

Makharij Al-Huruf (The Exit Points of Letters)

In Tajwid, "Makharij" is the plural of "Makhraj," which means the exit point or articulation point from which an Arabic letter is pronounced. Knowing the correct exit points is essential for reciting the Quran accurately and beautifully.

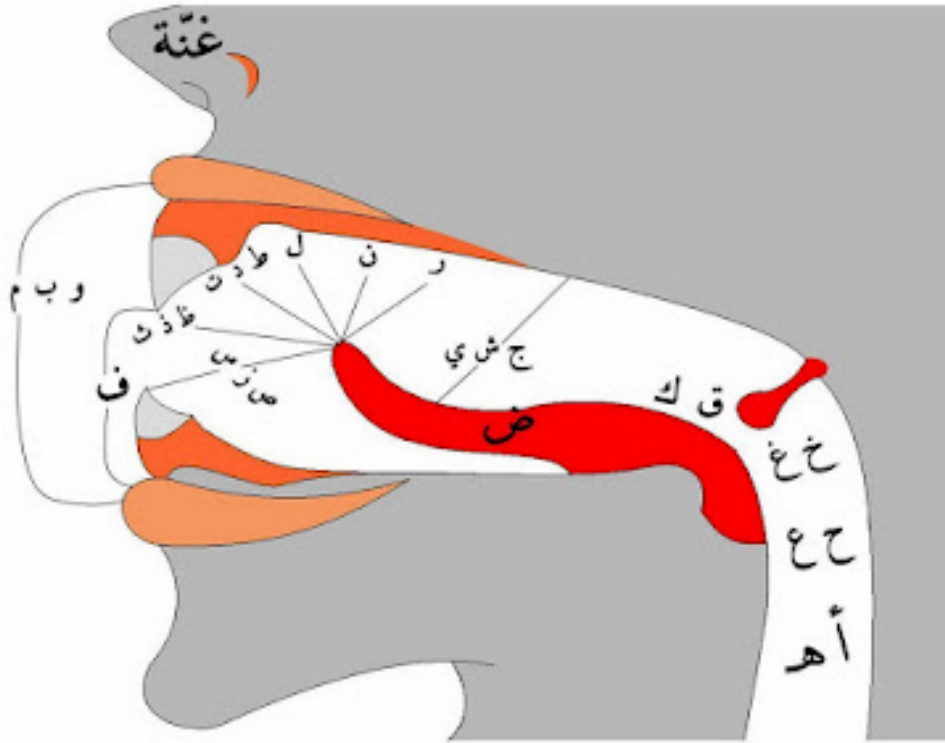


Figure 1: Diagram showing the various exit points in the human vocal tract.

The Five Main Exit Points

There are five major areas in the human vocal system that serve as the main exit points (Makharij) for all Arabic letters:

1. Al-Jawf (The Empty Space in the Mouth and Throat)

This is the hollow or empty space extending from the chest up through the throat and mouth. It is not a specific localized point but rather an open cavity.

- Letters: This is the exit point for the three elongated vowel letters (Huruf Al-Mad):
- Alif (ا) preceded by a Fathah
- Waw (و) preceded by a Dammah
- Ya (ي) preceded by a Kasrah

2. Al-Halq (The Throat)

The throat is divided into three sections: the deepest part, the middle part, and the closest part (nearest to the mouth).

- Letters:
- Deepest part: Hamzah (ء) and Ha (هـ)
- Middle part: 'Ayn (ع) and Ha (ح)
- Closest part: Ghayn (غ) and Kha (خ)

3. Al-Lisan (The Tongue)

The tongue is the largest and most complex of the exit points, containing 10 specific sub-points that produce 18 different letters. It utilizes the deepest part of the tongue, the middle, the sides, and the tip, touching various parts of the palate and teeth.

- Letters: Qaf (ق), Kaf (ك), Jim (ج), Shin (ش), Ya (ي - non-mad), Dad (ض), Lam (ل), Nun (ن), Ra (ر), Ta (ط), Dal (د), Ta (ت), Sad (ص), Sin (س), Zay (ز), Tha (ظ), Dhal (ذ), and Tha (ث).

4. Ash-Shafatan (The Two Lips)

This exit point involves using either one lip (with the teeth) or both lips together.

- Letters:
- Fa (ف): Bottom lip and top front teeth.
- Waw (و - non-mad), Ba (ب), and Mim (م): Using both lips.

5. Al-Khayshum (The Nasal Cavity)

This is the passage in the nose that connects to the back of the mouth. It does not produce a specific letter; rather, it produces a specific sound characteristic called "Ghunnah" (nasalization).

- Letters: The Ghunnah sound is an inherent characteristic of the letters Nun (ن) and Mim (م), especially when they have a Shaddah (doubled) or are hidden (Ikhfa).