

Part One

01. *Tajweed and its Importance*

01.1 *Tajweed:*

The expression of Quranic words with specified articulation or reading of Quran with proper pronunciation is called **تجوید** (*Tajweed*). It is commonly known as **قراءة** (Qira'at). Melodic expression certainly attracts to everyone but the essential part of reading Quran is its correctness. The basic purpose of learning Tajweed is to avoid errors while reciting Quran.

01.02 *Pace:*

Quran is recited with three speeds, i.e. slow, medium and fast. When Quran is read with slow speed (as is done in Radio or TV programs or in specially arranged Qira'at assemblies) then this pace is called as **ترتیل** (slow and measured recitation). If Quran is read with medium speed (as is recited by Imam in loud obligatory prayers), then it is said to be as **تدویر** (moderate - neither slow nor fast recitation). And when Quran is recited with fast speed (as is done in Traweeh prayers) then this pace is technically called as **حدر** (fast recitation). Nevertheless, in every case the Quran has to be read following with the rules of Tajweed.

Some practical examples are given that depict three different speeds of recitation. Moreover, its statistical analysis is also given for these audios that show how much control these Sheikhs have on different paces. For this, click the link given as **Three Speeds of Recitation - Audios and Statistical Analysis**, at the main webpage.

01.03 **Reading Errors:**

In the recitation of Quran if such mistakes occur by which the actual meanings of the verse is changed, then it is said as **لحن جلي**, (major mistake). And while reading Quran if such mistakes occur by which the actual meanings of the verse is not changed but the purity of language or style is affected, then it is said as **لحن خفي**, (minor mistake). It is very much essential to avoid mistakes during recitation of Quran, particularly the major mistakes. Even, why minor mistake be there? Quran should be read with all its correctness.

Major mistakes happen if diacritics, timings, and the articulation of words are not properly executed. However, some people say that major mistakes also occur if the attributes of alphabets are not properly taken care.

01.04 **Major Mistakes:**

01.04.01 **Mistakes in diacritics:**

The Arabic diacritics include **حركات** (motions or various short vowel marks). The different vowel marks are Fathah, Kasrah, Dammah, Sukoon, Hamza, Maddah, Tanween, and Shaddah.

During recitation of Quran if these marks or Harakah are not attentively looked into, then major mistakes may occur. For example:

{ **مَنْ** = who, whom, ---- **مِنْ** = of, from }

{ **أَنْعَمْتَ** = you have bestowed favor ---- **أَنْعَمْتُ** = I have bestowed favor }

{ **مُصَوِّرٌ** = person who make pictures ---- **مُصَوَّرٌ** = whose picture is made }

01.04.02 **Mistakes in timings:**

During reading if the marks or harakat are elongated or shortened than specified timings, meanings are changed. For example:

{ **قُلْنَ** = women told ---- **قُلْنَا** = we told }

{ **إِنَّ** = certainly, surely ---- **إِنَّا** = we, ourselves }

{ **لِ** = to, of course ---- **لَا** = no, never }

01.04.03 *Mistakes in articulations:*

In Arabic language all alphabets are executed with their specified articulation points. While reading Quran if this aspect is not taken care properly, major mistakes can occur, because wrong pronunciation gives different meanings.

{ عَلِيمٌ = well known, ---- أَلِيمٌ = painful }

{ ثُمَّ = then, afterwards ---- سُمِّ = poisoned }

{ مُحَمَّدٌ = very much praised ---- مُهَمِّدٌ = died due to hunger }

{ صَلُّوا = send blessings ---- سَلُّوا = pull out sword }

01.04.04 *Mistakes in attributes:*

In Arabic language every alphabet has its particular attribute. For example:

(1) We take the example of alphabet "د" and the word "صَمَدٌ". If one has to stop reading at this word he has to execute with the proper attribute of "د", otherwise this word will change into "صَمَتْ".

(2) Now we take the second example of alphabet "ك" and the word "أَكْبَرُ" (Akhbar). If its kaaf sakin is not executed with its proper attribute (releasing breath) at kaaf sakin, this word will change into "أَكْبَر" (Agbar).

(3) Likewise, صَاحِبِيهِ وَبَنِيهِ or أُمِّهِ وَآبِيهِ. If the last alphabet "ه" is not properly pronounced with respect to its attributes (releasing breath) the word آبِيَهُ will become آبِي and the word بَنِيَهُ will change into بَنِي.

All the above given examples elaborates that, in order to read Quran correctly, how important the learning of Tajweed is. We read Quran but with our ignorance we commit undesirable mistakes and the meanings of verses are changed. Then think over it that how we can get the real benefits and blessings of Quran.
