Tajweed Course

Articulation points of Quranic letters:

مخارج الحروف

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Articulation Points مخارج الحروف

• Articulation point is the place from where a letter is pronounced, making its sound different from the sound of other letters.
• Each Quranic letter has different articulation point.
• A letter is only a sound that relies on a specific articulation point.
Articulation Points مخارج الحروف

Quranic Articulation Points

• Five major areas of the human body are used to pronounce different letters.
• There are 17 different articulation points to pronounce the 28 original letters and the Madd letters.
Articulation areas

- The Nose: 1 articulation point
- The Lips: 2 articulation points
- The Tongue: 10 articulation points
- The empty mouth & throat space: 1 articulation point
- The Throat: 3 articulation points
### 5 Major Articulation Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articulation area</th>
<th>Arabic name</th>
<th>No. articulation points</th>
<th>No. of letters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Throat</td>
<td>الحلق</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tongue</td>
<td>النسان</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Two lips</td>
<td>الشفتان</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nose</td>
<td>الخيشوم</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ghunnah letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empty space in the mouth &amp; throat</td>
<td>الجوف</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 lengthened letters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Only the throat, tongue and lips are used to pronounce the actual 28 letters.
- The nose and the empty space of mouth & throat is used to produce additional sounds (e.g. the ghunnah sound)
Articulation areas

Empty space in the mouth & throat

When we need to lengthen a letter (e.g. pronounce a Madd letter), we use the empty space of our mouth and throat to produce this sound.

No other part of the mouth is used to lengthen a sound.

The green area inside the image shows the empty mouth and throat area used to produce the Madd sound.
Articulation areas

The Throat

The throat is broken down into 3 parts
6 letters are pronounced from the throat

- Closest part
  أدنى الحلق
- Middle part
  وسط الحلق
- Deepest part
  أقصى الحلق
Articulation areas
The Throat

6 letters are pronounced from the throat

Closest part: غ خ

Middle part: ع ح

Deepest part: ء ه
Articulation areas
The Nose & The Lips

- The Nose: 1 Articulation point, 1 Sound
- The Lips: 2 Articulation points, 4 Letters
Articulation areas

The Nose

• The hole in the nose that continues back towards inside the mouth is the place where the Ghunnah [nasal sound] comes from.
• No letter is articulated from the nose. Each letter can have different sound characteristics.
• Ghunnah is a characteristic, not a letter.
• Ghunnah is a characteristic of Mim and Noon letters.
• Ghunnah sound is more prevalent when Mim and Noon have a shaddah on them.
• It is also noticeable on Noon Ikhfa and Iqlab and on Mim Ikhfa.
• If you hold your nose closed you will not be able to produce the Ghunnah sound.
Articulation areas

The two lips

• The two lips have 2 articulation points to produce 4 letters.
• Fa ف – upper front 2 teeth touch the inside [wet part] of the lower lip.
• Wow و – the two lips form a circle without the two lips meeting completely.
• Ba ب – by closing the wet parts of the two lips together
• Mim م – by closing the dry parts of the two lips together
Articulation areas
The Nose & The Lips
Articulation areas

The Tongue

Tongue has 10 different articulation points and produces the sound of 18 different letters
Articulation areas: The Tongue

Tongue is divided into 5 different areas:
Articulation areas: The Tongue

- The roof of the mouth is divided into 2 parts:
  - The hard palate – the top roof-area, near the teeth
  - The soft palate – deepest part of the roof, near the throat
- The tongue touches the hard or the soft palates to produce different letters
Articulation areas: The Tongue

Deepest part of the tongue and the soft palate

Letter Qaf – ﹪

Deepest part of the tongue touches the soft palate
Articulation areas: The Tongue

Deepest part of the tongue and the soft palate

Letter Kaf – ك

Deepest part of the tongue (further from the throat) touches the soft palate
Articulation areas: The Tongue

Deepest part of the tongue and the soft palate

• The articulation points for letter Qaf and letter Kaf are very close together.
• They both are produced by touching the deepest part of the tongue to the soft palate.
• However, the position of Kaf is little distance away from Qaf. Kaf is produced from the deepest end of the tongue which is closer to mouth and away from throat. [Qaf articulation point is more closer to the throat]
Articulation areas: The Tongue

Deepest part of the tongue and the soft palate

Soft palate

Letter Qaf - ﻗ: Deepest tongue touches soft palate

Letter Kaf - ﻟ: Deepest tongue (closer to mouth) touches soft palate
Articulation areas: The Tongue

Middle part of the tongue and the hard palate

Letters Jeem, Sheen and Ya – ج ش ي

Middle part of the tongue touches the hard palate, opposite side of the mouth.
Articulation areas: The Tongue

The head and the tip of the tongue

• The front part of the tongue touches different teeth to emit different letters.

• We should also know about these different teeth.
Articulation areas: The Tongue
Articulation areas: The Tongue

The side of the tongue

Letter Daad – ض

- The letter ض is produced by touching the left side of the tongue with the left upper teeth.
- Letter ض is one of the most difficult letter to pronounce.
- ضّرّب الضّلالينَ
Articulation areas: The Tongue

The side of the tongue

Letter Laam – ل

- By touching the nearest part of the sides of the tongue (nearest to the mouth) and the end of its tip with the upper teeth on the opposite side.
- ل articulation point is the front edges of the tongue, whereas the ض is from the posterior edges of the tongue.
- الحمْدُ لِلَّهِ
Articulation areas: The Tongue

Letter Noon – ن
• Tip of the tongue touching the gums/roots of the two top front teeth.

• الخَنَّاس التَّاس
Articulation areas: The Tongue

Letter Ra – ر

• Tip of the tongue touching the hard palate, near the gums of the front two teeth.

• رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ مِنْ شَرّ 
Articulation areas: The Tongue

• Top of the tongue (head of the tongue) touches the gum line [root] of the top two teeth.

• اُحْدِنَا الصرَّاطَ المُسْتَقِيمَ
Articulation areas: The Tongue

• Tip of the tongue touches the edges of the top two teeth.
Articulation areas: The Tongue

• The edges of the top and lower front teeth close together and the tip of the tongue comes near them.
• In other words, tip of the tongue just misses the edges of the top and lower front teeth.
• For all three of these letters, a whistle sound is produced.