Open, long or closed?

Start at 1 on the right. Each tile is one syllable, so both lines look the same. Read it aloud and name its shape.

The syllable rule

In a fully vowelled word, each vowel mark starts one syllable. Tanween counts once. A sukoon, a long-vowel letter and the first half of a shaddah add no extra syllable.

	4	3	2	1
Parts	كَا	سُ	أَدْ	بَا
Joined	كَا	سُ	أَدْ	بَا

	8	7	6	5
Parts	أَكْ	سُو	دِ	أَبْ
Joined	أَكْ	سُو	دِ	أَبْ

	12	11	10	9
Parts	كَ	أَسْ	دِي	بَ
Joined	كَ	أَسْ	دِي	بَ

Fold back here before reading

Pronunciation check

4 kā · long	3 su · open	2 ad · closed	1 bā · long
8 ak · closed	7 sū · long	6 di · open	5 ab · closed
12 ka · open	11 as · closed	10 dī · long	9 ba · open

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Read short words

Start on the right. Read the parts on the top line, then say the whole word below. Sound the final vowel or tanween.

2 light

نُوْرٌ

نور

1 sun

شَمْسٌ

شمس

4 an eye

عَيْنٌ

عين

3 paper

وَرَقٌ

ورق

6 he was patient

صَابَرَ

صبر

5 religion

دِيْنٌ

دِين

Fold back here before reading

Pronunciation check

2 nū-run

4 ʿay-nun

6 ṣa-ba-ra

1 sham-sun

3 wa-ra-qun

5 dī-nun

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Read longer words

Count the vowel marks, then read the parts and the whole word. At a shaddah, end one syllable and start the next on the same consonant.

2 a friend

صَ ا دِي ا قٌ

صَدِيقٌ

1 a mosque

مَسْ ا جِ ا دٌ

مَسْجِدٌ

4 a ladder

سُلْ ا لَا ا مٌ

سُلَّمٌ

3 a lamp

مِصْ ا بَا ا حٌ

مِصْبَاحٌ

6 a sparrow

عُصْ ا فُو ا رٌ

عُصْفُورٌ

5 a prayer mat

سَجْ ا جَا ا دَا ا ةٌ

سَجَّادَةٌ

Fold back here before reading

Pronunciation check

2 ṣa-dī-qun

1 mas-ji-dun

4 sul-la-mun

3 miṣ-bā-ḥun

6 ʿuṣ-fū-run

5 saj-jā-da-tun

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Join two words

Read the parts from right to left, then say both words in one breath. In the first three phrases, say the final n of tanween clearly as you go into the next word.

1

a great day

يَوْمٌ عَظِيمٌ

يوم عظيم

2

an honest man

رَجُلٌ أَمِينٌ

رجل أمين

3

a kind word

قَوْلٌ حَسَنٌ

قول حسن

4

a word of truth

كَلِمَةُ حَقٍّ

كلمة حقّ

Fold back here before reading

Pronunciation check

2 ra-ju-lun ʾa-mī-nun

1 yaw-mun ʿa-ẓī-mun

4 ka-li-ma-tu ḥaq-qin

3 qaw-lun ḥa-sa-nun

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Read a whole ayah

Read the parts, then the joined verse. Read it once more at a natural pace before you listen.

Al-Fil 105:3

13 syllables as written

Hear Al-Husary

وَ | أَرْ | سَ | لَ عَ | لَيْ | هِمْ طَيْ | رًا أَ | بَا | بِي | لَ

وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ

“For He sent against them flocks of birds,”

Al-Fajr 89:13

14 syllables as written

Hear Al-Husary

فَ | صَبْ | بَ عَ | لَيْ | هِمْ رَبْ | بُ | كَ سَوْ | طَ عَ | ذَا | بٍ

فَصَبَّ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّكَ سَوْطَ عَذَابٍ

“So your Lord unleashed on them a scourge of punishment.”

Stopping at the end

The splits show every written vowel. When you pause at the end of these two verses, drop the last vowel sound. The strip below shows how each verse ends at a stop.

Recitation in Ḥafṣ ʿan ʿĀṣim. English translations by Dr. Mustafa Khattab, The Clear Quran.

Fold back here before reading

Pronunciation check

At a stop

Al-Fil 105:3	wa-arsala ʿalayhim ṭayran abābīl
Al-Fajr 89:13	fa-ṣabba ʿalayhim rabbuka sawṭa ʿadhāb

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