

Tajweed: Sifat & Makharij Series – Part 2: Introduction to Sifat (Characteristics)

What Are Sifat (صفات)?

- "Sifat" in Arabic = **characteristics/attributes**.
- In **Tajweed**, Sifat refers to:
 - *How* a letter is pronounced from its **makhraj (articulation point)**.
- These characteristics affect:
 - The **sound** of the letter.
 - The **identity** and **clarity** of each letter.
 - Whether a letter may sound like a **different** letter (leading to mistakes in recitation).

Why Sifat Are Important:

- Letters can have **the same makhraj** but still **sound different**.
 - It is the **sifat** that differentiate them.
 - Just as humans are identified by unique characteristics (height, voice, eye color), letters have **distinguishing sifat**.
 - Incorrect application of sifat = **distorted sound** = **wrong letter**.
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Two Main Types of Sifat (Characteristics):

Type	Description	Number
Type 1	With opposites (صفات لها ضد)	4 pairs (8 total)

Type 2 Without opposites (صفات لا ضد لها) 8



Every letter has at least one of each **pair** in Type 1.

Type 1 sifat are **binary**: each letter must belong to **only one side** of every pair.

Type 1 – Characteristics *With* Opposites

These sifat come in pairs, like:

- Whispering (Hams) ↔ Voicing (Jahr)
 - Softness ↔ Strength
 - (Only the first pair is discussed in this lesson.)
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1st Pair: Hams (الهمس) vs Jahr (الجر)

A. Hams (الهمس) – Whispering / Voicelessness

Definition:

- When the **vocal cords do *not* vibrate** during pronunciation.
- A **gush of air** flows freely with the sound.
- Vocal cords are **open**, allowing **unrestricted airflow**.

Breath Flow:

- More **airflow** accompanies the sound.

10 Letters of Hams:

Memorized with the mnemonic: "فحثه شخص سكت"

Letters: ف، ح، ث، هـ، ش، خ، ص، س، ك، ت

Correct Application:

- Place hand:
 - On throat → to feel **no vibration**.
 - In front of mouth → to feel **gush of air**.
- Examples:
 - ف → No vibration, breath felt.
 - س → Clear whisper, air noticeable.
 - ك → Whispery "k" sound with breath.
 - ت → T sound with breath, no voice.

✗ Mistakes to Avoid:

- Letting vocal cords vibrate.
- Not allowing enough air to escape.

B. Jahr (الجر) – Voicing / Voicedness

Definition:

- When the **vocal cords do vibrate** while pronouncing.
- Vocal cords **close slightly** and **tighten** to vibrate.
- Allows **less air** to escape.

Letters: ا، ب، ج، د، ذ، ر، ز، ط، ظ، ع، غ، ق، ل، م، ن، و، ي، ض، ز

- **All other letters** *not* in the 10 Hams letters.

- i.e., remaining **19 letters** of Arabic.

Correct Application:

- Place hand on throat while pronouncing:
 - Feel **clear vibration**.
- Examples:
 - رَ، لَ، نَ، بَ etc. → All should cause vibration.
- Still allows some airflow but **much less** than Hams.

✗ Mistakes to Avoid:

- Over-pronouncing with too much air.
- Confusing voiced letters with hams letters (e.g., making د like ذ).

Summary Table – First Pair of Opposite Sifat

Sifat	Meaning	Vocal Cord	Airflow	Letters
Ham s	Whispering / Voicelessness	No vibration	More airflow	ف، ح، ث، هـ، ش، خ، ص، س، ك، ت
Jahr	Voicing / Voicedness	Vibration	Less airflow	All other 19 Arabic letters

Key Tajweed Concepts Recap

- **Makharij** = *where* the letter is made.
- **Sifat** = *how* the letter is made.
- Letters are defined not just by their point of articulation, but also by the **characteristics** applied to them.

Final Notes:

- Every Arabic letter has:
 - **One of each opposite pair** from Sifat Type 1.
 - **Some traits from Type 2** (next lessons).
 - Misapplying sifāt can lead to **serious mistakes in recitation**.
 - Memorize and practice the **Hams letters** using the mnemonic:
"فحّته شخص سكت".
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Coming Up Next:

In the next lessons, we'll study:

- The **remaining three pairs** of opposites.
- The **8 Sifat without opposites**.

Tajweed Sifat – Lesson 2: Ash-Shiddah vs Ar-Rikhwah

Recap of Lesson 1

- **Sifat (صفات):** Characteristics of Arabic letters.
- Two main types:
 1. **Sifat with opposites (صفات لها ضد)**
 2. **Sifat without opposites (صفات ليس لها ضد)**
- In Lesson 1, we studied the first pair: **Al-Hams (الهمس)** vs **Al-Jahr (الجهر)**.

Lesson: Ash-Shiddah (الشدة) vs Ar-Rikhwah (الرخاوة)

What is Ash-Shiddah (Plosiveness)?

- **Literal meaning:** Strength.
 - **Tajweed definition:** Sudden release of sound with pressure buildup.
 - **Production:**
 1. Airflow **stops** at the articulation point (مخرج).
 2. Air is **suddenly released** = plosive effect.
 - **Not continuous**, just a burst of sound.
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Plosive Letters (حروف الشدة)

- Total **8 letters**.
- **Mnemonic:** "أجد قَطُّ بَكْتُ"
(أ، ج، د، ق، ط، ب، ك، ت)

Examples:

- **ب:** Air builds behind lips → lips open suddenly → sound is released.
 - **ج:** Same idea, sudden release after stop.
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Common Mistake:

- Saying **→** as a soft sound is incorrect – it removes the plosive quality and changes the letter's sifat.
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Link to Qalqalah (قَلْقَلَة)

- All **Qalqalah letters** are part of the **Ash-Shiddah group**.
- Without releasing the air, the sound is unclear and unnatural:
 - Example: Try saying ق without release → unclear.
 - With Qalqalah: أَقْ – clear and easy.

Qalqalah is used to **maintain clarity** in plosive letters when they're **sakin (silent)**.

Relation to Hams:

- Letters like ك and ت also require **Hams** (whispering airflow).
 - Without Hams: they become confusing.
 - With Hams: ك = **Ek**, ت = **At** – clearer and easier.
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Why no Qalqalah or Hams for Hamza (ء)?

- Though it's a strong stop sound, Arabs **did not** add Qalqalah or Hams to it.
 - Instead, they avoided Hamza using methods like:
 - **Ibdāl** (إبدال) – replacing Hamza.
 - **Tasīl** (تسهيل) – softening Hamza.
 - Example: يؤمنون pronounced as يومنون in some dialects.
 - Quran uses these styles **with rules**, not randomly.
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What is Ar-Rikhwah (الرخاوة)?

- **Literal meaning:** Softness.
- **Tajweed meaning:** Fricative letters.
- **Production:**
 - Airflow is **partially obstructed**, not stopped.
 - **Continuous sound** while letter is being pronounced.

Examples:

- ف: Air flows freely through a small gap → continuous sound.
- Applies to **16 letters** (all except the 8 of Shiddah and 5 of Bayniyah).

The In-Between: Al-Bayniyah (البينية)

- **Literal meaning:** Intermediate/Between.
- These letters are:
 - Not fully plosive (like Shiddah)
 - Not fully fricative (like Rikhwah)
- Airflow is **almost blocked**, but a slight passage remains.

Letters of Al-Bayniyah:

- Total **5 letters**
- **Mnemonic:** " (لن عمر" (ل، ن، ع، م، ر"

Example:

- م: Mouth fully closed, but air escapes through the nose → nasal sound.

Summary

Sifat Type	Description	Letters (Mnemonic)
Shiddah	Plosive – Stop & sudden release	(أ، ج، د، ق، ط، ب، ك، ت) أجد قط بكت
Rikhwah	Fricative – Partial block, continuous sound	16 remaining letters
Bayniyah	Intermediate – Almost closed, slight flow	(ل، ن، ع، م، ر) لن عمر

Outro & Learning Tip

- Focus on **airflow behavior** to recognize each sifat.
- Use **mnemonics** to memorize letter groups.
- Practice articulation with proper Tajweed to avoid altering letter characteristics.

Tajweed: Sifat Series – Part 3: Tafkheem (تَفْخِيم) & Tarqeeq (تَرْقِيق)

The Third Pair of Opposite Sifat (Characteristics)

What's the Difference?

- The difference between "طُعِمَ" (to obey) and "يَيْئَسُ" (to despair) is one characteristic only.
- That characteristic: **Tafkheem (تَفْخِيم)**.

- This shows how important **sifat** are — even small changes can alter **letter identity** and **Qur’anic meaning**.

Third Pair of Opposite Sifat (Type 1 - With Opposites)

Characteristic	Arabic Term	Meaning (Tajweed)
Full Mouth	Tafkheem (تَفْخِيم)	Raising the sound inside the mouth
Empty Mouth	Tarqeeq (تَرْقِيق)	Lowering the sound, directing it outward

Tafkheem (تَفْخِيم) – Full Mouth / Heavy Sound

Definition:

- Linguistically: *To make something thick/heavy*.
- Tajweed-wise: Raising the sound **upward** toward the **roof of the mouth**.
- Causes sound to **echo** and **fill** the mouth.

7 Letters of Tafkheem:

Memorized by the mnemonic: **خ ص ض غ ط ق ظ**

Letters: **خ، ص، ض، غ، ط، ق، ظ**

How to Perform Tafkheem (Practically):

1. **Raise the back of the tongue.**
2. **Lower the middle part** of the tongue.
3. **Narrow the throat.**
 - These form a **concave shape**, helping the sound **echo** upward.

These actions happen **automatically**, but must be **intentional** and **precise** for proper Tafkheem.

✗ Common Mistakes in Tafkheem:

- **Not raising** the back of the tongue → weak sound.
- **Forcing heaviness** without lowering middle tongue → wrong sound (adds 'ghunnah-like' heaviness).
- **Incorrect heaviness** can distort the letter or make it sound like another.

Examples of Mispronunciation:

Correct (Tafkheem)

**Incorrect
(Tarqeeq-like)**

ط (with full-mouth
echo)

ت (thin/light sound)

ق (heavy "q")

ك (light "k")

Tarqeeq (ترقيق) – Empty Mouth / Light Sound

Definition:

- Linguistically: *To make something thin/light.*
 - Tajweed-wise: Directing the sound **outward**, minimizing echo or fullness in the mouth.
 - The **default characteristic** for the **remaining 22 letters** (all non-Tafkheem letters).
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How to Perform Tarqeeq (Practically):

1. Avoid raising the back of the tongue.
2. **Minimize space** in the mouth for sound to resonate.
3. **Spread lips sideways (smile)** to prevent mouth from “filling” with sound.
4. Direct the sound outward from the mouth.

These letters are called **Empty Mouth or Light Letters**.

Examples of Tarqeeq:

Proper Tarqeeq	Mispronounced (with Tafkheem)
ثَ (light)	طَ (mistaken heaviness)
سَ (light “s”)	صَ (heavy “s”)

Hybrid Letters – Sometimes Tafkheem, Sometimes Tarqeeq

There are **3 letters** that can be pronounced with **either characteristic**, depending on **context**:

Letter	Arabic	Example (Tafkheem)	Example (Tarqeeq)
ر	راء	رَحْمَن (heavy)	فِرْعَوْنَ (light)
ل	لام	اللَّهُ (heavy in "Allah")	لَكُمْ (light)
ألف	ألف	قال (after heavy letter = heavy)	مال (after light letter = light)

Rules for these hybrid letters are **contextual** and covered in **separate lessons**.

Clarifying Terminology: Tafkheem vs Itbaaq

Term	Meaning	Relationship
Tafkheem	<i>Raising sound</i> (general heaviness)	End result
Itbaaq	<i>Adhesion</i> (tight upward push of sound)	The <i>cause/action</i> of Tafkheem

Itbaaq → Tafkheem

So while the **letters are the same**, Itbaaq refers to the **action**, and Tafkheem is the **result**.

Key Points Recap

- **Tafkheem** (تفخيم) = Heavy, full-mouth letters with upward, echoing sound.
 - **Tarqeeq** (ترقيق) = Light, empty-mouth letters with outward, thin sound.
 - **7 letters only** have Tafkheem by default (خص ضغط قظ).
 - The rest are **light** letters unless context makes them heavy.
 - Be **intentional** with tongue position, airflow, and lip shape to avoid mistakes.
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Summary Table

Characteristic	Arabic Name	Sound Direction	Number of Letters	Key Letters
Full Mouth	Tafkheem	Raised inside mouth	7 letters	خ ص ض غ ط ق ظ
Empty Mouth	Tarqeeq	Outward, light	22 letters	All others

What's Next?

- 2 more **opposite pairs** of Sifat remain.
- Then we'll study the **8 Sifat without opposites**.
- Continue reviewing **previous parts** for context and memorization.

Tajweed Sifat – Lesson 4: Iṭbāq (الإطباق) vs Infitāḥ (الانفتاح)

Recap

- We have been studying **Sifat with opposites** (صفات لها ضد).
 - This is the **final pair** of sifat with opposites in Tajweed.
 - In previous lessons, we studied:
 1. Al-Hams (الهمس) vs Al-Jahr (الجهر)
 2. Ash-Shiddah (الشدة) vs Ar-Rikhwah (الرخاوة)
 3. Al-Istifāl (الاستفال) vs At-Tafkhīm (التفخيم)
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Today's Focus: Iṭbāq (الإطباق) vs Infitāḥ (الانفتاح)

Definition of Iṭbāq (الإطباق) – Closure / Adhesion

- **Literal meaning:** Closure or sticking.
- **In Tajweed:**
 - The **tongue rises** toward the **roof of the mouth**.
 - Passage of air becomes **narrow**, creating **resistance**.
 - Sound is **compressed and heavier**.

Definition of Infitāḥ (الانفتاح) – Opening

- **Literal meaning:** Opening.

- In Tajweed:
 - The tongue and roof of the mouth are **apart**.
 - Airflow is **less restricted** and exits easily.
 - Sound is **lighter** in comparison.
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Letters of Iṭbāq (الإطباق)

Only **4 letters** have this trait:

- ص، ض، ط، ظ

These letters create more adhesion and thus are **naturally heavier**.

Letters of Infitāḥ (الانفتاح)

- All **other 25 letters** of the Arabic alphabet.
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Why Is This Important?

- All Iṭbāq letters are heavy (Mufakhkham).
- But not all heavy letters are Iṭbāq letters.



Key Point:

- There are **7 heavy letters** (خُصَّ ضَعُطٌ قَطْ):
 - **Four** of them are also Iṭbāq: ص، ض، ط، ظ

- **Three** are only **Mufakhkham** without Iṭbāq: ق، غ، خ

Heaviness Comparison:

- **Iṭbāq letters** are **heavier** than the others.
 - Example: ص (with fathah) is heavier than ق
 - Even with **kasrah**, the heaviness of Iṭbāq letters is still noticeable.
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Important Notes:

- Do **not** add artificial heaviness to letters like خ، غ، ق to match Iṭbāq letters.
 - Keep them heavy **within their natural limits**.
 - **Iṭbāq enhances Tafkhīm**, but doesn't replace it.
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Practical Tajweed Application

- The main benefit of understanding **Iṭbāq vs Infitāḥ** is for proper application of **Tafkhīm (heaviness)**.
 - Helps **distinguish** levels of heaviness between heavy letters.
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Light Letters & Infitāḥ

- All light (muraqqaq) letters are Infitāḥ.
- But this info doesn't give **new Tajweed rules** beyond what was discussed with **Istifāl (lightness)**.

- So, **no added Tajweed benefit** in applying Iṭbāq/Infitāḥ rules to light letters (only theoretical use in morphology/Sarf).

Summary of Sifat with Opposites (صفات لها ضد)

Pair No.	Sifat Pair	Description
1	Hams vs Jahr	Whisper vs Voiced
2	Shiddah vs Rikhwah	Stop vs Flow
3	Istifāl vs Tafkhīm	Light vs Heavy
4	Iṭbāq vs Infitāḥ	Adhesion vs Opening

There is also a **5th pair**:

Şafir (whistling) vs **Ghayr Şafir (non-whistling)**

But it has **no Tajweed impact**, so it is **excluded** from this course.

Next Steps

- From next lesson onwards:
 - **Sifat that have no opposites** (صفات ليس لها ضد)
 - These are **unique traits** of specific letters.
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Final Thought

- Mastering these sifat improves clarity, correctness, and **beauty** in your Quran recitation.
- Learn the sifat not just **theoretically**, but with **application** during recitation.

Tajweed Sifat – Lesson 5: Sifat Without Opposites (صفات لا ضدها)

Overview

- This is **Lesson 5** of the **Sifat (characteristics)** series.
- We now begin the **second category**:
 - ♦ **Sifat that have no opposites** (صفات لا ضدها).
- There are **8 traits total** in this category.
- Each of these is **unique** and doesn't come in a pair.
- In this lesson, we cover the first **3 characteristics**:
 1. **Ṣafīr** (الصَّفِير)
 2. **Tafash-shī** (التَّفَشِّي)
 3. **Līn** (اللَّيْن)

1. Ṣafīr (الصَّفِير) – Whistling

Present in 3 Letters:

- س، ز، ص

Definition:

- A **sharp, high-pitched sound** that resembles **whistling**.
- Should be **clearly audible** when pronouncing these letters.

Correct Pronunciation:

- Example:
 - س → “ssss”
 - ز → “zzzz”
 - ص → “ssss”
- The sound should be **natural, clear**, and **not exaggerated**.

✗ Common Mistakes:

1. **Lip movement errors:**
 - **Protruding** lips unnaturally.
 - Using lips to create the whistling sound.
2. **Tongue pressure:**
 - Pressing tongue too hard against the teeth.
3. **Weak or absent whistling:**
 - The sound is too soft or disappears.

2. Tafash-shī (التَّفَشِّي) – Spreading

Present in One Letter:

- ش

Definition:

- The sound **spreads and scatters** in the mouth when pronounced.
- Creates the **shushing** effect like “shhh”.

Correct Pronunciation:

- Natural **air dispersion** from the center to sides of the mouth.
- Example: شَاءَ → “shaa”

✗ Common Mistakes:

1. Muting the sound:

- Sound is not fully spread (too dull).

2. Lip exaggeration:

- Lips may move naturally, but **should not** be forced.
- Forced lip movement can turn ش into a **whistled** or incorrect sound.

3. Līn (اللَّيْن) – Softness / Ease

Present in 2 Letters ONLY in specific conditions:

- ي and و ,
when preceded by a **fathah** (ـَ)

Conditions for Līn:

- Must be preceded by **fathah** (ـَ).
- Example: خَوْف (khawf), بَيْت (bayt)
- **No vowel** on **wāw** or **yā'** themselves.
- NOT considered *Madd* letters in this case.

Definition:

- Sound is pronounced with **ease**, **flow**, and **softness**.
- **Minimal effort** is needed from the tongue.

✗ Common Mistakes:

1. Forcing the articulation:

- Over-pressing the tongue or lips.

2. Confusing with Madd letters:

- و and ي preceded by **ḍammah** (ـُ) or **kasrah** (ـِ) → These are *Madd* letters, **not** *Līn*.

■ Example: فُو or في → *Madd*, not *Līn*

3. Putting vowels on the Līn letters:

- Example: وَ or يَ → No longer *Līn*, now they follow different rules.

Summary Table

Sifat	Meaning	Letters	Notes
Ṣafīr	Whistling sound	س، ز، ص	High-pitched, sharp sound; avoid lip use
Tafashi	Spreading sound	ش	Spreads in mouth like “shhh”
Līn	Softness, Ease	و، ي (with fathah before, no vowel on the letter)	Light and easy pronunciation

Next Lesson Preview

- We'll cover the **next group** of characteristics **with no opposites**.

- Each letter's unique trait helps in precise and beautiful **Qur'anic recitation**.
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Final Tip

- Pronounce every letter with attention to its **unique sifat**.
- These characteristics are not just theoretical—they **impact your Tajweed accuracy** and the **clarity** of your recitation.

Tajweed Sifat: Lesson 6 Inhiraf (الانحراف) & Tafasshi (التفشي)

Focusing on the correct pronunciation of ر (Ra)

1. Introduction: Why These Traits Matter

- Two traits are essential in mastering ر (Ra):
 - **Inḥirāf (الانحراف)**: *Deviation or redirection of airflow*
 - **Tafasshi (التفشي)**: *Spreading or diffusion of sound*
 - These traits help you **self-diagnose** common pronunciation problems with **Ra** when reading the Qur'an.
 - In this lesson, **Inhiraf** is the main focus, especially how it works for **Ra (ر)** and **Lam (ل)**.
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2. Inḥirāf (الانحراف) – Deviation of Airflow

Applies to:

- ر (Ra)

- ل (Lam)

Linguistic Meaning:

- "Deviation" — changing the direction of airflow from its usual path.

Mechanism:

For Lam (ل):

- The **tongue presses** against the **alveolar ridge** (just behind the upper front teeth).
- Air **cannot exit directly** from the center of the mouth.
- Instead, it **deviates around the sides** of the tongue and exits from there.

This redirection creates the distinct "L" sound.

For Ra (ر):

- The **tip of the tongue** comes **very close to the alveolar ridge** but does **not completely block** it.
- A **narrow opening** is formed, allowing air to pass through.
- This **small airflow gap** creates a **light vibration**, producing the unique **Ra** sound.

This trait (Inhiraf) is essential to properly form the sound of Ra.

3. Tafasshi (التفشي) – Spreading of Sound

⚠ Although Tafasshi applies mainly to ش (Sheen), it is discussed here briefly as it's commonly confused with exaggerated Ra pronunciation.

4. Core Concept: How Ra Is Formed

Interaction Between Traits:

- **Inḥirāf (Redirection of Air)** → Causes a **narrow air passage** at the tip of the tongue.
- This **air escape** triggers a **slight tongue vibration**, which is:

👉 **Tafashshi-like vibration = The sound of Ra**

Without the **correct airflow redirection**, Ra **cannot vibrate** correctly.

5. Common Pronunciation Errors of ر (Ra)

Error 1: Too Narrow or Blocked Opening

- **Air cannot escape** at the tip of the tongue.
- Pressure builds up, and the **tongue bounces back and forth**, causing:

✗ **Multiple “Ra” flaps** (Over-vibration)

🔊 Sounds like: *rrrrr*

Example mistake:

Saying "الرَّحِيم" with multiple tongue flaps

This mistake is common when **Ra has Shaddah (ّ)**

This is called **Tafkīr (تَفْكِير)** — repetition of the letter

Fix: Allow a **small, controlled** opening. Do **not** press the tongue too hard.

Error 2: Too Wide of an Opening

- The tongue doesn't block air at all — air **flows over it without resistance**.
- **No vibration occurs**, and the sound of Ra is **flat or disappears**.

Sounds like: *"ah"* instead of *"ra"*

This is a **major error** — invalid in Qur'anic recitation or regular Arabic speech.

Error 3: Perfect Middle Not Reached

- Tongue and air must be in **balanced position**:
 - **Not too tight** to cause exaggerated vibration
 - **Not too open** to cause loss of sound

Finding the "**sweet spot**" is key — this is where **true Ra** is formed.

6. How to Fix & Practice Correct Ra

Self-Diagnosis Tips:

- Record your recitation and compare it to expert reciters.
- Use a **mirror** to monitor tongue and mouth shape.
- Pay attention to:
 - **Number of flaps**
 - **Flatness or dullness of sound**
 - **Jaw and tongue tension**

Practice Sentences:

1. الرحمن
2. الرَّحِيم
3. نَذِيرٌ
4. مِرْصَادًا

When Ra has **Shaddah**, the tongue naturally touches the roof. Avoid multiple flaps.

7. Final Advice for Non-Native Speakers

- If you've learned **Ra differently** due to your native language:
 - Your tongue might naturally default to incorrect placement.
 - Correcting it requires **intentional reprogramming**.
 - Be **patient** and practice **consistently**.
 - Improvement takes **time and repetition**.
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Summary Table

Trait	Description	Applies to	Common Issues
Inḥirāf	Airflow deviation from central path	Ra & Lam	Too much / too little deviation
Tafasshi	Air spreading/vibration (used for ش, related here)	Ra (by mistake)	Exaggerated multiple flaps (Tafkīr)
Ra Errors	Blocked → Repetition Open → No sound	Ra	Fix = balanced airflow and tongue control

In Conclusion

- **Ra** requires:
 - Proper airflow (**Inhiraf**)
 - Controlled vibration (light, not exaggerated)
- **Too tight** → Multiple Ra flaps
- **Too loose** → Ra disappears
- Finding the **middle path** is crucial
- Consistent practice will lead to mastery over time, insha'Allah

Tajweed: Sifat Series – Part 7: Qalqalah (قلقلة)

One of the Sifat Without Opposites

What is Qalqalah (قلقلة)?

Definition:

- **Linguistically:** *Echoing, shaking, or bouncing.*
 - **Tajweed-wise:** A unique sound property applied to **5 specific letters** when they are in a **sukoon state**.
 - It creates a **bounced, echoed release** of the sound without turning it into a vowel.
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The 5 Qalqalah Letters (Letters of Echo)

Mnemonic: قطب جد

Letters: ق، ط، ب، ج، د

Why Is Qalqalah Needed?

- In sukoon, some letters are hard to identify clearly due to their closed articulation.
 - These 5 letters become **indistinguishable** from one another without the help of Qalqalah.
 - Qalqalah provides clarity without converting the letter into a vowel.
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Qalqalah: A Middle State Between Consonant and Vowel

Aspect	Consonant	Vowel	Qalqalah
Organs	Collision (e.g., lips for "ب")	Parting (e.g., lips open for "ا")	Collision + controlled parting (no jaw/lip movement)
Air release	Minimal or controlled	Free-flowing with vowel sound	Air released in a "bouncy" manner
Visual cue	Lips/jaws stay neutral	Mouth opens or rounds for vowels	Lips open slightly but jaws remain still

How to Apply Qalqalah Correctly

1. **Close** the two organs to form the letter (e.g., lips for ب).
2. **Build up pressure** behind the closure.
3. **Release the closure gently**, causing a **gush of air** or **bounce**.
4. **No movement** of the **jaw or lips outward** like in vowels.

Example with ب:

Incorrect → *ba* (has a vowel)

Correct → ...*ab* (short, bounced “b” sound)

♦ Two Types of Qalqalah

Type	When It Happens	Intensity	Example
Major	At the end of a word when stopping	Strong	الحَقَّ → <i>al-ḥaqq</i> (with bounce)
Minor	In the middle of a word	Light	يَقْطَعُ → <i>yaqṭa‘u</i> (light bounce on ق)

Start by mastering **Major Qalqalah** (easier to detect), then move to Minor.



Best Practice Tips

- Start with words like: الحق – الفلق – لم يلد
- Practice saying the word **slowly** and watch **mouth movement** in the **mirror**.
- Use **neutral lip/jaw posture** during Qalqalah — do **not** mimic vowel shapes.

✗ 3 Most Common Mistakes in Qalqalah

1- Mixing Qalqalah with a Vowel Sound

- ✗ Saying *ba* instead of a bounced *b'*
- Keep lips neutral, no jaw opening
- **Practice Tip:** Watch lips in mirror. Avoid "O" shape or opening the jaw.

2-Over-extending the Qalqalah

- ✗ Holding the bounce too long → sounds like a vowel or doubled letter
- Qalqalah is a **plosive**, so it must be **short and sharp**
- **Remember:** Plosive sounds **cannot be stretched**

3-Splitting Words by Pausing After Qalqalah

- ✗ Breaking the word with an unnatural pause (e.g., "lam... yalid" instead of "lam yalid")
- Words should flow unless a proper **waqf (stop)** is required
- Don't **pause** in the middle of a word — it changes the meaning and rhythm

Key Reminders

- Qalqalah is not a **vowel**, not a **sukoon-only pause**, and not **optional**.
- It applies **only to the 5 letters** (ق، ط، ب، ج، د) **with sukoon**.

- The **goal** is to **clarify** the letter — especially when it is hard to hear otherwise.
- Jaw and lips must stay **still**; release the sound with a **small air burst** only.

Summary Table

Feature	Qalqalah
Letters	ق، ط، ب، ج، د (قطب جد)
Type	Sifat without opposite
Sound Nature	Plosive with an echoed/bounced release
When Applied	Letter has sukoon
Degrees	Major (stop), Minor (within word)
Mistakes	Turning into vowel, prolonging, splitting
Fix	Use mirror, neutral lips, no jaw movement

Conclusion

- Qalqalah is a **middle state**: between consonant (collision) and vowel (parting).
- It is one of the **most important characteristics** in Tajweed.
- Misapplying Qalqalah can lead to **meaning-changing** errors in Qur'anic recitation.
- Practice with **major** Qalqalah words, monitor your **mouth movement**, and ensure a **short, sharp bounce**.

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