

Chapter “2”

Nun Sakinah and Tanween Rules

- Definition:

- **Nun Sakinah:** It is the consonant nun (نون) that has no vowel sound on it. It is written and pronounced clearly, whether it is being recited continuously with what follows it, or the reciter pauses on it.
- **Tanween:** It is an extra nun sakinah added to the end of a noun when it is being recited continuously with what follows it, but it is neither written clearly nor pronounced when stopping or pausing on it.
 - Represented as either two fathas, two kasrahs, or two dammahs.

- Difference between the Nun Sakinah and Tanween There are five differences:

	Nun Sakinah	Tanween
1	Original or Additional	Always an Additional Nun
2	in nouns, verbs, or participles	Only in nouns *
3	in middle or end of a word	Only in the middle of a word
4	Pronounced & Written	Pronounced as Nun but Not Written as Nun
5	Pronounced as Nun on stopping or joining	Pronounced as Nun Only when joining

- Note:

* The nun sakinah is found in nouns, verbs, or participles. It is found in the middle or at the end of a word. It can be either "Original" as one of the letters in the root of the word, like "أنعم", or an additional letter added to the root of a word, like "فانطلق" (root word: فلق).

** The tanween can only be found in nouns ... Yet, the light النون (in verbs, which has no shaddah) that indicates emphasis stands as an exception. It is a tanween-cum-nun sakinah (Nun written as Tanween & we stop on it with Alif). It occurs only in two places in the Qur'an:

• (وَلْيَكُونُوا مِنَ الصَّاعِرِينَ) (Yusuf 12:32)

• (لَتُسْفَعًا بِالنَّاصِيَةِ) (Al-'Alaq 96:15)

- Stopping on Tanween:

1. If Tanween in above a feminine "Ha" (هـ): the (هـ) is to be pronounced just as a (هـ) with sukon i.e. without any vowel pronounced with it. eg. (رحمة - جنة - ربوة). This is regardless of its type i.e. Tanween Fath, Kasr or Dham.
2. If Tanween is above any other letter:
 - **Tanween of Kasr** "two Kasras" & **Dam** "two Damas" is cancelled & we stop without any vowel (stop with "Sukon") e.g. (حكيم - غفور).
 - **Tanween of Fath** "two fathas" is always exchanged for an "Alif" (ا) e.g. (رحيماً - سمياً).

- **Rules:** 1. Izh-har Halqi 2. Idgham 3. Iqlab 4. Ikhfa' Haqiqi

First Rule: Izh-har Halqi

- Definition:

- **Linguistically:** Clarity and manifestation.

- **Conventionally:** Pronouncing the letter clearly from its articulation point, without any ghunnah (nasalization).

**The clear letter (Al-Harf Al-Muzh-har) refers to the nun sakinah and the tanween when occurring immediately before the letters of izh-har.

- **Letters:** These are the six letters: "غ" "ح" "ع" "هـ" "ء" and "خ". They are joined in the following verse of Arabic poetry:

هَمْزُ فَهَاءٍ ثُمَّ عَيْنٌ حَاءٌ ... مُهْمَلَتَانِ ثُمَّ غَيْنٌ خَاءٌ

- **Location:** With the nun sakinah, it occurs in one or two words, however, the tanween only occurs in two words.

- **Rule:** It is obligatory to perform izh-har (clear pronunciation) of the nun sakinah if it falls before any of these six letters. This is called izh-har halqi.

- **Reason for Izh-har:** The distance between the makharij. The nun and tanween are produced from the tip of the tongue while the letters of izh-har are produced from the throat.

- **Reason for the name:** It is called Izh-har (clarity) since the nun sakinah and the tanween should be pronounced clearly when preceding any of these six letters. It is called Halqi (throat) since all its six letters are emitted from the throat.

- **Way of Pronunciation:** The nun sakinah or tanween should be pronounced clearly without any ghunnah (nasalization), then the throat letter that follows it should be pronounced clearly and immediately after it, without any pause separating them.

- **Levels:** Three levels depending on the distance of the makhraj from the nun:

1. **Highest Level (most clearly pronounced):** with the ء and ة
2. **Middle Level:** with the ع and ح
3. **Lowest Level (least clearly pronounced):** with the غ and خ

- Examples of Izh-har Halqi:

Izh-har Letters	With the Nun Sakinah		With the Tanween
	in one word	in two words	(It occurs only in two words)
Hamza "ء" الهمزة	وَيَنْزِلُونَ	مَنْ أَعْطَى	كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ
Ha'a "هـ" الهاء	وَهُمْ يَنْهَوْنَ	مَنْ هَاجَرَ	جَرَفَ هَارٍ
Ayn "ع" العين	وَالْأَنْعَامِ	مِنْ عِلْقٍ	وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ
Ha "ح" الحاء	يَنْحِتُونَ	مَنْ حَادَ اللَّهَ	عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ
Khain "غ" الغين	فَسَيَنْغُضُونَ	مِنْ غَسَلِينَ	قَوْلًا غَيْرَ
Kha'a "خ" الخاء	وَالْمِنْخَلَةَ	مَنْ خَشِيَ	لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ

Second Rule: Idgham

- Definition:

- **Linguistically:** Merging or entering one thing into another.

- **Conventionally:** merging a non-voweled letter in a voweled letter when reciting them, so they both become one emphasized letter.

- **Letters:** These are the six letters that make up the word "يَزْمُلُونَ": that is ياء, راء, ميم, نون, لام, واو.

- **Reason for Idgham:** The closeness of the makharij: these six letters are pronounced from a place very close to the nun.

- **Benefit of Idgham:** To facilitate pronunciation since the two merged letters are pronounced as one emphasized letter.

- **Divisions:** Idgham is divided into two types:

1- Idgham with ghunnah

2- Idgham without ghunnah.

1- Idgham with Ghunnah

- **Letters:** These are the four letters that make up the word "ينمو"; that is ياء, نون, ميم, واو.

- **Rule:** It is obligatory to perform Idgham with ghunnah if one of these letters comes immediately after a nun sakinah or tanween.

- **Condition:** That it occurs in ****two separate words**** following one another.

- **Examples of Idgham with Ghunnah:**

Letters of Idgham with Ghunnah	With the Nun Sakinah	With Tanween
الياء Ya'a	وَمَنْ يَطْعُ الله	وجوه يومئذ
النون Nun	لَنْ نَدْخُلَهَا أَبَداً	أَمْشَاجٍ نَبْتَلِيهِ
الميم Mem	مِنْ مَاءٍ دَافِقٍ	يَتْلُوا صَحَافاً مُطَهَّرَةً
الواو Waw	مِنْ وَالٍ	وَوَالِدٍ وَمَا وَلَدَ

- **Exceptional Cases:** Izh-har Motlak إظهار مطلق :

- **Letters:** Only occurs with ya' (ي) and waw (و)

- **Location:** If one of the letters of Idgham comes after a nun sakinah within **the same word**.

- **Rule:** Obligatory to apply the Izh-har rule instead of Idgham.

- **Reason for the name:** Motlak means absolute as it is not Halqi, Shafawi or Qamari

- **Examples:** This type of Izh-har only occurs in four words in the Qur'an:

{الدُّنْيَا} ، {بُنْيَانٌ} ، {صُنُوفٌ} ، {قُنُوتٌ}.

- It also applied in two other places: {ن وَالْقَلَمِ} ، {يَسْ، وَالْقُرْآنِ}

- **Reason for Izh-har:** To avoid any misunderstanding of the word, which would be the case if there was Idgham.

2- Idgham without Ghunnah

- **Letters:** Two letters: اللام and الراء
- **Rule:** Obligatory to perform Idgham without ghunnah.
- **Location:** It only occurs in two words.
- **Exception:** There is no Idgham with regard to the النون of {مَنْ رَاقِي} (Surah Al-Qiyamah 75:27) since it is obligatory to make a breathless pause between the two words, and this prevents Idgham.
- **Examples of Idgham without ghunnah:**

Letters of Idgham without ghunnah	With the Nun Sakinah	With the Tanween
اللام Lam	أَنْ لَنْ تَقُولَ	مَالًا لَبِداً
الراء Ra'a	مِنْ رَسُولٍ	فِي عَيْشَةٍ رَاضِيَةٍ

Types of Idgham: Complete and Incomplete Idgham

There are two types of Idgham: 1- Complete Idgham 2- Incomplete Idgham

1- Complete Idgham

- **Definition:** Both the letter itself as well as the characteristics of the letter (i.e. the nun sakinah or tanween) merge into the following letter.
- **Letters:** It is found in the rules of constant Nun with the Lam (ل) and the Ra'a (ر), according to the consensus of scholars.
- **Sign:** The presence of a shaddah on the second letter (the merged into).

2- Incomplete Idgham

- **Definition:** The merged letter itself merges into the following letter, but its characteristic, i.e., the ghunnah, remains.
- **Letters:** It is found in the rules of constant Nun with the Waw (و) and the Ya'a (ي), according to consensus of scholars.
- **Sign:** The absence of a shaddah on the second letter (the merged into).

****As for the Mem (م) and the Nun (ن), the scholars have 2 opinions:**

- Those who consider the Ghunnah with Idgham is that of the constant Nun made it Incomplete Idgham
- Those who consider the Ghunnah is that of the coming Nun or Mem made it a Complete Idgham.

The orthography of the Mus-haf considered Complete Idgham with the 4 letters the Lam (ل), the Ra'a (ر), the Mem (م) and the Nun (ن). They put a shaddah over these four letters but not over the Waw (و) & the Ya'a (ي)

Third Rule: Iqlab

- Definition:

- **Linguistically:** To change the nature of something.
- **Conventionally:** Refers to the changing of the nun sakinah or tanween (nunation) into the letter mim, which should be muffled –and only its characteristic of ghunnah should be pronounced

- **Letters:** Iqlab has only one letter, namely الباء.

- **Location:** With the nun sakinah, it occurs in one or two words, however, the tanween only occurs in two words.

- **Rule:** If the ba' occurs after the nun sakinah or tanween, there should be an Iqlab, i.e., the nun sakinah or tanween should be changed into muffled mim with ghunnah .

- **Sign:** The presence of a mim " م " on top of the nun or tanween to represent it.

- **Way of Pronunciation:** In order for the Iqlab to be performed properly, three matters should be followed:

1. The nun sakinah or tanween should be pronounced as a pure mim (having the same makhraj and characteristics of mim), but it should still be written as a nun.
2. This mim should be muffled when preceded by a ba'.
3. Ghunnah should be pronounced clearly, however the mim is not clearly pronounced from its makhraj. The ghunnah is a characteristic of the muffled mim, and not the nun sakinah or the tanween.

- Examples of Iqlab:

Letter of Iqlab	With Nun Sakinah		With Tanween (only in two word)
	Within one word	in two words	
الباء Ba'a	أَنْعَمُونِ	وَأَمَّا مَنْ نَحَلَ	سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ

- Reason for Iqlab:-

- The nun and tanween have a different makhraj from that of ba'. As for Ikhfa' (hidding) in this situation, it is difficult to achieve since some obstruction would be caused when pronouncing Ikhfa' with the letter ba' as it is not suitable to pronounce Ikhfa' when these two makhrajs are combined.
- To produce a lighter Ikhfa', the nun sakinah and tanween are changed into mim. This is because mim resembles ba' as they both have the same general makhraj and the following four characteristics (jahr, istafal, infitah and idhlaq). Mim also resembles nun in that they both have the following characteristics: ghunnah, jahr, tawasut, istifal, infitah and idhlaq.

Fourth Rule: Ikhfa' Haqiqi (Real Hiding)

- Definition:

- Linguistically: Hiding or concealment.

- Conventionally: Refers to the pronunciation of a letter that has no shaddah, and with a sound which is between Izh-har and Idgham, accompanied by ghunnah.

- Letters: The letters entailing Ikhfa' are fifteen. They are the remaining letters of the Arabic Alphabet after excluding the letters of Izh-har, Idgham, and Iqlab.

They are the initial letters of the words in the following verse of poetry:

صِفْ ذَا نَبَا كَيْمٍ جَادَ شَخْصٌ قَدْ سَمَا ... دِيمَ طَيْبًا زِدْ فِي نَقْيٍ ضِعْ ظَالِمًا

Their letters are:

التاء – الناء – الجيم الدال – الذال – السين – الشين – الصاد – الضاد – الطاء –
الظاء – الفاء – القاف – الكاف

- Location: With the nun sakinah, it occurs in one or two words, however, the tanween only occurs in two words.

- Rule: Obligatory Ikhfa', and it is called Ikhfa' haqiqi (true ikhfa').

- Reasons for the name:

- Due to the true manifestation of Ikhfa' or hiding of the mim sakinah and tanween more than other letters.

- Due to the agreement of the scholars to name it that.

- Reasons for Ikhfa':

- **We cannot have Idgham:** because the makhraj of both the nun sakinah and tanween is not as near the makhraj of the abovementioned letters as the idgham letters are.
- **We cannot have Izh-har:** because the makhraj of both the nun sakinah and tanween are not as far from these letters as they are from the makhraj of the letters of izh-har.
- **The Middle Rule:** On the other hand, their makhraj (of the nun sakinah and tanween) is not as far from the makhraj of the abovementioned letters as it is from that of the izh-har letters, which prevents them from being muzh-har (pronounced clearly). Accordingly, their ruling is that they are to be pronounced between Izh-har and Idgham.

- Its Manner:

- Ikhfa' is realized by pronouncing the nun sakinah or tanween as neither a pure izh-har nor a pure idgham. Rather, they should be pronounced between the two, and are pronounced with a ghunnah, but they have no shaddah (so the sound is not pronounced doubled).

- The reciter should be aware that the tongue is not involved with the pronunciation of ikhfa', since nun and tanween are emitted in this case from the nasal passage. The tongue should not be placed near the root of the two front teeth, from the back when pronouncing the nun with ikhfa'. Thus, one should remove one's tongue a bit from the root of the two front teeth when pronouncing the nun with ikhfa'.

- Levels: Depending on how far the point of articulation of the letter from that of the Nun, there are **three levels of Ikfa'**:

- 1- **The highest level** occurs with the Ta', the dal, and the ta' since the makhraj of the nun is near the makhraj of these letters. Thus, ikhfa' here is closer to idgham.
- 2- **The lowest level** occurs with the qaf and the kaf. Since the makhraj of the nun is furthestmost from that of these two letters. Ikhfa' in this case is closer to izh-har.
- 3- **The middle level** occurs with the other ten letters, since their makhraj is neither far nor near from the makhraj of the nun. Thus, the ikhfa' is pronounced between izh-har and idgham.

- Examples of Ikhfa' Haqiqi:

Letters of Ikhfa'	With the nun sakinah		With tanween (occurs only in two words)
	in one word	In two words	
الصاد Sad	يَنْصِرْكُمْ	مِنْ صَلَاحٍ	رِيحًا صِرْصِرًا
الذال Zal	مَنْذِرٌ	مِنْ ذَا الَّذِي	سِرَاعًا ذَلِكَ
الثاء Th'a	مَنْثُورًا	فَأَمَّا مَنْ ثَقُلَتْ	مَطَاعٍ ثُمَّ أَمِينٍ
الكاف Kaf	يَنْكُثُونَ	فَمِنْ كَانَ	كَرَامًا كَاتِبِينَ
الجيم Jem	أَنْجِينَاكُمْ	إِنْ جَاءَكُمْ	فَصَبِرٌ جَمِيلٌ
الشين Shen	أَنْشُرُهُ	إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ	رَسُولًا شَاهِدًا
القاف Kuaf	يَنْقَلِبُونَ	فَإِنْ قَاتَلُوكُمْ	كُتِبَ قِيَمَةٌ
السين Sen	مَا نَنْسَخُ	مِنْ سَلَالَةٍ	عِبَادَاتٍ سَائِحَاتٍ
الذال Dal	أَنْدَادًا	وَمِنْ دَخَلَهُ	قُنُودًا دَانِيَةً
الطاء Tua'a	يَنْطِقُونَ	مِنْ طَيِّبَاتٍ	شَرَابًا طَهُورًا
الزاي Zay	أَنْزِلْنَاهُ	مِنْ زَكَاهَا	صَعِيدًا زَلَقًا
الفاء Fa'a	فَانْفِرُوا	مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ	شَيْئًا فَرِيًّا
التاء Ta'a	مَنْتَهُونَ	إِنْ تَصْبِرُوا	حَلِيَّةً تَلْبَسُونَهَا
الضاد Duad	مَنْضُودٌ	مِنْ ضَرِيعٍ	قَوْمًا ضَالِّينَ
الظاء Za'a	فَانْظُرْ	مِنْ ظَلَمٍ	قَرَى ظَاهِرَةً

- Difference between Ikhfa' and Idgham:

	Idgham	Ikhfa' Haqiqi
1	Has shaddah (doubling)	Does not have shaddah (doubling)
2	Merging the letter into the other	Hiding the letter with the other (both letters are pronounced)
3	Only occurs in two words	Occurs in one or two words

Review



- ☐ The nun sakinah is original, whereas the tanween is an addition to the word.
- ☐ The nun sakinah occurs in nouns, verbs, and prepositions, whereas the tanween only occurs in nouns except for the nun altawkeed al khafeefa.
- ☐ The nun sakinah and tanween have four rules, izh-har halqi, idgham, iqlab, and ikhfa' haqiqi.
- ☐ Izh-har is pronouncing the letter clearly from its makhraj without complete ghunnah, and it has six letters.
- ☐ There are two types of idgham: with and without ghunnah, and complete and incomplete idgham.
- ☐ Iqlab is switching the nun sakinah or tanween with a muffled mim, and it has one letter, the ba'.
- ☐ Ikhfa' is pronouncing the letter in between izh-har and idgham and it has fifteen letters.

Test Your Knowledge!



A- Fill in the blanks:

1. The nun sakinah is present when _____, _____, and _____, whereas the tanween is present when _____ only.
2. The reason for izh-har is _____, while the reason for idgham with nun is _____.
3. Izh-har mutlaq is to come with _____ followed by _____ in _____.
4. Incomplete idgham is found in _____ and _____ as agreed by the scholars, whereas the complete idgham is found in _____ and _____.
5. The sign for iqlab in the mushaf is the presence of _____ on top of the nun sakinah or tanween.

B- True or False:

1. The nun sakinah is found in nouns only and it is called nun Al-tawkeed Al-mukhafafa. ()
2. The rule in {يس # وَالْقُرْآن} is idgham with ghunnah. ()
3. Iqlab is in one letter which is the nun due to their identical nature. ()
4. The reason for iqlab is the distance of the makhraj of the nun from the makharij other letters of iqlab. ()
5. The highest level of ikhfa' is in the qaf and kaf due to the distance in their makharij from the nun sakinah and tanween. ()

C- Write the appropriate rule and type for each of the following examples:

- وَمَنْ دَخَلَهُ.....
- مِنْ رَسُولٍ.....
- وَيَنْنُون.....
- كَتَبَ قِيمَةً:.....
- صُنُوءًا:.....
- مَنْ بَخِلَ.....
- مَنْضُود.....
- قَوْلًا غَيْرَ.....
- سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ.....
- أَمْشَاجٍ نَبْتَلِيهِ.....

