

## THE ARTICULATION POINTS OF LETTERS (MAKHĀRIJ AL-HUROOF)

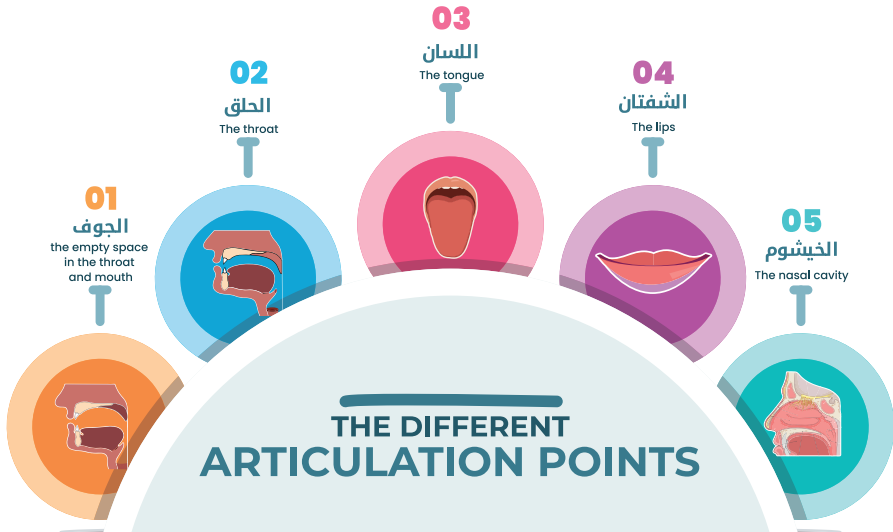
مخارج الحروف

**A letter is:** a sound that relies on a specific or approximate articulation point.

**An articulation point is:** the place where a letter comes from, when pronouncing it, that differentiates that specific letter from other letters.

### THE DIFFERENT ARTICULATION POINTS

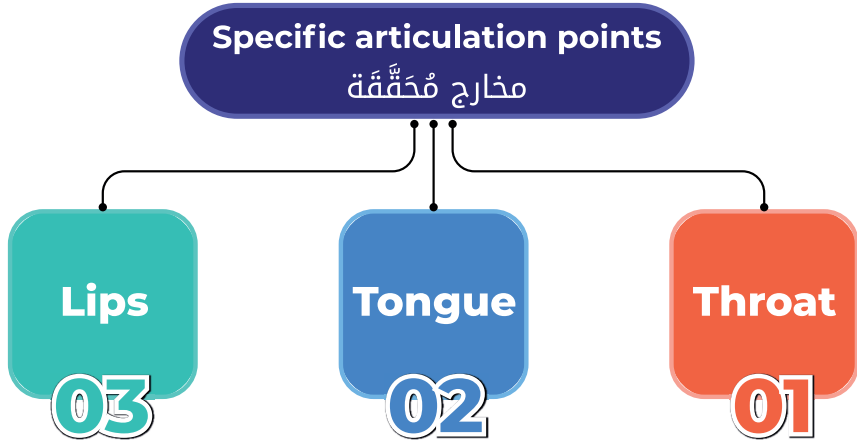
The scholars have laid out 5 major areas that have within them the different articulation points which are a total of 17.



## CLASSIFICATION OF THE ARTICULATION POINTS

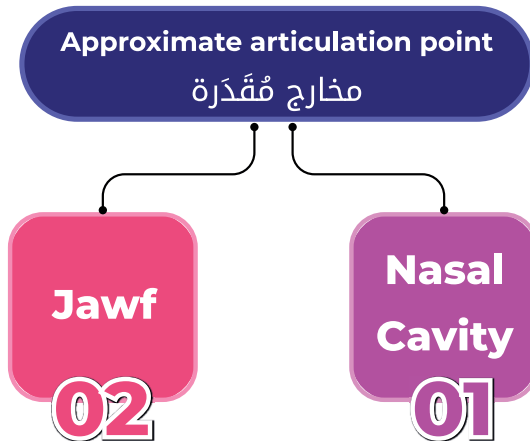
### 1- Specific articulation point:

Relies on a specific area of the tongue, throat or lips.



### 2- Approximate articulation point:

Does not rely on a specific area of the tongue, throat or lips. The approximate articulation point applies to the lengthened letters that come from the empty space in the throat and mouth.



## 17 Articulation points from 5 major areas:

1

The empty space in the mouth and throat (Al-Jawf) has 1 articulation point.



2

The throat الحلق has 3 articulation points for 6 letters.



3

The tongue اللسان has 10 articulation points for 18 letters.



4

The lips الشفتان has 2 articulation points for 4 letters.



5

The nasal cavity الخيشوم has 1 articulation point for ghunnah sound.

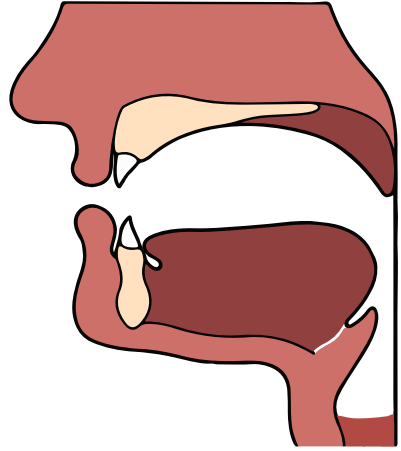


## 1- AL-JAWF | الجوف

## ORAL CAVITY + THROAT CAVITY

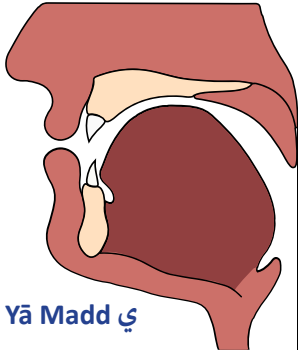
The empty space in the **throat** and **mouth**. It is a place and an articulation point at the same time.

The three madd letters (lengthened letters) originate from this non-specific area. These letters end with the stopping of the sound which stops with the air.



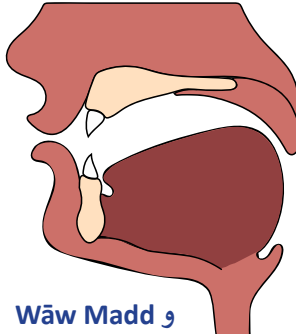
These letters are:

ياء  
Yā



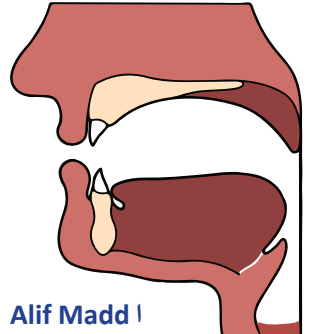
Yā Madd ي

واو  
Wāw



Wāw Madd و

الف  
Alif



Alif Madd ا

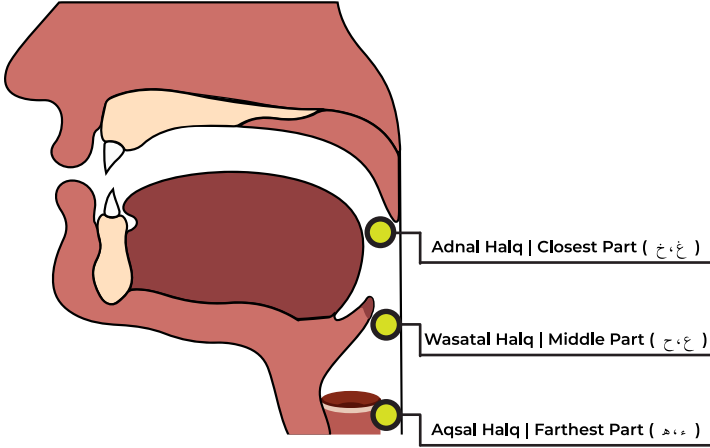
**Yā** with sukoon preceded by a letter with kasrah.

**Wāw** with sukoon preceded by a letter with dammah.

**Alif** with sukoon preceded by a letter with fat-hah.

## 2- AL-HALAQ | الحلق

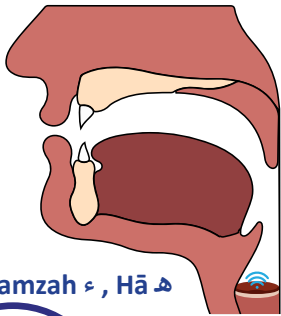
## THE THROAT



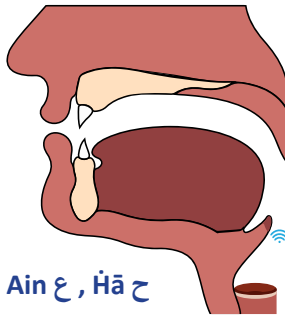
**The throat has three articulation points for six letters.**

They are:

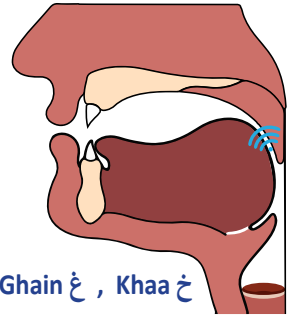
- 1- Adnal halq (أدنى الحلق): The closest part.
- 2- Wasatal halq (وسط الحلق): The middle part.
- 3- Aqsal halq (أقصى الحلق): The farthest (deepest) part.



Hamzah ء , Hā ه



Ain ع , Hā ح



Ghain غ , Khaa خ

**-The deepest part** of the throat أقصى الحلق (the farthest part from the mouth and the closest to the chest) has two letters articulated from it: هـ & ء.

**-The middle part** of the throat وسط الحلق has two letters articulated from it: ح & ع

**-The closest part** of the throat أدنى الحلق (the closest part to the mouth) has two letters articulated from it: خ & غ

### Note:

-When hā هـ is pronounced, the vocal cords are open.

-When hamza ء is pronounced, the vocal cords are closed.

هـ، هـ، هـ	و، ئ، أ، ء
ح، ح، ح	ع، ع، ع
خ، خ، خ	غ، غ، غ

## THE THROAT LETTERS WITH THE VOWELS

هُ، هِ، هَ	أُ، اِ، أَ
حُ، حِ، حَ	عُ، عِ، عَ
خُ، خِ، خَ	غُ، غِ، غَ

### Note:

The letters خ & غ are from the letters that have tafkheem, meaning they are **heavy letters**.



The lesson of tafkheem and tarqeeq will be explained later in more detail.

**-Tafkheem:** Fattening, thickening

**Its applied definition:** It is **a heaviness** that enters the body of a letter, so that the mouth is filled with its echo. The method of making a letter have the characteristic of tafkheem is by:

- **Elevating** the back of the tongue to the roof of the mouth (soft palate), creating more space between the roof of the mouth and the bottom of the mouth.

- **Focusing** the pressure of the letter towards the roof of the mouth.

There are **two categories** of tafkheem:

**1-Letters that always have tafkheem.** These are the seven letters in the group : (خُصَّ صَغَطِ قِظْ) : خ ص ض غ ط ق ظ

These are called the tafkheem letters (heavy letters).

They differ in terms of the level of tafkheem according to the letters' characteristics and the strength or weakness of these characteristics.

The ranking of these letters from strongest to lightest is:

ط ض ص ظ ق غ خ

(ط ض ص) are stronger due to the raising of the back of the tongue to the roof of the mouth along with the elevation of the tip of the tongue.



**2. Letters that sometimes have tafkheem** and other times have tarqeeq:

- a)** The lengthened alif المدية الألف. The alif is known to follow the letter preceding it in tafkheem or tarqeeq.
- b)** The lām اللام. Pronouncing lām in the Exalted Name of Allāh with tafkheem is one of its temporary qualities, which will be explained in detail later, in shā Allāh.
- c)** The rā الرا has 8 cases in which it has tafkheem, 4 cases in which it has tarqeeq and 2 cases that allow either tafkheem or tarqeeq.

-The rest of the Arabic letters always have tarqeeq.

**-Tarqeeq:** Thinness (lightness) its applied definition: It is a thinness that enters the body of a letter, so that the mouth is not filled with its echo.





### 3- AL-LISĀN | اللسان

#### THE TONGUE

Tongue has ten articulation points distributed over four areas of the tongue for eighteen letters.

#### The four areas are:

- 1-The deepest part or the back of the tongue.
- 2-The middle part of the tongue.
- 3-The tip of the tongue.
- 4-The edges of the tongue

**Note:** To study the makhraj of the tongue, the learner must first understand the classification of the teeth.

#### THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE TEETH

Central Incisor

Lateral Incisor

Canine

First Molar

Second Molar

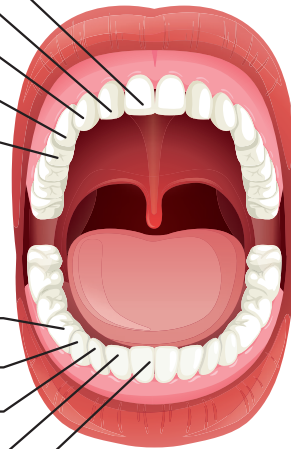
Second Molar

First Molar

Canine

Lateral Incisor

Central Incisor



## THE DEEPEST PART OF THE TONGUE

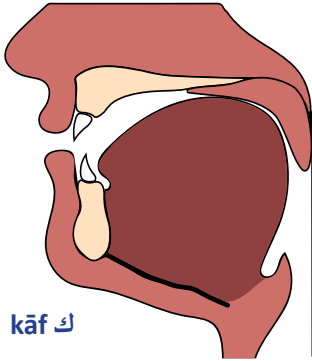
### ق The letter qāf

It is from the deepest part of the tongue and what lies opposite to it of the roof of the mouth (the soft palate).

أقصى اللسان مع الحنك اللحمي

كاف

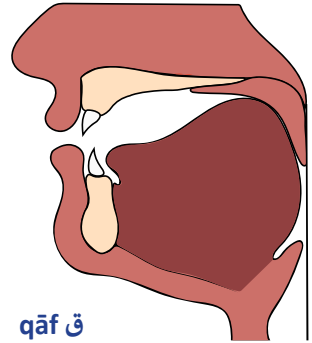
kāf



ك kāf

قاف

qāf



ق qāf

### ك The letter kāf

It is from the deepest part of the tongue and what lies opposite to it of the roof of the mouth (from both the soft and the hard palate). أقصى اللسان مع الحنك اللحمي والعظمي معاً. The kāf is a little under the qāf, meaning closer to the mouth and farther from the throat.

## WITH THE HARAkat: FAT-HAH, KASRAH & DAMMAH

كُ، كِ، كَ

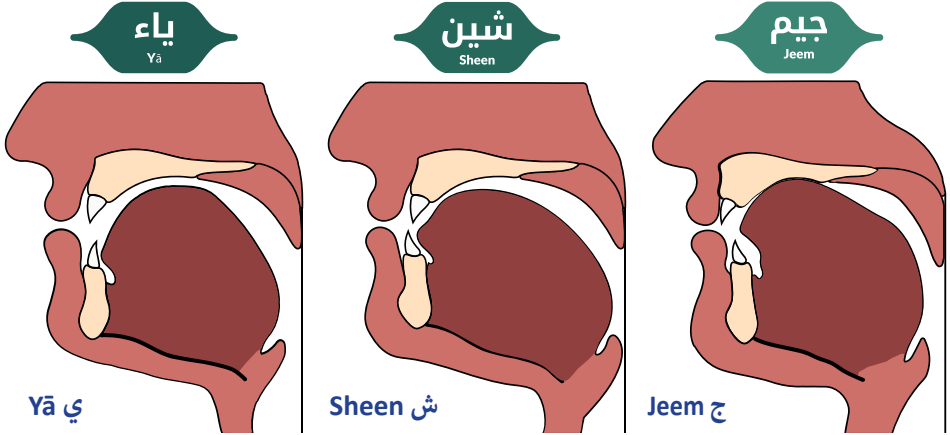
قُ، قِ، قَ

كُ، كِ، كَ

قُ، قِ، قَ

## THE MIDDLE OF THE TONGUE

Three letters are articulated from the **middle** of the tongue:



These letters are emitted from the middle of the tongue and the roof of the mouth that lies opposite to it.

من وَسَطِ اللِّسَانِ مَعَ مَا يَحَادِيهِ مِنَ الحَنَكِ الأَعْلَى

## WITH THE HARAkat: FAT-HAH, KASRAH & DAMMAH

يُ، يِ، يَ	شُ، شِ، شَ	جُ، جِ، جَ
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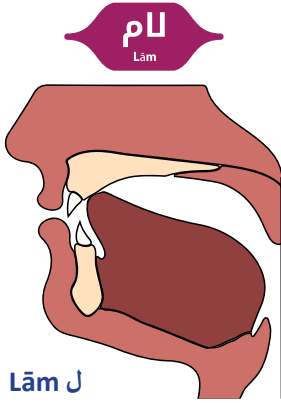
يِي، يِ، يِ	شِ، شِ، شِ	جِ، جِ، جِ
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## THE SIDE OR EDGE OF THE TONGUE

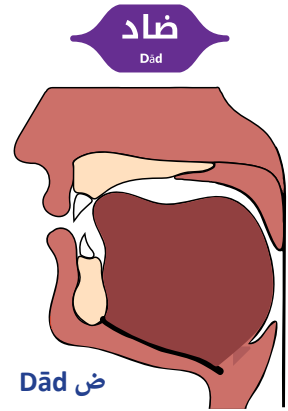
### ض The letter Dād

It is articulated from one of the sides or edges of the tongue and what lies opposite to it of the gums of the upper molars, left or right. It can also be articulated from both sides at the same time. حافة اللسان مع ما يجاورها من لثة الأضراس العليا.



Lām ل

### The letter Lām ل



Dād ض

This letter's articulation point is from the nearest part of the sides of the tongue and the end of its tip and what lies opposite to it of the gums of the first two upper premolars, the two upper canines, the two upper lateral incisors and the two upper front incisors. (i.e from the left premolar to the right premolar)

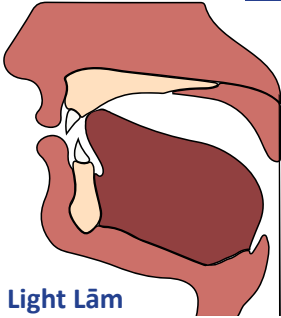
من أدنى حافتي اللسان إلى منتهى طرفه مع ما يحاذيهما من لثة الأسنان العليا (أي لثة الضاحكين والنايين والرباعيتين والثنييتين) من الضاحك إلى الضاحك.

Its articulation point is the front edges of the tongue, whereas the ض is from the posterior edges of the tongue.

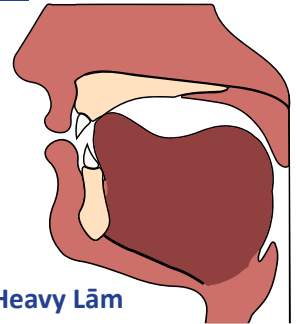
### WITH THE HARAkat: FAT-HAH, KASRAH & DAMMAH

لُ، لِ، لَ	ضُ، ضِ، ضَ
لُ، لِ، لَ	ضُ، ضِ، ضَ

### THE LIGHT AND HEAVY LĀM



Light Lām



Heavy Lām

#### - Rules for the Lām in the Name of Allāh

- 1- If there is a fat-hah or dammah before the word Allāh or Allāhum, the lām in these two words will be heavy.
- 2- If there is a kasrah before the word Allāh or Allāhum, the lām in these two words will be light.
- 3- If the reader starts reading with the word Allāh or Allāhum, the lām in these two words will be heavy (الله) (اللهم).



## THE TIP OF THE TONGUE

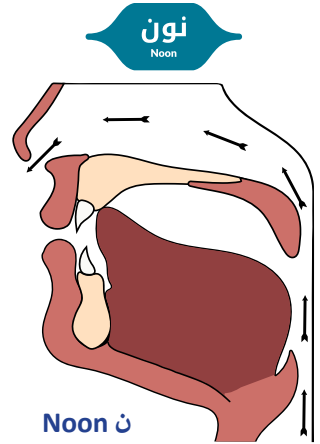
It has **5** articulation points for **11** letters.



## THE ARTICULATION POINT OF NOON ن

The tip of the tongue is touching the gums of the two upper front incisors.

-It is articulated from the tip of the tongue and what lies opposite to it of the gums of the two upper front incisors, slightly beneath the articulation point of the lām. It has the ghunnah (nasalization) during pronunciation which comes from the nasal cavity (الخيشوم). Therefore, half of the sound comes from the mouth (i.e its makhraj) and the other half from the nasal cavity.



من طرف اللسان مع ما يُحاذيه من لثة الثنايا العليا، تحت مَخْرَج اللَّام بقليل و يُصاحبا غُنَّة من الخَيْشوم.

**-Note:** When the noon is hidden, the articulation point changes from the tip of the tongue to near the articulation point of the letter that follows noon sākinah (the letter causing the Ikhfā' (hiding) of the noon sākinah). In the case of Idghām (noon sākinah is merged into the letter following it), it changes its articulation point from the tip of the tongue to the articulation point of the letter merged into.

## WITH THE HARAKAT: FAT-HAH, KASRAH & DAMMAH

نُ، نِي، نَى

نَ، نِ، نِى

## ر ARTICULATION POINT OF RĀ

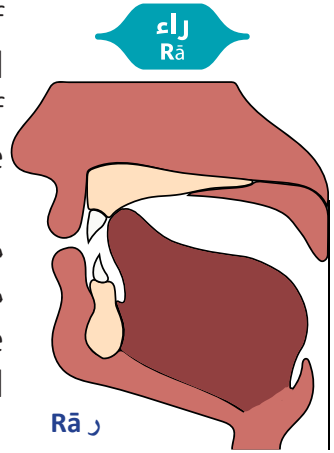
This letter is emitted from the tip of the tongue with the top of the tip and what lies opposite to it of the gums of the two upper front incisors, after the makhraj of noon.

من طرف اللسان من جهة ظهره مع ما يحاذيه من اللثة، قريباً من مخرج النون.

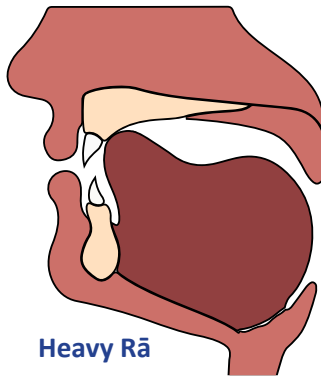
The tip of the tongue needs to strike the gums to produce this sound correctly. There should be no trilling of the tongue when pronouncing this letter.

There is space in the middle of the tip of the tongue allows part of the sound to exit the mouth when pronouncing ر. This space also prevents the trilling of the tongue while pronouncing the letter.

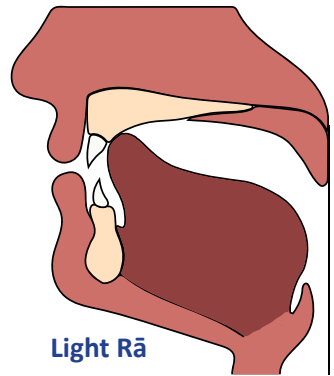
-The letter **rā** ر sometimes has **tafkheem** and sometimes has **tarqeeq** depending on its condition, which will be discussed later.



ر Rā



Heavy Rā



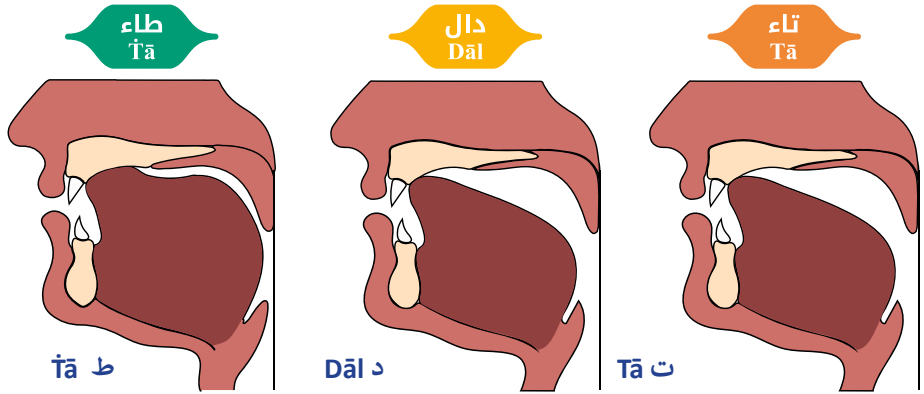
Light Rā



## ت د ط THE ARTICULATION POINT OF

-These letters are pronounced from the top side of the tip of the tongue and the gum line (root) of the two upper front incisors. من ظَهَرَ طَرَفَ اللسان العريض مع أصول الثَّنَايا العليا

-The gum line is exactly where the gum meets the teeth. This group is called الحروف النَطْعِيَّة (An-Nat'eia letters) due to their articulation point being close to the elevated area above the gums.



-**Tā** is a letter that has tafkheem (heaviness). A far greater portion of the tongue is raised to the roof of the mouth when pronouncing this letter and it is the strongest of all the letters of the Arabic language.

### WITH THE HARAkat: FAT-HAH, KASRAH & DAMMAH

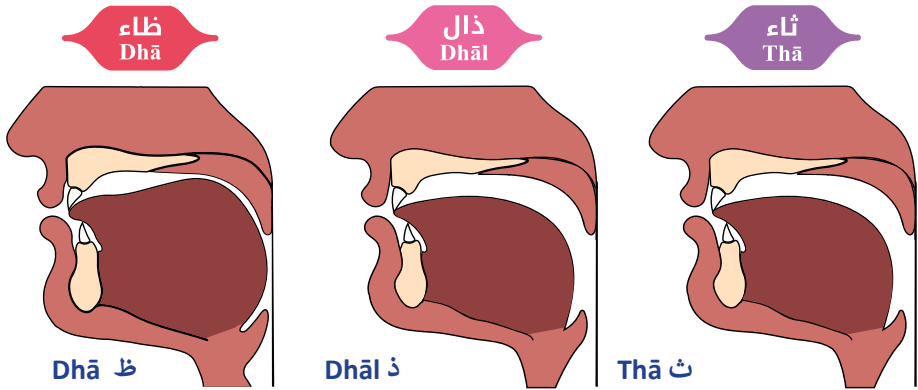
طُ، طِ، طَ	طُ، طِ، طَ
دُ، دِ، دَ	دُ، دِ، دَ
تُ، تِ، تَ، ؤُ، ؤِ، ؤَ	تُ، تِ، تَ



## ث ذ ظ THE ARTICULATION POINT OF

-These letters are articulated from between the tip of the tongue (from the top side of the tip) and the edges of the two upper front incisors. طرف اللسان مع أطراف الثنايا العليا

- Care should be taken to make sure the top side of the tip is really colliding or separating (depending whether the letter is sākin or voweled) with the edges of the teeth and not the plates of the teeth.



**The letter dhā ( ظ ) is one of the tafkheem (heavy) letters**

- A great portion of the tongue is elevated to the roof of the mouth, making the letter sound heavy.

-These three letters are grouped as الحروف اللثوية because their articulation point is somewhat close to the gums.

### WITH THE HARAkat: FAT-HAH, KASRAH & DAMMAH

ظُ، ظِ، ظَ	ذُ، ذِ، ذَ
ثُ، ثِ، ثَ	ثُ، ثِ، ثَ

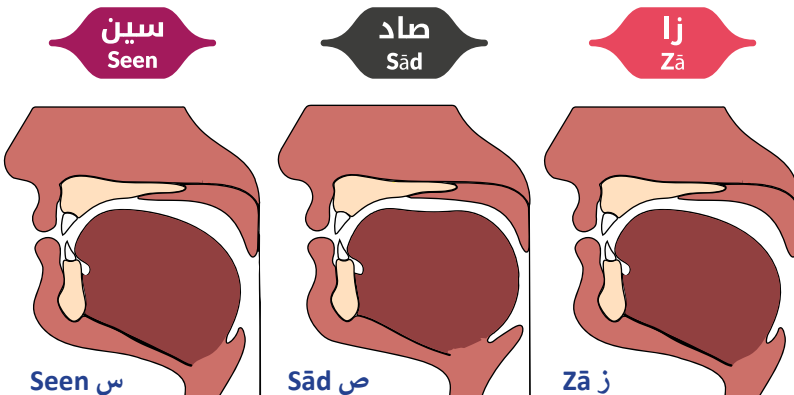
## THE ARTICULATION POINT OF ز ص س

These three letters are articulated from the tip of the tongue and the plates of the two lower incisors. The sound passes above the two lower incisors, between the upper and lower incisors. There is a little space left between the tip of the tongue and the plates of the teeth when pronouncing these letters.

منتهى طرف اللسان مع أسفل الصفحة الداخلية للثنايا السفلى فيخرج الصوت من فوقها ماراً بين الثنايا العليا والسفلى.

-Note that the term “plate” refers to the long axis of the tooth and in this case, the long axis that is on the internal side, rather than the external side of the teeth.

-These letters are called “Al-Asliyah letters” الحروف الأصلية due to their articulation point coming from the pointed tip of the tongue. They are also called letters of “As-Safeer” الصفير, which means “whistle”, because of the whistle sound that is produced when they are emitted correctly.



- The letter **sād (ص)** is one of the tafkheem (heavy) letters and also has the characteristic of adhering. If it is not made heavy enough, it sounds just like, or very close to, a **س**.

### WITH THE HARAKAT: FAT-HAH, KASRAH & DAMMAH

سُ ، سِيْ ، سِ	سُ ، سِيْ ، سِ
صُ ، صِيْ ، صِ	صُ ، صِيْ ، صِ
زُ ، زِيْ ، زِ	زُ ، زِيْ ، زِ



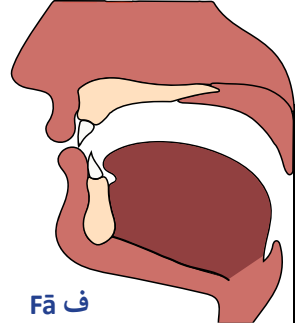
## 4- ASH-SHAFATĀN | الشفتان

[ THE TWO LIPS ]

## The letter Fā ف

1-The **fā** is articulated from the inside of the lower lip and the tip (edges) of the two front incisors.

من باطن الشفة السفلى مع أطراف الثنايا العليا.

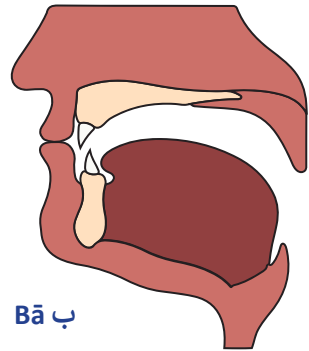
فَاء  
Fā

ف Fā

## The letter Bā ب

2-The **bā** is articulated by closing the two lips together with a stronger closing than the meem. Pressing the two lips together and releasing them produces the letter **bā**.

بانطباق الشفتين على بعضهما.

بَاء  
Bā

ب Bā

WITH THE HARAkat: FAT-HAH, KASRAH &amp; DAMMAH

فُ، فِ، فَ

فُ، فِ، فَ

بُ، بِ، بَ

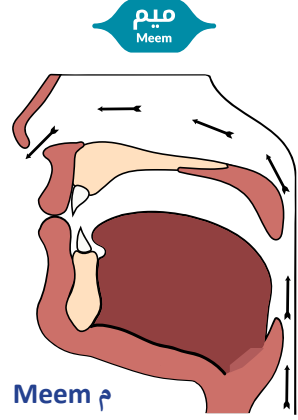
بُ، بِ، بَ

## The letter Meem م

**3-The meem** is articulated by closing the two lips together, with a ghunnah (nasalization) from the nasal cavity.

بَانطِبَاقِ الشَّفَتَيْنِ وَيُصَاحِبُ ذَلِكَ غَنَّةٌ مِنَ الْخَيْشُومِ.

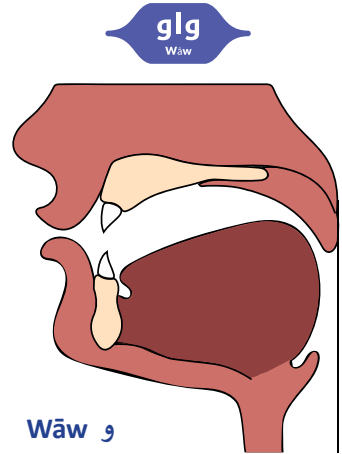
-Part of the sound is from the lips and the other part is nasal.



## The letter Wāw و

**4-The Waw** Opening the lips slightly and forming an “o” shape produces the un-lengthened wāw. The un-lengthened wāw is articulated by forming a circle of the two lips.

بَانضِمامِ الشَّفَتَيْنِ إِلَى الْأَمَامِ مَعَ بَقَاءِ فَرْجَةٍ بَيْنَهُمَا يَمُرُّ مِنْهَا الصَّوْتُ.



## WITH THE HARAkat: FAT-HAH, KASRAH & DAMMAH

مُ، مِ، مَ	مُ، مِ، مَ
وُ، وِ، وَ	وُ، وِ، وَ



## 5- AL-KHAYSHOOM | التجويف الأنفي الخيشوم

### THE NASAL CAVITY

#### The Nasal Cavity (Passage):

-The hole in the nose that continues back towards the inside of the mouth or the passage that extends from the nostrils towards the inside of the mouth.

-It is an approximate makhraj.

-*Ghunnah* is articulated from this place.

**Ghunnah** is a nasal sound, not a letter, that comes from the nasal cavity without any involvement of the tongue. If you hold your nose closed, you will not be able to produce the ghunnah sound. The letters noon ن and meem م that have this associated sound are not articulated from the nose.

Ghunnah is a characteristic of noon and meem and is more obvious when they have a shaddah on them.

The strength of the ghunnah differs according to the rule applied when pronouncing noon and meem.

