THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

ISLAMIC EDUCATION · FREE TO PRINT

Tajweed Rules Cards

One rule per card, in plain words with examples. Cut them out, put them on the wall, learn one a week.

WHAT IS INSIDE

- Teacher's notes: how to teach a rule so it survives
- Noon saakin and tanween, four cards
- Meem saakin, three cards, and qalqalah
- The madd rules, five cards
- Laam shamsiyyah, qamariyyah, and the laam in the name of Allah
- A short hunt at the foot of every card page
- A wall chart of all sixteen

The Striving Muslim Academy

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How to teach a rule so that it survives

A child can name all four rules of noon saakin and still apply none of them while reading. Knowing the rule and using the rule are two different skills, and almost all teaching stops after the first.



1. Teach the ear before the name

If a child learns "ikhfa" as a word before they have heard the sound, they will recite the definition in class and read straight past it in the mushaf.

Read the example aloud, correctly, five times, before you say the name of the rule at all. Let them copy you. Only then tell them what it is called. The name is a label for something they already recognise, not a thing to be learned on its own.

2. One rule a week, and no more

Taught together, noon saakin's four rules blur into each other within days, because they all concern the same letter and differ only in what follows it.

One card a week, on the wall. Hunt for that rule only, in whatever they are already reading. Next week, the next card, and keep hunting for the old one too.

3. Hunting beats explaining

Rules learned from a table stay in the table. The transfer into actual recitation does not happen by itself, and this is where most tajweed teaching quietly fails.

Open the mushaf and find the rule. "Show me three ikhfas on this page." Five minutes of hunting is worth an hour of explanation, because it is the thing you actually want them to do.

4. Do not correct tajweed and letters in the same breath

A child still unsure of their letters cannot attend to a ghunnah as well. Correct both and they will go backwards on both.

Fix reading first. Tajweed second. If they are still working out words, this pack is too early. There is no hurry, and starting late costs nothing.

5. Ghunnah is a length, not a noise

Children hear "through the nose" and produce a hum of random length, or a comic nasal voice. The sound becomes something to be laughed at, which is hard to undo.

Count two, every time, on your fingers. Demonstrate it plainly and without exaggeration. Exaggerating to make the point is the single easiest way to teach a wrong habit.

A word to parents

You can run the hunting game without knowing tajweed yourself. The card tells you which letters to look for. You are not judging their recitation; you are helping them find examples on the page, and a parent can do that perfectly well.

Leave the sound itself to the teacher. Reading these cards does not qualify anybody to correct makhraj, and a confidently taught error is worse than a gap.

On every card, the underlined letters in the example are the two that meet and make the rule. Point at them. That is the whole card in one gesture.

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Four cards, one question: what happens to نْ or tanween when a letter follows?

CARD 1 · NOON SAAKIN

Izhar · say it clearly

ء ه ع ح غ خ

When: noon saakin or tanween is followed by one of these six throat letters.

Do: sound the n plainly and move on. No humming, no hiding.

مَنْ آمَنَ · مِنْ عِلْمٍ

THE EASY ONE. TEACH IT FIRST.

CARD 2 · NOON SAAKIN

Idgham · merge it in

ي ر م ل و ن

When: followed by one of these six, remembered as *yarmaloon*.

Do: the n disappears into the next letter.

ي ن م و hold a ghunnah of two counts

ر ل no ghunnah at all

مَنْ يَقُولُ · مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ

TWO GROUPS INSIDE ONE RULE. SEPARATE THEM.

CARD 3 · NOON SAAKIN

Iqlab · turn it into m

ب

When: followed by baa, and only baa.

Do: the n becomes an m, with a ghunnah of two counts and the lips not pressed shut.

مِنْ بَعْدِ · سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ

ONE LETTER ONLY. THE EASIEST TO SPOT.

CARD 4 · NOON SAAKIN

Ikhfa · hide it

ت ث ج د ذ ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ف ق ك

When: followed by any of the remaining fifteen letters.

Do: the n is neither clear nor merged. Hold a ghunnah of two counts, with the tongue already moving towards the next letter.

مِنْ قَبْلُ · أَنتُمْ

LEARN THE OTHER THREE. THIS IS EVERYTHING LEFT.

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Challenge · four in a row

MUSHAF OPEN

Open anywhere. Find one of each rule and write the word. Expect ikhfa first and iqlab last: ikhfa has fifteen letters to find, izhar six, iqlab one.

Izhar	_____	**Iqlab**	_____
Idgham	_____	**Ikhfa**	_____

CARD 5 · MEEM SAAKIN

Ikhfa shafawi

ب

مْ

When: مْ is followed by baa.

Do: the lips come together lightly, not pressed, with a ghunnah of two counts.

تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ

SHAFAWI MEANS "OF THE LIPS".

CARD 6 · MEEM SAAKIN

Idgham shafawi

م

مْ

When: مْ is followed by another meem.

Do: the two merge into one held meem, with a ghunnah of two counts.

لَهُمْ مَا

TWO LETTERS, ONE SOUND, HELD.

CARD 7 · MEEM SAAKIN

Izhar shafawi

Every letter except ب and م

مْ

When: مْ is followed by anything else.

Do: close the lips properly and say the m plainly. No ghunnah.

أَلَمْ تَرَ ۝ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ

WATCH ESPECIALLY BEFORE و AND ف.

CARD 8

Qalqalah · the echo

ق ط ب ج د

When: one of these five carries a sukoon, or you stop on it.

Do: a small bounce, without adding any vowel. It is a rebound, not an "uh".

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدْ

REMEMBERED AS *QUTBU JADIN*.

Challenge · the lips, then the bounce

TWO SHORT HUNTS

Every meem saakin belongs to one of three rules, and only the letter after it decides which. Find one of each and write the word.

Ikhfa shafawi _____ **Idgham shafawi** _____

Izhar shafawi _____ **and one more, any rule** _____

Then stop on the last letter of any short surah. If it is one of *qutbu jadin* there should be a bounce, and no vowel after it. The usual error is *ahad-uh*: the bounce is a release of air, not a syllable. Say the right one and the wrong one side by side and ask them which yours was. Most children hear it at once, and hearing it is most of the fix.

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CARD 9 · MADD

Madd tabi'i · the natural one

ا و ي

When: alif after a fatha, waaw after a damma, yaa after a kasra, with no hamza or sukoon following.

Do: hold for two counts. Every other madd is measured against this one.

قَالَ · يَقُولُ · قِيلَ

GET THIS LENGTH FIXED FIRST.

CARD 10 · MADD

Madd muttasil · joined

When: a madd letter is followed by a hamza **in the same word**.

Do: hold it longer, four or five counts. Obligatory, and every reciter lengthens it.

جَاءَ · السَّمَاءِ · سُوءَ

MUTTASIL MEANS "CONNECTED".

CARD 11 · MADD

Madd munfasil · separated

When: a madd letter ends a word and a hamza begins the next word.

Do: four or five counts in the common recitation. Some ways of reciting keep it at two. Follow your teacher and stay consistent.

يَا أَيُّهَا · قُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ

MUNFASIL MEANS "SEPARATED".

CARD 12 · MADD

Madd 'aarid lis-sukoon

When: a madd letter is followed by the letter you stop on, wherever you stop.

Do: two, four or six counts, all permitted. Pick one length and hold to it through the whole passage.

الرَّحِيمْ · الْعَالَمِينْ

ONLY APPLIES WHEN YOU ACTUALLY STOP.

Challenge · count it on your fingers

OUT LOUD, SLOWLY

Read three lines slowly. Every time a madd arrives, stop, count it on your fingers, then carry on. Write the first one you find of each kind.

Tabi'i, two ____ **Muttasil, four or five** ____

Munfasil, four or five ____ **Lazim, six** ____

MADD LAZIM IS THE RARE ONE, AND THREE LINES MAY NOT GIVE YOU ANY. THE LAST WORD OF AL-FATIHAH, الضَّالِّينَ, IS ONE. COUNT SIX ON IT AND YOU HAVE THE LENGTH FOR EVERY OTHER ONE YOU MEET.

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CARD 13 · MADD

Madd lazim · the longest

When: a madd letter is followed by a permanent sukoon or a shadda.

Do: six counts. Not four, not five. The longest madd there is.

الضَّالِّينَ · الْحَاقَّةُ

LAZIM MEANS "NECESSARY".

CARD 14 · THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

Laam qamariyyah · moon laam

ا ب ج ح خ ع غ ف ق ك م ه و ي

When: الْ is followed by one of these fourteen.

Do: say the laam clearly, with its sukoon.

الْقَمَرَ · الْحَمْدُ

YOU CAN SEE THE SUKOON ON THE LAAM.

CARD 15 · THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

Laam shamsiyyah · sun laam

ت ث د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ل ن

When: ال is followed by one of these fourteen.

Do: the laam is written but not said. The next letter doubles instead.

الشَّمْسُ · الرَّحْمَٰنِ

LOOK FOR THE SHADDA. IT GIVES THE RULE AWAY.

CARD 16 · THE NAME OF ALLAH

The laam in اللَّهِ

Heavy after a fatha or a damma.

قَالَ اللَّهُ · عَبْدُ اللَّهِ

Light after a kasra.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

LISTEN FOR THE WEIGHT, NOT THE SPELLING.

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Challenge · sun or moon

WRITE S OR M IN EACH BOX

The letter straight after the laam decides it every time. A shadda sitting on that letter gives the answer away: the laam is silent and it is a sun laam. Mark all eight, then read them aloud and listen for the laam you did not say.

الْحَمْدُ ☐	الرَّحْمَٰنِ ☐	الْقَمَرَ ☐	الشَّمْسُ ☐
الْعَالَمِينَ ☐	السَّلَامُ ☐	الْكِتَابَ ☐	النَّاسِ ☐

CHECK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU ASK ANYBODY: FOUR OF THE EIGHT ARE SUN AND FOUR ARE MOON. IF YOU HAVE FIVE OF ONE, ONE OF THEM IS WRONG.

All sixteen on one page

Pin this where recitation happens. Tick a rule when they can find it themselves in the mushaf, not when they can recite its definition.



✓	RULE	TRIGGERED BY	IN ONE SENTENCE
☐	**Izhar**	ء ه ع ح غ خ	Say the n clearly.
☐	**Idgham with ghunnah**	ي ن م و	Merge it, hold two counts.
☐	**Idgham without ghunnah**	ل ر	Merge it, no hum.
☐	**Iqlab**	ب	The n becomes m.
☐	**Ikhfa**	the other fifteen	Hide the n, hold two counts.
☐	**Ikhfa shafawi**	مْ + ب	Lips light, two counts.
☐	**Idgham shafawi**	مْ + م	One held meem.
☐	**Izhar shafawi**	مْ + anything else	Say the m plainly.
☐	**Qalqalah**	ق ط ب ج د	A bounce, with no vowel.
☐	**Madd tabi'i**	ا و ي	Two counts.
☐	**Madd muttasil**	madd then hamza, same word	Four or five counts.
☐	**Madd munfasil**	madd then hamza, next word	Four or five counts.
☐	**Madd 'aarid**	madd then a stop	Two, four or six. Be consistent.
☐	**Madd lazim**	madd then sukoon or shadda	Six counts.
☐	**Laam qamariyyah**	الْ	Say the laam.
☐	**Laam shamsiyyah**	shadda on the next letter	Skip the laam, double the letter.

One honest warning

These cards will teach a child to recognise a rule on a page. They cannot teach them to produce the sound, because that has to be heard from a teacher and corrected in their own mouth.

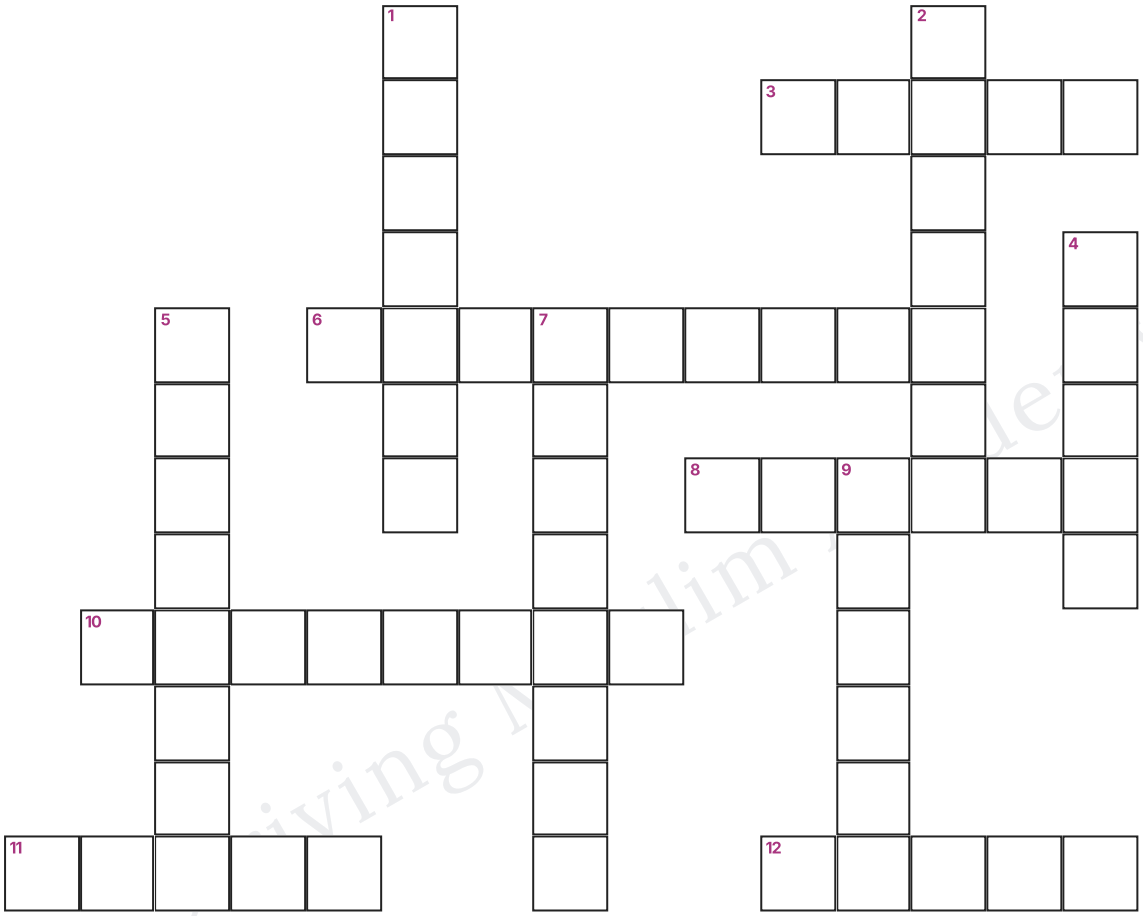
Treat this pack as the map, not the journey. Use it alongside a teacher, never instead of one.

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Word Whizz

Crossword

Everything you need is on the pages of this pack. Read each clue and write the word in the boxes, one letter in each box. The number in brackets tells you how many letters the word has.



Across

3 Which noon saakin rule is called say it clearly? (5)

6 Which one word helps you remember the six idgham letters? (9)

8 Where do you hunt for a tajweed rule, in the book you recite from? (6)

10 Which rule is called the echo? (8)

11 Which noon saakin rule is called turn it into m? (5)

12 Which madd word means necessary? (5)

Down

1 Which word in the meem saakin rules means of the lips? (7)

2 What do you count for two on your fingers, a length and not a noise? (7)

4 Which noon saakin rule is called hide it? (5)

5 Which madd word means separated? (8)

7 Which madd word means connected? (8)

9 On a sun laam, which mark sits on the letter after the laam and gives the rule away? (6)

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Let's Map It!

Fill in the blanks on the map with the words in the box. Read along the arrows.

USE THESE WORDS

fifteen **meem** **three** **baa**

Tajweed rules cards

teach the rules for

Noon saakin

is followed by
Iqlab: the noon is followed by _____, and only baa.

has the most letters
Ikhfa has _____ letters to find, izhar six, iqlab one.

Meem saakin

has
Every meem saakin belongs to one of _____ rules, and only the letter after it decides which.

joins in idgham shafawi
The two merge into one held _____, with a ghunnah of two counts.

Word search

Find each word in the grid. Words read from right to left, or from top to bottom. Tick each one when you find it.

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

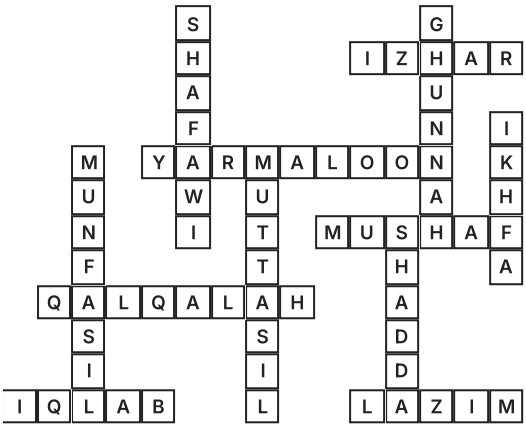
- ☐ الْعَالَمِين al-'aalameen
- ☐ الضَّالِّينَ ad-daalleen
- ☐ الْكِتَاب al-kitaab
- ☐ الشَّمْس ash-shams
- ☐ الْقَمَر al-qamar
- ☐ الْحَمْد al-hamd
- ☐ النَّاس an-naas

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Answers

For the grown-up: cover this page while the puzzles are being done.

Crossword



Across: 3 Izhar, 6 Yarmaloon, 8 Mushaf, 10 Qalqalah, 11 Iqlab, 12 Lazim

Down: 1 Shafawi, 2 Ghunnah, 4 Ikhfa, 5 Munfasil, 7 Muttasil, 9 Shadda

Let's Map It

baa; fifteen; three; meem

Word search

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

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