

1- There are three letters that come from al-jawf. They are the madd letters:

Alif (it always has a sukoun on it and fatha before it) as in قَالَ - mat

Waw sakinah preceded by dammah as in قَالُوا - moon

Ya' sakinah preceded by kasrah as in قِيلَ - meat

This word contains the three letters of madd altogether نُوحِيهَا

2- Avoid pronouncing the madd letters from the nasal cavity (with ghunnah) as some people do. They should be pronounced purely from the jawf, without any ghunnah.

To make sure you are pronouncing them from the jawf, you need to close your nose and still you should be able to pronounce them clearly.

الرَّحْمَنُ - أفنان - المحسنين - العالمين - مؤمنون - مأمون

3- The way the *madd* letters are pronounced is by prolonging them enough (2 harakat) if they are not followed by hamza, shadda or sukoon), not shortening them as some people do, especially when they read fast, and also not prolonging them more than 2 harakat. This is called natural madd (madd tabi'i)

ما قُتِلْنَا هَاهُنَا - قالوا لإخوانهم - يحيي و يميت - و أنى له الذكرى - فإن أرادا فصلاً
و الله لا يحب الظالمين - لإيلاف - ليبيدي لهما ما وُورِي - من قبل أن يتماسا - لا يخلف

4- Make all the letters of madd light (muraqqaqa) except for the alif

ينظرون - مخلصين - الرحيم - الرؤوف - أقيموا - أخوهم

The alif sakinah اء is sometimes heavy and sometimes light. It is heavy (mufakhamah) when it is preceded by a heavy (mufakham) letter.

Remember: You do not need to round the lips at all when you make the alif heavy. The lips should remain normal in the alif as we mentioned earlier. Otherwise, the alif will turn to the "o" sound.

The heavy letters: خص ضغط قظ

also in some cases: ر - (الله ، اللهم)

خالدين - صالحاً - الضالين - غائبين - طائر - قال - الظالمين

The alif ا is always heavy when it is preceded by ra' (because when the ra' has fatha it is heavy).

إخراجاً - راعين - رابعهم - أدراك

The Unique word: الله

The alif ا in this word is heavy when the preceding laam ل is heavy and light when the laam ل is light.

The ل is light only when it is preceded (in pronunciation) by a kasrah.

الله أعلم - قال الله - بسم الله - دعوا الله - لله

The laam ل in the word اللهم:

It has the same rule because the heaviness and lightness of the alif depends on what is before it. This word means: O Allah!

قل اللهم - سبحانك اللهم - قالوا اللهم

Note: When the alif sakinah is preceded by a light letter, it should be light (muraqqaqa).

Do not raise the middle part of the tongue at all when you make the alif light because this will produce alif mumala (an alif that is similar to the sound of the letter "a").

باطلاً - الحاقة - المرسلات - العاصفات - الحياة الدنيا - غوى - القرآن - النار - مائدة - جاء - كانوا

5- Imam Ibn Al-Jazari (rahimahullah) says in his Muqaddimah:

للجوف: ألف و أختاها، و هي حروف مد للهواء تنتهي

This means: the alif and its two sisters; the waw and yaa come from the jawf, and they all should end in the air.

Some people, especially before they make *ruku'* in prayer, do not let the letters of the *madd* end in the air in order to fade out gradually. They rather end them in the larynx (the voice box), consequently producing the *hamza* or haa' sound, as in:

قالوا قالوه * رحيماً رحيماء رحيماه * ربّي ربّي ربّي