The tafkhim letters: the 7 heavy letters

Seven letters are always read heavy (tafkhim): خ ص ض غ ط ق ظ. The back of the tongue rises towards the palate and the mouth fills.

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

1 Understand

The 7 heavy letters (isti'la): خ ص ض غ ط ق ظ, summed up as “khuss daghtin qiz”.

2 Spot it

They are always heavy, whatever their vowel. Even with a kasra the mouth stays full: قِيلَ، طِينٍ.

3 Read it

The heaviest are ص ض ط ظ (itbaq: the tongue meets the palate); then ق, then غ خ. They also make a following alif heavy.



The 7 heavy letters

heavy letter (tafkhim)

ٱللَّهُ ٱلصَّمَدُ

Surah 112, verse 2

Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ ٱلْفَلَقِ

Surah 113, verse 1

Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

إِنَّآ أَعْطَيْنَٰكَ ٱلْكَوْثَرَ

Surah 108, verse 1

Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

إِذَا جَآءَ نَصْرُ ٱللَّهِ وَٱلْفَتْحُ

Surah 110, verse 1

Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

Previous rule · The letter ra: heavy (tafkhim) or light (tarqiq) All rules Next rule

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