The rules of stopping (waqf) and restarting (ibtida)

Stopping (waqf) and restarting (ibtida) have rules: stop where the meaning is complete, change the end of the word, and restart without distorting the meaning.

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

1 Understand

Where to stop? The ideal is a waqf tamm (the meaning is complete, often at a verse end). If the meaning is not complete, restart a little earlier.

2 Spot it

How to change the end of the word? Drop the last vowel: put a sukun (ٱلْعَٰلَمِينَ). The ة becomes a sakin “h” (ٱلْجَنَّةْ → ٱلْجَنَّةِ). Tanween fatha becomes an alif (madd ʿiwad). Tanween damma and kasra are read with a sukun.

3 Read it

Restarting (ibtida): start with a word that makes full sense, never one that changes the meaning. At the start, hamzat al-wasl is pronounced.

taa marbutah at the end of a word (stop with “h”) · madd ʿiwad (2 counts when stopping)

Taa marbutah in purple, tanween fatha in brown: both change when stopping.

ٱلْحَآقَّةُ

Surah 69, verse 1 — 🔊 Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

جَزَآءً وِفَاقًا

Surah 78, verse 26 — 🔊 Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

ٱلْقَارِعَةُ

Surah 101, verse 1 — 🔊 Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

وَأَكِيدُ كَيْدًا

Surah 86, verse 16 — 🔊 Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

فَكُّ رَقَبَةٍ

Surah 90, verse 13

🔊 Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

فَأَتۡبَعَ سَبَبًا

Surah 18, verse 85

🔊 Listen (Mishary Al-Afasy)

Previous rule · The waqf signs: knowing where to stop **All rules** **Next rule**

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