

Rules of Stopping (Waqf) in the Holy Qur'an



Al Elm Quran Academy

Why Stopping Rules Are Important

أهمية قواعد الوقف

1

Meaning of verses can change

If we stop incorrectly, the meaning of Allah's words can be altered or even lost. Correct stopping preserves the intended message.

2

Allah's words must be recited correctly

The Qur'an is the literal word of Allah. We must recite it with proper Tajwīd to show respect and maintain accuracy.

3

Tajwīd helps preserve meaning

The science of Tajwīd was developed to protect the Qur'an from misinterpretation and ensure consistent recitation.

“

Correct stopping is not just about rules—it's about preserving the divine message and reciting the Qur'an as it was revealed.

Basic Rule of Stopping

القاعدة الأساسية للوقف

Rule #1

When stopping, **look at the last letter** of the word

Rule #2

The **last vowel** tells us how to stop

Remember This Foundation



Always look at the last letter



Identify the vowel on that letter



Apply the correct rule

These two simple rules are the foundation for all stopping (Waqf) rules in the Qur'an

One Vowel at the End

الكسرة أو الضمة أو الفتحة الواحدة: القاعدة



The Rule

Replace the **single vowel** with **سُكُونٌ** (sukoon) when stopping

Single Vowel Types

فَتْحَة

fatḥa
(a)

كُسْرَة

kasra
(i)

ضَمَّة

ḍamma
(u)

Example

Before stopping:

الكَافِرُونَ

al-kāfirūna



After stopping:

الكَافِرُونَ

al-kāfirūn

فَتْحَة at the end is replaced with سُكُونٌ

Two Kasras or Two Dammahs (Tanween)

كسرتان أو دمتان: التَّنوين



The Rule

Replace **التَّنوين** (tanween) with **سُكُونٌ** (sukoon) when stopping

Example 1: Two Dammahs

Before stopping:

أَحَدٌ

ahadun

(two dammahs = tanween)



After stopping:

أَحَدٌ

ahad

(tanween → sukoon)

Example 2: Two Kasras

Before stopping:

لَهَبٌ

lahabin

(two kasras = tanween)



After stopping:

لَهَبٌ

lahab

(tanween → sukoon)



Tanween (ـَ, ـِ, ـُ) is replaced with سُكُونٌ (ْ) when stopping

Two Fathas

(ـَ)

(التنوين بالفتحة) فتحتان

+

The Rule

Stop with **one fatḥa + alif** (ـَا)

Example 1

Before stopping:

حسابًا

ḥisāban

(two fathas = tanween)



After stopping:

حسابَا

ḥisābā

(fatḥa + alif)

Example 2

Before stopping:

حيًا

ḥamīman

(two fathas = tanween)



After stopping:

حيَا

ḥamīmā

(fatḥa + alif)



Special Rule: Tanween on fatḥa (ـَ) becomes **ـَا** (فَتْحَة + أَلِف)

Round Taa (ة)

قاعدة التاء المربوطة

ة

The Rule

Change **ة** to **ه** (hā' with sukoon) when stopping

Example 1

Before stopping:

حامية

ḥāmiyatun

(ends with round taa + tanween)



After stopping:

حاميه

ḥāmiyah

(ة → ه + sukoon)

Example 2

Before stopping:

عالية

'āliyatun

(ends with round taa + tanween)



After stopping:

عاليه

'āliyah

(ة → ه + sukoon)



The **round taa (ة)** becomes **ه** with sukoon when stopping

Alif or Sukoon at the End

أَلِفٌ أَوْ سُكُونٌ فِي الْآخِرِ



The Rule

No change is needed—read as written

Example 1: Alif at the end

Word with final alif:

تَلَاهَا

talāhā

(ends with alif)



When stopping:

تَلَاهَا

talāhā

(no change needed)

Example 2: Sukoon at the end

Word with final sukoon:

حُشِرَتْ

ḥushirat

(ends with sukoon)



When stopping:

حُشِرَتْ

ḥushirat

(no change needed)



If the word ends with **أَلِف** or already has **سُكُونٌ**—just read it as is!

Summary Table

جدول ملخص قواعد الوقف

Ending Type نوع النهاية	Rule القاعدة	Example المثال
One Vowel (ا, ء, و)	Replace with سُكُونٌ	الكافرون alkāfirūna → alkāfirūn
Tanween (ة, ي, و)	Replace with سُكُونٌ	أحد ahadun → ahad
Tanween on Fatḥa (ة)	Use fatḥa + alif (ا)	حساباً ḥisāban → ḥisābā
Round Taa (ة)	Change to هَ (hā' with sukoon)	حامية ḥāmiyatun → ḥāmiyah
Alif or Sukoon (ا, ء)	No change needed	تلاها talāhā → talāhā (same)

Keep this table handy while practicing!

Common Mistakes to Avoid

أخطاء شائعة يجب تجنبها

1

Reading final vowels when stopping

- Wrong: Stopping on الكافرون (reading the final fatḥa)
- **Correct:** Stop on الكافرون (replace with sukoon)

2

Not changing round taa (ة)

- Wrong: Stopping on حامية (keeping the round taa)
- **Correct:** Stop on حامية (change to ة)

3

Ignoring tanween rules

- Wrong: Stopping on أحد (keeping the tanween)
- **Correct:** Stop on أحد (replace with sukoon)



Tip: Take your time to identify the ending type before stopping. With practice, it becomes automatic!

Practice Time!

!حان وقت التمرين

How do we stop on these words?

Apply the rules you've learned and say how each word should end when stopping

1

رحمة

Rule to apply: Tanween (ـَ) → sukoon (ـْ)

Answer: رحمة

2

عليًا

Rule to apply: Tanween on fathā (ـَ) → fathā + alif (ـَا)

Answer: عليًا

3

جيلة

Rules to apply: Round taa (ة) → ى+ tanween (ـَ) → sukoon (ـْ)

Answer: جيلة

4

قرآن

Rule to apply: Ends with alif → no change needed

Answer: قرآن (same!)

Key Reminder

تلکیر مهم



Correct stopping preserves meaning

When you stop correctly, you protect the divine message of the Qur'an and ensure that Allah's words are recited as intended.



Learn slowly and practice daily

Tajwīd is a journey, not a race. Take your time with each rule, practice consistently, and be patient with yourself.



The Prophet ﷺ said: "The one who recites the Qur'an skillfully will be with the noble angels, and the one who recites with difficulty will have a double reward."

Whether you find it easy or challenging, every effort you make is rewarded by Allah!



Review Regularly

Go back to previous rules often



Seek Guidance

Ask your teacher for help



Make Dua

Ask Allah to help you learn



Learn Quran with Understanding

تَعَلَّمُوا الْقُرْآنَ بِأَلْفَهِمٍ

Al elm Quran Academy

May Allah guide us all to the correct recitation of His Book





Thank You

Design by Alelm Quran Academy

Visit our website to explore courses and start your learning journey!



+92 370 2475259



+92 346 3021406