

Makharij Chart 1: The 5 Areas and 17 Points

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Makharij means the places where the Arabic letters are made. To find a letter's place, say it with a sukoon after a hamza with a fatha, such as 'ab', and notice where the sound stops. Tick Done when your teacher hears the letter come from the right place. The hints are rough, because English has no letters for some Arabic sounds.

Area	Point	Where	Letters	Plain-English hint	Done
A. Empty space 1 point	1	Empty space of the mouth and throat	ا alif و waaw ي yaa	The long sounds 'aa', 'oo' and 'ee'. Waaw comes after a damma, yaa after a kasra. The mouth stays open and the air carries them out.	☐
B. Throat 3 points	2	Deepest part	ء hamza ه haa	Hamza is a quick catch in the throat. The light haa is a soft sigh.	☐
	3	Middle	ع 'ayn ح Haa	'Ayn is a deep, squeezed sound. The strong Haa is like breathing on a mirror to fog it.	☐
	4	Nearest the mouth	غ ghayn خ khaa	Ghayn is a gargle-like sound. Khaa is a rough sound, like clearing the throat.	☐
C. Tongue 10 points	5	Very back	ق qaaf	The back of the tongue meets the roof of the mouth far back. The sound is deep and heavy.	☐
	6	Back, a little forward	ك kaaf	A light k, made a little further forward than qaaf.	☐
	7	Middle	ج jeem ش sheen ي yaa	The middle of the tongue rises to the roof of the mouth. This yaa has its own vowel.	☐
	8	Side edge	ض daad	The side of the tongue meets the upper back teeth. The sound is heavy.	☐
	9 to 11	Tip: on the gums	ل laam ن noon ر raa	The tip of the tongue touches the gums of the top teeth. These are 3 close points, one after the other.	☐
	12	Tip: gum line of the top front teeth	ط Taa د daal ت taa	The tip of the tongue meets the root of the top front teeth.	☐
	13	Tip: edge of the top front teeth	ظ Zaa ذ dhaal ث thaa	The tip of the tongue meets the edge of the top front teeth. Thaa is like the 'th' in 'think'.	☐
	14	Tip: close to both front teeth	ص saad س seen ز zay	The tip sits close to the front teeth, with a small gap. The sound is a thin, hissing whistle.	☐
D. Lips 2 points	15	Lower lip and top teeth	ف faa	The inside of the lower lip touches the top front teeth.	☐
	16	Both lips	ب baa م meem و waaw	For baa and meem the lips close fully. For waaw, which has its own vowel, they round with a small gap.	☐
E. Nose 1 point	17	Nose	The hum on noon and meem (ghunnah)	A sound that goes through the nose. It is a hum, not a letter.	☐

The count is 1 + 3 + 10 + 2 + 1 = 17, as taught from the classic poem al-Jazariyya. Other counts exist: some classical books count 16, because they do not count the empty space as its own point, and one count is 14, which also joins laam, noon and raa into one point. Your teacher may use any of them. Letters in one point share a place but can differ in other ways: Taa (ط), daal (د) and taa (ت) share a place, but Taa is heavy.

References: Ibn al-Jazari, al-Muqaddimah al-Jazariyyah; M. S. Gaibie, Murshid al-Qari, Parts 1 and 3.

Makharij Chart 2: Practice Week

Name: _____

Week starting: _____

Say each letter with a sukoon after a hamza with a fatha, as in the Say it column. Hold the end of the sound and feel where it stops. Use a mirror for the lips and the tongue tip. Tick one box for each day you practise. The letters follow page 1: throat, then tongue, then lips. The long sounds of the empty space (alif, waaw and yaa) are not here: say them 'aa', 'oo' and 'ee' with the mouth open.

Name	Letter	Say it	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
hamza throat	ء	أَ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
haa throat	ه	أَهْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
'ayn throat	ع	أَعْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Haa throat	ح	أَحْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
ghayn throat	غ	أَغْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
khaa throat	خ	أَخْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
qaaf tongue	ق	أَقْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
kaaf tongue	ك	أَكْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
jeem tongue	ج	أَجْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
sheen tongue	ش	أَشْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
yaa tongue	ي	أَيْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
daad tongue	ض	أَضْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
laam tongue	ل	أَلْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
noon tongue	ن	أَنْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Name	Letter	Say it	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
raa tongue	ر	أَرْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Taa tongue	ط	أَطْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
daal tongue	د	أَدْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
taa tongue	ت	أَتْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Zaa tongue	ظ	أَظْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
dhaal tongue	ذ	أَذْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
thaa tongue	ث	أَثْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
saad tongue	ص	أَصْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
seen tongue	س	أَسْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
zay tongue	ز	أَزْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
faa lips	ف	أَفْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
baa lips	ب	أَبْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
meem lips	م	أَمْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
waaw lips	و	أَوْ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Mix-up 1: haa and Haa

Done ☐

Many learners say both like the 'h' in 'hat'. The light haa is made low in the throat, as a soft sigh. The strong Haa is made higher up, in the middle of the throat, with more squeeze.

ه
haa
deep throat

ح
Haa
mid throat

Mix-up 2: 'ayn and hamza

Done ☐

'Ayn is often said as a plain 'a'. Hamza is a quick catch in the deepest part of the throat. 'Ayn is made a little higher, in the middle of the throat, with a tight squeeze.

ع
hamza
deep throat

ء
'ayn
mid throat

Mix-up 3: thaa and seen

Done ☐

Thaa is often said like seen. Thaa is made with the tongue tip at the edge of the top front teeth, like the 'th' in 'think'. Seen is like the 's' in 'sink'.

ث
thaa
teeth edge

س
seen
near teeth

Mix-up 4: heavy letters said light

Done ☐

Saad (ص) said too thin sounds like seen (س). Taa (ط) can slip to taa (ت), and qaaf (ق) to kaaf (ك). Saad and seen share a place, so only the heavy sound is different. Qaaf and kaaf have different places. The 7 always-heavy letters:

خ
khaa

ص
saad

ض
daad

ط
Taa

ظ
Zaa

غ
ghayn

ق
qaaf

Our guide at salamcampus.com/blog/makharij-al-huroof/ has a 5-day plan and more on each mix-up. This chart does not replace a teacher: ask a qualified teacher to hear you read.