

ALQURAN PRO RESOURCE SERIES

FREE TAJWEED RULES PDF

Beginner Guide + Practice Workbook

Simple explanations, Arabic examples, practice tasks,
quick-reference charts and self-checks.

FOR KIDS, TEENS & ADULT BEGINNERS

What this guide is for

Use this guide to understand core Tajweed concepts and practice common reading patterns. It is a beginner reference and practice workbook, not a complete Tajweed curriculum.

LEARN | PRACTICE | REVIEW

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How to Use This Tajweed Guide

Short practice sessions work best. Read every Arabic example aloud, slow down when a rule feels unclear, and use the self-check pages to decide what needs another look.

01

Read the rule

Start with the trigger and the reading action.
Avoid memorizing every term at once.

02

Say the example

Read the Arabic example aloud. Tajweed is about how the letters and sounds are produced.

03

Compare patterns

Use paired examples to notice what changes when the trigger changes.

04

Mark what needs work

Circle or note patterns that still feel difficult, then revisit them later.

A practical 10-minute rhythm

2 min review -> 5 min current rule -> 2 min examples -> 1 min self-check

Consistency matters more than finishing a long list in one sitting.

Best practice

Read slowly enough to notice the trigger. When a sound is uncertain, repeat the example and ask a qualified teacher to model it.

FOUNDATION

What Is Tajweed?

Quick answer

Tajweed is the set of recitation principles used to pronounce Quranic letters and sounds correctly and to observe established reading rules while reciting.

The practical goal is not only to know rule names. A learner should recognize the pattern and produce the intended sound.

Beginner roadmap

01 Makharij
Where sounds are formed

02 Noon + Tanween
Four core patterns

03 Meem Sakinah
Three core patterns

04 Ghunnah
Nasal sound awareness

05 Qalqalah
Bouncing-letter quality

06 Madd
Lengthening patterns

07 Heavy + Light
Tafkheem / Tarqeeq

08 Waqf
Stopping awareness

Teacher perspective

Tajweed improves through listening and repetition. Use this guide as a visual reference, then confirm difficult sounds with a qualified Quran teacher.

CORE RULE

Makharij: Where the Letters Come From

The basic idea

Makharij refers to the places from which Arabic letters are articulated. Beginners do not need to memorize a long theory first; start by noticing that different letters need different points of articulation.

Open mouth / oral space

Long-vowel and open-space awareness

Throat

Several Arabic letters are articulated from the throat

Tongue

Many Arabic sounds depend on tongue placement

Lips

Several sounds are articulated with the lips

Nasal passage

Ghunnah is associated with nasal resonance.

Begin with sound, not speed Read examples aloud and let a qualified teacher confirm your articulation.

Illustration

ع خ ع ح

Different letters are articulated from different areas of the vocal tract. Use the examples to build awareness, then learn precise articulation through listening and guided practice.

PRACTICE

Makharij Awareness Practice

For each row, read the examples aloud. Notice whether the sound feels different when you move from one group to another.

Throat awareness

ء ه ع ح غ خ

Tongue awareness

ت د ط س ص ز ر

Lips awareness

ف ب م و

Nasal sound awareness

مَّ نَّ

Practice check

- ☐ I can say the examples aloud without rushing.
- ☐ I can notice that different letters feel different in the mouth or throat.
- ☐ I know which sounds I still need a teacher to check.

Parent tip

Encourage the learner to read aloud. You do not need to correct every sound; note questions for the teacher instead.

CORE RULE

Noon Sakinah & Tanween

Four core patterns

When a noon sakinah or tanween is followed by a particular Arabic letter, the reading changes according to one of four core rules.

Izhar	Clear pronunciation	Keep the noon sound clear	مَنْ آمَنَ
Idgham	Yarmaloon group	Merge into the following letter	مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ
Iqlab	Before ba	Change the noon sound to a meem-like nasal sound	أَنْبِئُهُمْ
Ikhfa	Before its letters	Partially hide the noon sound	مِنْ شَرِّ

Idgham letter cue

ي ر م ل و ن

Memory cue

First identify the trigger letter. Then decide whether the noon/tanween stays clear, merges, changes, or becomes partially hidden.

NOON SAKINAH & TANWEEN

Izhar: Read the Noon Clearly

IZHAR

Izhar means making the noon sound clear rather than merging or hiding it. Keep the sound distinct when the relevant throat letters follow.

When does it apply?

Occurs when noon sakinah or tanween is followed by one of the throat letters used for Izhar.

How should it be read?

Keep the noon or tanween sound clear, then move into the next letter without forcing a merge.

Quick note

Read aloud and listen for the change. A teacher can confirm the sound.

Examples

Noon sakinah + hamzah

مَنْ آمَنَ

Noon sakinah + ha

مِنْ هَادٍ

Tanween + hamzah

عَلَيْمٌ أَحَدٌ

Tanween + ain

سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

Teacher note

Focus on the transition. Do not turn a clear noon into an exaggerated pause.

NOON SAKINAH & TANWEEN

Idgham: Merge the Sound

IDGHAM

Idgham means merging the noon or tanween sound into the following letter according to the specific Idgham pattern.

When does it apply?

Occurs when noon sakinah or tanween is followed by a letter from the Idgham group.

How should it be read?

Do not keep an overly separate noon sound. Blend the reading into the following letter as taught.

Quick note

Read aloud and listen for the change. A teacher can confirm the sound.

Examples

With ghunnah

مَنْ يَعْمَلْ

With ghunnah

مِنْ وَالٍ

Without ghunnah

مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ

Without ghunnah

غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Teacher note

A teacher should help you hear the difference between Idgham with ghunnah and the forms without ghunnah.

NOON SAKINAH & TANWEEN

Iqlab & Ikhfa

IQLAB

When noon sakinah or tanween is followed by **ب**, the noon sound changes into a meem-like nasal sound before the ba.

IKHFA

The noon sound is partially hidden before the letters of Ikhfa. The result sits between a clear noon and full merging.

Practice examples

Iqlab

أَنْبِئْهُمْ

Iqlab

سَمِعَ بَصِيرٌ

Ikhfa

مِنْ شَرٍّ

Ikhfa

أَنْفُسِكُمْ

Ikhfa

عَلَيْمٌ خَيْرٌ

Ikhfa

مَنْ ذَا

Listen for the difference

Iqlab is a specific change before ba. Ikhfa keeps the sound partially hidden. The exact quality is best learned through listening.

Practice cue

Read one Iqlab example and one Ikhfa example slowly back-to-back. Notice that the change is triggered by the next letter.

CORE RULE

Meem Sakinah: Three Core Rules

When a meem sakinah is followed by certain letters, the reading falls into one of three patterns.

Ikhfa Shafawi	Before ba	Partially conceal the meem with a light nasal quality	تَرْمِيهِمْ بِجَارَةٍ
Idgham Shafawi	Before meem	Merge the first meem into the next meem	لَكُمْ مَا
Izhar Shafawi	Before other letters	Keep the meem clear	عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ

Special letters

ب م

Fast check

See the meem with sukoon first. Then look at the next letter. That one letter decides which of the three patterns applies.

CORE RULE

Ghunnah: Nasal Sound Awareness

What is ghunnah?

Ghunnah is a nasal sound associated especially with certain noon and meem patterns. Beginners should learn to hear and reproduce it without making it longer than required.

Noon with shaddah

إِنَّ

Meem with shaddah

ثُمَّ

Common practice

مَنْ يَعْمَلْ

Practice cue

Place your attention on the sound you hear rather than on how long the word looks on paper. A teacher can confirm whether the ghunnah is balanced.

Listen, repeat, self-check

Listen

Hear a clear nasal quality where required.

Repeat

Say the example again at a controlled pace.

Self-check

Notice whether you are exaggerating or weakening the sound.

CORE RULE

Qalqalah: The Five Letters

The five letters

When one of these letters is in a state where its sound needs the qalqalah treatment, listen for the distinct bouncing quality.

ق ط ب ج د

Qaf

اقْرَأْ

Taa

يَظْمَعُ

Baa

يَبْدَأُ

Jeem

أَجْرٌ

Daal

يَدْعُونَ

Mnemonic

The commonly used mnemonic is shown separately below.

قُطْبُ جَدٍّ

Practice tip

Do not add an extra vowel just to create the bounce. The goal is a controlled sound quality, not a separate syllable.

CORE RULE

Madd: Understanding Lengthening

Basic idea

Madd refers to lengthening a vowel sound. For beginners, start by recognizing the three natural long-vowel letters: alif after fatha, waw after damma, and ya after kasra.

Alif after fatha

قَالَ

long aa

Waw after damma

يَقُولُ

long oo

Ya after kasra

قِيلَ

long ee

Do not overgeneralize the counts

Different Madd categories can have different lengths and conditions. This guide focuses on beginner recognition; detailed lengthening rules should be learned with a qualified teacher.

Reading cue

Notice the long-vowel letter and listen for a longer sound. The exact length depends on the rule and context.

PRACTICE

Madd Practice: Spot the Long Vowel

Read each example aloud and identify the letter that creates the basic long-vowel pattern. Then say whether you hear a long aa, oo or ee sound.

AA	قَالَ	OO	يَقُولُ
EE	قِيلَ	AA	جَاءَ
OO	نُورَ	EE	قِيلَ

Teacher check

If you cannot consistently hear the long-vowel difference, slow the reading and ask a teacher to model each sound for you.

Practice question

Which letter are you actually hearing as the long-vowel carrier? Circle it in your printed copy, then read the word again.

CORE RULE

Heavy & Light Letters

Tafkheem

A heavier, fuller sound quality used with letters that require tafkheem treatment.

ص ط ق

Tarqeeq

A lighter sound quality used where the letter is read with tarqeeq according to its conditions.

س ت ف

Beginner focus

Do not try to memorize every exception from a short guide. Learn to notice the sound quality and use teacher-led examples for the detailed rules.

Say both slowly

صَبْرٌ

heavier quality

سَبِيلٌ

lighter quality

طَرِيقٌ

heavier quality

تَرَكَوْا

lighter quality

Teacher reminder

Heavy/light treatment is sound-based. Use these examples as an awareness starter, not as an exhaustive exception list.

CORE RULE

Laam in Allah & Ra

LAAM IN "ALLAH"

The Laam in the word Allah has heavy/light treatment depending on the preceding vowel. Use this page as a compact awareness reference.

RA

Ra can be heavy or light depending on its vowel and surrounding conditions. Use this page as an awareness starter rather than an exhaustive exception list.

Examples to compare

Allah after fatha

قَالَ اللَّهُ

Allah after kasra

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

Ra with fatha

رَبِّي

Ra with kasra

رِزْقِ

Important

The detailed rules for Ra include conditions and exceptions. Do not treat this page as a complete Ra reference.

Listening cue

Read the paired examples slowly. The purpose is to notice a change in sound quality, then confirm it through guided recitation.

CORE RULE

Waqf: Stopping While Reciting

Why stopping matters

Waqf is the practice of stopping during recitation. A beginner should notice stopping signs in the Quran copy being used and avoid stopping in a way that changes the intended reading or meaning.

Look before you stop

Scan the next word and sign rather than stopping mid-thought.

Respect the mushaf signs

Stop symbols can vary by edition. Follow the signs in the Quran copy you use.

Restart calmly

When continuing, begin again carefully rather than rushing.

Ask a teacher

For uncertain stopping points, let a teacher guide the recitation.

Beginner practice

Choose one short passage. Practice stopping once, then continuing once. Ask your teacher to check whether your stop and restart are appropriate.

Practice question

Before you pause, ask: "What sign am I looking at, and where will I restart?"

PRACTICE

Common Tajweed Mistakes Beginners Make

A useful Tajweed guide should help you notice mistakes, not only memorize rule names. Use this checklist during reading practice.



Guessing from shape

Look at the letter and its dots together.



Skipping the trigger

Check the next letter before deciding the rule.



Reading too fast

Slow down until the sound is stable.



Overdoing ghunnah

Keep nasal quality controlled rather than exaggerated.



Missing qalqalah

Listen for the distinct quality on the relevant letters.



Holding every madd the same

Learn the condition before choosing the length.



Ignoring heavy/light quality

Compare the sound with a teacher model.



Stopping without checking

Look at the stopping sign and the next word.

Best use of this page

Read one mistake, then immediately practice the correction aloud. A teacher can help confirm whether the sound has changed.

INTERACTIVE PRACTICE

Practice: Can You Identify the Rule?

For each example, write the rule name next to it. Try to identify the trigger before looking at the answer key.

1	مَنْ آمَنَ	_____	2	مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ	_____
3	أَنْبِئْهُمْ	_____	4	مِنْ شَرِّ	_____
5	لَكُمْ مَا	_____	6	أَجْرٌ	_____
7	إِنَّ	_____	8	قَالَ	_____

Answer key

1 Izhar | 2 Idgham (without ghunnah) | 3 Iqlab | 4 Ikhfa | 5 Idgham Shafawi | 6 Qalqalah | 7 Ghunnah | 8 Natural Madd

If an answer feels uncertain, return to the relevant rule page and read the trigger first.

SELF-CHECK

Recitation Correction Checklist

Use this page while reading a short passage aloud. Tick what you can already monitor and circle the items you want a teacher to check.

☐

I look at the letter and its dots together.

☐

I check the next letter before choosing a Noon or Meem rule.

☐

I keep ghunnah controlled when required.

☐

I can recognize the five Qalqalah letters.

☐

I notice basic Madd patterns instead of lengthening randomly.

☐

I can compare heavy and light sound qualities.

☐

I look at stopping signs before I pause.

☐

I know which sound still needs teacher feedback.

How to use your results

Choose one or two items to revisit rather than trying to fix everything at once. Ask a teacher to check the sounds that remain uncertain.

QUICK REFERENCE

Tajweed Quick Reference Chart

Rule	Trigger	What you do	Example
Izhar	Noon/Tanween + throat letter	Read clearly	مَنْ أَمَرَ
Idgham	Noon/Tanween + Idgham letter	Merge into next letter	مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ
Iqlab	Noon/Tanween + ba	Change to meem-like nasal sound	أَنْبِئُهُمْ
Ikhfa	Noon/Tanween + Ikhfa letter	Partially hide the sound	مِنْ شَرِّ
Ikhfa Shafawi	Meem + ba	Partially conceal meem	تَزْمِيهِمْ بِجَارَةِ
Idgham Shafawi	Meem + meem	Merge meems	لَكُمْ مَا
Izhar Shafawi	Meem + other letters	Read meem clearly	عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ
Qalqalah	Five Qalqalah letters	Distinct bouncing quality	أَجَزَّ
Natural Madd	Natural long-vowel pattern	Lengthen naturally	قَالَ

Use this as a memory aid - not a substitute for guided recitation.

When a rule is unclear, go back to the trigger and example pages, then ask a qualified teacher to model the sound.

PRACTICE PLAN

7-Day Tajweed Practice Plan

This is a practice schedule, not a promise to “master Tajweed” in seven days. Use each day to focus on one area, then repeat the week where needed.

Day 1

Makharij

Read letter examples slowly and focus on where the sound is formed.

Day 2

Noon Sakinah + Tanween

Identify Izhar, Idgham, Iqlab and Ikhfa.

Day 3

Meem Sakinah

Practice the three meem patterns.

Day 4

Ghunnah + Qalqalah

Listen for nasal quality and qalqalah.

Day 5

Madd

Spot natural long vowels and read them calmly.

Day 6

Heavy + Light

Compare sound quality with teacher examples.

Day 7

Waqf + Review

Practice one short passage and note what still needs help.

Make it sustainable

The best plan is the one a learner can repeat next week. Consistency beats long sessions.

SELF-CHECK

Are You Ready for the Next Step?

I can...

- ☐ recognize the main rule triggers
- ☐ read simple examples aloud
- ☐ identify what still feels unclear
- ☐ practice without rushing
- ☐ ask for help when a sound is uncertain

When a teacher helps most

A rule sheet can explain a pattern, but it cannot hear whether your pronunciation is accurate. One-to-one teacher feedback is especially useful when a sound keeps feeling uncertain.

LISTEN -> CORRECT -> REPEAT

Next step

Use this guide as a reference during practice, then move into a structured Tajweed lesson when you need feedback on pronunciation and recitation.

A simple rule for choosing help

If you can explain the rule but cannot reliably reproduce the sound, it is time for listening-based feedback.

READY TO IMPROVE

YOUR QURAN RECITATION?

Use this free guide to review Tajweed rules at home. When you are ready, a teacher can listen to your recitation and help you correct the details that a PDF cannot hear.

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Use this guide as a learning aid, then confirm detailed recitation rules with a qualified teacher.