Inheriting Islam

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الْقَاعِدَة

The Inheriting Qāʿidah

Learning to read the Book of Allah — the letters, their sounds, and the places in the mouth where all of it is made.

WRITTEN BY

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بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful,
the Most Compassionate.

This contains verses of the Qur'an. Please handle it with respect.

Contents

Every lesson teaches one thing and ends with a gate — what you must be able to do, and check, before you move on. Chained together, those gates are exactly the finish line of the qāʿidah.

Part one — the letters: sounds and shapes

1	The twenty-eight, by family	The letters, grouped by the shapes that fool you	7
2	Where each one is made	Five zones — every letter has an address	10
3	The sounds English does not have	The eight pairs that decide whether you sound taught	13
4	One letter, four shapes	Joining, and the six that refuse to	16
5	Fatḥah — the letter opens	The first vowel, across all twenty-seven	21
6	Kasrah and ḍammah	The other two, then all three mixed	25

Part two — reading words

7	Hamzah and its seats	The catch in the throat, and what it sits on	31
8	The first real words	Three letters, three vowels, no tricks	34
9	Tanwīn	The doubled ending, and its silent alif	37
10	The long vowels	Held, not different — and the small standing alif	41
11	The wavy line	When a long vowel is held longer still	46
12	Letters the muṣḥaf writes its own way	The dotless yāʾ, lām-alif, the small wāw and yāʾ, the bare nūn	49
13	Sukūn	The letter that stops, and the five that bounce	52
14	The soft pairs	Two glides English will try to ruin	56
15	Shaddah	One letter written once and said twice	60
16	ال — the sun and the moon	A very large share of the Qur'an begins here	64
17	Starting a word	The alif you say only when you begin on it	68

Part three — reading fluency

18	What is written and not said	The silent letter, the small alif, the tied tāʾ	73
19	Stopping	Every word changes at the end of a breath	77
20	Unseen	The finish-line standard, and how to walk up to it	81
A	The letters read by name	الٓمٓ — not in Juz ʿAmma, but on page one of the muṣḥaf	86

How this book works

The whole of the reading course, written down and given away. There is a printed qāʿidah in almost every masjid in the country and most of them are good. This one exists so that all of it can be on the internet for free, set as live type rather than a scan, and written for someone learning on their own.

Who that is varies. Someone at the very start. Someone who began once and stopped. Someone who has prayed for years and still cannot read the page they are praying from. The book does not assume which of those you are, and it does not talk down to any of them — it explains each thing once, plainly, and then gets out of the way.

What it does not do

It does not teach the Qur'an's meaning; not one translation appears in it. It names almost no rules of tajwīd — it will make you hold a long vowel and bounce a sākin qāf, because that is how the letters actually sound, but the naming belongs to the second book. And it does not promise you a timeline. Anyone who gives you a number before hearing you read is guessing.

This book follows the Madinah (ʿUthmānī) muṣḥaf, in the recitation of Ḥafṣ from ʿĀṣim. If your muṣḥaf has thicker South Asian lettering, find a Madinah copy while you learn: the marks differ.

Every lesson has the same parts

TEACHES

One main thing, said once on the teaching page.

THE DRILL

The sheets after it — set large, meant to be read aloud, not studied as a diagram.

LISTEN

A recording of the sounds on the page, marked ▸ Listen: Q-01-1 — lesson, then item. Listen before you read, never instead of reading. Recordings are being added lesson by lesson at inheritingquran.com.

THE GATE

What you must be able to do before you move on. Not a score — a thing you can either do or not do yet.

> **How to check yourself.** Read the drill aloud and record it on your phone. Play the lesson's recording, then your own, and compare. Where they differ, go again. Until a lesson's recording is up, read to someone who reads well. When you can, do that anyway.

There is no failing a gate. There is only "not this week." Chained end to end, the gates are the finish line of the qāʿidah, so from lesson one you can see the whole road and where it stops.

A lesson is finished when its drill is easy, not when its teaching page is understood. Two things about the drill sheets are deliberate and both will feel wrong at first. **There is no transliteration on a drill page**, because a reader who needs the Latin underneath has not yet learned to read — it is on the teaching page only, and you should cover it there as soon as you can. And **many drill items are made-up combinations**, built only from joins the muṣḥaf really uses. Most spell nothing (a few happen to be real words). That is the point: a combination you have never met cannot be recognised from memory, so the only way through it is to read it. If you already know some of Juz ʿAmma by heart, that memory will happily pretend to be reading if this book lets it.

PART ONE

The letters: sounds and shapes

Lessons one to six. This is the part everyone underestimates. Most of a beginner's first weeks are spent here — on the mouth and the eye, not on memorising a chart.

What you will be able to do

Six lessons, six things you must be able to do — and check on a recording. Together they mean you can produce every sound in the Qur'an and know every letter in every shape, which is not yet the same as reading it.

1	Know each letter on sight, say its name clearly, and point to it when its name is spoken.	☐
2	Say roughly where in the five zones a given letter is made.	☐
3	Tell all eight pairs apart in the listening tests, and make the difference.	☐
4	Name a letter in any of its shapes, and count the letters in a word with a gap in it.	☐
5	Read a shuffled fatḥah row, the heavy letters darkening the vowel.	☐
6	Read a mixed-vowel grid with the right vowel every time, without hesitating.	☐

Nothing here is a score and nothing is timed. Each line is either true yet or not true yet. Check it against your own recording; if you are unsure, it is not true yet.

LESSON ONE

The twenty-eight, by family

> **Teaches.** The letters, their names, and their sounds.

The alphabet already comes in families: letters that share one skeleton sit side by side in it and differ only in their dots — ب ت ث, then ج ح خ. So the order below is the alphabet's own, grouped by shape. Learn each skeleton once, then its dots. A recited list is not enough: a letter has to answer when it is pointed at on its own.

THE BOWL

ب	**bā’**	**b**, as in *book*
ت	**tā’**	**t** — the tip of the tongue where the upper front teeth meet the gum
ث	**thā’**	**th**, as in *think*

THE BELLY

ج	**jīm**	**j**, as in *jam*
ح	**ḥā’**	No English equivalent. A hard, breathy whisper, mid-throat
خ	**khā’**	The **ch** of Scottish *loch*

THE TWO SHORT PAIRS

د	**dāl**	**d**, the tongue-tip in the same place as ت
ذ	**dhāl**	**th**, as in *this*
ر	**rā’**	A tapped **r**, as in Spanish *pero*
ز	**zāy**	**z**, as in *zoo*

THE COMBS

س	**sīn**	**s**, as in *sun*
ش	**shīn**	**sh**, as in *shine*

THE HEAVY PAIRS — lesson three returns to these

ص	**ṣād**	A heavy **s** — the tongue humps and the sound darkens
ض	**ḍād**	A heavy **d**, made with the *side* of the tongue
ط	**ṭā’**	A heavy **t**
ظ	**ẓā’**	The heavy twin of ذ

THE THROAT PAIR

ع	**‘ayn**	No English equivalent. A voiced squeeze, mid-throat
غ	**ghayn**	A gargle — close to a French **r**

ONE MORE SHARED SKELETON

ف	**fā’**	**f**
ق	**qāf**	A **k** made far back, against the soft palate

THE SINGLES — standing alone, nothing to confuse them with

ا	**alif**	No sound of its own, so no family. It lengthens a vowel (lesson ten) or holds a hamzah (seven)
ك	**kāf**	**k**
ل	**lām**	**l**
م	**mīm**	**m**
ن	**nūn**	**n**
ه	**hā’**	**h**, as in *hat*
و	**wāw**	**w**
ي	**yā’**	**y**

NOT ONE OF THE TWENTY-EIGHT, BUT READ CONSTANTLY

ء	**hamzah**	The catch in the middle of *uh-oh*, at the very bottom of the throat. A real letter, not a mark

Out loud. ▸ Listen: Q-01-1 Listen once with the page open. Then, eyes closed, put a finger on the drill page; say the name of the letter under it, and check. Out of order, because in order you are reciting a list.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you can name any letter pointed at, out of order — without running the alphabet in your head to get there. Record yourself on the shuffled grids and compare with the recording.

DRILL

The letters, in order and out of it

IN ORDER, ONCE right to left — the only time this book gives them in this order

د	خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	ا
ط	ض	ص	ش	س	ز	ر	ذ
م	ل	ك	ق	ف	غ	ع	ظ
		ي	و	ه	ن		

SHUFFLED — FOUR TIMES the same twenty-eight, never in the same place

د	ت	ه	ق	ط	ز	ح	ا
ف	ض	ر	ج	ي	ل	ع	ش
ث	و	ك	ظ	س	خ	ب	ن
		م	غ	ص	ذ		
ز	ب	ق	س	ت	ك	ش	ث
و	ع	ذ	ي	غ	ر	ا	ف
ض	ح	ن	ط	خ	ه	ظ	د
		ل	ص	ج	م		

DRILL · CONTINUED

The letters, in order and out of it

ا	ع	خ	م	ش	ب	غ	د
ج	ك	ز	ي	ظ	ح	ل	س
ذ	ه	ض	ث	ق	ر	و	ط
		ن	ص	ت	ف		
ش	ي	ض	ب	ظ	ث	غ	ح
ج	ف	خ	ك	ذ	م	ز	ه
ن	س	و	ص	ا	ط	ت	ع
		ق	د	ل	ر		

DOTS ONLY each family shuffled — same skeleton, different dots; say the name

د	ذ	ح	ج	خ	ت	ب	ث
ط	ظ	ص	ض	س	ش	ر	ز
		ف	ق	ع	غ		

LESSON TWO

Where each one is made

> **Teaches.** That every letter has an address in your mouth, and roughly where.

Nobody tells you where an English **d** is made. Here it matters — two letters can be a hand's width apart in the mouth and identical to an untrained ear. The classical scholars mapped seventeen points inside five zones; to begin, you need only know that a letter *has* a place. **The letters here are in a third order — where they are made, throat to lips — so it looks shuffled.** ▶ Listen: Q-02-1 On the recording each letter is named, then sounded after a short *a* (*ab*, *at*). The starting sound only helps you hear where the letter is made; the marks that write it come later in the book.

The throat
الحَلْق

خ غ ح ع ه ء

Three depths — deepest ء and ه, middle ع and ح, nearest the mouth غ and خ. This is the zone English does not have, and the one that gives away whether somebody was taught or is guessing.

SIX LETTERS · THREE DEPTHS

The tongue
اللِّسان

ث ذ ظ س ز ص ت د ط ر ن ل ض ي ش ج ك ق

Ten points and eighteen letters — the back against the soft palate, the middle against the roof, the side against the molars, the tip against the teeth and gums.

EIGHTEEN LETTERS · TEN POINTS

The two lips
الشَّفَتان

م ب و ف

The easiest zone to be lazy in. و needs the lips rounded and not touching; م needs them fully closed. ف is the one exception here: the inside of the lower lip against the tips of the upper front teeth.

FOUR LETTERS

The empty space
الجَوْف

ي و ا

Not a contact point at all — the open cavity where the three long vowels live. و and ي appear here as well as above: each is a consonant in one place and a lengthening in another.

THREE LONG VOWELS

The nose
الخَيْشُوم

No letters of its own. It is where the held *n* and *m* sound of lesson fifteen is made — pinch your nose while you say it, and if nothing changes, it is not there.

NO LETTERS · ONE SOUND

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when, given a letter, you can point to roughly where in the five zones it is made. Roughly is enough here — exact comes from listening and correcting, not from a chart.

DRILL

Where each one is made

THE THROAT deepest, middle, nearest — in that order

خ	غ	ح	ع	ه	ء

THE TONGUE back, middle, side, tip

ن	ل	ض	ي	ش	ج	ك	ق
ظ	س	ز	ص	ت	د	ط	ر
			ث	ذ			

THE TWO LIPS

م	ب	و	ف

THE EMPTY SPACE no contact at all

ي	و	ا

MIXED for each one: which zone? Check yourself against the rows above

ر	ن	س	و	ص	ا	ط	ت
ب	ظ	ث	غ	ح	ق	د	ل
ك	ذ	م	ز	ه	ش	ي	ض
		ع	ج	ف	خ		

DRILL · CONTINUED

Where each one is made

ص	ذ	ث	و	ك	ظ	س	خ
ه	ق	ط	ز	ح	ا	م	غ
ر	ج	ي	ل	ع	ش	د	ت
		ب	ن	ف	ض		
ل	س	ا	ع	خ	م	ش	ب
و	ط	ج	ك	ز	ي	ظ	ح
ت	ف	ذ	ه	ض	ث	ق	ر
		غ	د	ن	ص		

PAIRS PEOPLE CONFUSE say both, twice — then check them against lesson three

غ	خ	ء	ع	ه	ح	ك	ق
س	ث	س	ص	د	ض	ت	ط
			ذ	ظ			

LESSON THREE

The sounds English does not have

> **Teaches.** The eight contrasts that decide whether you sound like you were taught.

An English-speaking mouth arrives with most of the twenty-eight already installed. The rest get quietly swapped for the nearest English sound — and because the swap is *consistent*, it sounds fine to you. This lesson needs your ears more than your eyes, which is why every pair has a recording.

EACH PAIR: THE EASIER SOUND FIRST

▸ Listen: Q-03-1

ه	ح	ه is a breath from the deepest part of the throat. ح is higher, mid-throat: the throat narrows and the sound rasps
ء	ع	ء is a clean stop at the bottom of the throat. ع is higher, mid-throat: squeezed and voiced, not shut
ك	ق	Same kind of sound. ق is made further back, against the soft palate, and is heavy
خ	غ	Same place, and both heavy. خ is voiceless, غ is voiced
ت	ط	ط is heavy. The tongue flattens, the back rises, the vowel after it darkens
س	ص	ص is heavy — the same s, sounded inside a bigger room
د	ض	ض uses the *side* of the tongue against the molars. The hardest letter in Arabic
ذ	ظ	ظ is the heavy twin of ذ, not of ز

THE SAME EIGHT, INSIDE REAL WORDS

▸ Listen: Q-03-2

حِسَابًا 78:27	هُمْ 78:3
عَبَسَ 80:1	أَلَمْ 78:6
قُتِلَ 80:17	كَسَبَ 111:2
غُلْبًا 80:30	خُلِقَ 86:5
بَطْشَ 85:12	تَذْكِرَةٌ 80:11
صَفًّا 89:22	سَبْعًا 78:12
ضَرِيعٍ 88:6	أَدْبَرَ 79:22
يَنظُرُ 78:40	أَنذَرْنَٰكُمْ 78:40

> **Listen to these; do not try to read them yet.** They use marks later lessons teach. Here they are only for the ear: the contrast is the lesson, not the reading.

Out loud — two directions, and you need both. Hearing: the drill page has two listening tests. The recording says one sound from each pair; you write down which, then check the answers at the foot of the page. Most people can produce a ح long before they can reliably *hear* one, and a sound you cannot hear is a sound you cannot fix when you drift. **Producing:** record yourself saying both, back to back, and compare with the recording until they are plainly two sounds and not one sound said twice.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you score eight out of eight on both listening tests, and your own recording of all eight pairs sounds like two different sounds each time. Not perfectly — distinctly.

This is the lesson people quit on. ض takes weeks and there is no trick: it is a movement your mouth has never made. A recording is more honest than your ear in the moment — and when you can, let someone who reads well hear you.

DRILL

The eight pairs

TWO DEPTHS OF THE THROAT the deeper sound first, then the one higher up

ع ء ح ه

THE BACK OF THE MOUTH ك then ق, further back and heavy · خ then غ, both heavy: voiceless, then voiced

غ خ ق ك

LIGHT, THEN HEAVY the light letter first, then its heavy partner

ظ ذ ض د ص س ط ت

REVERSED second sound first now, so the order stops carrying you

خ غ ك ق ء ع ه ح

ذ ظ د ض س ص ت ط

THE SAME SIXTEEN, WITH A FATḤAH a consonant cannot be said alone, so one is lent to you here — the mark itself is lesson five

هَ غَ ذَ قَ دَ عَ سَ حَ

تَ ظَ خَ ضَ كَ صَ ءَ طَ

DRILL · CONTINUED

The eight pairs

قَ	هَ	صَ	خَ	حَ	دَ	غَ	ءَ
ضَ	تَ	عَ	ذَ	طَ	كَ	ظَ	سَ

AS PAIRS AGAIN, OUT LOUD after ق ط ص ض ظ the vowel darkens; the throat and خ / غ pairs differ in depth and voice instead

غَ	خَ	قَ	كَ	عَ	ءَ	حَ	هَ
ظَ	ذَ	ضَ	دَ	صَ	سَ	طَ	تَ

LISTENING TEST A ▶ Listen: Q-03-3 — one sound from each row, in this order; write down which

ت ط	خ غ	ك ق	ء ع	ه ح
	ذ ظ	د ض	س ص	

LISTENING TEST B ▶ Listen: Q-03-4 — the rows in a new order

ك ق	س ص	ه ح	د ض	خ غ
	ت ط	ء ع	ذ ظ	

Answers. Test A — 1 ح · 2 ء · 3 ك · 4 غ · 5 ط · 6 س · 7 ض · 8 ذ. Test B — 1 خ · 2 ض · 3 ح · 4 س · 5 ك · 6 ظ · 7 ء · 8 ط.

LESSON FOUR

One letter, four shapes

Teaches. That a letter changes shape depending on where it stands, and is still the same letter.

Lesson one gave you the letters standing alone — which is the shape they are almost never in. The joined shapes come now, before any vowel, because from the next lesson on almost everything you read is joined. A word can arrive looking like nothing you have seen. It is the same twenty-eight, joined.

ALONE	OPENING	MIDDLE	CLOSING	
ب	بـ	ـبـ	ـب	bāʾ
ج	جـ	ـجـ	ـج	jīm
س	سـ	ـسـ	ـس	sīn
ع	عـ	ـعـ	ـع	ʿayn
ك	كـ	ـكـ	ـك	kāf
م	مـ	ـمـ	ـم	mīm
ه	هـ	ـهـ	ـه	hāʾ
ي	يـ	ـيـ	ـي	yāʾ

The joins are printed grey; the ink is the letter. Joined at the front, نـ and يـ take the bowl's shape — ثـ تـ بـ — and only the dots tell them apart.

One pair fuses. ل followed by ا is written لا, or ـلا when joined from the right. It is still two letters: lām, then alif.

The middle shape is the one that looks unfamiliar: it is the letter with its front and back trimmed so it can hold hands on both sides. The dots always survive; the tails and loops sometimes change a great deal, which is why the drill gives every letter in every shape.

SIX LETTERS NEVER JOIN TO THE LETTER AFTER THEM

ا · د · ذ · ر · ز · و

They join on the right and refuse on the left. That is why words appear to have gaps in the middle of them. **It is not a space. It is a و.**

THE GAP, IN REAL WORDS — count, do not read

مِهَادًا	*after the* د	78:6
بَرْدًا	*after the* ر *and the* د	78:24
أَزْوَاجًا	*after the* أ, ز *and the* و	78:8
أَوْتَادًا	*after the* أ, و, ا *and the* د	78:7

Three shapes you will see before this book explains them. Many words begin اْ: it is an alif, and lesson sixteen says what the small mark does. An alif with a small mark on or under it — إِ أَ — is an alif carrying a hamzah (lesson seven). And some words end ةْ, a hāʾ wearing the two dots of a tāʾ (lesson eighteen). Each counts as one letter.

Out loud. On the drill page, cover the *Alone* column and name each letter from its other shapes; uncover to check. Then count the letters in each word of the last grid and check against the answers at the foot of the sheet. That second drill is what breaks the gap problem.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you can name any letter in every shape it takes, and your letter counts match the answers.

DRILL

One letter, four shapes

NAME THE LETTER, WHATEVER SHAPE IT IS IN cover the first column; uncover to check

ALONE	OPENING	MIDDLE	CLOSING
ب	بـ	ـبـ	ـب
ت	تـ	ـتـ	ـت
ث	ثـ	ـثـ	ـث
ج	جـ	ـجـ	ـج
ح	حـ	ـحـ	ـح
خ	خـ	ـخـ	ـخ
س	سـ	ـسـ	ـس
ش	شـ	ـشـ	ـش
ص	صـ	ـصـ	ـص
ض	ضـ	ـضـ	ـض
ط	طـ	ـطـ	ـط

DRILL · CONTINUED

One letter, four shapes

NAME THE LETTER, WHATEVER SHAPE IT IS IN continued

ALONE	OPENING	MIDDLE	CLOSING
ظ	ظـ	ـظـ	ـظ
ع	عـ	ـعـ	ـع
غ	غـ	ـغـ	ـغ
ف	فـ	ـفـ	ـف
ق	قـ	ـقـ	ـق
ك	كـ	ـكـ	ـك
ل	لـ	ـلـ	ـل
م	مـ	ـمـ	ـم
ن	نـ	ـنـ	ـن
ه	هـ	ـهـ	ـه
ي	يـ	ـيـ	ـي

DRILL · CONTINUED

One letter, four shapes

THE SIX THAT REFUSE TO JOIN ON they have only two shapes

ALONE	JOINED FROM THE RIGHT
ا	ـا
د	ـد
ذ	ـذ
ر	ـر
ز	ـز
و	ـو

LĀM AND ALIF TOGETHER two letters, one fused shape

ALONE	JOINED FROM THE RIGHT
لا	ـلا

One letter, four shapes

SHAPES OUT OF CONTEXT these are fragments, not words — just name the letter

ـفـ	ـيـ	ـمـ	ـكـ	ـهـ	ـعـ	ـسـ	ـبـ
ـشـ	ـغـ	ـلـ	ـصـ	ـتـ	ـنـ	ـجـ	ـقـ
ـظـ	ـطـ	ـضـ	ـحـ	ـخـ			

COUNT THE LETTERS — DO NOT READ THESE YET the gaps inside them are non-connectors, not spaces; numbered right to left

نَوْمَكُمْ	وَجَعَلْنَا	ٱلْأَرْضَ	ٱلْعَظِيمِ
فَتَأْتُونَ	ٱلْفَصْلِ	فَوْقَكُمْ	وَبَنَيْنَا
كَانَتْ	ٱلْجِبَالُ	فَكَانَتْ	وَفُتِحَتِ

Answers. 1) 6 · 2) 5 · 3) 6 · 4) 5 · 5) 6 · 6) 5 · 7) 5 · 8) 6 · 9) 5 · 10) 5 · 11) 6 · 12) 4

LESSON FIVE

Fatḥah — the letter opens

> **Teaches.** The first of the three short vowels.

Until now the letters have had names and shapes but no voice. A letter alone is not a sound you can say — you cannot pronounce a bare ب any more than you can pronounce a bare English **b**. The small mark above it is what turns it into speech. A fatḥah is a short stroke above the letter, and it makes an **a**, as in *cat*. ▶ Listen: Q-05-1

Twenty-seven here, not twenty-eight. ا is missing on purpose and will be missing from every vowel drill in this book. It is a carrier with no sound of its own — there is nothing in it to open, close or round. Lesson ten is where it finally does its job; the hamzah gets its own lesson, seven.

بَ	تَ	ثَ	جَ	حَ	خَ	دَ
ba	ta	tha	ja	ḥa	kha	da
ذَ	رَ	زَ	سَ	شَ	صَ	ضَ
dha	ra	za	sa	sha	ṣa	ḍa
طَ	ظَ	عَ	غَ	فَ	قَ	كَ
ṭa	ẓa	ʿa	gha	fa	qa	ka
لَ	مَ	نَ	هَ	وَ	يَ	
la	ma	na	ha	wa	ya	

Watch the heavy letters. After ق ظ ط ض ص — and after خ غ — the fatḥah is not the **a** of *cat*. It darkens, closer to the **a** of *father*. You do not have to do anything to make that happen; it happens by itself if the letter is genuinely heavy. If your طَ sounds like *ta* and not *ṭa*, the problem is the ط, not the vowel. ر with a fatḥah is heavy too; the tajwīd book gives the rule.

Out loud. Straight down the rows, then the rows shuffled. Slowly. The goal is not speed — it is that no letter needs a pause before it while you remember which one it is. Record the shuffled rows and compare with the recording.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you can read a shuffled fatḥah row aloud, correctly, without stopping to work a letter out — and on your recording the heavy letters audibly darken their vowel.

DRILL

Fatḥah, everywhere

ALL TWENTY-SEVEN

بَ	تَ	ثَ	جَ	حَ	خَ	دَ	ذَ
رَ	زَ	سَ	شَ	صَ	ضَ	طَ	ظَ
عَ	غَ	فَ	قَ	كَ	لَ	مَ	نَ
هَ	وَ	يَ					

SHUFFLED, TWICE

بَ	خَ	سَ	ظَ	كَ	وَ	جَ	رَ
ضَ	فَ	نَ	تَ	دَ	شَ	عَ	لَ
يَ	حَ	زَ	طَ	قَ	هَ	ثَ	ذَ
صَ	غَ	مَ					

حَ	شَ	فَ	وَ	خَ	صَ	قَ	يَ
دَ	ضَ	كَ	بَ	ذَ	طَ	لَ	تَ
رَ	ظَ	مَ	ثَ	زَ	عَ	نَ	جَ
سَ	غَ	هَ					

DRILL · CONTINUED

Fatḥah, everywhere

TWO AT A TIME joined, and not words — that is the point

بَدَ	ذَنَ	غَرَ	مَرَ	وَنَ	تَهَ
زَرَ	قَبَ	نَذَ	يَذَ	جَدَ	سَوَ
كَوَ	هَدَ	يَنَ	خَرَ	عَذَ	مَتَ
وَرَ	بَوَ	رَقَ	فَقَ	مَوَ	يَثَ
	ثَوَ	سَقَ			
كَذَ	نَهَ	يَلَ	جَوَ	صَوَ	لَرَ
وَدَ	بَرَ	رَتَ	فَذَ	مَزَ	وَوَ
تَوَ	زَوَ	قَرَ	نَزَ	يَرَ	جَرَ
شَدَ	لَدَ	هَذَ	يَوَ	دَوَ	عَوَ
	مَدَ	وَزَ			

DRILL · CONTINUED

Fatḥah, everywhere

تَمَ	رَكَ	فَوَ	نَتَ	يَدَ	جَتَ
سَمَ	كَرَ	نَوَ	يَمَ	حَدَ	عَدَ
لَزَ	وَذَ	بَكَ	رَضَ	فَرَ	مَهَ
يَتَ	ثَرَ	سَرَ	قَوَ	نَكَ	يَكَ
		جَهَ	صَدَ		

THREE AT A TIME still not words — read straight through, no pausing

بَرَتَ	خَلَهَ	فَتَوَ	كَوَهَ	مَوَمَ
يَحَتَ	جَوَنَ	طَعَذَ	قَسَنَ	لَهَرَ
وَسَوَ	بِيَوَ	سَبَرَ	فَلَدَ	لَرَوَ
نَقَتَ	يِنَهَ	خَرَجَ		

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

كَرَ	كَوَ	وَسَوَ	نَزَ	لَ	يَتَ	يَثَ	جَ

LESSON SIX

Kasrah and ḍammah

Teaches. The other two short vowels, and then all three mixed.

Three marks, and the letters start to sound like the words you have been standing in prayer with. **Fatḥah** is a stroke *above* — **a**. **Kasrah** is the same stroke *below* — **i**, as in *sit*. **Ḍammah** is a small و above — **u**, as in *put*. The position tells you the sound. There is nothing else to it and there are no exceptions. ▸ Listen: Q-06-1

KASRAH

بِ bi	تِ ti	ثِ thi	جِ ji	حِ ḥi	خِ khi	دِ di
ذِ dhi	رِ ri	زِ zi	سِ si	شِ shi	صِ ṣi	ضِ ḍi
طِ ṭi	ظِ ẓi	عِ ʿi	غِ ghi	فِ fi	قِ qi	كِ ki
لِ li	مِ mi	نِ ni	هِ hi	وِ wi	يِ yi	

ḌAMMAH

بُ bu	تُ tu	ثُ thu	جُ ju	حُ ḥu	خُ khu	دُ du
ذُ dhu	رُ ru	زُ zu	سُ su	شُ shu	صُ ṣu	ضُ ḍu
طُ ṭu	ظُ ẓu	عُ ʿu	غُ ghu	فُ fu	قُ qu	كُ ku
لُ lu	مُ mu	نُ nu	هُ hu	وُ wu	يُ yu	

ALL THREE, ONE LETTER AT A TIME

بَ	بِ	بُ	ba · bi · bu
جَ	جِ	جُ	ja · ji · ju
سَ	سِ	سُ	sa · si · su
عَ	عِ	عُ	ʿa · ʿi · ʿu
قَ	قِ	قُ	qa · qi · qu
مَ	مِ	مُ	ma · mi · mu

AND MIXED, AT RANDOM — this is the drill that matters

كِ ki	تُ tu	مَ ma	شِ shi	دُ du	حَ ḥa
رِ ri	ظُ ẓu	نَ na	فِ fi	بُ bu	ثَ tha
صِ ṣi	لُ lu	عَ ʿa	زِ zi	طُ ṭu	هَ ha

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you can read a mixed-vowel grid aloud with the correct vowel every time — no hesitation before the letter, and no drift toward whichever vowel came last. Check your recording against the mixed grid's.

You have now finished part one. You can produce every sound in the Qur'an and you know what the letters look like joined. What you cannot do yet is read whole words, which is the whole of part two.

DRILL

Three vowels, mixed

KASRAH

بِ	تِ	ثِ	جِ	حِ	خِ	دِ	ذِ
رِ	زِ	سِ	شِ	صِ	ضِ	طِ	ظِ
عِ	غِ	فِ	قِ	كِ	لِ	مِ	نِ
هِ	وِ	يِ					

ḌAMMAH

بُ	تُ	ثُ	جُ	حُ	خُ	دُ	ذُ
رُ	زُ	سُ	شُ	صُ	ضُ	طُ	ظُ
عُ	غُ	فُ	قُ	كُ	لُ	مُ	نُ
هُ	وُ	يُ					

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

جِ	سَ	فُذَ	زُ	خِرُ	عِ	تَ	دُوَ

DRILL · CONTINUED

Three vowels, mixed

ONE LETTER, ALL THREE

بَ	بِ	بُ	جَ	جِ	جُ	سَ	سِ
سُ	عَ	عِ	عُ	قَ	قِ	قُ	مَ
مِ	مُ	نَ	نِ	نُ	فَ	فِ	فُ
كَ	كِ	كُ					

MIXED AT RANDOM no pattern to lean on

بَ	خِ	سُ	ظَ	كِ	وُ	جَ	رِ
ضُ	فَ	نِ	تُ	دَ	شِ	عُ	لَ
يِ	حُ	زَ	طِ	قُ	هَ	ثِ	ذُ
صَ	غِ	مُ					
دِ	غُ	تَ	صِ	نُ	ذَ	فِ	ثُ
ضَ	هِ	رُ	قَ	جِ	طُ	وَ	زِ
كُ	حَ	ظِ	يُ	سَ	لِ	خُ	عَ
بِ	شُ	مَ					

DRILL · CONTINUED

Three vowels, mixed

TWO AT A TIME not words

بِدُ	ذِنُ	غِرُ	مِرُ	وِنُ	تِهُ
زِرُ	قِبُ	نِذُ	يِذُ	جِدُ	سِوُ
كِوُ	هِدُ	يِنُ	خِرُ	عِذُ	مِتُ
وِرُ	بِوُ	رِقُ	فِقُ	مِوُ	يِثُ
		ثِوُ	سِقُ		
كُذَ	نهَ	يُلَ	جُوَ	صُوَ	لُرَ
وُدَ	بُرَ	رُتَ	فُذَ	مُزَ	ووَ
تُوَ	زُوَ	قُرَ	نُزَ	يُرَ	جُرَ
شُدَ	لُدَ	هُذَ	يُوَ	دُوَ	عُوَ
		مُدَ	وُزَ		

PART TWO

Reading words

Lessons seven to seventeen. Part one gave you every sound and every shape. This part turns them into reading — and it is the part people most often rush, because the letters feel finished and they are not.

What you will be able to do

Eleven lessons. This is the part that turns letters into reading. Take it slowly — it is the one people most often hurry through.

7	Read a hamzah on any seat as the same catch in the throat, never sounding the seat.	☐
8	Read an unseen three-letter word, joined, without working through it letter by letter.	☐
9	Read all three tanwīn endings, and never sound the silent seat-alif.	☐
10	Hold a long vowel for two counts, and read the small standing alif as a full one.	☐
11	Hold a long vowel under the wavy line longer — the same length every time.	☐
12	Read the dotless yāʾ, lām-alif, the small wāw and yāʾ, and a bare nūn or mīm.	☐
13	Cut a sākin letter clean, and bounce the five without adding a vowel.	☐
14	Read aw and ay as glides rather than long vowels.	☐
15	Hold every doubled letter, with the ghunnah passing the pinched-nose test.	☐
16	Read ال correctly against unseen words, deciding from the page.	☐
17	Begin and continue any word that starts with the small-marked alif.	☐

Nothing here is a score and nothing is timed. Each line is either true yet or not true yet. Check it against your own recording; if you are unsure, it is not true yet.

LESSON SEVEN

Hamzah and its seats

> **Teaches.** The hamzah ء, and the seats it is written on.

Lesson one gave you ء as a letter of its own — the catch in the middle of *uh-oh*. You will rarely see it standing alone. Most of the time it is written **sitting on a seat**: an alif, a wāw, or a small tooth shaped like a yāʾ with no dots. **The seat is not pronounced.** You say the hamzah and the vowel on it, and nothing else. ▸ Listen: Q-07-1

THE HAMZAH SITS	WHAT YOU SEE	SAY
on an alif, above	أُ أَ	ʾa · ʾu
on an alif, below	إِ	ʾi
on a wāw	وَ وُ	ʾu · ʾa
on a tooth with no dots	ـئـ يِ ئِ	ʾi
on the line, with no seat	ءِ ءَ	ʾa · ʾi
on a short stroke, mid-word	سَ ـَٔ ـَ	saʾa

> **So an alif still has no sound of its own.** When a word begins أَ, it was never the alif making the *a*: it was the hamzah on it, with its fatḥah. An alif with a hamzah on it is a hamzah. A plain alif, with nothing on it, is the lengthening letter of lesson ten.

IN REAL WORDS

أَذِنَ	*adhina*	78:38
أَمَرَ	*amara*	96:12
إِرَمَ	*irama*	89:7
قُرِئَ	*quri'a*	84:21
أَمِ	*ami*	79:27

The seat changes with the vowels around it — that is a spelling rule, and you do not need it to read. Whatever the seat, the sound is the same catch in the throat. The last row of the table is how this muṣḥaf prints a hamzah in the middle of some words: a small ء on a short stroke. It is read exactly like the others.

Do not swallow it. English drops this catch between vowels without noticing; Arabic never does.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you read a hamzah on any seat as the same catch in the throat, with its vowel, and never sound the seat.

DRILL

Hamzah, on every seat

THE SEATS the seat is silent — say only the catch and its vowel

أَ	أُ	إِ	وُ	وَ	يِ	ءَ	ءِ
			ءُ				
أُ	يِ	أَ	وَ	ءُ	وُ	ءِ	إِ
			ءَ				

HAMZAH FIRST, THEN A LETTER not words

أَبَ	أُمِ	إِجُ	أَسَ	أُفِ	إِدُ
أَلَ	أُعِ	إِتُ	أَنَ	أُحِ	إِكُ
		أَقَ			
إِكُ	أُجَ	أَلِ	إِحُ	أُمَ	أَدِ
إِنُ	أُبَ	أَفِ	إِتُ	أُقَ	أَسِ
		إِعُ			

DRILL · CONTINUED

Hamzah, on every seat

A LETTER, THEN HAMZAH not words — the seat changes; the sound does not

بَأَ	سَأَ	كَأَ	لَأَ	مَأَ	نَأَ
فَأَ	قَأَ	عَأَ	بُؤَ	سُؤَ	لُؤَ
مُؤَ	نُؤَ	فُؤَ	بِئَ	سِئَ	لِئَ
مِئَ	نِئَ	فِئَ			

ON THE SHORT STROKE this muṣḥaf's way of writing some hamzahs mid-word

بَـَٔلَ	سَـَٔمَ	فَـَٔدَ	مَـَٔرَ	لَـَٔنَ	كَـَٔسَ
نَـَٔكَ	تَـَٔبَ				

REAL WORDS

أَذِنَ	فَأَخَذَهُ	أَمِ	قُرِئَ
إِرَمَ	إِذِ	أَمَرَ	

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

أَسَ	إِعُ	نِئَ	أُحِ	فَأَ	كَـَٔسَ

LESSON EIGHT

The first real words

Teaches. Reading a whole word, joined, unprompted.

Nine words. Every one is a real word from Juz ʿAmma, every one is exactly three letters, and every letter carries a plain short vowel — no long vowels, no sukūn, no shaddah, nothing you have not been taught. **This is the first page where you read the Qur'an's own words for yourself.** ▸ Listen: Q-08-1

عَبَسَ *ʿabasa* 80:1	رَفَعَ *rafaʿa* 79:28	فَعَلَ *faʿala* 89:6
جَمَعَ *jamaʿa* 104:2	كَسَبَ *kasaba* 111:2	حَسَدَ *ḥasada* 113:5
بَخِلَ *bakhila* 92:8	قُتِلَ *qutila* 80:17	خُلِقَ *khuliqa* 86:5

The small words underneath are transliterations, and they are scaffolding — cover them as soon as you can. What is above them is the Book.

Out loud. Each word slowly, letter by letter first — *ʿa · ba · sa* — then joined at normal speed. Then the nine shuffled, and finally the words on the drill page you have not been given. Record the nine and compare with the recording.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you can read an **unseen** three-letter word, joined, at a normal pace, without working through it letter by letter.

That gate is a milestone and it should be named as one. The goal at the end of this book asks for exactly this against harder material. If you can do it here, the rest of the book is detail.

DRILL

Three letters at a time

THE NINE, SHUFFLED no transliteration this time

كَسَبَ	عَبَسَ	قُتِلَ	فَعَلَ	خُلِقَ
حَسَدَ	رَفَعَ	بَخِلَ	جَمَعَ	

NOW ONES THAT ARE NOT WORDS you cannot recognise these — you have to read them

عَيَرَ	كَلَهَ	مَنَتَ	وَيَدَ	جَعَرَ
صَوَدَ	قَرَبَ	لَمَدَ	هَوَلَ	بَوَنَ
ذَلَمَ	فَعَوَ	لَدَرَ	نَشَرَ	يَقَدَ
	حَيَفَ	عَوَدَ	كَفَرَ	
مُرِكَ	وُنِهَ	تُوِرَ	شُرِبَ	فُيِلَ
لُكِذَ	هُلِقَ	بُعِلَ	دُيِلَ	فُسِبَ
لُتِبَ	نُبِدَ	يُسِنَ	حُسِنَ	عُلِهَ
	كُتِرَ	لُيِلَ	وُلِرَ	

DRILL · CONTINUED

Three letters at a time

تِعَذُ	سِيَدُ	فِوَفُ	لِعَرُ	نِوَفُ
بِرَهُ	خِيَفُ	جِفَوُ	كِيَلُ	مِيَدُ
يِدَوُ	حِبَرُ	طِعَوُ	قِوَرُ	لِوَفُ
	وِعَوُ	تِحَفُ	سِجَرُ	
فَلُمِ	لَسُمِ	نَمُدِ	يَوُرِ	خَرُوِ
عَيُمِ	كَوُرِ	مَنُوِ	وَيُوِ	جَوُدِ
صَوُلِ	قَرُكِ	لَنُتِ	هَوُهِ	بِيُرِ
	رَبُرِ	فَقُوِ	لَذُبِ	

REAL THREE-LETTER WORDS YOU HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN some you will know; read them anyway rather than remembering them

أَذِنَ	وَهُوَ	وَسَقَ	قُرِئَ	صُحُفِ
إِرَمَ	وَلَدَ	أَمَرَ	يَكُنِ	فَهُوَ
	وَقَبَ	مَلِكِ		

LESSON NINE

Tanwīn

> **Teaches.** The doubled vowel at the end of a word, and the silent alif that sits under one of them.

Tanwīn is the short vowel written twice, and it adds an **n** to the end of the word. That is all it is, and it only ever happens at the end of a word. ▶ Listen: Q-09-1

بً	fatḥatayn	says **-an**
بٍ	kasratayn	says **-in**
بٌ	ḍammatayn	says **-un**

The one trap. Fatḥatayn is almost always written on an alif — ـًا — and **that alif is silent**. It is a seat for the mark, not a sound. أَبَدًا is *abadan*, not *abadā*. This catches every single beginner, and it catches them for months if nobody says it out loud.

FATḤATAYN

إِذًا 79:12 · وَعِنَبًا 80:28 · طَبَقًا 84:19 · صُحُفًا 98:2 · أَبَدًا 98:8 · كُفُوًا 112:4

KASRATAYN

صُحُفٍ 80:13 · طَبَقٍ 84:19 · كَبَدٍ 90:4 · عَلَقٍ 96:2

ḌAMMATAYN

سُرُرٌ 88:13 · قَسَمٌ 89:5 · أَحَدٌ 89:25 · كُتُبٌ 98:3

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you read all three tanwīn endings correctly and never pronounce the seat-alif of fatḥatayn as a long vowel. Listen to your recording for that alif in particular.

DRILL

Tanwīn

FATḤATAYN ON ITS SEAT every one ends -an; not one ends in a long ā

بًا	تًا	ثًا	جًا	حًا	خًا
دًا	ذًا	رًا	زًا	سًا	شًا
صًا	ضًا	طًا	ظًا	عًا	غًا
فًا	قًا	كًا	لًا	مًا	نًا
		هًا	وًا	يًا	

KASRATAYN

بٍ	خٍ	سٍ	ظٍ	كٍ	وٍ	جٍ	رٍ
ضٍ	فٍ	نٍ	تٍ	دٍ	شٍ	عٍ	لٍ
يٍ	حٍ	زٍ	طٍ	قٍ	هٍ	ثٍ	ذٍ
		صٍ	غٍ	مٍ			

DRILL · CONTINUED

Tanwīn

ḌAMMATAYN

جٌ	سٌ	غٌ	هٌ	حٌ	شٌ	فٌ	وٌ
خٌ	صٌ	قٌ	يٌ	دٌ	ضٌ	كٌ	بٌ
ذٌ	طٌ	لٌ	تٌ	رٌ	ظٌ	مٌ	ثٌ
		زٌ	عٌ	نٌ			

REAL WORDS every tanwīn word in the juz you can already read whole

إِذًا	صُحُفٍ	وَعِنَبًا	طَبَقًا
طَبَقٍ	سُرُرٌ	قَسَمٌ	أَحَدٌ
كَبَدٍ	عَلَقٍ	صُحُفًا	كُتُبٌ
أَبَدًا	عَمَدٍ	لَهَبٍ	كُفُوًا

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

جًا	جٌ	ظَثًا	نًا	رٌ	ذِبٍ	يٍ	طَعًا
صًا	صٌ	بِنٍ	وٍ	ضَجًا	تًا	غٍ	خَذًا

DRILL · CONTINUED

Tanwīn

TWO SYLLABLES, THE SECOND WITH TANWĪN not words

جَرًا	رَقًا	ضَجًا	فَطًا	نَوًا
تَزًا	دَكًا	شَحًا	عَظًا	لَيًا
يَسًا	حَلًا	زَخًا	طَعًا	قَبًا
هَشًا	ثَمًا	ذَدًا	صَغًا	غَتًا
مَصًا	بَنًا	خَذًا	سَفًا	ظَثًا
كَضًا	وَهًا			

ثِدٍ	ظِضٍ	تِكٍ	طِثٍ	بِزٍ	ضِعٍ
يِنٍ	صِخٍ	وِصٍ	شِقٍ	هِتٍ	سِرٍ
نِظٍ	زِمٍ	مِحٍ	رِشٍ	لِفٍ	ذِبٍ
كِذٍ	دِطٍ	قِلٍ	نِجٍ	فِسٍ	حِغٍ
غِهٍ					

LESSON TEN

The long vowels

> **Teaches.** That a long vowel is its short vowel *held*, and the small alif that is said but not written full size.

Each short vowel has a long partner, and the long one is not a different sound. It is the same sound held for about twice as long — two counts. Say *ba*, then say *ba* and do not stop — that is *bā*. ▶ Listen: Q-10-1

SHORT		LONG		MADE BY
بَ	ba	بَا	bā	fatḥah followed by ا
بِ	bi	بِي	bī	kasrah followed by ي
بُ	bu	بُو	bū	ḍammah followed by و

The pattern is exact: the letter that lengthens always matches the vowel before it. If they do not match, it is not a long vowel — it is something else, and lesson fourteen is about that.

IN REAL WORDS

كَانَ	*kāna*	78:17
يَقُولُ	*yaqūlu*	89:24
فِيهِ	*fīhi*	78:3
يَذُوقُونَ	*yadhūqūna*	78:24
قَرِيبًا	*qarīban*	78:40
قُلُوبٌ	*qulūbun*	79:8
حِسَابًا	*ḥisāban*	78:27

THE SMALL STANDING ALIF

Sometimes the alif is written as a tiny vertical stroke above the letter instead of full size beside it — بٰ. It is said exactly like a full alif. It is not a decoration and it is not optional.

ذَٰلِكَ كِتَٰبٌ هَٰذَا إِلَٰهَ

78:39 78:29 83:17 114:3

It sits on some of the commonest words in the Qur'an — ذَٰلِكَ *dhālika*, هَٰذَا *hādhā* — and on the name of Allah's mercy in the basmalah.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you hold every long vowel for about two counts — plainly longer than a short vowel, and not stretched further — and read the small standing alif as a full one.

You have just done your first piece of tajwīd. How long a vowel is held is a measured thing; the next lesson shows the one sign that asks for longer, and the tajwīd book gives each length its name. For now: two counts, and check them against the recording.

DRILL

Short, then long

HELD TWICE AS LONG say the short one, then the long one, back to back

ثَا	ثَ	تَا	تَ	بَا	بَ
خَا	خَ	حَا	حَ	جَا	جَ
رَا	رَ	ذَا	ذَ	دَا	دَ
شَا	شَ	سَا	سَ	زَا	زَ
	ضَا	ضَ	صَا	صَ	

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

زُو	وِي	رَ	تُو	غَا	تَا
زَا	ذُو	زِي	جَ	رِي	كَا
جِي	حَا	خُو	نَا	ظُو	قِي
شُو	يَا	لُو	ضِي	شَ	ضُو
تَ	ذِي	صَا	قُو	هِي	دَ

DRILL · CONTINUED

Short, then long

ALL THREE LENGTHENINGS the letter always matches the vowel before it

بَا	خَا	سَا	ظَا	كَا	وَا
جَا	رَا	ضَا	فَا	نَا	تَا
دَا	شَا	عَا	لَا	يَا	حَا
زَا	طَا	قَا	هَا	ثَا	ذَا
صَا	غَا	مَا			

ثِي	زِي	عِي	نِي	جِي	سِي
غِي	هِي	حِي	شِي	فِي	وِي
خِي	صِي	قِي	يِي	دِي	ضِي
كِي	بِي	ذِي	طِي	لِي	تِي
رِي	ظِي	مِي			

DRILL · CONTINUED

Short, then long

خُو	عُو	بُو	شُو	مُو	دُو
غُو	تُو	صُو	نُو	ذُو	فُو
ثُو	ضُو	هُو	رُو	قُو	جُو
طُو	وُو	زُو	كُو	حُو	ظُو
يُو	سُو	لُو			

REAL WORDS two counts on every long vowel

فِيهِ	سُبَاتًا	لِبَاسًا	مَعَاشًا
شِدَادًا	سِرَاجًا	وَنَبَاتًا	كَانَ
سَرَابًا	مَئَابًا	يَذُوقُونَ	فِيهَا
شَرَابًا	حَمِيمًا	وِفَاقًا	حِسَابًا
	عَذَابًا	مَفَازًا	

DRILL · CONTINUED

Short, then long

THE SMALL STANDING ALIF said exactly like a full one

مِهَادًا	مِيقَٰتًا	بِـَٔايَٰتِنَا	كِتَٰبٌۢ
ذَٰلِكَ	تُرَٰبًا	عِظَٰمًا	مَتَٰعٌۢ
لَحَٰفِظِينَ	كَٰتِبِينَ	كِتَٰبَ	ءَايَٰتُنَا
أَسَٰطِيرُ	هَٰذَا	حَٰفِظِينَ	فَمُلَٰقِيهِ

AND THE TANWĪN WORDS FROM LESSON NINE you could not finish these before; now you can

سَرَابًا	شَرَابًا	وِفَاقًا	عَذَابًا
مَفَازًا	مَـَٔابًا	سَعِيرًا	نَارًا
أَثِيمٍ	نَعِيمٍ	كَادِحٌ	بِعَذَابٍ
أَلِيمٍ	شَهِيدٌ	لَشَدِيدٌ	طَعَامٌ
وَلَيَالٍ	بِعَادٍ	عَذَابٍ	سَلَمٌ

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

هَا	غُو	ذَا	فِي	وُو	ظَا

The wavy line

> **Teaches.** The wavy line over a long vowel — بَآءَ — which means: hold it longer than two counts.

Without this sign, a long vowel is two counts — the last lesson. Sometimes the muṣḥaf puts a small wavy line over it. **That line means hold it longer.** In the recitation this book follows, teachers allow four or five, and **this book uses four counts**. Keep to it everywhere: the mistake is being four in one place and two in the next.

▶ Listen: Q-11-1

1 · INSIDE A WORD, BEFORE A HAMZAH

The commonest place. A long vowel followed by a hamzah in the *same* word is always held long.

جَآءَ	شَآءَ	وَرَآءَ	مَآءً	جَزَآءً	عَطَآءً	غُثَآءً
110:1	78:39	84:10	78:14	78:26	78:36	87:5

2 · AT THE END OF A WORD, BECAUSE OF THE NEXT ONE

When the next word begins with a hamzah, the long vowel at the end of this one carries the line too:

فِيهَآ أَبَدًا

98:8

This one belongs to the pair. Stop on فِيهَآ, and the next word no longer follows it: the line no longer applies, and it is a plain two counts.

3 · BEFORE A DOUBLED OR A STOPPED LETTER

Longer still — six counts — when the letter after the long vowel carries a shaddah or a sukūn. You will meet it after lesson fifteen.

> **The rule you need today is short.** No wavy line: two counts. A wavy line: four counts, the same every time. One thing comes later: where you stop at the end of an āyah, a long vowel before the last letter can be held longer. The tajwīd book teaches that, and the measure of each lengthening.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when every long vowel without the line is two counts, every one with it is four counts, and your recording keeps the same length from the first word to the last.

DRILL

Two counts, and longer

PLAIN, THEN WITH THE WAVY LINE the first two counts; the second four counts — not words

بَارَ	بَآءَ	جَالَ	جَآءَ	شَادَ
شَآءَ	سَانَ	سَآءَ	مَاكَ	مَآءَ
نَارَ	نَآءَ	رَامَ	رَآءَ	لَادَ
لَآءَ	كَالَ	كَآءَ	فَانَ	فَآءَ

MIXED decide from the page, every time

ثَآءَ	زَالِ	عَآءُ	نَآءَ	خَاكِ
صَآءُ	قَآءَ	تَالِ	رَآءُ	ظَآءَ
مَاكِ	حَآءُ	شَآءَ	فَالِ	بَآءُ
ذَآءَ	طَاكِ	لَآءُ		

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

جَآءَ	عَآءُ	قُوٓءُ	رَامَ	فَالِ

DRILL · CONTINUED

Two counts, and longer

حُورَ	ذُوٓءِ	سُودُ	ضُوٓءَ	عُوكِ
قُوٓءُ	مُورَ	بُوٓءِ	جُودُ	دُوٓءَ
زُوكِ	صُوٓءُ			

REAL WORDS the line is inside the word: always long

يَتَسَآءَلُونَ	مَآءً	جَزَآءً	حَدَآئِقَ
عَطَآءً	شَآءَ	مَآءَهَا	جَآءَتِ
جَآءَهُ	جَآءَكَ	وَحَدَآئِقَ	تَشَآءُونَ
يَشَآءَ	بِغَآئِبِينَ	وَرَآءَ	غُثَآءً
وَجَآءَ	حُنَفَآءَ	يُرَآءُونَ	جَآءَ

AND PLAIN LONG VOWELS BESIDE THEM no line: two counts, no more

مَئَابًا	بِـَٔايَٰتِنَا	أَءِذَا	فَإِذَا
وَءَاثَرَ	إِذَا	أَخِيهِ	وَأَبِيهِ
وَإِذَا	أَمِينٍ	رَءَاهُ	أَثِيمٍ

Letters the muṣḥaf writes its own way

> **Teaches.** Five ways the muṣḥaf prints a letter that the alphabet chart never showed you.

Nothing on this page is a new sound. Each is a letter you know, written the way the muṣḥaf writes it.

▶ Listen: Q-12-1

1 · THE YĀʾ AT THE END OF A WORD HAS NO DOTS

The muṣḥaf drops the two dots of a final yāʾ: ى. It is still a yāʾ — a long **ī** after a kasrah, or a consonant **y** when it carries a vowel. After a fatḥah, this final ى is read as a long **ā**, as in ٱلْأَعْلَى.

فِي ذِى لَفِى هِىَ أُوتِىَ

78:18 81:20 82:13 79:13 84:7

2 · WITH A SMALL STANDING ALIF ON IT: Ā

ىٰ — the dotless yāʾ carrying the small alif of lesson ten — is read as a long **ā**, not ī.

عَلَىٰ طَغَىٰ سَعَىٰ يَرَىٰ

83:14 79:17 79:35 79:36

3 · LĀM-ALIF

لا is lām then alif, fused (lesson four). With a fatḥah on the lām it is **lā**.

لَا وَلَا أَلَا

78:27 78:24 83:4

4 · THE SMALL WĀW AND THE SMALL YĀʾ

A tiny ـو or ـے after a letter — almost always after ـُه or ـِه at the end of a word — is read like a full one: a long **ū** or **ī**, two counts. Where the hāʾ has no small letter after it, its vowel stays short.

لَهُۥ ذَكَرَهُۥ خَلَقَهُۥ بِهِۦ وَصَٰحِبَتِهِۦ

80:6 80:12 80:18 78:15 80:36

5 · A NŪN OR MĪM WITH NO MARK AT ALL

Every letter so far has carried something. A ن or م printed bare has no vowel, and it is not cut off either: say a soft *n* or *m* through the nose and run straight into the next letter. The muṣḥaf leaves the mark off on purpose, because the sound is being hidden in, or merged with, what follows. **One exception:** when the next letter is a ل or ر with a shaddah, a bare ن is not said at all. Go straight to the doubled letter, with nothing through the nose.

أَنتَ كُنتُ يَنظُرُ هُم

79:43 79:40 78:40 79:14

The tajwīd book names each of these cases and times them. For now: no mark, no clean stop — glide on.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you read each of the five correctly in a word you have not seen: the dotless yāʾ as ī or y, or as ā after a fatḥah, with the small alif as ā, lām-alif as lā, the small wāw and yāʾ as long vowels, and a bare nūn or mīm as a soft sound that runs on, or a nūn gone entirely before a doubled lām or rāʾ.

DRILL

The muṣḥaf's own spellings

THE DOTLESS YĀʾ ī after a kasrah; y when it carries a vowel

فِى	هِىَ	طُوًى	ذِى
لَفِى	وَفِى	أُوتِىَ	لِحَيَاتِى
عِبَدِىْ	خَشِىَ	وَلِىَ	أَبِى

WITH THE SMALL ALIF always ā

إِلَىٰ	أَتَىٰكَ	نَادَىٰهُ	طَغَىٰ
فَأَرَىٰهُ	وَعَصَىٰ	فَنَادَىٰ	بَنَىٰهَا
ضُحَىٰهَا	سَعَىٰ	يَرَىٰ	عَلَىٰ
فَهَدَىٰ	وَمُوسَىٰ	وَضُحَىٰهَا	تَلَّىٰهَا
	طَحَىٰهَا	سَجَىٰ	

LĀM-ALIF lām, then alif

وَلَا	لَا	أَلَا	هَٰؤُلَآءِ
فَلَا	أَفَلَا	لِأَحَدٍ	لِإِيلَٰفِ

DRILL · CONTINUED

The muṣḥaf's own spellings

THE SMALL WĀW AND YĀʾ a full long vowel, two counts

بِهِۦ	لَهُۥ	ذَكَرَهُۥ	خَلَقَهُۥ
أَمَاتَهُۥ	أَنشَرَهُۥ	أَمَرَهُۥ	وَصَٰحِبَتِهِۦ
خِتَٰمُهُۥ	وَمِزَاجُهُۥ	كِتَٰبَهُۥ	بِيَمِينِهِۦ
فَجَعَلَهُۥ	مَالَهُۥ	عِندَهُۥ	نَادِيَهُۥ
	يَرَهُۥ	مَوَٰزِينُهُۥ	

A BARE NŪN OR MĪM soft, through the nose, straight into the next letter (a nūn is gone before a doubled lām or rāʾ)

يُنفَخُ	فَلَن	فَمَن	يَنظُرُ
كُنتُ	هُم	أَن	لِمَن
مَن	أَنتَ	مُنذِرُ	فَتَنفَعَهُ

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

ذِى	وَلَا	فَلَن	فَأَرَبَهُۥ
أَنشَرَهُۥ	طُوًى	سَجَىٰ	يُنفَخُ

LESSON THIRTEEN

Sukūn

Teaches. The mark that means *no vowel here*, and the five letters that bounce when it lands on them.

A sukūn is a small mark above a letter, shaped like the head of a little حْ — بْ — and it means the letter has no vowel. You say the consonant and stop; it closes the syllable. A letter carrying a sukūn is called **sākin**. This is what lets syllables stack into real words: أَلَمْ is *alam*, not *alama*. ▶ Listen: Q-13-1

In some printed copies the sukūn is a small round circle. In this book, as in the Madinah muṣḥaf, a round circle means something else entirely (lesson eighteen) — so look at the shape.

THE PLAIN SUKŪN

أَلَمْ	*alam*	78:6
هُمْ	*hum*	78:3
كَانَتْ	*kānat*	78:21
تِلْكَ	*tilka*	79:12
سَبْعًا	*sabʿan*	78:12
أَمْرًا	*amran*	79:5
بَرْدًا	*bardan*	78:24
يَسْمَعُونَ	*yasmaʿūna*	78:35

THE FIVE THAT BOUNCE

ق · ط · ب · ج · د

When a sukūn lands on one of these five, the letter cannot simply be stopped — it comes with a small audible rebound, like the **b** at the end of English *cab* said sharply.

أُقْسِمُ	*the* ق	81:15
بَطْشَ	*the* ط	85:12
سَبْعًا	*the* ب	78:12
نَجْعَلِ	*the* ج	78:6
أَدْبَرَ	*the* د	79:22
يُولَدْ	*the* د *again, at the end of the word*	112:3

The bounce is not a vowel. This is the whole difficulty. يُولَدْ ends with a rebound on the **d**; it does not end in *-di* or *-du*. If someone can hear which vowel you added, you have added one — and so can you, on a recording.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you cut a sākin letter cleanly with no vowel leaking after it, and the five bounce audibly without picking up a vowel.

DRILL

Sukūn — the letter stops

CLOSED SYLLABLES not words; cut the second letter clean

بَدْ	ذَنْ	غَرْ	مَرْ	وَنْ	تَهْ
زَرْ	قَبْ	نَذْ	يَذْ	جَدْ	هَدْ
يَنْ	خَرْ	عَذْ	مَتْ	وَرْ	رَقْ
	فَقْ	يَثْ	سَقْ	كَذْ	
نِهْ	يِلْ	لِرْ	وِدْ	بِرْ	رِتْ
فِذْ	مِزْ	قِرْ	نِزْ	يِرْ	جِرْ
شِدْ	لِدْ	هِذْ	مِدْ	وِزْ	تِمْ
		رِكْ			

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

مَرْ	وِزْ	تَدْ	سَقْ	يُتْ	غَرْ
مِدْ	تَجْ	يَثْ	مُهْ	ذَنْ	هِذْ

DRILL · CONTINUED

Sukūn — the letter stops

نتْ	يدْ	جتْ	سمْ	كرْ	يمْ
حدْ	عدْ	لزْ	وذْ	بكْ	رضْ
فرْ	مهْ	يتْ	ثرْ	سرْ	نكْ
يكْ	جهْ	صدْ	لذْ	وحْ	بدْ

THE FIVE THAT BOUNCE and only these five

بَقْ	بَطْ	بَبْ	بَجْ	بَدْ	تَقْ
تَطْ	تَبْ	تَجْ	تَدْ	سَقْ	سَطْ
سَبْ	سَجْ	سَدْ	مَقْ	مَطْ	مَبْ
جَمْ	مَدْ	نَقْ	نَطْ	نَبْ	نَجْ
		نَذْ			

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

تَبْ	فَقْ	فُرْ	بَدْ	لِدْ	تَطْ

DRILL · CONTINUED

Sukūn — the letter stops

REAL WORDS

بِسْمِ	هُمْ	أَلَمْ	نَجْعَلِ
أَزْوَٰجًا	وَجَعَلْنَا	سَبْعًا	أَلْفَافًا
فَتَأْتُونَ	أَفْوَاجًا	فَكَانَتْ	أَبْوَٰبًا
كَانَتْ	مِرْصَادًا	أَحْقَابًا	بَرْدًا
	يَرْجُونَ	شَىْءٍ	

REAL WORDS WITH A BOUNCE IN THEM

نَجْعَلِ	سَبْعًا	أَبْوَٰبًا	سَبْحًا
سَبْقًا	أَبْصٰرُهَا	أَدْبَرَ	يُدْرِيكَ
فَأَقْبَرَهُۥ	يَقْضِ	صَبَبْنَا	شَقَقْنَا
أُقْسِمُ	بِمَجْنُونٍ	وَلَقَدْ	أَدْرَىٰكَ

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

رَقْ	رُضْ	نَدْ	شِدْ	تَقْ	وَرْ

LESSON FOURTEEN

The soft pairs

> **Teaches.** وْ and يْ — a fatḥah followed by a sākin wāw or yāʾ.

Lesson ten said a long vowel needs the lengthening letter to *match* the vowel before it. Here they do not match, and the result is neither short nor long: it is a glide, two sounds running together. وْ is **aw**, roughly as in *how*. يْ is **ay**, roughly as in *hay* or *bay* — not *eye* or *my*, which start too high. Both comparisons are approximate; the recording is the model. ▸ Listen: Q-14-1

> **What English will do to you.** English flattens these into pure long vowels — *aw* becomes *oh*, *ay* becomes *ey*. يَوْمَ is *yawma*, two sounds sliding together. It is not *yohma*. This is the commonest accent error in the recitation of English speakers, and it is invisible to the person making it.

At a stop. When you stop on the letter after a soft pair, or on the letter after a long vowel, the vowel is held longer. Two, four or six are permitted; this course uses four, for both. The tajwīd book teaches it.

يْ

وَبَنِينَا 78:12 · بَيْنَهُمَا 78:37 · لَيْلَهَا 79:29 · شَيْءٍ 78:29 · عَلَيْكَ 80:7

وْ

أَوْتَادًا 78:7 · نَوْمَكُمْ 78:9 · فَوْقَكُمْ 78:12 · يَوْمَ 78:17 · يَوْمَئِذٍ 79:8 · فِرْعَوْنَ 79:17

خَوْفٍ 106:4

> **Out loud.** Say each word twice — once the English way you would naturally say it, once correctly — so you can hear your own error. That is not a joke; it is the fastest way to fix this one, because the error is inaudible to you until it is placed next to the correct version. The recording does the same, wrong then right.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when, on your recording, وْ and يْ are two sounds glided together and not single long vowels — held short while you read through.

DRILL

The soft pairs

AW two sounds glided, never ō

بَوْ	تَوْ	ثَوْ	جَوْ	حَوْ	خَوْ
دَوْ	ذَوْ	رَوْ	زَوْ	سَوْ	شَوْ
صَوْ	ضَوْ	طَوْ	ظَوْ	عَوْ	غَوْ
فَوْ	قَوْ	كَوْ	لَوْ	مَوْ	نَوْ
هَوْ	وَوْ	يَوْ			

AY two sounds glided, never ē

بَيْ	تَيْ	ثَيْ	جَيْ	حَيْ	خَيْ
دَيْ	ذَيْ	رَيْ	زَيْ	سَيْ	شَيْ
صَيْ	ضَيْ	طَيْ	ظَيْ	عَيْ	غَيْ
فَيْ	قَيْ	كَيْ	لَيْ	مَيْ	نَيْ
هَيْ	وَيْ	يَيْ			

DRILL · CONTINUED

The soft pairs

ALTERNATING the ear stops predicting

بَيْ	خَوْ	سَيْ	ظَوْ	كَيْ	وَوْ
جَيْ	رَوْ	ضَيْ	فَوْ	نَيْ	تَوْ
دَيْ	شَوْ	عَيْ	لَوْ	يَيْ	حَوْ
زَيْ	طَوْ	قَيْ	هَوْ	ثَيْ	ذَوْ
صَيْ	غَوْ	مَيْ			

AGAINST THE LONG VOWELS glide, then hold — they are not the same

بَوْ	بُو	تَوْ	تُو	سَوْ	سُو
كَوْ	كُو	مَوْ	مُو	نَوْ	نُو
فَوْ	فُو	لَوْ	لُو	حَوْ	حُو

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

جَوْ	تَيْ	يَيْ	ظَوْ	ضَيْ	ثَوْ
بَيْ	وَيْ	طَوْ	صَيْ	تَوْ	يَوْ

DRILL · CONTINUED

The soft pairs

REAL WORDS

أَوْتَادًا	نَوْمَكُمْ	وَبَنِينَا	فَوْقَكُمْ
يَوْمَ	أَحْصَيْنَهُ	بَيْنَهُمَا	يَٰلَيْتَنِى
يَوْمَئِذٍ	فِرْعَوْنَ	لَيْلَهَا	يَرَوْنَهَا
أَوْ	عَلَيْكَ	بِأَيْدِى	وَزَيْتُونًا
عَلَيْهَا	لَقَوْلُ	بِقَوْلِ	شَيْطَٰنٍ
فَأَيْنَ	عَلَيْكُمْ	يَصْلَوْنَهَا	شَيْـًٔا

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

نَيْ	وَوْ	بَوْ	شَيْ	ضَوْ	هَيْ
شَوْ	مَيْ	هَوْ	حُو	سَيْ	صَوْ
رَيْ	سَوْ	لَيْ	نَوْ	لُو	زَيْ
نُو	ذَيْ	زَوْ	كَيْ	مَوْ	فُو

LESSON FIFTEEN

Shaddah

> **Teaches.** One letter, written once, said twice.

A shaddah is a small mark above a letter — بّ — and it means the letter is doubled. You land on it, hold it, and release: the first half closes the syllable before it, the second half opens the one after. English does this too, and spells it with two letters; Arabic writes one letter and a mark. Say *unnamed*, or *bookkeeper* — the **n** and the **k** are each held long enough to belong to both syllables. That is a shaddah. ▶ Listen: Q-15-1

عَمَّ	*ʿamma*	78:1	
ثُمَّ	*thumma*	78:5	
إِنَّ	*inna*	78:17	
كَلَّا	*kallā*	78:4	
جَهَنَّمَ	*jahannama*	78:21	
وَهَّاجًا	*wahhājan*	78:13	
ثَجَّاجًا	*thajjājan*	78:14	
كِذَّابًا	*kidhdhāban*	78:28	
رَبِّكَ	*rabbika*	96:1	

SHADDAH WITH TANWĪN — double the letter, then add the **n**

حَبًّا 78:15 شَرًّا 99:8

THE WAVY LINE BEFORE A DOUBLED LETTER — six counts

ضَآلًّا 93:7

On نّ and مّ, doubling produces a held sound that runs through the nose. That nasal hold has a name — **ghunnah** — and it is the one tajwīd term this book uses, because there is no plainer English for it and you will need the word. Pinch your nose and say عَمَّ. If nothing changes, it is not there.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you audibly hold every doubled letter, and the ghunnah on نّ and مّ passes the pinched-nose test.

DRILL

Shaddah — said twice

LAND, HOLD, RELEASE not words

أَبَّ	أَتَّ	أَثَّ	أَجَّ	أَحَّ	أَخَّ
أَدَّ	أَذَّ	أَرَّ	أَزَّ	أَسَّ	أَشَّ
أَصَّ	أَضَّ	أَطَّ	أَظَّ	أَعَّ	أَغَّ
أَفَّ	أَقَّ	أَكَّ	أَلَّ	أَمَّ	أَنَّ
أَهَّ	أَوَّ	أَيَّ			
إِبِّ	إِخِّ	إِسِّ	إِظِّ	إِكِّ	إِوِّ
إِجِّ	إِرِّ	إِضِّ	إِفِّ	إِنِّ	إِتِّ
إِدِّ	إِشِّ	إِعِّ	إِلِّ	إِيِّ	إِحِّ
إِزِّ	إِطِّ	إِقِّ	إِهِّ	إِثِّ	إِذِّ
إِصِّ	إِغِّ	إِمِّ			

DRILL · CONTINUED

Shaddah — said twice

أُجَّ	أُسَّ	أُغَّ	أُهَّ	أُحَّ	أُشَّ
أُفَّ	أُوَّ	أُخَّ	أُصَّ	أُقَّ	أُيَّ
أُدَّ	أُضَّ	أُكَّ	أُبَّ	أُذَّ	أُطَّ
أُلَّ	أُتَّ	أُرَّ	أُظَّ	أُمَّ	أُثَّ
		أُزَّ	أُعَّ	أُنَّ	

WITH AND WITHOUT the difference has to be audible

أَبَ	أَبَّ	أَتَ	أَتَّ	أَنَ	أَنَّ
أَمَ	أَمَّ	أَرَ	أَرَّ	أَلَ	أَلَّ
أَكَ	أَكَّ	أَسَ	أَسَّ	أَدَ	أَدَّ

THE GHUNNAH LETTERS pinch your nose — it should change

أَنَّ	أَنِّ	أَنُّ	أَمَّ	أَمِّ	أَمُّ

DRILL · CONTINUED

Shaddah — said twice

REAL WORDS

عَمَّ	كَلَّا	ثُمَّ	وَهَّاجًا
ثَجَّاجًا	حَبًّا	وَجَنَّٰتٍ	إِنَّ
وَسُيِّرَتِ	جَهَنَّمَ	إِلَّا	وَغَسَّاقًا
إِنَّهُمْ	كِذَّابًا	وَكُلَّ	كِذَّٰبًا
صَفًّا	رَبِّهِۦ	قَدَّمَتْ	أَءِنَّا
كُنَّا	فَإِنَّمَا	إِنَّهُۥ	تَزَكَّىٰ

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

أَجَّ	إِشِّ	أُثُّ	أَهَّ	أُوُّ	أَرَّ
إِزِّ	أَتَ	إِسِّ	أُدُّ	أَضَّ	إِذِّ
أَكَ	إِرِّ	أُطُّ	أَفَّ	أُسُّ	أَثَّ
إِدِّ	أُمُّ	أَنَّ	أُفُّ	أَذَّ	إِحِّ

LESSON SIXTEEN

ال — the sun and the moon

> **Teaches.** The definite article — *the* — which begins a very large share of the words in the Qur'an, and behaves two different ways.

ٱل on the front of a word is *the*. Its alif carries a small mark, ٱ, which means: **say *a* when you begin speaking here, and skip it entirely when you are continuing from the word before.** The lām is the interesting half — sometimes you say it and sometimes it vanishes into the next letter, and **the page tells you which, every time.** ▸ Listen: Q-16-1

WHAT YOU SEE	WHAT YOU DO	
A sukūn on the lām — ٱلْ	Say the lām	a **moon** letter follows
No sukūn on the lām, and a shaddah on the next letter	Skip the lām; double the next letter	a **sun** letter follows

You do not have to memorise which fourteen letters are which. **You have to look at the lām.** Checked against every definite-article word in Juz ʿAmma, this holds without exception.

MOON — THE LĀM IS SAID			SUN — THE LĀM GOES; THE NEXT LETTER DOUBLES		
ٱلْعَظِيمِ	*al-ʿaẓīmi*	78:2	ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ	*ar-raḥmāni*	78:37
ٱلْأَرْضَ	*al-arḍa*	78:6	ٱلنَّبَإِ	*an-nabaʾi*	78:2
ٱلْفَصْلِ	*al-faṣli*	78:17	ٱلنَّهَارَ	*an-nahāra*	78:11
ٱلْجِبَالُ	*al-jibālu*	78:20	ٱلصُّورِ	*aṣ-ṣūri*	78:18
ٱلْيَوْمُ	*al-yawmu*	78:39	ٱلسَّمَآءُ	*as-samāʾu*	78:19
ٱلْمَرْءُ	*al-marʾu*	78:40	ٱلرُّوحُ	*ar-rūḥu*	78:38
ٱلْكُبْرَىٰ	*al-kubrā*	79:20	ٱلنَّاسِ	*an-nāsi*	83:2

When a letter is attached in front. وَ *and*, فَ *so*, بِ *with* — written onto the article, they mean you are always continuing, so the alif is never said: وَٱلنَّٰزِعَٰتِ is *wan-nāziʿāti*. **And when the word itself begins with ل,** the article's lām and the word's lām are written as one lām carrying the shaddah:

ٱلَّذِى ٱلَّيْلَ ٱلَّذِينَ ٱلَّتِى

78:3 78:10 83:2 89:8

Read *alladhī*, *al-layla*. Worth recognising on sight.

The name ٱللَّهِ**.** Its long ā has no written alif: read *Allāh*. The tajwīd book teaches the weight of its lām.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you read ال correctly against unseen words, both ways, deciding from the page — saying the alif when you begin on the word, and skipping it when you continue.

DRILL

Sun and moon, unsorted

DECIDE FROM THE LĀM no list to remember — the mark on the page tells you

ٱللَّهِ	ٱلْعَظِيمِ	ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ	ٱلْأَرْضَ
ٱلرَّحِيمِ	ٱلْمُعْصِرَٰتِ	ٱلنَّبَإِ	ٱلْفَصْلِ
ٱلَّذِى	ٱلْجِبَالُ	ٱلَّيْلَ	ٱلْيَوْمُ
ٱلنَّهَارَ	ٱلْحَقُّ	ٱلصُّورِ	ٱلْمَرْءُ
ٱلسَّمَآءُ	ٱلْكَافِرُ	ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ	ٱلْمُقَدَّسِ
ٱلرُّوحُ	ٱلْكُبْرَىٰ	ٱلدُّنْيَا	ٱلْأَعْلَىٰ
ٱلنَّفْسَ	ٱلْإِنسَٰنُ	ٱلسَّبِيلَ	ٱلْجَحِيمُ
ٱلشَّمْسُ	ٱلْمَأْوَىٰ	ٱلنُّجُومُ	ٱلْهَوَىٰ
ٱلنُّفُوسُ	ٱلْأَعْمَىٰ	ٱلصُّحُفُ	ٱلْمَآءَ
ٱلدِّينِ	ٱلْعِشَارُ	ٱلَّذِينَ	ٱلْوُحُوشُ

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

ٱلْأَرْضَ	ٱلْأَعْلَىٰ	وَٱلنَّٰزِعَٰتِ	ٱلَّيْلَ

DRILL · CONTINUED

Sun and moon, unsorted

THE SAME WORDS AGAIN, SHUFFLED

ٱلْأَرْضَ	ٱلَّيْلَ	ٱلْكَافِرُ	ٱلنَّفْسَ
ٱلْهَوَىٰ	ٱلَّذِينَ	ٱلْمُعْصِرَٰتِ	ٱلنَّهَارَ
ٱلْمُقَدَّسِ	ٱلسَّبِيلَ	ٱلْأَعْمَىٰ	ٱللَّهِ
ٱلْفَصْلِ	ٱلصُّورِ	ٱلْكُبْرَىٰ	ٱلشَّمْسُ
ٱلْمَآءَ	ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ	ٱلْجِبَالُ	ٱلسَّمَآءُ
ٱلْأَعْلَىٰ	ٱلنُّجُومُ	ٱلْعِشَارُ	ٱلرَّحِيمِ
ٱلْيَوْمُ	ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ	ٱلْإِنسَٰنُ	ٱلنُّفُوسُ
ٱلْوُحُوشُ	ٱلنَّبَإِ	ٱلْحَقُّ	ٱلرُّوحُ
ٱلْجَحِيمُ	ٱلصُّحُفُ	ٱلْعَظِيمِ	ٱلَّذِى
ٱلْمَرْءُ	ٱلدُّنْيَا	ٱلْمَأْوَىٰ	ٱلدِّينِ

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

ٱلنُّجُومُ	وَٱلَّيْلِ	ٱلْكَافِرُ	ٱلْعِشَارُ

DRILL · CONTINUED

Sun and moon, unsorted

THE LĀM WORDS one lām on the page, two in the mouth

ٱلَّذِى	ٱلَّيْلَ	ٱلَّذِينَ	ٱلَّتِى

WITH A LETTER IN FRONT always continuing: the alif is never said

وَٱلْجِبَالَ	وَٱلْأَرْضِ	وَٱلنَّٰزِعَٰتِ	وَٱلنَّٰشِطَٰتِ
وَٱلسَّٰبِحَٰتِ	فَٱلسَّٰبِقَٰتِ	فَٱلْمُدَبِّرَٰتِ	بِٱلْوَادِ
بِٱلْخُنَّسِ	وَٱلَّيْلِ	وَٱلصُّبْحِ	بِٱلْأُفُقِ

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

ٱلرَّحِيمِ	ٱلنَّفْسَ	وَٱلنَّٰشِطَٰتِ	ٱلْيَوْمُ
ٱلْهَوَىٰ	وَٱلصُّبْحِ	ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ	ٱلَّذِينَ
ٱلْمُعْصِرَٰتِ	ٱلْإِنسَٰنُ	وَٱلسَّٰبِحَٰتِ	ٱلنَّهَارَ
ٱلنُّفُوسُ	بِٱلْأُفُقِ	ٱلْمُقَدَّسِ	ٱلْوُحُوشُ
ٱلنَّبَإِ	ٱلسَّبِيلَ	فَٱلسَّٰبِقَٰتِ	ٱلْحَقُّ
ٱلْأَعْمَىٰ	ٱللَّهِ	ٱلرُّوحُ	ٱلَّتِى

LESSON SEVENTEEN

Starting a word

> **Teaches.** The same small-marked alif ٱ at the start of words that are not *the* — and which vowel to begin it with.

Lesson sixteen gave you the rule for ٱل: *a* when you begin on it, nothing when you continue. The same alif begins a number of other words too — mostly verbs, and a few nouns. **Continuing is identical:** skip it, and run the word before straight into the letter after it. **Beginning is different:** the vowel is not *a*. ▶ Listen: Q-17-1

LOOK AT THE THIRD LETTER	BEGIN WITH	
It carries a ḍammah	**u**	وَٱسْجُدْ — begun on its own, *usjud*
It carries a fatḥah or a kasrah	**i**	ٱذْهَبْ *idhhab*
A noun, not a verb	**i**	ٱسْمَ *isma*
The article ٱل	**a**	lesson sixteen

Count the ٱ itself as the first letter. Its second letter is always sākin (or doubled); the third is the one that decides.

BEGIN WITH /		
ٱذْهَبْ	*idhhab*	79:17
ٱقْرَأْ	*iqra'*	96:1
ٱنشَقَّتْ	*inshaqqat*	84:1
ٱنفَطَرَتْ	*infaṭarat*	82:1
ٱسْمَ	*isma*	87:1
ٱمْرِئٍ	*imri'in*	80:37

WITH A LETTER ATTACHED — NEVER SAID		
وَٱسْجُدْ	*wasjud*	96:19
وَٱدْخُلِى	*wadkhulī*	89:30
وَٱنْحَرْ	*wanḥar*	108:2

These two show the *u* rule: were you ever to begin on the bare verb, it would be *usjud*, *udkhulī*. With the وَ attached you never do — it is always continued.

> **Do not confuse ٱ with أ.** The hamzah on أ is always said, beginning or continuing. Only the small mark of ٱ disappears.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you can take any word beginning ٱ and say it both ways — begun on, with the right vowel, and continued, with the alif gone.

Every word of this kind in Juz ʻAmma follows this rule.

DRILL

Begin, then continue

BEGIN ON EACH ONE i — or u when the third letter carries a ḍammah

ٱتَّخَذَ	ٱذْهَبْ	ٱسْتَغْنَىٰ	ٱمْرِئٍ
ٱنكَدَرَتْ	ٱنفَطَرَتْ	ٱنتَثَرَتْ	ٱنشَقَّتْ
ٱتَّسَقَ	ٱسْمَ	ٱبْتَلَىٰهُ	ٱقْتَحَمَ
ٱنبَعَثَ	ٱبْتِغَآءَ	ٱقْرَأْ	

WITH A LETTER IN FRONT always continuing — the alif is never said

فَٱدْخُلِى	وَٱدْخُلِى	وَٱتَّقَىٰ	وَٱسْتَغْنَىٰ
فَٱنصَبْ	فَٱرْغَب	بِٱسْمِ	وَٱسْجُدْ
وَٱقْتَرِب	وَٱنْحَرْ	وَٱسْتَغْفِرْهُ	وَٱمْرَأَتُهُۥ

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

ٱمْرِئٍ	وَٱسْجُدْ	ٱلَّذِى	ٱنبَعَثَ
ٱلسَّمَآءُ ٱنفَطَرَتْ	ٱسْتَغْنَىٰ	بِٱسْمِ	ٱلْعَظِيمِ
ٱقْتَحَمَ	ٱلنُّجُومُ ٱنكَدَرَتْ	ٱذْهَبْ	فَٱرْغَب

DRILL · CONTINUED

Begin, then continue

TWO WORDS, AS THE TEXT RUNS the alif drops and the two words run together

شَآءَ ٱتَّخَذَ	مَنِ ٱسْتَغْنَىٰ	لِكُلِّ ٱمْرِئٍ
ٱلنُّجُومُ ٱنكَدَرَتْ	ٱلسَّمَآءُ ٱنفَطَرَتْ	ٱلْكَوَاكِبُ ٱنتَثَرَتْ
ٱلسَّمَآءُ ٱنشَقَّتْ	إِذَا ٱتَّسَقَ	سَبِّحِ ٱسْمَ

AND THE ARTICLE, BEGUN ON always a

ٱللَّهِ	ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ	ٱلرَّحِيمِ	ٱلنَّبَإِ
ٱلْعَظِيمِ	ٱلَّذِى	ٱلْأَرْضَ	ٱلَّيْلَ
ٱلنَّهَارَ	ٱلْمُعْصِرَٰتِ	ٱلْفَصْلِ	ٱلصُّورِ

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

ٱلنَّبَإِ	ٱبْتَلَىٰهُ	لِكُلِّ ٱمْرِئٍ	ٱتَّخَذَ
فَٱنصَبْ	ٱلرَّحِيمِ	ٱسْمَ	مَنِ ٱسْتَغْنَىٰ
ٱلصُّورِ	وَٱسْتَغْنَىٰ	ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ	ٱتَّسَقَ
شَآءَ ٱتَّخَذَ	ٱلْفَصْلِ	وَٱتَّقَىٰ	ٱللَّهِ

PART THREE

Reading fluency

Lessons eighteen to twenty. You can read a marked word. This part is about the muṣḥaf's last conventions, what a word does when you stop on it, and then reading things you have never seen — which is the finish line.

What you will be able to do

Three lessons, and the last one is the finish line. Nothing in it is withheld from you until the day — you have been reading its pieces since lesson one.

18	Read a line carrying a round circle, a standing alif and a tied tāʾ — sounding only what is there.	☐
19	Stop correctly on any word chance puts under your finger, without looking anything up.	☐
20	Read unseen text aloud: joining the letters, sounding them from their places, stopping correctly, and reading without prompting.	☐

Nothing here is a score and nothing is timed. Each line is either true yet or not true yet. Check it against your own recording; if you are unsure, it is not true yet.

LESSON EIGHTEEN

What is written and not said

> **Teaches.** Three conventions of the muṣḥaf that make a word look different from how it sounds.

Almost everything so far has been read exactly as marked. There are three places where the page and the sound part company — and all three are marked *systematically*, so once you know the sign there is nothing left to guess. ▸ Listen: Q-18-1

1 · THE LETTER THAT IS WRITTEN AND NEVER SAID

A small round circle above a letter — usually an alif, ٱ — means the letter is not pronounced at all. Ever — not when you stop, not when you continue. Mostly it sits on the alif after a plural ending in wāw.

كَانُوا۟	وَكَذَّبُوا۟	فَذُوقُوا۟	قَالُوا۟	ءَامَنُوا۟	كَفَرُوا۟
78:27	78:28	78:30	79:12	83:29	84:22

There are sixty-one of these in Juz ʻAmma: fifty-six on an alif and five on a wāw, all five in the same word, أُو۟لَٰٓئِكَ *ulāʾika*, whose first wāw is silent.

2 · THE ALIF THAT IS SAID AND BARELY WRITTEN

The reverse case, from lesson ten: the small standing stroke ـٰ, said as a full long **ā**.

ذَٰلِكَ	كِتَٰبًا	هَٰذَا
78:39	78:29	83:17

Round circle: written, not said. Small stroke: said, not written. They are opposites. If you mix them up, look again at the shape before you say anything.

3 · THE TIED TĀʾ — ة

A ه — or, joined, ـه — with two dots above it. While you are continuing it is a **t**. It becomes an **h** when you stop on it, which is the next lesson.

وَاجِفَةٌ	*wājifatun*	79:8
كَرَّةٌ	*karratun*	79:12
زَجْرَةٌ	*zajratun*	79:13
تَذْكِرَةٌ	*tadhkiratun*	80:11
ٱلْجَنَّةَ	*al-jannata*	79:41
هُمَزَةٍ	*humazatin*	104:1

One mark in your muṣḥaf that is not in this book. Open it at almost any tanwīn word and you will find a small mīm tucked under or over the ending, or the two strokes of the tanwīn set out of line with each other; a few nūns carry the same small mīm. It is an instruction to the reciter about the nūn sound — the second book's whole middle section. It is not a letter, so it has been left out here rather than left in to be puzzled over. Nothing else in this book has been changed from the muṣḥaf.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you read a line containing a round circle, a small standing alif and a tied tāʾ without stumbling, and without pronouncing what is not there.

DRILL

Written, and not said

THE ROUND CIRCLE the letter under it is not pronounced. Ever.

كَانُوا۟	وَكَذَّبُوا۟	فَذُوقُوا۟	قَالُوا۟
أُو۟لَٰٓئِكَ	ٱحْتَالُوا۟	لَصَالُوا۟	أَجْرَمُوا۟
ءَامَنُوا۟	مَرُّوا۟	ٱنقَلَبُوا۟	أُرْسِلُوا۟
يَدْعُوا۟	كَفَرُوا۟	وَعَمِلُوا۟	نَقَمُوا۟
	يُؤْمِنُوا۟	فَتَنُوا۟	

THE SMALL STANDING ALIF said, though it is barely written

ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ	مِهَٰدًا	وَخَلَقْنَٰكُمْ	أَزْوَٰجًا
ٱلْمُعْصِرَٰتِ	وَجَنَّٰتٍ	مِيقَٰتًا	أَبْوَٰبًا
بِـَٔايَٰتِنَا	أَحْصَيْنَٰهُ	كِتَٰبًا	وَأَعْنَٰبًا
كِذَّٰبًا	ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ	ذَٰلِكَ	إِلَىٰ
	أَنذَرْنَٰكُمْ	يَٰلَيْتَنِى	

DRILL · CONTINUED

Written, and not said

THE TIED TĀʾ a t while you carry on

ٱلرَّاجِفَةُ	ٱلرَّادِفَةُ	وَاجِفَةٌ	خَٰشِعَةٌ
ٱلْحَافِرَةِ	كَرَّةٌ	خَاسِرَةٌ	زَجْرَةٌ
وَٰحِدَةٌ	ٱلْأَايَةَ	ٱلْأَاخِرَةِ	لَعِبْرَةً
ٱلطَّآمَّةُ	ٱلْحَيَوٰةَ	ٱلْجَنَّةَ	ٱلسَّاعَةِ
	عَشِيَّةً	تَذْكِرَةٌ	

ALL THREE, MIXED nothing announced

ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ	مِهَٰدًا	وَخَلَقْنَٰكُمْ	أَزْوَٰجًا
ٱلْمُعْصِرَٰتِ	وَجَنَّٰتٍ	مِيقَٰتًا	أَبْوَٰبًا
كَانُوا۟	وَكَذَّبُوا۟	بِـَٔايَٰتِنَا	أَحْصَيْنَٰهُ
كِتَٰبًا	فَذُوقُوا۟	وَأَعْنَٰبًا	كِذَّٰبًا
ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ	أَنذَرْنَٰكُمْ	يَٰلَيْتَنِى	تُرَٰبًا
وَٱلنَّٰزِعَٰتِ	وَٱلنَّٰشِطَٰتِ	وَٱلسَّٰبِحَٰتِ	فَٱلسَّٰبِقَٰتِ

DRILL · CONTINUED

Written, and not said

LONGER ONES the same three conventions, in words with more in them

ٱلرَّحۡمَٰنِ	وَخَلَقۡنَٰكُمۡ	ٱلۡمُعۡصِرَٰتِ	وَكَذَّبُواْ
بِـَٔايَٰتِنَا	أَحۡصَيۡنَٰهُ	فَذُوقُواْ	وَأَعۡنَٰبٗا
ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ	وَٱلۡمَلَٰٓئِكَةُ	أَنذَرۡنَٰكُمۡ	يَٰلَيۡتَنِي
وَٱلنَّٰزِعَٰتِ	وَٱلنَّٰشِطَٰتِ	وَٱلسَّٰبِحَٰتِ	فَٱلسَّٰبِقَٰتِ
	فَٱلۡمُدَبِّرَٰتِ	ٱلرَّاجِفَةُ	

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

قَالُواْ	بِـَٔايَٰتِنَا	ٱلۡحَيَوَٰةَ	أُرۡسِلُواْ
أَنذَرۡنَٰكُمۡ	وَٱلسَّٰبِحَٰتِ	مِهَادٗا	خَاسِرَةٌ
أُوْلَٰٓئِكَ	أَحۡصَيۡنَٰهُ	ٱلۡجَنَّةَ	يَدۡعُواْ
يَٰلَيۡتَنِي	فَٱلسَّٰبِقَٰتِ	وَخَلَقۡنَٰكُمۡ	زَجۡرَةٞ
ٱكۡتَالُواْ	كِتَٰبٗا	ٱلسَّاعَةِ	كَفَرُواْ
ٱلرَّاجِفَةُ	وَٱلۡمَلَٰٓئِكَةُ	أَزۡوَاجٗا	وَٰحِدَةٞ

LESSON NINETEEN

Stopping

Teaches. What happens to the end of a word when you stop on it.

Every word so far has been read in its continuing form. But you have to breathe, and the Qur'an is read in phrases. The rule underneath is one sentence: **the final short vowel or tanwīn goes quiet.** Everything else on the word stays as it is. ▶ Listen: Q-19-1

Both columns print the word as the muṣḥaf has it. The transliteration underneath shows what you say.

1 · A FINAL SHORT VOWEL OR TANWĪN DROPS

أَحَدٌ	→	أَحَدْ
aḥadun		*aḥad*
ٱلْفَصْلِ	→	ٱلْفَصْلِ
al-faṣli		*al-faṣl*
ضَرِيعٍ	→	ضَرِيعِ
ḍarīʿin		*ḍarīʿ*

2 · FATḤATAYN BECOMES A LONG Ā

مِهَادًا	→	مِهَادَا
mihādan		*mihādā*
بَرْدًا	→	بَرْدَا
bardan		*bardā*

Also where no alif is written after it — a hamzah with fatḥatayn. The muṣḥaf still writes no alif, so the word stays as printed; the stop gives ā:

مَآءً	→	مَآءَ
māʾan		*māʾā*
جَزَآءً	→	جَزَآءَ
jazāʾan		*jazāʾā*

Case two feels backwards, and it is worth saying why it is not: the alif was always there. While you continue, the *-an* ending covers it. When you stop, the ending goes and the alif is what is left. **The oval zero** ◌ٰ is its mirror: said only when you stop. It occurs twice in Juz ʿAmma, both in أَنَا (79:24, 109:4) — *ana* continuing, *anā* stopping.

3 · THE TIED TĀʾ BECOMES A HĀʾ — whatever it carried

كَرَّةٌ	→	كَرَّهْ
karratun		*karrah*
هُمَزَةٍ	→	هُمَزَهْ
humazatin		*humazah*
لَعِبَرَةً	→	لَعِبَرَهْ
laʿibratan		*laʿibrah*

4 · WHAT STAYS, AND WHAT DROPS

فِيهَا	→	فِيهَا
fīhā		*fīhā*
ٱلْحَقُّ	→	ٱلْحَقّ
al-ḥaqqu		*al-ḥaqq*
كِتَٰبَهُۥ	→	كِتَٰبَهُ
kitābahū		*kitābah*

A long vowel stays long. A final shaddah stays doubled. A small wāw or yāʾ drops with the vowel before it.

AND THE BOUNCE COMES BACK

If the letter you stop on is one of the five from lesson thirteen, it bounces — bigger at a stop than mid-word.

ٱذْهَبْ	ٱلْفَلَقِ	ٱلْبُرُوجِ	يُولَدْ
79:17	113:1	85:1	112:3

Your muṣḥaf also prints small letters above the line — a little mīm, jīm or lām-alif — advising where to stop. The tajwīd book explains them; for now, stop at the end of an āyah.

THE GATE

You are ready to move on when you can stop correctly on any word — including a fatḥatayn and a tied tāʾ — without looking anything up. To test yourself, close your eyes, put a finger on a drill page, and stop on the word under it.

This is a practice stop only. In real recitation, do not stop where it breaks the meaning.

DRILL

Stop on every one

READ EACH WORD AS THOUGH A BREATH ENDED THERE the continuing form is printed; you say the stopping form

ḌAMMATAYN AND KASRATAYN

وَجَنَّٰتٍ	شَيْءٍ	يَوْمَئِذٍ	لِيَوْمٍ
مُعْتَدٍ	أَثِيمٍ	نَعِيمٍ	تَسْنِيمٍ
كَادِحٌ	بِعَذَابٍ	أَلِيمٍ	أَجْرٌ

FATḤATAYN the one that becomes a long ā

أَلْفَافًا	سَرَابًا	شَرَابًا	وِفَاقًا
عَذَابًا	مَفَازًا	مَئَابًا	خَلْقًا
سَعِيرًا	مَسْرُورًا	طَبَقًا	نَارًا
يُسْرًا	عَبْدًا	جَمْعًا	طَيْرًا

كُفُوًا

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

لِيَوْمٍ	لَعِبْرَةً	سَيَعْلَمُونَ	مَفَازًا
أَخْرَجَ	فَوْقَكُمْ	وَاجِفَةٌ	فِيهَا

DRILL · CONTINUED

Stop on every one

THE TIED TĀʾ becomes a hāʾ, whatever it carried

ٱلرَّاجِفَةُ	ٱلرَّادِفَةُ	وَاجِفَةٌ	خَٰشِعَةٌ
ٱلْحَافِرَةِ	كَرَّةٌ	خَاسِرَةٌ	زَجْرَةٌ
وَٰحِدَةٌ	ٱلْأَايَةَ	ٱلْأَاخِرَةِ	لَعِبْرَةً
ٱلطَّآمَّةُ	ٱلْحَيَوٰةَ	ٱلْجَنَّةَ	

AND A BOUNCE AT THE END

حَدَآئِقَ	وَكَوَاعِبَ	ٱلْحَقُّ	قُلُوبٌ
بِٱلْوَادِ	ٱذْهَبْ	فَكَذَّبَ	أَشَدُّ
وَأَخْرَجَ	بَعْدَ	أَخْرَجَ	وَحَدَآئِقَ
ذَنبٍ	عِندَ	وَلَقَدْ	

AGAIN, IN A NEW ORDER the same kind of item, shuffled: read what is on the page

كَادِحٌ	وَكَوَاعِبَ	أَوْتَادًا	طَبَقًا
عَمَّ	ٱلْمُعْصِرَٰتِ	زَجْرَةٌ	ٱلرَّحِيمِ

DRILL · CONTINUED

Stop on every one

ENDS THAT STAY a long vowel stays long; a final shaddah stays doubled

عَمَّ	ٱلَّذِى	كَلَّا	ثُمَّ
وَجَعَلْنَا	وَبَنَيْنَا	وَأَنزَلْنَا	إِنَّ
فِى	فِيهَا	وَلَا	إِلَّا

ANYTHING AT ALL every one of these is a word you could have to stop on

ٱللَّهِ	ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ	ٱلرَّحِيمِ	ٱلنَّبَإِ
ٱلْعَظِيمِ	ٱلَّذِى	مُخْتَلِفُونَ	سَيَعْلَمُونَ
نَجْعَلِ	ٱلْأَرْضَ	مِهَٰدًا	وَٱلْجِبَالَ
أَوْتَادًا	وَخَلَقْنَٰكُمْ	أَزْوَٰجًا	وَجَعَلْنَا
نَوْمَكُمْ	سُبَاتًا	ٱلَّيْلَ	لِبَاسًا
ٱلنَّهَارَ	مَعَاشًا	وَبَنَيْنَا	فَوْقَكُمْ
سَبْعًا	شِدَادًا	سِرَاجًا	وَهَّاجًا
	وَأَنزَلْنَا	ٱلْمُعْصِرَٰتِ	

LESSON TWENTY

Unseen

> **Teaches.** Nothing new. This lesson is the finish line of the qāʿidah.

Every lesson before this one taught a piece. This one asks you to read text you have never seen, with no piece announced in advance — which is a different skill from knowing all the pieces, and the only skill anybody listening to you can actually observe.

Five rungs, easiest first. You move up when a rung is comfortable, not merely possible. Each is read **cold**: you have not drilled the passage and you do not choose it by its look. Let chance choose — today's date as a page number, or a page opened with your eyes closed.

RUNG	WHAT IT IS	WHAT IT ADDS
1	The short sūrahs at the very end of the juz	Short āyāt, frequent stops, familiar sound
2	Sūrahs you do **not** already know by heart	Removes memory as a crutch
3	Mid-length sūrahs from the middle of the juz	Longer breath units, stops chosen mid-āyah
4	The opening of the juz — an-Nabaʾ, an-Nāziʿāt	Longer āyāt, denser vocabulary
5	An unseen page from outside Juz ʿAmma	Proves it was reading, not familiarity with one juz

> **Rung two is the honest one.** Most people who pray already know the last ten sūrahs by heart. Reading them from the page *looks* like reading and can be almost entirely recall. A sūrah you have never memorised is the first time you find out where you actually are. Expect it to feel like a step backwards. It is not. The drill sheets after this page are rung two and three: four sūrahs few people know by heart.

THE GATE — AND THIS ONE IS THE FINISH LINE

You read unseen text aloud: joining the letters, sounding them from their places, stopping correctly, and reading without prompting.

Check it twice. Record yourself on a passage chance chose, and compare it with a trusted recitation of the same passage. Then, when you can, read it to a teacher you trust — this is the one gate worth hearing from someone else. That sentence is the standard this whole qāʿidah has been building toward; the gate at the end of every lesson was a piece of it.

What comes next. The tajwīd book. You can read; that book is about reading correctly — the articulation points in full, the lengthenings by their measure, and the rulings of nūn and mīm. Several things this book made you *do* without naming them get their names there, and the first thing you will find is that you have been doing tajwīd since lesson ten.

DRILL

Read it whole

FOUR SŪRAHS, ENTIRE read them; do not recite them — the words recur, but these passages have not appeared whole in this book

Stop at the end of every āyah. Then read each sūrah again, stopping at a word chosen by chance in each āyah — close your eyes and put a finger down — and stop on it correctly. That is the difference between reciting and reading. This is a practice stop only. In real recitation, do not stop where it breaks the meaning. Then compare your recording with the sūrah's.

Sūrat aṭ-Ṭāriq ▶ Listen: Q-20-1

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

وَٱلسَّمَآءِ وَٱلطَّارِقِ ① وَمَآ أَدْرَىٰكَ مَا ٱلطَّارِقُ ② ٱلنَّجْمُ ٱلثَّاقِبُ ③ إِن كُلُّ نَفْسٍ لَّمَّا
عَلَيْهَا حَافِظٌ ④ فَلْيَنظُرِ ٱلْإِنسَٰنُ مِمَّ خُلِقَ ⑤ خُلِقَ مِن مَّآءٍ دَافِقٍ ⑥ يَخْرُجُ مِنۢ بَيْنِ
ٱلصُّلْبِ وَٱلتَّرَآئِبِ ⑦ إِنَّهُۥ عَلَىٰ رَجْعِهِۦ لَقَادِرٌ ⑧ يَوْمَ تُبْلَى ٱلسَّرَآئِرُ ⑨ فَمَا لَهُۥ مِن قُوَّةٍ
وَلَا نَاصِرٍ ⑩ وَٱلسَّمَآءِ ذَاتِ ٱلرَّجْعِ ⑪ وَٱلْأَرْضِ ذَاتِ ٱلصَّدْعِ ⑫ إِنَّهُۥ لَقَوْلٌ فَصْلٌ
⑬ وَمَا هُوَ بِٱلْهَزْلِ ⑭ إِنَّهُمْ يَكِيدُونَ كَيْدًا ⑮ وَأَكِيدُ كَيْدًا ⑯ فَمَهِّلِ ٱلْكَٰفِرِينَ أَمْهِلْهُمْ
رُوَيْدًا ⑰

DRILL · CONTINUED

Read it whole

Sūrat al-Infiṭār ▶ Listen: Q-20-2

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

إِذَا ٱلسَّمَآءُ ٱنفَطَرَتْ ① وَإِذَا ٱلْكَوَاكِبُ ٱنتَثَرَتْ ② وَإِذَا ٱلْبِحَارُ فُجِّرَتْ ③ وَإِذَا
ٱلْقُبُورُ بُعْثِرَتْ ④ عَلِمَتْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ وَأَخَّرَتْ ⑤ يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلْإِنسَٰنُ مَا غَرَّكَ بِرَبِّكَ
ٱلْكَرِيمِ ⑥ ٱلَّذِى خَلَقَكَ فَسَوَّىٰكَ فَعَدَلَكَ ⑦ فِىٓ أَىِّ صُورَةٍ مَّا شَآءَ رَكَّبَكَ ⑧ كَلَّا بَلْ
تُكَذِّبُونَ بِٱلدِّينِ ⑨ وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ لَحَٰفِظِينَ ⑩ كِرَامًا كَٰتِبِينَ ⑪ يَعْلَمُونَ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ ⑫ إِنَّ
ٱلْأَبْرَارَ لَفِى نَعِيمٍ ⑬ وَإِنَّ ٱلْفُجَّارَ لَفِى جَحِيمٍ ⑭ يَصْلَوْنَهَا يَوْمَ ٱلدِّينِ ⑮ وَمَا هُمْ عَنْهَا
بِغَآئِبِينَ ⑯ وَمَآ أَدْرَىٰكَ مَا يَوْمُ ٱلدِّينِ ⑰ ثُمَّ مَآ أَدْرَىٰكَ مَا يَوْمُ ٱلدِّينِ ⑱ يَوْمَ لَا تَمْلِكُ
نَفْسٌ لِّنَفْسٍ شَيْـًٔا ۖ وَٱلْأَمْرُ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلَّهِ ⑲

DRILL · CONTINUED

Read it whole

Sūrat al-Burūj ▶ Listen: Q-20-3

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

وَٱلسَّمَآءِ ذَاتِ ٱلْبُرُوجِ ① وَٱلْيَوْمِ ٱلْمَوْعُودِ ② وَشَاهِدٍ وَمَشْهُودٍ ③ قُتِلَ أَصْحَٰبُ
ٱلْأُخْدُودِ ④ ٱلنَّارِ ذَاتِ ٱلْوَقُودِ ⑤ إِذْ هُمْ عَلَيْهَا قُعُودٌ ⑥ وَهُمْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَفْعَلُونَ بِٱلْمُؤْمِنِينَ
شُهُودٌ ⑦ وَمَا نَقَمُوا۟ مِنْهُمْ إِلَّآ أَن يُؤْمِنُوا۟ بِٱللَّهِ ٱلْعَزِيزِ ٱلْحَمِيدِ ⑧ ٱلَّذِى لَهُۥ مُلْكُ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ
وَٱلْأَرْضِ ۚ وَٱللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَىْءٍ شَهِيدٌ ⑨ إِنَّ ٱلَّذِينَ فَتَنُوا۟ ٱلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَٱلْمُؤْمِنَٰتِ ثُمَّ لَمْ
يَتُوبُوا۟ فَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ جَهَنَّمَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ ٱلْحَرِيقِ ⑩ إِنَّ ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا۟ وَعَمِلُوا۟ ٱلصَّٰلِحَٰتِ
لَهُمْ جَنَّٰتٌ تَجْرِى مِن تَحْتِهَا ٱلْأَنْهَٰرُ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ ٱلْفَوْزُ ٱلْكَبِيرُ ⑪ إِنَّ بَطْشَ رَبِّكَ لَشَدِيدٌ ⑫
إِنَّهُۥ هُوَ يُبْدِئُ وَيُعِيدُ ⑬ وَهُوَ ٱلْغَفُورُ ٱلْوَدُودُ ⑭ ذُو ٱلْعَرْشِ ٱلْمَجِيدُ ⑮ فَعَّالٌ لِّمَا يُرِيدُ
⑯ هَلْ أَتَىٰكَ حَدِيثُ ٱلْجُنُودِ ⑰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَثَمُودَ ⑱ بَلِ ٱلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا۟ فِى تَكْذِيبٍ ⑲ وَٱللَّهُ
مِن وَرَآئِهِم مُّحِيطٌۢ ⑳ بَلْ هُوَ قُرْءَانٌ مَّجِيدٌ ㉑ فِى لَوْحٍ مَّحْفُوظٍۭ ㉒

DRILL · CONTINUED

Read it whole

Sūrat al-Inshiqāq ▸ Listen: Q-20-4

بِسۡمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحۡمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

إِذَا ٱلسَّمَآءُ ٱنشَقَّتۡ ① وَأَذِنَتۡ لِرَبِّهَا وَحُقَّتۡ ② وَإِذَا ٱلۡأَرۡضُ مُدَّتۡ ③ وَأَلۡقَتۡ مَا
فِيهَا وَتَخَلَّتۡ ④ وَأَذِنَتۡ لِرَبِّهَا وَحُقَّتۡ ⑤ يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلۡإِنسَٰنُ إِنَّكَ كَادِحٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ كَدۡحٗا
فَمُلَٰقِيهِ ⑥ فَأَمَّا مَنۡ أُوتِيَ كِتَٰبَهُۥ بِيَمِينِهِۦ ⑦ فَسَوۡفَ يُحَاسَبُ حِسَابٗا يَسِيرٗا ⑧ وَيَنقَلِبُ
إِلَىٰٓ أَهۡلِهِۦ مَسۡرُورٗا ⑨ وَأَمَّا مَنۡ أُوتِيَ كِتَٰبَهُۥ وَرَآءَ ظَهۡرِهِۦ ⑩ فَسَوۡفَ يَدۡعُواْ ثُبُورٗا ⑪
وَيَصۡلَىٰ سَعِيرًا ⑫ إِنَّهُۥ كَانَ فِيٓ أَهۡلِهِۦ مَسۡرُورًا ⑬ إِنَّهُۥ ظَنَّ أَن لَّن يَحُورَ ⑭ بَلَىٰٓ إِنَّ
رَبَّهُۥ كَانَ بِهِۦ بَصِيرٗا ⑮ فَلَآ أُقۡسِمُ بِٱلشَّفَقِ ⑯ وَٱلَّيۡلِ وَمَا وَسَقَ ⑰ وَٱلۡقَمَرِ إِذَا ٱتَّسَقَ
⑱ لَتَرۡكَبُنَّ طَبَقًا عَن طَبَقٖ ⑲ فَمَا لَهُمۡ لَا يُؤۡمِنُونَ ⑳ وَإِذَا قُرِئَ عَلَيۡهِمُ ٱلۡقُرۡءَانُ لَا
يَسۡجُدُونَ ۩ ㉑ بَلِ ٱلَّذِينَ كَفَرُواْ يُكَذِّبُونَ ㉒ وَٱللَّهُ أَعۡلَمُ بِمَا يُوعُونَ ㉓ فَبَشِّرۡهُم بِعَذَابٍ
أَلِيمٍ ㉔ إِلَّا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ وَعَمِلُواْ ٱلصَّٰلِحَٰتِ لَهُمۡ أَجۡرٌ غَيۡرُ مَمۡنُونٖ ㉕

The letters that are read by name

> **Not part of the course.** Nothing in this appendix appears anywhere in Juz ʿAmma, which is why it is not a lesson.

It is here because the moment you finish this book you will open the muṣḥaf at page one, and the first thing you meet after al-Fātiḥah is this:

الٓمٓ

Twenty-nine sūrahs open with a short run of disconnected letters. They are read **by name**, one letter at a time — never joined into a word, never read as sounds. الٓمٓ is read *alif · lām · mīm*. It is not read *alam*. ▸ Listen: Q-A-1

> **They are letters, not a word.** You are not failing to see a word. There is no word there.

> **Some are held long, some are not, and the page shows you which.** A name spelled with three letters — *lām, mīm, sīn, ṣād, qāf, kāf, nūn, ʿayn* — carries the wavy line and is held long: six counts. A name of two letters — *ḥā, yā, ṭā, hā, rā* — is an ordinary long vowel, two counts. *Alif* has no long vowel at all and is said short.

So الٓمٓ is *alif*, short, then *lām* and *mīm*, each held six counts. For *ʿayn* the tajwīd book gives a second permitted length. Knowing that they are read by name, and which are stretched, is enough to read the first line of al-Baqarah without stopping — which is the entire purpose of this page.

The Inheriting Qāʿidah

Written for whoever cannot read it yet — the one at the very beginning, and the person who has prayed for years and never learned. There is no shame in starting here. It is where everyone starts.

THE TEXT

Every Qur'anic word in this book is taken from the Uthmani text of Juz ʿAmma by reference rather than transcribed by hand, and cited to its āyah where it is taught. The made-up drill combinations are assembled from letter shapes that occur in the muṣḥaf.

THE TYPE

Amiri for the Arabic, Cormorant Garamond and Source Sans for the English — the same faces the rest of Inheriting Islam is set in. Live type throughout, not a scan of anybody's book.

WHAT IT IS NOT

Not a translation, not a tajwīd manual, and not an ijāzah. It teaches you to read. The second book teaches you to read correctly.

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