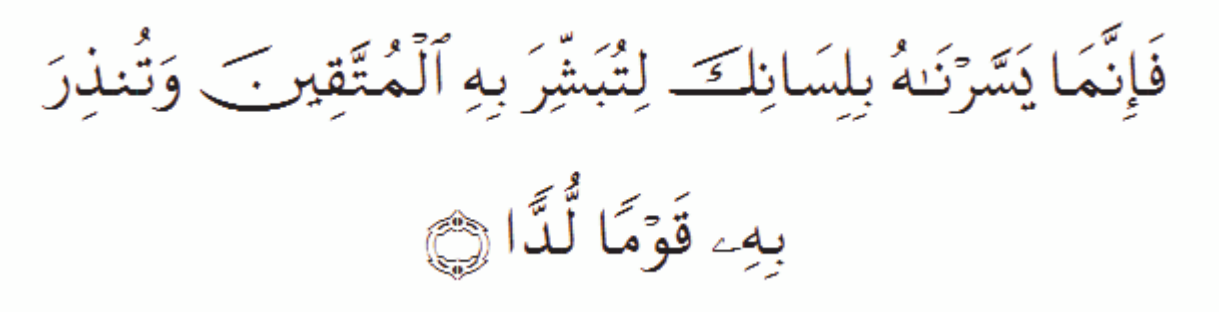


So We have made the Qur'an easy in thy tongue that thou mayest give thereby glad tidings to the righteous, and warn thereby a contentious people (19:98)

Basic Tajweed

Rules for Proper Qur'an Recitation

Introduction

What is Tajweed?

The word ***Tajweed*** means to make better or to improve.

It is the knowledge and application of a set of rules to recite the Holy Qur'an as close as possible as it was recited by the Holy Prophet Mohammad ﷺ

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an

وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْاٰنَ تَرْتِيْلًا ۝

- and recite the Qur'an a good recital. (73-5)

Terminology

حرف	Harf (pl. Huruf)	Letter (of the Alphabet)
حركه	Haraka (pl. Harakat)	Short Vowel (*Fatha*, *Kasra*, *Damma*)
مخرج	Makhraj (pl. Makharij)	Place of origin of sound – i.e. correct pronunciation
وقف	Waqf (pl. wuquf)	Pause / Stop
سكون / جزم	Jazm / Sukoon	A small circle over letters denoting the letter has no *Harakah*. The letter becomes *Saakin*.

Terminology

تنوين	Tanween	Double *Harakaas* i.e. two *fathas*, two *kasras* or two *dammas* that together give the sound of *Noon* (ن).
تشديد	Tashdid / Shadda	Doubling the sound of a letter so that it is stressed but adding the sign over it. Such a letter is said to be *mushaddad*
غنّه	Ghunnah	Nasalized pronunciation of the letter *Noon* or *Meem*. There is no other nasal letter in Arabic.
مدَّ	Madda	Elongation

Origin of Letters مَخَارِجُ

Originates from emptiness of mouth	ا و ى
Back of throat	ه
Center of throat	ح ع
Upper portion of throat	خ غ
The back of tongue rises and touches the soft palate	ق ك

Origin of Letters مَخَارِجُ

The center of the tongue touches the upper palate	ج ش
The upturned sides of the tongue touch the gum of the upper back teeth	ض
Originate when tip of the tongue touches the upper hard palate	ر ل ن
Originate when tip of the tongue touches the gums of the upper two front teeth	ت د ط
Originate when tip of the tongue touches the edge of the upper two front teeth	ث ذ

Origin of Letters مَخَارِجُ

Originate when the tip of the tongue rises towards the upper palate, touching the gums behind the upper two front teeth	ز س ص
Originate from the lips	ب م
Originates when the inner portion of the bottom lip meets the edge on the two upper front teeth	ف

Madd or Elongation

Letters with *Harakah* (ـَـُـِ) are prolonged if they are followed by their corresponding *Harooful Madd* (ا ى و). Such type of elongation is called ***Maddul Asli*** or ***original elongation***.

Corresponding *Harooful Madd*	**Harka**
ا	ـَ FATHA
ىٖ	ـِ KASRA
وٗ	ـُ DHAMMA

Exception: If *Fatha* is followed by its corresponding *Harful Madd* i.e *Alif* (ا) with a *sukoon*, then it is not prolonged but rather recited with a jerk

Madd or Elongation

بُدُو	بُ	بِدِی	بِ	بَا	بَ
تُدُو	تُ	تِدِی	تِ	تَا	تَ
ثُدُو	ثُ	ثِدِی	ثِ	ثَا	ثَ
جُدُو	جُ	جِدِی	جِ	جَا	جَ
حُدُو	حُ	حِدِی	حِ	حَا	حَ
خُدُو	خُ	خِدِی	خِ	خَا	خَ
دُدُو	دُ	دِدِی	دِ	دَا	دَ

Madd or Elongation

ذَ	ذَا	ذِ	ذِی	ذُ	ذُو
رَ	رَا	رِ	رِی	رُ	رُو
زَ	زَا	زِ	زِی	زُ	زُو
سَ	سَا	سِ	سِی	سُ	سُو
شَ	شَا	شِ	شِی	شُ	شُو
صَ	صَا	صِ	صِی	صُ	صُو
ضَ	ضَا	ضِ	ضِی	ضُ	ضُو

Madd or Elongation

طَ	طَا	طِ	طِىْ	طُ	طُو
ظَ	ظَا	ظِ	ظِىْ	ظُ	ظُو
عَ	عَا	عِ	عِىْ	عُ	عُو
غَ	غَا	غِ	غِىْ	غُ	غُو
فَ	فَا	فِ	فِىْ	فُ	فُو
كَ	كَا	كِ	كِىْ	كُ	كُو
قَ	قَا	قِ	قِىْ	قُ	قُو

Madd or Elongation

لُوْ	لُ	لِيْ	لِ	لَا	لَ
مُوْ	مُ	مِيْ	مِ	مَا	مَ
نُوْ	نُ	نِيْ	نِ	نَا	نَ
وُوْ	وُ	وِيْ	وِ	وَا	وَ
ءُوْ	ءُ	ءِيْ	ءِ	ءَا	ءَ

Madd or Elongation

If *Maddul Asli* is followed by a *Hamza* (ء) in the **same word**, the elongation of *Harooful Madd* is increased to upto 4 to 6 *Harakah*. Such *Madd* is called ***Maddul Muttasil or Joined Madd***. It is represented by  sign

إِذَا جَآءَ نَصْرُ	ا
سَوَآءٌ عَلَيْهِمْ	
سُوٓءًا اَوْ يَظْلِمْ	و
سُوٓءُ الدَّارِ	
هَنِيٓـًٔا مَّرِيٓـًٔا	ى
وَجِاْىٓءَ يَوْمَئِذٍ	

Madd or Elongation

If *Maddul Asli* is in the end of a word and the next word starts with a *Hamza* (ء) or *Alif* (ا), then the elongation of *Harooful Madd* is increased to upto 3 to 5 *Harakah*. Such *Madd* is called ***Maddul Munfasil or Detached Madd***. It is represented by  sign

ا	إِنَّآ أَعْطَيْنٰكَ
	إِنَّآ أَنْزَلْنٰهُ
و	قُوٓا أَنفُسَكُمْ
	وَاعْلَمُوٓا أَنَّ اللّٰهَ
ی	وَفِيٓ أَنفُسِكُمْ ۖ
	وَلَوْ عَلٰٓى أَنفُسِكُمْ

Madd or Elongation

In case of *Haroof Muqataat* which appears at the begining of a Sura, a Madd similar to *Maddul Muttasil* is applied. The length is 4 to 6 *Harakah*. Such Madd is called ***Maddul Laazim*** or ***Compulsory Madd***. It is represented by  sign

كٓهٰيٰعٓصٓ ۚ ○
نٓ وَالْقَلَمِ وَمَا
الٓمّٓ ۚ ○
قٓ ۚ وَالْقُرْاٰنِ الْمَجِيْدِ ۚ ○
حٰمٓ ۚ ○ تَنْزِيْلُ
حٰمٓ ۚ ○ عٓسٓقٓ ○

Madd or Elongation

If after *Madd* letters (ا و ى) there appears a *Saakin* caused by *waqf* or stop then such *Madd* is called ***Maddul Aaridh***. The length of recitation of ***Maddul Aaridh*** will be 2 to 5 *Harakah*. There is no symbol representing such *Madd*.

ا	مِنْ دُوْنِهٖٓ اَوْلِيَآءُ ؕ
و	هٰذَا الَّذِىْ كُنْتُمْ بِهٖ تَدَّعُوْنَ ○
ى	مِنْ مَّشْهَدِ يَوْمٍ عَظِيْمٍ ○

Qalqala

When letters of *Qalqala* have *Sukoon* on them, then they will be read with an echoing or jerking sound

The letters of *Qalqala* are

د	ج	ب	ط	ق

Care should be taken when reciting, not to jerk the letter to an extent that it will sound like *Fatha*

اِطْ	بَطْ	نُطْ	مَقْ	ذُقْ	زَقْ
سِبْ	سَبْ	سُبْ	اُبْ	اِبْ	اَبْ
جُدْ	عِدْ	دَدْ	هِجْ	حِجْ	حَجْ
لَبْ	مُدْ	اِجْ	كِبْ	اَطْ	اُقْ

Qalqala

When a stop is made at the end of a verse and the ending letter is one of the *Qalqala* letters, the same rule applies. The last letter will become *Saakin* irrespective of the vowel sign

ق	وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا وَرَبُّ الْمَشَارِقِ ○
ط	إِنَّآ أُرْسِلْنَآ إِلَىٰ قَوْمِ لُوطٍ ○
ب	خَطِفَ الْخَطْفَةَ فَأَتْبَعَهُۥ شِهَابٌ ثَاقِبٌ ○
ج	وَلَا فُسُوقَ ۙ وَلَا جِدَالَ فِى الْحَجِّ ۗ

Noon (ن) and Meem(م) Mushaddah

When the letter ن and م have a *Shaddah* (نّ مّ) then it will be recited with *Ghunnah* (nasalization). The length of nasalization should not be more than two *Harakah*

نّ	إِنَّا زَيَّنَّا السَّمَآءَ الدُّنْيَا
نّ	إِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ كَانَتْ مِرْصَادًا
مّ	وَلَا تَكُنْ فِى ضَيْقٍ مِّمَّا يَمْكُرُونَ
مّ	وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَكُمْ ثُمَّ صَوَّرْنَكُمْ ثُمَّ قُلْنَا

Meem (مْ) Saakin

There are three rules for Meem Saakin (مْ)

1. **Ikhfa Meem Saakin**

   When the letter *Baa* (ب) appears after *Meem Saakin* (مْ), there will be *Ikhfa*; which means it will be pronounced with a light nasal sound for a duration of 2 *Harakah*



2. **Idghaam Meem Saakin**

   When *Meem* (م) *Mushaddadah* appears after *Meem Saakin* (مْ), there will be *Idghaam*; which means the two *Meems* will merge and will be read with a light nasal sound for a duration of 2 *Harakah*



3. **Ithaar Meem Saakin**

   If any of the 26 letters appear after *Meem Saakin* (مْ) other than *Meem* (مّ) *Mushaddadah* and the letter *Baa* (ب), an *Idhaar* will occur. It means that *Meem* will be read clearly

Noon (نْ) Saakin and Tanween

Similar rules are applied for *Noon Saakin* and *Tanween* () since they sound the same. There are three rules depending on the letter coming after *Noon Saakin* or *Tanween*

1. Idhaar

When after *Noon Saakin* or *Tanween* there appear any of the *Harooful Haalqiyya* (throat letters), then they will be pronounced clearly. The letters of the throat are

ح	خ	ع	غ	ء	ه

ح	وَكَانُوْا يَنْحِتُوْنَ
	وَكُلَا مِنْهَا رَغَدًا حَيْثُ شِئْتُمَا
خ	وَاِنْ خِفْتُمْ شِقَاقَ بَيْنِهِمَا فَابْعَثُوْا
	اِنَّ اللّٰهَ كَانَ عَلِيْمًا خَبِيْرًا

Noon (نْ) Saakin and Tanween

ع	نَفْسِهِ الرَّحْمَةَ ۙ اَنَّهٗ مَنْ عَمِلَ مِنْكُمْ
	بِاٰيٰتِنَا فَقُلْ سَلٰمٌ عَلَيْكُمْ كَتَبَ
غ	فِيْ صُدُوْرِهِمْ مِّنْ غِلٍّ تَجْرِيْ مِنْ
	اِنَّ اللّٰهَ عَزِيْزٌ غَفُوْرٌ
ء	مِنْ اَجْلِ ذٰلِكَ
	كِتٰبٌ اَنْزَلْنٰهُ اِلَيْكَ مُبٰرَكٌ لِّيَدَّبَّرُوْٓا
ھ	وَيَاْمُرُوْنَ بِالْمَعْرُوْفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ
	اَنْتَ مُنْذِرٌ وَّلِكُلِّ قَوْمٍ هَادٍ

Noon (نْ) Saakin and Tanween

2. Idghaam

Idghaam or assimilation occurs if after *Noon Saakin* or *Tanween* there appear any of the following letters

ن	و	ل	م	ر	ی

The above letters will have *Shadda* for assimilation to occur. The method of delivery is again divided into two forms.

i. The letters ی م و ن will be read with *Ghunna* (nasalization) sound which is not to be prolonged for more than 2 *Harakas*.

ii. The letters ل ر will be read clearly and no *Ghunna* (nasalization) will occur

ی	اِنْ يَّقُوْلُوْنَ
	عَدْنٍ يَّدْخُلُوْنَهَا
م	عَنْ مِّلَّةِ
	اٰيَةٌ مِّنْ رَّبِّهٖ

Noon (نْ) Saakin and Tanween

مِنْ وَّالٍ	و
جَنّٰتٍ وَّعُيُوْنٍ	
لَنَآ اَنْ نَّاْتِيَكُمْ	ن
قَرِيْبٌ ۢ بِنُجْبٍ	
مَنْ لَّوْ يَشَآءُ اللّٰهُ	ل
هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِيْنَ	
هُدًى مِّنْ رَّبِّهِمْ	ر
غَفُوْرٌ رَّحِيْمٌ	

Noon (نْ) Saakin and Tanween

3. Ikhfa

If any of the letters **other than** the *Throat letters* (ء ه ح خ ع غ) or *Idghaam* letters (ی ر م ل و ن) come after *Noon Saakin* or *Tanween* the word must be read with *Ghunna* or nasalization. The length of the *Ghunna* will be equal to the duration of two harkas

وَاِنْ تَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ فَاِنَّكَ	ت
لَهُمْ جَنّٰتٌ تَجْرِیْ مِنْ تَحْتِهَا	
تَحْمِلُ كُلُّ اُنْثٰى وَمَا تَغِيْضُ الْاَرْحَامُ	ث
سُوْٓءًا بِجَهَالَةٍ ثُمَّ تَابَ مِنْ بَعْدِهٖ	
عَلَيْكُمْ اِذْ اَنْجٰىكُمْ مِّنْ اٰلِ	ج
يَاْتِ بِخَلْقٍ جَدِيْدٍ	

Noon (نْ) Saakin and Tanween

اَنْ دَعَوْتُكُمْ فَاسْتَجَبْتُمْ لِيْ ۚ	د
وَمِنَ النَّخْلِ مِنْ طَلْعِهَا قِنْوَانٌ دَانِيَةٌ	
وَيَصُدَّكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللّٰهِ وَعَنِ	ذ
كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَآئِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ؕ	
فَمَنْ زُحْزِحَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَاُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ	ز
نَفْسًا زَكِيَّةً ۢ بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ ؕ	
وَاِذَآ اَنْعَمْنَا عَلَى الْاِنْسَانِ	س
وَيَقُوْلُوْنَ خَمْسَةٌ سَادِسُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ	

Noon (نْ) Saakin and Tanween

ش	قَالَ سَتَجِدُنِيْٓ اِنْ شَآءَ اللّٰهُ صَابِرًا
	عَذَابًا شَدِيْدًا ۭ كَانَ ذٰلِكَ فِي الْكِتٰبِ
ص	وَلَمْ تَكُنْ لَّهٗ فِئَةٌ يَّنْصُرُوْنَهٗ
	مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ رِجَالٌ صَدَقُوْا مَا
ض	اَللّٰهُ الَّذِيْ خَلَقَكُمْ مِّنْ ضُعْفٍ
	بَعْدِ قُوَّةٍ ضُعْفًا وَّ شَيْبَةً ۭ
ط	مِنْ طِيْنٍ
	بَلْدَةٌ طَيِّبَةٌ وَّ رَبٌّ غَفُوْرٌ

Noon (نْ) Saakin and Tanween

ظ	اَوَلَمْ يَسِيْرُوْا فِى الْاَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرُوْ كَيْفَ
	وَّنُدْخِلُهُمْ ظِلًّا ظَلِيْلًا
ف	حِذْرَكُمْ فَانْفِرُوْا ثُبَاتٍ اَوِانْفِرُوْا جَمِيْعًا
	مَآ اَصَابَكَ مِنْ حَسَنَةٍ فَمِنَ اللّٰهِ
ق	وَمَنْ قَتَلَ مُؤْمِنًا خَطَأً فَتَحْرِيْرُ رَقَبَةٍ
	وَاِنْ كَانَ لِلْكٰفِرِيْنَ نَصِيْبٌ ۙ قَالُوْٓا
ك	فَاِنْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فَتْحٌ مِّنَ اللّٰهِ
	سَيِّاٰتِكُمْ وَنُدْخِلْكُمْ مُّدْخَلًا كَرِيْمًا

Rules of Stopping

If any of these signs (ـٍ ـٌ) or (ـً ـٍ ـٌ) appears on the end letter of the word and stop is required, then the last letter is read with *Saakin*

إِذًا مُّنظَرِينَ ○	نَارًا حَامِيَةً ○
حَدِيثُ الْغَاشِيَةِ ○	إِلَىٰ حِينٍ ○
النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ○	إِنَّكَ لَمَجْنُونٌ ○

If the last latter ends with *Alif* and letter before it has *Fatha Tanween* (ـً) or *Fatha* (ـَ) or the last letter has *Madd*, then it will be pronounced as *Fatha* (ـَ)

حُبًّا جَمًّا ○	وَالنَّشِطَاتِ نَشْطًا ○
وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا ○	رَبِّكَ فَتَخْشَىٰ ○

Rules of Stopping

Compulsory Stop

وَاذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتٰبِ مَرْيَمَ ۘ اِذِ انْتَبَذَتْ	مـ

Necessary Stop

عَلَيْهَا صَعِيْدًا جُرُزًا ؕ	ؕ

Stop for a moment without breaking the breath

وَاعْفُ عَنَّا ۟ وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ۟ وَارْحَمْنَا ۟ اَنْتَ	وقفة
كَلَّا بَلْ ۜ رَانَ	سكتة

Necessary to continue do not stop

فَاعْبُدْنِيْ ۙ وَاَقِمِ الصَّلٰوةَ لِذِكْرِيْ ۝	لا

Rules of Stopping

Recommended pause

وَمَلٰٓئِكَتِهٖ وَكُتُبِهٖ وَرُسُلِهٖ ۣ لَا نُفَرِّقُ	قف

Option to pause or continue

رَبِّكَ ۚ لَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمٰتِهٖ ۚ وَلَنْ	ج

Any two of the three sections of verse can be read in continuity

وَقَالَ الَّذِيْنَ كَفَرُوْا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الْقُرْاٰنُ جُمْلَةً وَّاحِدَةً ۚ كَذٰلِكَ ۚ لِنُثَبِّتَ بِهٖ فُؤَادَكَ وَرَتَّلْنٰهُ تَرْتِيْلًا ○	ج or ∴