Raa Rules in Tajweed (احکامِ راء)

RAA CAN BE HEAVY OR LIGHT

Heavy Raa
تفخیم

Read Raa with a full, heavy sound.

Raa with Fatha or Damma

رَ رُ

QURANIC EXAMPLE

رَبِّ

Al-Fatihah 1:2

Light Raa
ترقیق

Read Raa with a thin, light sound.

Raa with Kasra

رِ

QURANIC EXAMPLE

رِجَالٌ

An-Nur 24:37

Raa with Sukoon
راء ساکن

Check the nearby vowels and letters.

Raa without its own vowel

ر ْ

QURANIC EXAMPLE

مَرْيَمَ

Maryam 19:16

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Heavy Raa (راء کی تفخیم)

HEAVY RAA — WITH FATHA OR DAMMA

What is the rule?

WHEN

Raa has Fatha (رَ) or Damma (رُ).

HOW

Pronounce the Raa with a full, heavy sound.

A Raa with its own Fatha or Damma is heavy, even when other nearby letters are light.

QURANIC EXAMPLE

رَبِّ

Al-Fatihah 1:2

QURANIC EXAMPLE

رُزِقُوا

Al-Baqarah 2:25

QURANIC EXAMPLE

رَاضِيَةً

Al-Fajr 89:28

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Light Raa (راء کی ترقیق)

LIGHT RAA — WITH KASRA

What is the rule?

WHEN

Raa itself has Kasra (رِ).

HOW

Pronounce the Raa with a thin, light sound.

If Raa has Kasra, read it lightly while continuing. Stopping on the word may change the rule.

QURANIC EXAMPLE

رِجَالٌ

An-Nur 24:37

QURANIC EXAMPLE

كَرِيمٌ

Al-Waqiah 56:77

QURANIC EXAMPLE

فَرِحِينَ

Al Imran 3:170

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Heavy Raa with Sukoon (راء ساكن)

HEAVY RAA — AFTER FATHA OR DAMMA

What is the rule?

WHEN

Raa has Sukoon (ْر). The letter just before it has Fatha or Damma.

HOW

Make the silent Raa heavy. Look at the vowel before it.

Fatha before ْر → Heavy. Damma before ْر → Heavy.

QURANIC EXAMPLE

مَرْيَمَ

Maryam 19:16

QURANIC EXAMPLE

الْقُرْآنَ

Al-Muzzammil 73:4

QURANIC EXAMPLE

الْأَرْضِ

Al-Baqarah 2:11

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Light Raa with Sukoon (راء ساكن)

LIGHT RAA — AFTER AN ORIGINAL KASRA

What is the rule?

WHEN

Raa has Sukoon after an original Kasra in the same word. No heavy letter follows Raa in that word.

HOW

Read the silent Raa lightly.

The Kasra must belong to the word. A temporary Kasra has a different rule.

QURANIC EXAMPLE

فِرْعَوْنَ

An-Naziat 79:17

QURANIC EXAMPLE

شِرْعَةً

Al-Maidah 5:48

QURANIC EXAMPLE

مِرْيَةٍ

Al-Hajj 22:55

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Special Heavy Raa (حالاتِ تفخيم)

TWO IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS

What is the rule?

WHEN

Raa has Sukoon after a temporary Kasra; OR a heavy letter follows it in the same word after an original Kasra.

HOW

In these cases, Raa is read heavily.

An exceptional word with a following heavy letter carrying Kasra can allow more than one treatment; see page 9.

QURANIC EXAMPLE

ٱرْجِعِي

Al-Fajr 89:28

QURANIC EXAMPLE

مِرْصَادًا

An-Naba 78:21

QURANIC EXAMPLE

لَبِالْمِرْصَادِ

Al-Fajr 89:14

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Heavy Raa When Stopping (وقف پر تفخیم)

STOPPING — WHEN RAA IS HEAVY

What is the rule?

WHEN

When stopping, the final Raa becomes silent. It is heavy after Fatha or Damma, including if another silent letter comes between.

HOW

Stop on a heavy Raa. Do not pronounce the final vowel.

Example: In وَالْعَصْرِ, صْ is before Raa and عَ comes before صْ. At the stop, the Raa is heavy.

QURANIC EXAMPLE

وَالْعَصْرِ

Al-Asr 103:1

QURANIC EXAMPLE

وَالْفَجْرِ

Al-Fajr 89:1

QURANIC EXAMPLE

الْقَمَرُ

Al-Qamar 54:1

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Light Raa When Stopping (وقف پر ترقیق)

STOPPING — WHEN RAA IS LIGHT

What is the rule?

WHEN

When stopping, final Raa is light after Kasra, after a silent Yaa, or after a non-heavy silent letter that follows Kasra.

HOW

Stop on a light Raa. Do not pronounce the final vowel.

The stopping rule depends on sounds before ر, not only the vowel normally written on the Raa.

QURANIC EXAMPLE

قَدِيرٌ

Al-Baqarah 2:20

QURANIC EXAMPLE

خَيْرٌ

Al-Baqarah 2:184

QURANIC EXAMPLE

حِجْرٌ

Al-Fajr 89:5

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Special Raa Cases (حالاتِ خاصہ)

A FEW WORDS ALLOW MORE THAN ONE READING

Before a Kasra on a Heavy Letter

فِرْقٍ

Raa has Sukoon after Kasra; the following heavy letter also has Kasra.

QURANIC EXAMPLE

فِرْقٍ

Ash-Shuara 26:63

When continuing, both heavy and light Raa are reported in Hafs; light is commonly preferred.

Stopping on Special Words

مِصْرَ

Some words have a silent heavy letter between Kasra and the stopped Raa.

QURANIC EXAMPLE

مِصْرَ

Yusuf 12:21

When stopping on مِصْرَ, both heavy and light Raa are accepted.

These are uncommon cases. Practise the correct reading with a qualified Tajweed teacher.

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