

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Supplementary Lesson One: Surah Fātiḥah

In this lesson, we will try to practice the things we have learned on the first chapter of the Quran, surah Fātiḥah.

❖ Verse One

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Vowels and Alphabet

So let us begin with practicing our short vowels in the first verse of the first chapter of the Quran.

- ◆ There is no ḍammah in this verse as you can clearly see.
- ◆ Kasrah and faṭḥah are repeated a few times:
 - ◇ Example for kasrah: بِسْمِ
 - ◇ Example for faṭḥah: الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

❖ Verse Two

Shaddah and Alphabet

Try to find the shaddah in this verse:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

- ◆ The word Allah and Rabb both have shaddah.
- ◆ So if we take Rabb as an example and break it down we will see that the word Rabb actually has two bā at the end where the first bears a sukūn and the second has a vowel.
- ◆ Also the word “al-ḥamdu” bears a ḍammah on its last letter.
- ◆ The letter ‘ayn [ع] must be pronounced deep in the middle of the throat, otherwise known as the pharynx.

❖ Verse Three

Long Vowels and Alphabet

This verse can be a good example to practice long vowels:

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

- ◆ We prolong the sound of fatḥah in al-Raḥmān and kasra in al-raḥīm because that is the long vowel appropriate to the short vowel next to it.
- ◆ One letter that requires our extra attention here is the letter rā [ر] where we have to ensure to pronounce correctly by tapping the tip of the tongue against what is behind the upper front teeth.”
- ◆ Notice how the alif is written with a small vertical line above mīm in the word الرَّحْمَنِ

❖ Verse Five

Sukūn

How many letters can you find in this verse that have sukūn?

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

- ◆ The ‘ayn [ع] in the word نَعْبُدُ is unvowelled and bears a sukūn.
- ◆ The sīn [س] in the word نَسْتَعِينُ is also an unvowelled letter.

❖ Verse Six

Hamzat al-Waṣl and Alphabet

أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

So now we want to practice hamzat al-waṣl.

- ◆ The first letter in this verse is a hamzat al-waṣl.
- ◆ It must be pronounced with kasrah because the first letter that bears a short vowel after it has a kasrah.
- ◆ If the previous verse is connected to this verse, this hamzat al-waṣl is not pronounced since it is in the middle of the utterance.

- ◆ In other words, the hamzah of wasl is silent.

The Letter Ṭā [ط]

This letter is pronounced with the mouth opened vertically, unlike, tā [ت], which is pronounced with the mouth opened horizontally.

❖ Verse Seven

Madd and Alphabet

Now let's see if we can find an example for madd in this verse:

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ **غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ** وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

- ◆ As you can see, the long vowel (ضالين) in the last word of this verse is prolonged much more than the ordinary long vowels because it bears madd.
- ◆ Other letters in question here are ghayn [غ], ḍād [ض], and dhāl [ذ].
- ◆ The letter ghayn [غ] is pronounced like gargling water.
- ◆ We have to make sure not to mistake it with a 'g' sound.

غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ

- ◆ Ḍād is pronounced like dāl except the mouth opens vertically and the sound resonates in the mouth unlike dāl that does not.
- ◆ Dhāl is pronounced with the tip of the tongue going in between the front teeth.

And that was the first supplementary lesson. In the next lesson, we will work on surah Tawheed which is also known as Ikhlāṣ.