

Madd

Note: we have arranged the explanation of this topic in the unique way below, solely to simplify its understanding for beginners.

Madd literally means to elongate. In Tajweed it means to make the sounds of some letters and words longer than others.

Madd has three letters. They are ¹ا و ي

The length of Madd is measured in “Harakaat”²

A Harakah is the time it takes to pronounce a letter. For example ³ب

A Harakah is approximately one second long (depending on the speed of recitation).

Madd comes in 3 lengths. Two Harakaat, Four Harakaat and Six Harakaat

The Two Harakaat Madd:

The two Harakaat Madd is called Al-Madd At-Tabee’i⁴ or Al-Madd Al-Asli⁵. It occurs in six situations in the Quran:⁶

¹ These are like the vowels in English (A E I O U). They’re basically the sounds that are extendable.

² Harakaat is the plural of Harakah. Harakah is also the name for Fatha, Kasrah and Dhammah. That’s because Harakah actually means movement in Arabic. Therefore Fatha, Kasrah and Dhammah are called Harakah because they move the sound of a letter towards aaa or eee or ooo.

³ For more clarity, please refer to the explanations during lessons number six, in our Online Qur’an Class for Beginners recordings.

⁴ Tabee’i means natural

⁵ Asli means original

⁶ For further clarity, please refer to our detailed explanation in the Lesson 6 recording.

1. If there is a standing Fatha
2. If there is a standing Kasrah
3. If there is a reverse Dhammah⁷
4. If there is an Alif after a Fatha - قَالَ
5. If There is a Yaa Saakin after a Kasrah - قِيلَ
6. If there is a Waaw Saakin after a Dhammah - سُورَة

The Four Harakaat Madd:

The four Harakaat Madd takes place if there is a Hamza (ء) after any of the two Harakaat Mudood⁸ (if there is a Hamza after any of the Madd letters).

If the Hamza is in the same word as the Madd letter, this Madd is called **Al-Madd Al-Muttasil**⁹ أُولَئِكَ

If the Hamza is in the next word after the Madd letter, this Madd is called **Al-Madd Al-Munfasil**¹⁰ بِمَا أُنْزِلَ

⁷ In some copies of the Holy Quran the reverse Dhammah is written as a Dhammah on top of the letter followed by a small Waaw.

⁸ Mudood is the plural of Madd in Arabic.

⁹ Muttasil means connected in Arabic. This Madd is called Muttasil because the Hamza is connected to the Madd letter by being in the same word.

¹⁰ Munfasil means detached or disconnected in Arabic. This Madd is called disconnected because the Hamza is disconnected from the Madd letter by being in the next word and not the same word.

The Six Harakaat Madd:

The six Harakaat Madd is called **Al-Madd-Al-Laazim**. It takes places if there is a Shaddah or Sukoon after any of the Two Harakaat Madds.

Al-Madd-Al-Laazim is **four types**;

1. Al-Madd-Al-Laazim **Kalimi Muthaqqal**
2. Al-Madd-Al-Laazim **Kalimi Mukhaffaf**
3. Al-Madd-Al-Laazim **Harfi Muthaqqal**
4. Al-Madd-Al-Laazim **Harfi Mukhaffaf**

1. Al-Madd-Al-Laazim Kalimi Muthaqqal

This Madd is six Harakaat long like all the other Madd Al-Laazim.

This Madd happens when a letter with a 'Shaddah' comes after any of the Madd letters. An example is the word – الحَاقَّة

The Mushaddad¹¹ letter is the Qaaf. As you can see it has been joined and merged with the Alif which comes before it. Therefore, the Alif of Madd will be elongated to six Harakaat to complete the Madd Al-Laazim

2. Al-Madd-Al-Laazim Kalimi Mukhaffaf

This Madd is applied when a Saakin letter comes after any of the Madd letters.

This happens only once in The Holy Quran.

That word is – الْآنَ وَقَدْ عَصَيْتَ قَبْلُ وَكُنْتَ مِنَ الْمُفْسِدِينَ – الْآنَ (Surah Yunus 91)

The Laam is the Saakin Letter. You can see it hasn't been merged with the Alif before it. This Alif before the Laam is also the Madd letter.

¹¹ A letter with a Shaddah on it is called a Mushaddad letter.

3. Al-Madd-Al-Laazim Harfi Muthaqqal

Both the Harfi Muthaqqal and Harfi Mukhaffaf only occur on letters which are not joined up to make words¹². For this reason, these two Madds only occur at the beginning of some Surahs, like Surah Qaaf or Surah Qalam.

These separated letters which are seen at the beginning of some Surahs are called **Al Huroof Al Muqatta'aat**.

This means that they are not joined up to make words. That is why when one recites them; only the names of the letters are pronounced, rather than the sound (phonic) which it usually creates.

Al-Madd-Al-Laazim Harfi Muthaqqal is applied when the end of a Muqatta'aat letter joins and merges into the next letter. For example – الم – in Surah Al-Baqarah. The Laam will merge and join into the Meem. This joining will be done by saying names of the two letters. Most importantly this joining will take the time of six Harakaat. For more clarity, please refer to the explanations during lessons number six, in our Online Qur'an Class for Beginners recordings.

4. Al-Madd-Al-Laazim Harfi Mukhaffaf

This Madd is applied when the end of a Muqatta'aat letter doesn't join or merge into the next letter. For example, in Surah Yaseen; – يس – The Seen which is where the six Harakaat Madd appears doesn't join with anything after it. Another example is - الر - The Laam where the Madd takes place, doesn't merge into the Ra after it.

¹² Al Huroof Al Muqatta'aat