



Chapter 4: Sifaat Al Huroof Part 1

Al Muneer fi Ahkam At-Tajweed

Outline

- Definitions
- The benefits of studying the Sifaat
- Permanent Qualities
 - Those with Opposites
- Temporary Qualities

Definition

The word Sifaat is the plural of sifah.

Linguistically the word “sifah” means an attribute that describes something, such as the colors, etc.

Applied Definition: The mode of demonstration of the letter when it occurs at its articulation point, which differentiates it from others (other letters).

~AboutTajweed.com

Why do we need to learn
the Sifaat?

Sifaat are necessary because

- Sifaat are what differentiate letters that share the same makhraj
- Knowledge of the Sifaat allows us to pronounce a letter with perfection and precision, rather than making approximate sounds.
- It allows us to know which letters are considered “strong” in their sifaat, and which are “weak,” which then influences when they will merge into other letters, and whether the merging will be a complete or incomplete merging.

Permanent and Temporary

Permanent sifaat are those that are always present in a letter, in every state. However, some of them only become apparent when the letter takes a sukoon, such as Qalqalah and Hums.

Temporary sifaat are those that are applicable only in certain situations for a reason, and no longer apply when the reason is not there. Ex: Idgham, Qalb, Madd, etc.

Number of Sifaat?

Difference of Opinion

Makki bin Abi Talib: 44

Ibn Bari: 14

Ibn Al Jazari in the *Muqaddimah Al Jazariyyah* and in *Tayyibat An Nashr* says 17.

Permanent Qualities

Two Categories

Those with opposites: These are five sifaat and their opposites, for a total of 10.

Those without opposites: Seven sifaat do not have opposites.

Hums and Jahr

Hums:

- The vocal cords do not vibrate
- Lower dependency on the *makhraj* due to the flowing of air
- Letters of Hums are: فحَّهٗ شَخْصٌ سَكَّتْ

Jahr:

- The vocal cords vibrate.
- The breath is obstructed due to the heavy reliance on the *makhraj*.
- All the letters other than the letters of Hums.

Ash-Shiddah and Ar-Rakhawah

Ash-Shiddah

The **sound** is imprisoned due to the heavy reliance of these letters on their makhraj.

أَجِدُ قَطُّ بَكْتُ

Ar-Rakhawah

The **sound** flows without end due to the weak reliance of these letters on their makhraj.

All the letters other than the letters of Ash-Shiddah and At-Tawasut.

Note: If the sound does not flow when the reciter says a letter of rikhwah, the reciter should check to make sure if they are using the correct makhraj for that letter.

Between the Two

Between the two qualities mentioned in the previous slide, there is the quality of التوسط.

The letters that have this quality are: لِن عُمر

This quality is between Ash-Shidda and Ar-Rakhawah. The sound does not flow endlessly, nor is it completely imprisoned. Rather, it has a bit of both qualities.

What is the difference
between these two sets of
qualities?

Al-Ist'ila and Al-Istifal

Al-Ist'ila

The back of the tongue rises to touch the upper palate.

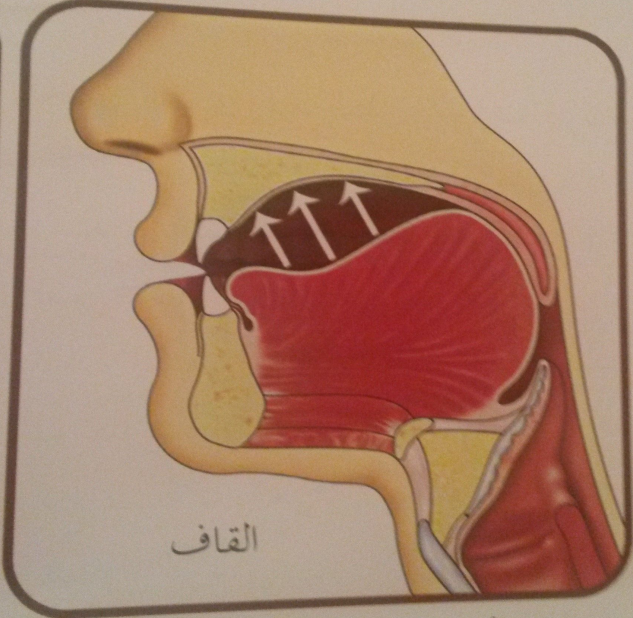
The letters of Al-Ist'ila are:

حُصَّ ضَعُطِ قِظ

Al-Istifal

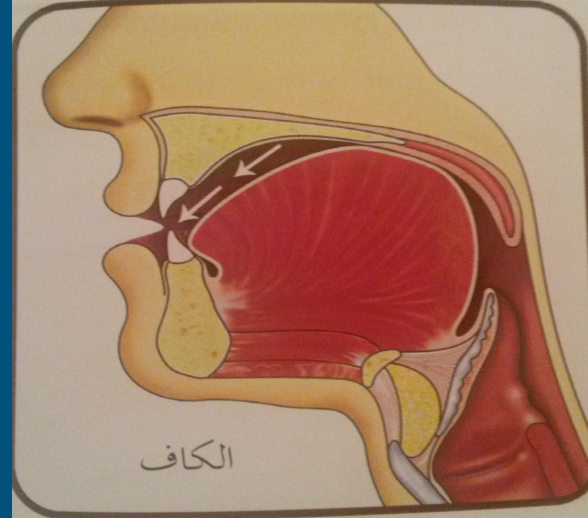
The back of the tongue is lowered.

All the letters other than the letters of Al-Ist'ila.



القاف

تصعد الصوت بحرفٍ مستعلٍ



الكاف

انحدار الصوت بحرفٍ مستفلٍ

Al-Itbaq and Al-Infitah

Al-Itbaq

It is the rising of the back and middle of the tongue in the direction of the upper palate and the sound is restricted between the two.

This applies to ص ض ط ظ

All the letters of Itbaq are letters of Ist'ila, but not vice versa.

Al-Infitah

The sound is not compressed between the tongue and the roof of the mouth.

This quality belongs to all letters other than the letters of Al-Itbaq.

Al-Idhlaq and Al-Ismat

Al-Idhlaq and Al-Ismat

Both of these characteristics do not have any effect on one's recitation. However, they are a linguistic point. Due to this, not all Tajweed books include these two Sifaat.

Idhlaq: applies to these letters **فَرَّ مِنْ لُبِّ**. It is the quality of being from the tip of the tongue and the lips, and makes these letters easier to pronounce.

Any four or five letter root word in Arabic must contain one of the letters of Al-Idhlaq, otherwise it is considered a foreign word.

Review Questions

1. What is the difference between a permanent quality and a temporary quality?
2. Why is it important to learn the Sifaat of letters?
3. What is the difference between Hams/Jahr and Shidda/Rikhawah?
4. What is the physical difference between letters of Istifal and Ist'ila?