

Ikhfaa'

Ikhfaa in Arabic means to hide. This rule is to do with slightly hiding the nasal sounds¹ which are made by Noon Saakin and Tanween.

There are fifteen letters of Ikhfaa. They are:

ت ث ج د ذ ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ف ق ك

The rule is: If any of the fifteen letters of Ikhfaa come after Noon Saakin or Tanween then you must make a slight nasal sound for 2 Harkaat.

Examples:

مِنْ شَرٍّ مَا خَلَقَ – (Noon Saakin followed by Sheen)

وَمِنْ شَرٍّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ

So instead of making a clear Noon Saakin sound or a clear Tanween sound; we make it a **slight** nasal sound by hiding 50% of the sharpness of the nasal sound.²

¹ Nasal sound just means the sound made in your nose. For example “nnn” or “mmm”.

² So after we hide 50% of the nasal sound made by the Noon Saakin or Tanween we replace this 50% by giving a feel of the next letter coming. Meaning if there is a full mouth letter coming after Ikhfaa then we should be able to feel that in the Ikhfaa sound as it builds towards it during the 2 harakat of nasal sound.

Ask your teacher to show you how.

Idghaam

Idghaam in Arabic means to merge. This rule is all about merging the sound of the Noon Saakin and Tanween into the letters of Idghaam. This merging occurs with and without a nasal sound of two Harakaat length.

When the merging (Idghaam) is done with a nasal sound it is called **Idghaam with Ghunnah**. When the merging is done without a nasal sound it is called **Idghaam without Ghunnah**.

There are six letters of Idghaam. They are;

ي ر م ل و ن

An easy way to remember them is; يَرْمَلُونَ

Idghaam with Ghunnah

The letters of this Idghaam are: ي ن م و

The rule of Idghaam with Ghunnah is: If any of the four letters of Idghaam with Ghunnah come after Noon Saakin or Tanween, then you must merge them with a two Harakaat long nasal sound. For example:

وَجَعَلْنَا سِرَاجًا وَهَّاجًا — The Tanween on the Jeem will merge into the

Waaw with a Nasal Sound of two Harakat.

Idghaam without Ghunnah

The letters of this Idghaam are: ل ر

The rule of Idghaam without Ghunnah is: If any of the two letters of Idghaam without Ghunnah appear after a Noon Saakin or Tanween, then you must merge them without any nasal sound. For example:

أُولَئِكَ عَلَىٰ هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ — The Noon Saakin will merge into the Raa without any Nasal Sound.

Qalb / Iqlaab

Iqlaab or Qalb means to change. The Rule simply is:

If after a Noon Saakin or Tanween the letter ب appears, then you must make the Noon Saakin or Tanween into a “Meemish” sound. This Meemish³ sound is pronounced with your lips being very close to each other (almost touching) but not touching. Ask your teacher to show you how. For example:

كَلَّا لَيُنْبَذَنَّ فِي الْحُطَمَةِ — The Noon Sakin before the Baa will be changed into a Meemish sound.

³ Sounds like a Meem, but not as clear as the Meem because you're not fully closing your lips.

Rules of Meem Saakin

There are three rules of the Meem Saakin. They are as follows:

1. **Ikhfaa' Shafawi** – The rule is; if after a Meem Saakin the letter ب appears then you must make the Meem Saakin into a Meemish (like a Meem) sound for 2 Harakaat. The sound produced by Ikhfaa Shafawi is like Qalb /Iqlaab.

For example:

تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحَجَّارَةٍ مِّنْ سِجِّيلٍ — The Meem Saakin is followed by a Baa in the following word, so the Meem Saakin will be pronounced lightly with a Meemish sound for two Harakaat long.

2. **Idghaam Shafawi** – The rule is; if after a Meem Saakin there is another Meem, then they both will be merged together and pronounced like a Meem Mushaddad (with Ghunnah for 2 Harakaat). For example:

إِنَّهَا عَلَيْهِمْ مُّوَصَّدَةٌ — The Meem Saakin is followed by another, so they will be merged together and pronounced like a Meem Mushaddad.

3. **Izhaar shafawi** - if after a Meem Saakin, any other letter apart from ب or م come; then you must pronounce the Meem Saakin and the following letter clearly without any nasal or merging sound.