القاعدة النورانية

Noorani Qaida

With English instructions for learners, parents and teachers

17 lessons | Letters to fluent reading | Quran practice words

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How to use this Qaida

The Noorani Qaida teaches you to read the Quran step by step: first the letters, then the vowel marks, then the signs that lengthen, silence or double a letter. Each lesson builds on the one before, so work through them in order.

- **Learn with a teacher.** Arabic has sounds that do not exist in English. A qualified teacher who hears you read is the only reliable way to get them right.
- **Little and often.** 15–30 minutes a day beats one long session a week. Revise the previous lesson before starting a new one.
- **Read right to left.** Each grid starts from the top-right corner.
- **Don't rush.** Move on only when the learner reads the current lesson without help.

Parents: you don't need to read Arabic to help. Sit with your child, keep a daily routine, and ask the teacher what to practise between lessons.

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★ Key reading rules

Lesson 1

Single Letters

Huroof Mufradat

الحروف المفردة

The 29 letters of the Arabic alphabet, read from right to left. Learn each letter's name and its correct sound from your teacher. Many letters have sounds that do not exist in English, so listen closely and copy the exact sound.

Teaching tip: Point to each letter and say its name. Do not move on until the learner can name every letter in any order, not just in sequence.

The alphabet

ح Ḥaa	ج Jeem	ث Thaa	ت Taa	ب Baa	ا Alif
س Seen	ز Zaay	ر Raa	ذ Dhaal	د Daal	خ Khaa
ع ʿAyn	ظ Ẓaa	ط Ṭaa	ض Ḍaad	ص Ṣaad	ش Sheen
م Meem	ل Laam	ك Kaaf	ق Qaaf	ف Faa	غ Ghayn
	ي Yaa	ء Hamzah	ه Haa	و Waaw	ن Noon

Throat letters (Ḥurūf Ḥalqiyyah)

Pronounced from the throat.

خ	غ	ح	ع	ه	ء

Qalqalah letters

These letters echo slightly when they have a sukoon.

د	ج	ب	ط	ق

Heavy letters (Ḥurūf Mustaʿliyah)

Always read with a full, heavy sound.

ظ	ق	ط	غ	ض	ص	خ

Letters that sound alike to English speakers

Practise these pairs carefully. Mixing them up changes the meaning of words.

ع ء	ق ك	ح ه	ص س	ظ ز ذ	ض د	ط ت

Lesson 2

Joined Letters

Huroof Murakkabat

الحروف المركبة

Arabic letters change shape when they join. Most letters connect on both sides; six letters (ا د ذ ر ز و) never join to the letter after them. Learn to recognise each letter in every position.

Teaching tip: Ask the learner to name each letter inside a joined group, one by one, right to left. Recognising letters inside words is the key skill here.

Letter shapes: alone, at the start, in the middle, at the end

ـا end	ـا middle	ا start	ا Alif
ـب end	ـبـ middle	بـ start	ب Baa
ـت end	ـتـ middle	تـ start	ت Taa
ـث end	ـثـ middle	ثـ start	ث Thaa
ـج end	ـجـ middle	جـ start	ج Jeem
ـح end	ـحـ middle	حـ start	ح Ḥaa
ـخ end	ـخـ middle	خـ start	خ Khaa
ـد end	ـد middle	د start	د Daal

ـذ end	ـذـ middle	ذ start	ذ Dhaal
ـر end	ـرـ middle	ر start	ر Raa
ـز end	ـزـ middle	ز start	ز Zaay
ـس end	ـسـ middle	سـ start	س Seen
ـش end	ـشـ middle	شـ start	ش Sheen
ـص end	ـصـ middle	صـ start	ص Ṣaad
ـض end	ـضـ middle	ضـ start	ض Ḍaad
ـط end	ـطـ middle	طـ start	ط Ṭaa
ـظ end	ـظـ middle	ظـ start	ظ Ẓaa
ـع end	ـعـ middle	عـ start	ع ʿAyn
ـغ end	ـغـ middle	غـ start	غ Ghayn

ـف end	فـ middle	ف start	ف Faa
ـق end	قـ middle	ق start	ق Qaaf
ـك end	كـ middle	ك start	ك Kaaf
ـل end	لـ middle	ل start	ل Laam
ـم end	مـ middle	م start	م Meem
ـن end	نـ middle	ن start	ن Noon
ـو end	ـو middle	و start	و Waaw
ـه end	هـ middle	هـ start	ه Haa
ـي end	يـ middle	يـ start	ي Yaa

Two letters joined

خد	خ	جح	ثج	تث	بت	اب
صض	شص	سش	زس	رز	ذر	دذ

ضط	طظ	ظع	عغ	غف	فق	قك
كل	لم	من	نو	وه	هي	

Three letters joined

ابت	بتث	ثنج	ثجح	جحخ	حخد
خدذ	ددر	ذرز	رزس	زسش	سشص
شصض	صضط	ضطظ	طظع	ظعغ	عغف
غفق	فقك	قكل	كلم	لمن	منو
نوه	وهي				

Lesson 3

Disjointed Letters

Huroof Muqatta'at

الحروف المقطعات

Some surahs begin with letters that are read by their names, letter by letter. They appear at the start of 29 surahs in 14 different combinations. Read each letter's name, and stretch the letters your teacher shows you.

Teaching tip: These are read by letter names: Alif Laaam Meeem. Only Allah knows their full meaning.

The 14 combinations

الٓمٓ Surah 2	الٓمٓصٓ Surah 7	الٓرٰ Surah 10	الٓمٓرٰ Surah 13
كٓهٰيٰعٓصٓ Surah 19	طٰهٰ Surah 20	طٰسٓمٓ Surah 26	طٰسٓ Surah 27
يٰسٓ Surah 36	صٓ Surah 38	حٰمٓ Surah 40	عٓسٓقٓ Surah 42
قٓ Surah 50	نٓ Surah 68		

Lesson 4

Short Vowels

Harakaat

الحركات

Three short vowel marks: Fatha (ـَ) a short 'a' sound, written above the letter; Kasra (ـِ) a short 'i' sound, written below; Damma (ـُ) a short 'u' sound, written above. Read each one quickly and crisply, without stretching.

Teaching tip: Read across the row: ba, bi, bu. Keep every vowel short, about one beat. Watch the heavy letters: their fatha sounds fuller (ṣa, ṭa, qa).

Fatha, kasra and damma on every letter

بُ	بِ	بَ	اُ	اِ	اَ
ثُ	ثِ	ثَ	تُ	تِ	تَ
حُ	حِ	حَ	جُ	جِ	جَ
دُ	دِ	دَ	خُ	خِ	خَ
رُ	رِ	رَ	ذُ	ذِ	ذَ
سُ	سِ	سَ	زُ	زِ	زَ
صُ	صِ	صَ	شُ	شِ	شَ
طُ	طِ	طَ	ضُ	ضِ	ضَ

عُ	عِ	عَ	ظُ	ظِ	ظَ
فُ	فِ	فَ	غُ	غِ	غَ
كُ	كِ	كَ	قُ	قِ	قَ
مُ	مِ	مَ	لُ	لِ	لَ
وُ	وِ	وَ	نُ	نِ	نَ
يُ	يِ	يَ	هُ	هِ	هَ

Lesson 5

Double Vowels

Tanween

التنوين

Tanween is a doubled vowel mark that adds an 'n' sound: ـً 'an', ـٍ 'in', ـٌ 'un'. Fathatan is usually written with an extra alif after it, which is not read.

Teaching tip: Read: ban, bin, bun. Make sure the 'n' is clear and short.

Tanween on every letter

بٌ	بٍ	بًا	اٌ	اٍ	اً
ثٌ	ثٍ	ثًا	تٌ	تٍ	تًا
حٌ	حٍ	حًا	جٌ	جٍ	جًا
دٌ	دٍ	دًا	خٌ	خٍ	خًا
رٌ	رٍ	رًا	ذٌ	ذٍ	ذًا
سٌ	سٍ	سًا	زٌ	زٍ	زًا
صٌ	صٍ	صًا	شٌ	شٍ	شًا
طٌ	طٍ	طًا	ضٌ	ضٍ	ضًا

ظًا	ظِ	ظُ	عًا	عٍ	عُ
غًا	غٍ	غُ	فًا	فٍ	فُ
قًا	قٍ	قُ	كًا	كٍ	كُ
لًا	لٍ	لُ	مًا	مٍ	مُ
نًا	نٍ	نُ	وًا	وٍ	وُ
هًا	هٍ	هُ	يًا	يٍ	يُ

Lesson 6

Practice: Harakaat and Tanween

Mashq

تمرين الحركات والتنوين

Real words from the Quran that use only short vowels and tanween. Read each word letter by letter first, then join the sounds smoothly.

Teaching tip: First spell the word aloud by letter and vowel (meem-kasra mi, noon-fatha na: mina), then read it in one breath.

Practice words

مِنَ	هُوَ	وَهُوَ	هُمُ
عَنِ	لَكَ	خَلَقَ	مَعَ
هِيَ	جَعَلَ	لَكُمُ	لَهُمُ
وَمِنَ	تَرَ	قُلِ	لَهُ
بِهِ	وَجَعَلَ	فَهُوَ	أَبَدًا
إِذًا	لَمِنَ	أَنِ	أَحَدًا
مَنِ	حَسَنًا	كَفَرَ	لَهُوَ
مَثَلًا	أَجَلٍ	أَحَدٍ	أَوِ
بَشَرٌ	فَمَنِ	كَذِبًا	لِمَ

Lesson 7

Standing Vowels

Khari Zabar, Khari Zer, Ulta Pesh

الحركات القائمة

A standing fatha (ـٰ), standing kasra (ـٖ) and inverted damma (ـٗ) are long vowels: read them for two counts, twice as long as a short vowel.

Teaching tip: Count on your fingers: 'baa' (1–2), 'bee' (1–2), 'boo' (1–2). Compare with the short ba, bi, bu from Lesson 4.

Standing vowels on every letter

تٰ	تٖ	تٗ	بٰ	بٖ	بٗ
جٰ	جٖ	جٗ	ثٰ	ثٖ	ثٗ
خٰ	خٖ	خٗ	حٰ	حٖ	حٗ
ذٰ	ذٖ	ذٗ	دٰ	دٖ	دٗ
زٰ	زٖ	زٗ	رٰ	رٖ	رٗ
شٰ	شٖ	شٗ	سٰ	سٖ	سٗ
ضٰ	ضٖ	ضٗ	صٰ	صٖ	صٗ
ظٰ	ظٖ	ظٗ	طٰ	طٖ	طٗ

عْ	عِ	عُ	غْ	غِ	غُ
فْ	فِ	فُ	قْ	قِ	قُ
كْ	كِ	كُ	لْ	لِ	لُ
مْ	مِ	مُ	نْ	نِ	نُ
وْ	وِ	وُ	هْ	هِ	هُ
يْ	يِ	يُ			

Lesson 8

Madd Letters

Huroof Madd

حروف المد

The three madd (long vowel) letters stretch the sound to two counts: alif after a fatha (ـَا), yaa after a kasra (ـِي), and waw after a damma (ـُو). The madd letter itself has no mark.

Teaching tip: Read baa, bee, boo, each for two counts. If the learner shortens them, the meaning of words can change.

Madd on every letter

بَا	بِي	بُو	تَا	تِي	تُو
ثَا	ثِي	ثُو	جَا	جِي	جُو
حَا	حِي	حُو	خَا	خِي	خُو
دَا	دِي	دُو	ذَا	ذِي	ذُو
رَا	رِي	رُو	زَا	زِي	زُو
سَا	سِي	سُو	شَا	شِي	شُو
صَا	صِي	صُو	ضَا	ضِي	ضُو
طَا	طِي	طُو	ظَا	ظِي	ظُو
عَا	عِي	عُو	غَا	غِي	غُو
فَا	فِي	فُو	قَا	قِي	قُو

كَا	كِي	كُو	لَا	لِي	لُو
مَا	مِي	مُو	نَا	نِي	نُو
وَا	وِي	وُو	هَا	هِي	هُو
يَا	يِي	يُو			

Lesson 9

Leen Letters

Huroof Leen

حروف اللين

Waw or yaa with a sukoon, after a letter with a fatha, are read softly: 'aw' and 'ay', as in بَيْ (bay) and بَوْ (baw). Do not stretch them in normal reading.

Teaching tip: Contrast: بَيْ is 'bay', soft and short; بِي is 'bee', long.

Leen on every letter

بَيْ	بَوْ	تَيْ	تَوْ	ثَيْ	ثَوْ
جَيْ	جَوْ	حَيْ	حَوْ	خَيْ	خَوْ
دَيْ	دَوْ	ذَيْ	ذَوْ	رَيْ	رَوْ
زَيْ	زَوْ	سَيْ	سَوْ	شَيْ	شَوْ
صَيْ	صَوْ	ضَيْ	ضَوْ	طَيْ	طَوْ
ظَيْ	ظَوْ	عَيْ	عَوْ	غَيْ	غَوْ
فَيْ	فَوْ	قَيْ	قَوْ	كَيْ	كَوْ
لَيْ	لَوْ	مَيْ	مَوْ	نَيْ	نَوْ
وَيْ	وَوْ	هَيْ	هَوْ	يَيْ	يَوْ

Leen in Quran words

أَوْ	عَلَيْهِ	يَوْمَ	وَلَوْ

خَيْرٌ	إِلَيْهِ	إِلَيْكَ	بَيْنَ
كَيْفَ	لَوْ	يَوْمَئِذٍ	عَلَيْكَ
وَيَوْمَ	عَلَيْهَا	بِغَيْرِ	عَلَيْنَا
غَيْرَ	لَيْسَ		

Lesson 10

Practice: Madd and Leen

Mashq

تمرين المد واللين

Quran words with madd letters. Stretch every madd letter for two counts and keep the short vowels short.

Teaching tip: Underline the madd letter with your finger as you read it, so the learner sees where to stretch.

Practice words

مَا	لَا	وَلَا	وَمَا
قَالَ	كَانَ	بِمَا	فِيهَا
إِذَا	فَلَا	فِيهِ	وَإِذَا
وَقَالَ	وَكَانَ	دُونِ	عَذَابٌ
فَإِذَا	عَلِيمٌ	سَبِيلِ	فَمَا
بِهَا	لَنَا	قَلِيلًا	غَفُورٌ
جَمِيعًا	كَثِيرًا	أَفَلَا	كَمَا
عَذَابًا	يُرِيدُ	عَذَابَ	قَدِيرٌ
أَلِيمٌ	حَكِيمٌ	لَهَا	يَقُولُ

Lesson 11

Sukoon

Jazm

السكون

A sukoon (ْ) means the letter has no vowel. It joins to the letter before it: اَبْ is 'ab'. The qalqalah letters (ق ط ب ج د) echo slightly when they have a sukoon.

Teaching tip: Read: ab, ib, ub. Don't add an extra vowel after the silent letter (say 'ab', not 'aba').

Sukoon after every vowel

اَبْ	اِبْ	اُبْ	اَتْ	اِتْ	اُتْ
اَثْ	اِثْ	اُثْ	اَجْ	اِجْ	اُجْ
اَحْ	اِحْ	اُحْ	اَخْ	اِخْ	اُخْ
اَدْ	اِدْ	اُدْ	اَذْ	اِذْ	اُذْ
اَرْ	اِرْ	اُرْ	اَزْ	اِزْ	اُزْ
اَسْ	اِسْ	اُسْ	اَشْ	اِشْ	اُشْ
اَصْ	اِصْ	اُصْ	اَضْ	اِضْ	اُضْ
اَطْ	اِطْ	اُطْ	اَظْ	اِظْ	اُظْ

اَعْ	اِعْ	اُعْ	اَغْ	اِغْ	اُغْ
اَفْ	اِفْ	اُفْ	اَقْ	اِقْ	اُقْ
اَكْ	اِكْ	اُكْ	اَلْ	اِلْ	اُلْ
اَمْ	اِمْ	اُمْ	اَنْ	اِنْ	اُنْ
اَهْ	اِهْ	اُهْ			

Lesson 12

Practice: Sukoon

Mashq

تمرين السكون

Quran words with sukoon. The word ٱلْ at the start of a word is the Arabic 'the'; when you start reading from it, say 'al'.

Teaching tip: Break longer words into syllables at each sukoon: ya‘-la-moon.

Practice words

أَوْ	مِنْ	ٱلْأَرْضِ	قُلْ
لَهُمْ	شَيْءٍ	لَكُمْ	إِذْ
هُمْ	عَلَيْهِ	عَلَيْهِمْ	يَوْمَ
وَلَقَدْ	عَلَيْكُمْ	قَدْ	وَهُمْ
وَلَوْ	أَمْ	بَلْ	إِنْ
لَمْ	يُؤْمِنُونَ	تَعْمَلُونَ	بَعْدِ
يَعْلَمُونَ	أَلَمْ	خَيْرٌ	إِلَيْهِ
إِلَيْكَ	مَنْ	بَيْنَ	قَبْلُ
وَإِذْ	مِنْهُمْ	هَلْ	كَيْفَ
يَعْلَمُ	لَوْ	يَوْمَئِذٍ	مِنْهَا

Lesson 13

Shaddah

Tashdeed

التشديد

A shaddah (ـّـ) doubles the letter: read it twice, first with a sukoon (joined to the letter before), then with its vowel. اَبَّ is 'ab-ba'.

Teaching tip: Make the learner pause slightly on the doubled letter: ab-ba, ib-bi, ub-bu. With ن and م, hold the nasal sound (ghunnah) for two counts.

Shaddah on every letter

اَبَّ	اِبِّ	اُبُّ	اَتَّ	اِتِّ	اُتُّ
اَثَّ	اِثِّ	اُثُّ	اَجَّ	اِجِّ	اُجُّ
اَحَّ	اِحِّ	اُحُّ	اَخَّ	اِخِّ	اُخُّ
اَدَّ	اِدِّ	اُدُّ	اَذَّ	اِذِّ	اُذُّ
اَرَّ	اِرِّ	اُرُّ	اَزَّ	اِزِّ	اُزُّ
اَسَّ	اِسِّ	اُسُّ	اَشَّ	اِشِّ	اُشُّ
اَصَّ	اِصِّ	اُصُّ	اَضَّ	اِضِّ	اُضُّ
اَطَّ	اِطِّ	اُطُّ	اَظَّ	اِظِّ	اُظُّ

اَعَّ	اِعِّ	اُعُّ	اَغَّ	اِغِّ	اُغُّ
اَفَّ	اِفِّ	اُفُّ	اَقَّ	اِقِّ	اُقُّ
اَكَّ	اِكِّ	اُكُّ	اَلَّ	اِلِّ	اُلُّ
اَمَّ	اِمِّ	اُمُّ	اَنَّ	اِنِّ	اُنُّ
اَوَّ	اِوِّ	اُوُّ	اَهَّ	اِهِّ	اُهُّ
اَيَّ	اِيِّ	اُيُّ			

Lesson 14

Practice: Shaddah

Mashq

تمرين التشديد

Quran words with one shaddah. In ٱلَّ, ٱلنَّ, ٱلرَّ and similar words the laam is not read, and the next letter is doubled (a 'sun letter').

Teaching tip: Contrast ٱلْقَمَر (al-qamar, laam read) with ٱلشَّمْس (ash-shams, laam silent).

Practice words

ٱللَّهِ	ٱلَّذِينَ	ٱللَّهُ	إِنَّ
ٱللَّهَ	إِلَّا	ثُمَّ	كُلِّ
إِنَّا	لِلَّهِ	أَنَّ	ٱلنَّاسِ
إِنَّمَا	رَبِّ	رَبِّكَ	وَإِنَّ
فَلَمَّا	فَإِنَّ	ٱلنَّارِ	كُنَّا
جَهَنَّمَ	رَبَّكَ	مِمَّا	لِلَّذِينَ
إِنَّكَ	كُلَّ	ٱلنَّاسَ	كُلُّ
أَلَّا	عَمَّا	وَأَنَّ	رَبُّكَ
ٱلنَّاسُ	رَبَّنَا	يُحِبُّ	فَبِأَيِّ

Lesson 15

Shaddah with Sukoon

Mashq

التشديد مع السكون

Words that combine a shaddah and a sukoon. Read slowly and give every silent and doubled letter its right.

Teaching tip: Read each word three times: slowly by syllable, then joined, then at normal pace.

Practice words

ٱلدُّنْيَا	رَبِّهِمْ	إِنَّهُمْ	لَعَلَّكُمْ
ٱلْحَقُّ	ٱلْحَقِّ	لَعَلَّهُمْ	أَنَّهُمْ
ٱلْأَوَّلِينَ	ٱلَّيْلِ	ٱلْجَنَّةِ	ٱلَّيْلَ
إِنَّكُمْ	بِأَنَّهُمْ	ٱلْحَقَّ	رَبُّكُمْ
ٱلْمُتَّقِينَ	ٱلْجَنَّةَ	رَبَّكُمْ	ٱلْجِنِّ
قَدَّمَتْ	كَذَّبَتْ	رَبِّكُمْ	أَنَّكُمْ
ٱلْبِرِّ	عَلَيْهِنَّ	لِلْمُتَّقِينَ	ٱلرِّزْقَ
ٱلشَّمْسَ	فَإِنَّهُمْ		

Lesson 16

Two Shaddahs

Tashdeed with Tashdeed

تشديد مع تشديد

Words with two doubled letters. Double each one fully, and hold the ghunnah on a doubled ن or م.

Teaching tip: Clap once for each doubled letter while reading. It helps learners notice both.

Practice words

ٱلنَّبِيُّ	ٱلنَّبِيِّ	ٱلظَّنَّ
يَذَّكَّرُونَ	ٱلتَّوَّابُ	ٱلضُّرُّ
ٱللَّهُمَّ	ٱلنَّبِيَّ	زَيَّنَّا
ٱلشَّرُّ	ٱلصُّمَّ	بَيَّنَّا
تَمَسُّوهُنَّ	ذُرِّيَّةً	ذُرِّيَّةِ
ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ	مَكَّنَّا	نَتَوَفَّيَنَّكَ
يَذَّكَّرُ	ٱلذُّلِّ	ٱلسَّيِّئَةَ
ٱلطَّيِّبِ	ٱلظَّنِّ	تَغُرَّنَّكُمُ

Lesson 17

Shaddah after a Madd Letter

Tashdeed ba'd Huroof Madd

التشديد بعد حروف المد

When a madd letter is followed by a shaddah in the same word, the madd is stretched for six counts (madd lāzim). The wavy mark (ـّـ) shows the long stretch.

Teaching tip: Count six on your fingers on the stretched alif in ٱلضَّآلِّينَ, the last word of Al-Fatiha.

Practice words

دَآبَّةٍ	ٱلضَّآلِّينَ	جَآنٌّ
كَآفَّةً	ٱلضَّآلُّونَ	ٱلْحَآقَّةُ
تُحَآجُّونَ	ضَآلِّينَ	لَضَآلُّونَ
يَتَمَآسَّا	يُحَآدُّونَ	ٱلدَّوَآبِّ
ءَآمِّينَ	أَتُحَآجُّونَنَا	بِضَآرِّهِمْ
بِضَآرِّينَ	تَتَّبِعَآنِّ	تُضَآرَّ

Next

Key Reading Rules

A short guide to what comes after the Qaida

Noon sakinah and tanween

When ن with sukoon or tanween meets the next letter, it is read in one of four ways: clearly (Iẓhār) before the throat letters ء ه ع ح غ خ; merged (Idghām) into ي ر م ل و ن; changed to a meem sound (Iqlāb) before ب; and hidden with a nasal sound (Ikhfā') before the remaining 15 letters.

Meem sakinah

م with sukoon is hidden with ghunnah before ب, merged into a following م, and read clearly before every other letter.

Heavy and light Raa

ر is read heavy (full) with a fatha or damma, and light with a kasra. With a sukoon it follows the letter before it in most cases.

The word Allah

The laam in ٱللَّه is heavy after a fatha or damma (Allaah, as in قَالَ ٱللَّهُ) and light after a kasra (as in بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ).

Stopping at the end of a verse

When you stop on a word, its last vowel becomes a sukoon. Fathatan becomes a long 'aa' (ʿalīmā), and ة becomes a soft ه sound.

Learn the Noorani Qaida with a teacher

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