Sifat: the qualities of the letters

The makhraj says where the letter comes from. The sifat say how it comes out: with or without breath, heavy or light, with a bounce or not.

Content being reviewed by a teacher: please confirm with your own teacher.

1 Understand

The sifat come in opposite pairs: hams (breath) and jahr (voice); shiddah (blocked sound) and rakhawah (flowing sound); isti'la (raised) and istifal (lowered).

2 Spot it

The 7 isti'la letters are خ ص ض غ ط ق ظ: they are said heavy. The 4 itbaq letters ص ض ط ظ are the heaviest.

3 Read it

Some sifat are special: qalqalah (ق ط ب ج د) gives a small bounce to a sakin letter; safir (ص ز س) gives a whistling sound.

ص ز س	ق ط ب ج د	خ ص ض غ ط ق ظ
Safir (whistling)	Qalqalah	Isti'la (heavy)

qalqalah sughra (minor) · qalqalah kubra (major) · heavy letter (tafkhim)

Heavy letters in violet, qalqalah in blue.

ٱللَّهُ ٱلصَّمَدُ

Surah 112, verse 2 — 🔊 Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

تَبَّتْ يَدَآ أَبِى لَهَبٍ وَتَبَّ

Surah 111, verse 1 — 🔊 Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ ٱلْفَلَقِ

Surah 113, verse 1 — 🔊 Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَٰبِ ٱلْفِيلِ

Surah 105, verse 1

🔊 Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

Previous rule · Makharij: the points of articulation of Arabic letters **All rules**

Next rule

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