

LESSON 14 SIGNS OF STOPPING (WAF)

In the Quran many times you come across little versions of the alphabet letters in between a verse. In this lesson we will learn what to do when you see a certain letter or a certain sign.

If you see a small version of these letters or signs then it means you must stop



ط م قف

If you see a small version of these Letters or signs then you have an option to stop or to carry on



ص صل صلے ز ق ج

If you see any of these in the Quran then you should pause without breaking the breath. (only certain places in the Quran, not all)



س سكتة وقفة

If you see this sign do not stop



لا

The circle tells us it is the end of a verse

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ○

Look at the 2 sets of signs circled in the example to the right. Whenever you will see this in the Quran there will be a set of 2. Stop at either one of the points and not both.

لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ ۚ

You will read either:

1- لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ

2- لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ

These are the basic symbols that you will come across in the Quran and what to do when you actually come across any of them.

Remember it is important that this is studied with a qualified teacher who can explain in more detail if the need arises.

1. The Compulsory (Mandatory) Stop (*wajib*). Meem

The sign of “*Waqf e Laazim*” bounds the reader to stop reading at this point, as the word *laazim* means imperative or to do at any cost. It is so because if one does not take a pause here, the entire meaning of the sentence will alter radically.

﴿ إِنَّمَا يَسْتَجِيبُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ وَالْمَوْتَىٰ يَبْعَثُهُمُ اللَّهُ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ
يُرْجَعُونَ ﴾

(ج) 2. The Permissible Stop: (A mubah stop, Permissible) Neutral.
You can stop.

“*Waqf e Jaaiz*” points toward completion of matter discussed in that fragment of the Ayah, so one needs to stop here, although it is not obligatory to do so, so that it can absorb the meaning discussed in previous part, and get ready to know about new matter in the following part of same verse.

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ نَبَأَهُم بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّهُمْ فِتْيَةٌ ءَامَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ
وَزِدْنَاهُمْ هُدًى ۝ ١٣

3. Preference for Continuation: (صلى)

“Al-wasl Awlaa” indicates towards continue recitation of the verses with no need to stop. Saad+Laam (A makrooh stop). It's better if you don't stop here.

فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّكَ عَلَى الْحَقِّ الْمُبِينِ ﴿٧٩﴾

أُولَئِكَ عَلَى هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٥٠﴾

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ ءَامِنُوا كَمَا ءَامَنَ النَّاسُ قَالُوا أَنُؤْمِنُ كَمَا ءَامَنَ السُّفَهَاءُ

أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ السُّفَهَاءُ وَلَكِن لَّا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٣﴾

4. Al-waqf Aawla (A musthabb stop). It is better to stop (قلی)

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُمْ بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ ^{قَه} أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ
الْقُلُوبُ ﴿٢٨﴾

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ آمِنُوا كَمَا آمَنَ النَّاسُ قَالُوا أَنْتُمُ الَّذِينَ كُنْتُمْ تَخْفَوْا
أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ السُّفَهَاءُ وَلَكِنْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٣﴾

∴ ∴ 5. The Embracing Stop:

“*Mu’aanaqah*” is a sign that signifies about stopping at either of the triplet included in it, with no discontinuation simultaneously. These come in two. You need to stop at one of the two pairs of dots, but not both.

Majeedi: مع معانقة



↳ 6. The Absolute Pause:

Majeedi: “*Waqf e Mutlaq*” is stop sign to indicate to the reader to take a gap in reciting the long passage by taking breath and discontinue the recitation for an instantaneous period of time. It is better to stop here because it makes the reading process easier by fully grabbing the meaning of already read text.

ز 7. Continue Reading: Majeedi Script

Majeedi: وقف مجوّز The sign of “*Waqf e Mujawwaz*” means one does not need to take a pause and continue the recital process, although there is no prohibition on stopping here.

خَتَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ وَعَلَى سَمْعِهِمْ وَعَلَى أَبْصَارِهِمْ غِشَاوَةٌ وَلَهُمْ
عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿٧﴾

8. The Licensed Pause: ص

Majeedi: وقف المرخص *“Waqf e Murakh-khas”* is a symbol that permits the reader to take a break and take a breath in case if getting tired only, but it is highly advisable to carry on reading.

أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ اشْتَرُوا الضَّلَالَةَ بِالْهُدَىٰ فَمَا رَبِحَت تِّجَارَتُهُمْ وَمَا
كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ ﴿١٦﴾

9. ق it has been said to stop

Majeedi: قد قيل

صل 10. The Permissible Pause: -----

“*Qad Yusal*” specifies about the permission of continue reading although one should stop here.

قف 11. The Anticipation Mark: ----- Pause

Majeedi: “*Qif*” is inserted on the stop sign when a reader might expect the pause sign was not necessary.

س 12. The Silence Symbol

“*Saktah*” is a sign at which the reader should take a brief pause without breaking its breath before keeping on reading further. You make a very short pause (without taking a breath), then continue. (*ja'iz*).

كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿١٤﴾
 قَالُوا يَنْوِيْلُنَا مَنْ بَعَثَنَا مِنْ مَرْقَدِنَا هَذَا مَا وَعَدَ الرَّحْمَنُ وَصَدَقَ
 الْمُرْسَلُونَ ﴿٥٢﴾

وقفه 13. The Longer Pause

Majeedi: “Waqfah” indicates the longer pause than Saktah with the same gist of not breaking one`s breath while taking the break.

٧ 14. No Need of Stopping

Laa – (Laam + Alif) Haraam Stop - You *must not* stop here. Mandatory (*wajib*) to continue. One should not discontinue reading the verses at this sign of “*Laa*” as it would change the meaning of Quranic lines altogether, yet one can stop when it is used at the end of the Ayah with Circle Mark of conclusion

وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ
تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ كُلَّمَا رُزِقُوا مِنْهَا مِنْ ثَمَرَةٍ رِزْقًا قَالُوا هَذَا
الَّذِى رُزِقْنَا مِنْ قَبْلُ وَأُتُوا بِهِ مُتَشَبِهًا وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ
مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَهُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٢٥﴾

15. Similar Meaning as Previous Sign -----

Majeedi: “*Kadhaalik* or “like that” applies the same connotation of action as suggested by the preceding symbol.

16. “*Waqf e Manzil*”

is the sign indicating the Angel, Jibrael`s stopping and taking pause at the time of revealing the Quranic Instructions over the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

Majeedi: وقف جبریل Where Jibreel stopped

وقف النبي 17. The Pause of Prophet PBUH

Majeedi: “*Waqf-un-Nabi*” shows the parts of Quran where the Messenger ﷺ of God Himself stopped and took pause.

وقف غفران 18. The Sign of Supplication

Majeedi: “*Waqf e Ghufraan*” is a symbol indicating a place where the recite and listener should stop to make a prayer in front of Allah SWT.

○ – The Conclusion of Verse

“Waqf e Taam” represents the finishing end of a specific verse of Furqan e Hameed. It is also known as the “*Perfect Stop*”. It is represented simply by a circle at the conclusion of a Quranic line. The reciter has to stop here and take a breath before continuing reading further. It also shows the complete deliverance of the message in that sentence, so a narrator should look back at the verse, fully grasp its gist and get ready to learn about the following lines.

