

Continuing from Lesson 1 where we spoke about Common Errors, Part 1

2. The Full Mouth letters:

There are 7 letters in the Arabic Alphabets which are always pronounced heavily, with a full mouthed sound.

They are:

خ ص ض غ ط ق ظ

An easy way to remember them is like this:

خُصَّ ضَغُطٍ قِظْ

If these letters come with a Fatha¹ or Dhammah², they will be pronounced fuller.

However; if they come with a Kasrah³, they are pronounced less full.

¹ Fatha or Fat-ha is also called Zabar. It sits on top of a letter and gives it an “Aaa” sound.

² Dhamma is also called Pesh. It sits of top of a letter and gives it an “Ooo” sound.

³ Kasrah is also called Zeer. It sits under a letter and gives it an “Eee” sound.

3. The Hybrid Letters⁴:

There are three other letters which are sometimes pronounced full mouthed and sometimes empty. They are:

1. Raa - ر
2. The Laam in Allah's name - ﷲ
3. Alif - ا

The Rule of Raa:

The Raa is full if it comes with a Fatha or Dhammah. But if it comes with a Kasrah, it is pronounced with an empty mouth.

However if the Raa doesn't have a Fatha, Kasrah or Dhammah and is Saakin⁵ then it will use the Harakah⁶ of the letter before it. Hence if the letter before the Raa has a Fatha or Dhammah the Raa will be pronounced full mouthed, and if the letter before the Raa has a Kasrah, the Raa will be pronounced empty mouthed.

⁴ The meaning of 'Hybrid Letters' here is that these letters are sometimes pronounced heavily while at other times they remain empty.

⁵ A Saakin letter is the one which has a Sukoon on top. Sukoon is also called Jazam. It sits on top of a letter and makes the previous letter join with the letter it sits on. If there is a Sukoon on top of a letter; the letter can't have any other Harakah at the same time.

⁶ Harakah means to move. Fatha, Kasrah and Dhammah are called Harakaat because they make the sound of the letter move. We will also use this same word in the chapter of Madd.