saying ظَلَم as زَلَم or سَلَم.
- Saying نَظَرَ as نَزَرَ.
- **Fix:** Ensure **heaviness (Tafkheem)** by **raising back of the tongue**.

Pronunciation Practice

Word	Correct Letter	Wrong Letter	Mistake Type
ثَمَر	ث	س	Wrong articulation

ذ	ذ	د / ز	Wrong voicing
ظلم	ظ	ز / س	Lack of heaviness
مثل	ث	س	Misplaced tongue
نظر	ظ	ز	Confused with light

Tips for Mastery

- Use a **mirror** to watch your tongue placement.
- Place your **finger on your throat** to check **voicing**.
- Practice the three sounds in **progression**:
 - ث - ذ - ظ
- Emphasize the **heaviness** in ظ by **rounding the back of your tongue upward**.

Conclusion

These three letters — ذ, ث, and ظ — share the **same articulation point** but differ in **voicing** and **weight**. Mastery of ث makes ذ easier, and both are stepping stones to the challenging yet beautiful sound of **Zā'**.

Letter	Voicing	Heaviness	Notes
		s	

ث (Thā') ✗ No ✗ Light Basic tip-to-tip sound

ذ (Dhāl) ✓ Yes ✗ Light Add vocal cord vibration

ظ (Ẓā') ✓ Yes ✓ Heavy Raise back of tongue for Tafkheem

Lesson 14: Letters from the Lips (الشفتين)

Makharij and Sifaat Series – Final Makharij Lesson

Overview

In this lesson, we complete the **Makharij** (articulation points) by focusing on the **lips**, which is the **fifth and final articulation area** after:

1. Throat (الحلق)
 2. Tongue (اللسان)
 3. Nasal Cavity (الخيšوم)
 4. Oral Cavity (الجوف)
-

The Two Lip-Based Points of Articulation

From the lips, **four letters** are produced:

Letter	Name	Point of Articulation
--------	------	-----------------------

ف Fā' Upper front teeth touch inner lower lip

و Wāw Lips rounded, airflow between them

ب Bā' Both lips touch and release

م Mīm Lips closed, sound through **nasal** cavity

1. ف – Fā' (Voiceless, Light)

Articulation (Makhraj):

- Upper front teeth touch the **inner part** of the **lower lip**.
- Air flows through a **narrow gap**, creating the sound.
- There is **no vocal cord vibration**.

Do not press the teeth too hard — we need **friction**, not blockage.

Correct Example:

- فَتْح
-

2. و – Wāw (as Madd or semi-vowel)

Note:

- This lesson discusses و as a **madd (long vowel)** or **semi-vowel**, not the consonant "wa" with fatha (discussed in Lesson 1).

Articulation (Makhraj):

- Sound is produced **between the lips**, with **rounding of lips in an "O" shape**.
- The **back of the tongue raises slightly** (not the middle).
- No tongue tension or mouth tightness.

💡 Used when و has **sukoon** and is **preceded by a Dammah**.

Examples:

- يُوقِيهِمْ
- وَجُوهٌ
- صُورَتِهِمْ

3. ب – Bā' (Voiced, Light)

Articulation:

- Sound produced by **both lips pressing together** and **releasing air**.
- Vocal cords **vibrate** (voiced).
- **Tongue is fully relaxed** — no involvement.

A strong "pop" sound created from air pressure buildup behind lips.

Example:

- بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

4. م – Mīm (Voiced, Light, Nasal)

Articulation:

- Both lips sealed.
- Air flows through the nasal cavity, not the mouth.
- Vocal cords **vibrate**.
- One of the **easiest** and most natural sounds.

Example:

- هُم، عَلِيمٌ

✗ Common Mistakes and How to Fix Them

Fā' (ف) Mistakes:

Mistake	Explanation	Fix
Using outer part of lower lip	Produces muffled sound	Ensure teeth touch inner lip
Adding voicing	Sound becomes non-Arabic	Keep vocal cords silent during ف

Wāw (و) Mistakes:

Mistake	Description	Fix
Insufficient rounding	Sound blends with Alif	Lips should form a relaxed O-shape
Tight lips	Makes sound too heavy	Keep lips relaxed, not forced
Raising tongue middle	Adds "Yaa" sound	Only raise back of tongue slightly
Tafkheem (heaviness)	Mistakenly applied if followed by heavy letters	Always pronounce و light and round

Bā' (ب) Mistakes:

Mistake	Description	Fix
Pronouncing it voiceless like English "P"	Not used in Arabic	Ensure vocal cords vibrate for proper ب
Making it heavy if followed by heavy letter	Like saying "طَبَّ" with heavy ب	Always keep ب light and clear

Mīm (م) Mistakes:

Mistake	Description	Fix
---------	-------------	-----

Adding “ Haa ” sound after م	Over-pronouncing nasal	Do not exhale forcefully after م
Cutting the nasal flow short	Makes م sound like ب	Let the nasal sound continue smoothly

Recap Chart

Letter	Voiced ?	Lip Action	Nasal ?	Notes
ف (Fā')	✗ No	Upper teeth touch inner lower lip	✗ No	Fricative
و (Wāw)	✓ Yes	Lips rounded in “O”	✗ No	Semi-vowel or Madd
ب (Bā')	✓ Yes	Both lips touch & release	✗ No	Stop sound
م (Mīm)	✓ Yes	Both lips closed	✓ Yes	Nasal consonant

Conclusion: End of Makharij Series

This was the **final lesson** on the **Makharij (articulation points)** of Arabic letters. You've now covered all five areas:

1. **Throat (3 points)**
2. **Tongue (10+ points)**

3. **Nasal cavity (1 point)**
4. **Oral cavity (elongation/madd)**
5. **Lips (2 points → 4 letters)**

What's Next?

Starting next lesson, we move into the **Sifaat (صفات)** of letters — the **qualities** that govern how each sound behaves. This includes:

- Strength
- Softness
- Echo
- Whistling
- Heaviness, etc.

Which are essential to perfecting Quranic recitation.