

مَخْرَجُ الحُرُوفِ

Makharij Al-Horouf

Points of Articulation

The Definition of Makhraj مَخْرَجُ :

In the terminology of Tajweed, the place where a letter is pronounced is called a **Makhraj مَخْرَجُ** (point of articulation). **Makharij مَخَارِجُ** is the plural of Makhraj.

If a letter is not pronounced properly at its Makhraj, its pronunciation will not be correct and the meaning of the word might change.

How can we find the Makhraj?

In order to practice proper pronunciation of a letter at its Makhraj, a helpful rule is to prefix the letter with a Hamzah voweled with a **Fathah فَتْحَة**, **Dhammah ضَمَّة**, or a **Kasrah كَسْرَة** and make the letter itself **Mushaddad مُشَدَّد** or **Sakin سَاكِن** and pronounce it. The place where the sound stops with pressure is the Makhraj of that letter.

Example:

- | | |
|------|---|
| أَبْ | Hamzah voweled with a Fathah - the letter itself Mushaddad |
| أُبْ | Hamzah voweled with a Dhammah - the letter itself Mushaddad |
| إَبْ | Hamzah voweled with a Kasrah - the letter itself Mushaddad |
| أَبَ | Hamzah voweled with a Fathah - the letter itself Sakin |
| أُبَ | Hamzah voweled with a Dhammah - the letter itself Sakin |
| إَبَ | Hamzah voweled with a Kasrah - the letter itself Sakin |

Practice: Use the same rule for all the Arabic Alphabet.

The Main Makhrajs المَخَارِجُ الرَّئِيسِيَّة & The Detailed Makhrajs المَخَارِجُ التَّفْصِيْلِيَّة

The Arabic letters are twenty-eight 28 in number. Tajweed scholars add Hamzah as another letter making the Arabic letters twenty-nine 29 in number.

There are seventeen 17 detailed Makhraj of the Arabic letters, and they can be sorted under five 5 main Makhrajs.

Here we have a table showing the 5 Main Makhrajs, their names in Arabic, the number of the detailed Makhrajs associated with them, and the number of Arabic letters.



The Main Makhrajs (5)			Makhrajs (17)	Letters (28)
1- The Oral Cavity	al-Jawf	الجَوْف	1 Makhraj	Al-Madd
2- The Throat	al-Halq	الحَلَق	3 Makhrajs	6 Letters
3- The Tongue	al-Lisan	اللِّسَان	10 Makhrajs	18 Letters
4- The Lips	ash-Shafatan	الشَّفَتَان	2 Makhrajs	4 Letters
5- The Nasal Cavity	al-Khayshoom	الخَيْشُوم	1 Makhraj	Al-Ghunnah

Note:

We notice from the table that the number of letters does not equal the number of Makhrajs, which means that some letters share the same Makhraj.

1- The Oral Cavity: (al-Jawf الجَوْف):

The oral cavity is the hollow portion of the mouth. It extends from the back of the throat to the whole space in the mouth.

Al-Jawf is the makhraj of **Madd Letters** حُرُوفُ الْمَدِّ.

- Madd Letters: The madd letters are three:

- 1- **Alif Sakin** and the preceding letter bears a Fathah. (أَ) Example: هَا
- 2- **Waw Sakin** and the preceding letter bears a Dhammah. (وُ) Example: نُو
- 3- **Yaa Sakin** and the preceding letter bears a Kasrah. (يِ) Example: حِي

أَ Hamzah voweled with a Fathah - the letter itself Sakin

أُ Hamzah voweled with a Dhammah - the letter itself Sakin

إِ Hamzah voweled with a Kasrah - the letter itself Sakin

The word نُوحِيهَا إِلَيْكَ is an example where we have all three Madd letters.

During the pronunciation of Madd letters, exhaling occurs and therefore their pronunciation depends on the air being exhaled. While the exhaling stops, the pronunciation of these letters continues, and as the exhaling stops the pronunciation also stops. Therefore we can not point the Makhraj exactly, and we call it **Makhraj Taqdiri** مَخْرَجٌ تَقْدِيرِي (Indefinite). All other Makhrajs are **Muhaqqaqah** مُحَقَّقَةٌ (Definite).

* The Madd letters are called:

al-Huroof al-Hawaiyah الحُرُوفُ الْهَوَائِيَّةُ (The Arial Letters),

al-Huroof al-Jawfiyah الحُرُوفُ الْجَوْفِيَّةُ ,

or al-Huroof al-Maddiyah الحُرُوفُ الْمَدِّيَّةُ (The Elongation Letters).

Note:

The elongation of these letters will be discussed when we study al-Madd in the future Inshaa Allah.

2- The Throat: (**الْحَلْق** al-Halq):

We have three detailed Makhrajs (3) in the throat and six letters (6) originating from it:

1- **Aqsa al-Halq** **أَقْصَى الْحَلْق**: the remotest portion of the throat (nearest to the chest).

- From this part , **Hamza** ء and **Haa** ه are pronounced.

- **Hamza** ء is lower than **Haa** ه.

- We mentioned this portion first because the sound emanates from the inside and moves toward the front of the mouth.

2- **Wasat al-Halq** **وَسَطَ الْحَلْق**: The middle portion of the throat.

- From this part , **Ayn** ع and **Haa** ح are pronounced.

- **Ayn** ع is lower than **Haa** ح.

3- **Adna al-Halq** **أَدْنَى الْحَلْق**: The closer portion of the throat.

- From this part , **Ghyn** غ and **Khaa** خ are pronounced.

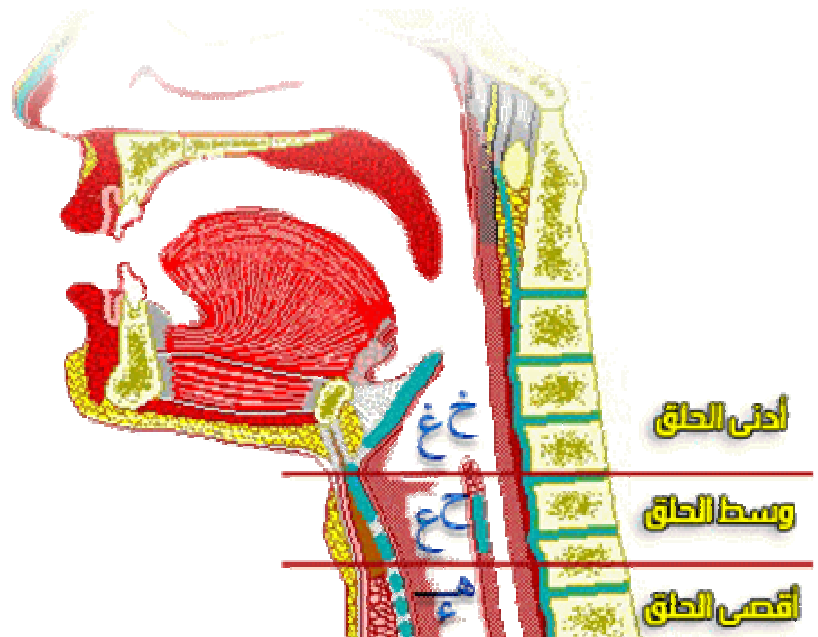
- **Ghyn** غ is lower than **Khaa** خ.

* We call these letters (**خ - غ - ح - ع - ه - ء**):

الْحُرُوفُ الْحَلْقِيَّة (The Guttural Letters).

Practice: Use the same rule that we used before to make sure you are getting the letter from its right Makhraj.

خ	غ	ح	ع	ه	ء
أَخْ	أَغْ	أَحْ	أَعْ	أَهْ	أَءْ
بَخْ	بَغْ	بَحْ	بَعْ	بَهْ	بَءْ
جَخْ	جَغْ	جَحْ	جَعْ	جَهْ	جَءْ
دَخْ	دَغْ	دَحْ	دَعْ	دَهْ	دَءْ
ذَخْ	ذَغْ	ذَحْ	ذَعْ	ذَهْ	ذَءْ
رَخْ	رَغْ	رَحْ	رَعْ	رَهْ	رَءْ
زَخْ	زَغْ	زَحْ	زَعْ	زَهْ	زَءْ
سَخْ	سَغْ	سَحْ	سَعْ	سَهْ	سَءْ
شَخْ	شَغْ	شَحْ	شَعْ	شَهْ	شَءْ
صَخْ	صَغْ	صَحْ	صَعْ	صَهْ	صَءْ
ضَخْ	ضَغْ	ضَحْ	ضَعْ	ضَهْ	ضَءْ
طَخْ	طَغْ	طَحْ	طَعْ	طَهْ	طَءْ
ظَخْ	ظَغْ	ظَحْ	ظَعْ	ظَهْ	ظَءْ
عَخْ	عَغْ	عَحْ	عَعْ	عَهْ	عَءْ
غَخْ	غَغْ	غَحْ	غَعْ	غَهْ	غَءْ
حَخْ	حَغْ	حَحْ	حَعْ	حَهْ	حَءْ
عَخْ	عَغْ	عَحْ	عَعْ	عَهْ	عَءْ
هَخْ	هَغْ	هَحْ	هَعْ	هَهْ	هَءْ
ءَخْ	ءَغْ	ءَحْ	ءَعْ	ءَهْ	ءَءْ



3- The Tongue: (اللِّسَان): (al-Lisan)

The tongue plays a decisive role in the pronunciation of most of the Arabic alphabets.

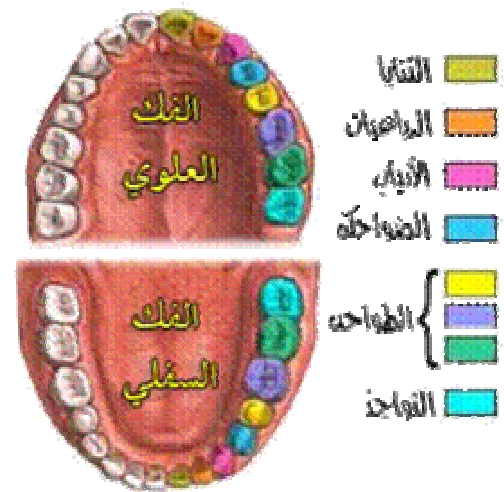
It is divided into five (5) parts:

- 1- Remotest portion of the tongue. (Aqsa al-Lisan أَقْصَى اللِّسَان)
- 2- Middle portion of the tongue. (Wasat al-Lisan وَسَطَ اللِّسَان)
- 3- Right edge of the tongue. (Hafat al-Lisan al-Yummna حَافَةَ اللِّسَانِ اليُمْنَى)
- 4- Left edge of the tongue. (Hafat al-Lisan al-Yusra حَافَةَ اللِّسَانِ اليُسْرَى)
- 5- Tip of the tongue. (Taraf al-Lisan طَرَفَ اللِّسَان)

The Arch of the Teeth

Before we start talking about al-Lisan, we need to familiarize ourselves with the arch of the teeth. It is extremely important because it will enable the reciter to use the exact place in the teeth for the pronunciation of a number of Arabic letters.

	Name (Eng)	Name (Ar)	Count
1-	Central Incisors	Thanaya الثَّنَائِيَا	4
2-	Lateral Incisors	Rubaiaat الرُّبَاعِيَّات	4
3-	Canine	Anyab الأنياب	4
4-	1 st Premolar	Dawahik الضَّوَّاحِك	4
5-	2 nd Premolar	Tawahin الطَّوَّاحِن	4
6-	1 st Molar	Tawahin الطَّوَّاحِن	4
7-	2 nd Molar	Tawahin الطَّوَّاحِن	4
8-	3 rd Molar (Wisdom Tooth)	Nawajith النَّوَّاجِذ	4



We have ten detailed Makhrajs (10) in the tongue and eighteen letters (18) originating from it:

- 1- The letter **Qaf ق** originates by blocking the passage of the throat with the remotest portion of the tongue touching the opposite portion of the soft palate.
- 2- The Makhraj of **Kaaf ك** is a little more toward the front of the mouth.

Practice: Use the same rule that we used before to make sure you are getting the letter from its right Makhraj.

ق	أَقَّ	أَقُّ	إَقَّ	أَقُّ	أَقُّ	إَقُّ
ك	أَكَّ	أَكُّ	إَكَّ	أَكُّ	أَكُّ	إَكُّ



* We call these letters (ق - ك):

الْحُرُوفُ اللَّهَوِيَّةُ (The Uvular Letters) **al-Huroof al-Lahawiyah**

3- The letters **Jeem ج**, **Sheen ش** and regular **Yaa ي** originate when the Middle portion of the tongue touches the opposite portion of the hard palate.

4- The letter **Dhaad ض** originates when the left edge of the tongue touches the left upper molar teeth.

Some people pronounce Dhaad from the right edge of the tongue and the right upper molar teeth.

The Letter Dhaad is cannot be found in any other language. Therefore Arabic is called the language of Dhaad.

Practice: Use the same rule that we used before to make sure you are getting the letter from its right Makhraj.

ج	أَجَّ	أَجُّ	إَجَّ	أَجُّ	أَجُّ	إَجُّ	ي	أَيَّ	أَيُّ	إَيَّ	أَيُّ	أَيُّ	إَيُّ
ش	أَشَّ	أَشُّ	إَشَّ	أَشُّ	أَشُّ	إَشُّ	ض	أَضَّ	أَضُّ	إَضَّ	أَضُّ	أَضُّ	إَضُّ

* We call these letters (ج - ش - ي - ض):

الْحُرُوفُ الشَّجَرِيَّةُ . **al-Huroof ash-Shajariyyah**

5- The letter **Laam ل** originates when the edge of the tongue touches the gum of the upper incisors.

6- The letter **Noon ن** originates when the tip of the tongue touches the portion between the gum of the upper incisors (the Makhraj of Laam ل) and the hard palate (the Makhraj of Raa ر).

In other words: it is from just inside the Makhraj of Laam ل.

7- The letter **Raa ر** originates when the tip of the tongue touches the opposite portion of the hard palate.

In other words: it is from just inside the Makhraj of Noon ن.

Practice: Use the same rule that we used before to make sure you are getting the letter from its right Makhraj.

ل	أَلَّ	أَلَّ	إِلَّ	أَلَّ	أَلَّ	إِلَّ
ن	أَنَّ	أَنَّ	إَنَّ	أَنَّ	أَنَّ	إَنَّ
ر	أَرَّ	أَرَّ	إَرَّ	أَرَّ	أَرَّ	إَرَّ

* We call these letters (ل - ن - ر):

الْحُرُوفُ الذَّلِقِيَّةُ al-Huroof ath-Thalaqiyyah

8- The letters **Taa ط**, **Daal د** and **Taa ت** originate when the tip of the tongue touches the root of the upper incisors.

Taa ط is the remotest one, then Daal د then Taa ت which is the closest one.

Practice: Use the same rule that we used before to make sure you are getting the letter from its right Makhraj.

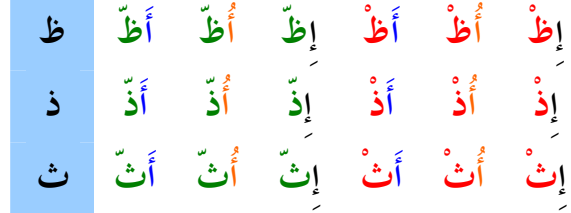
ط	أَطَّ	أَطَّ	إَطَّ	أَطَّ	أَطَّ	إَطَّ
د	أَدَّ	أَدَّ	إَدَّ	أَدَّ	أَدَّ	إَدَّ
ت	أَتَّ	أَتَّ	إَتَّ	أَتَّ	أَتَّ	إَتَّ

* We call these letters (ط - د - ت):

الْحُرُوفُ النَّطِيعِيَّةُ (The Dental Letters) al-Huroof an-Nitiyyah

9- The letters **Thaa** ظ , **Thaal** ذ and **Thaa** ث originate when the tip of the tongue touches the edge of the upper incisors.

Practice: Use the same rule that we used before to make sure you are getting the letter from its right Makhraj.



* We call these letters (ظ - ذ - ث):

al-Huroof al-Lathawiyah الحُرُوفُ اللَّثَوِيَّةُ (The Gingieal Letters).

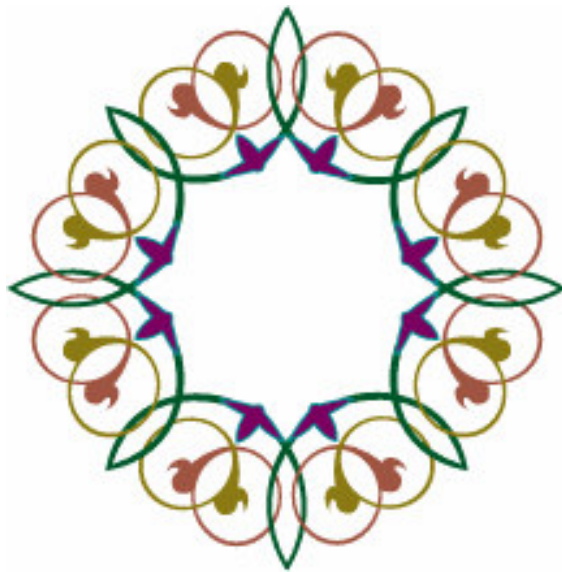
10- The letters **Seen** س , **Saad** ص and **Zai** ز originate when the tip of the tongue touches the root of the lower incisors.

Practice: Use the same rule that we used before to make sure you are getting the letter from its right Makhraj.



* We call these letters (س - ص - ز):

al-Huroof al-Asaliyyah الحُرُوفُ الْأَسَلِيَّةُ
or al-Huroof as-Safieriyah الحُرُوفُ الصَّفِيرِيَّةُ (The Whistling Letters)



4- The Lips: (الشَّفَتَان ash-Shafatan):

Each lip is divided into two parts:

the inner wet part (not visible) and the outer dry part (Visible)

We have two detailed Makhrajs (2) in the lips and four letters (4) originating from them:

1- By using both lips:

a, The letter **Baa** ب originates when the **wet** portions of the lips meet and then separate while pronouncing the letter.

b, The letter **Meem** م originates when the **dry** portions of the lips meet and then separate while pronouncing the letter.

c, The regular **Waw** و originates when the sides of the lips meet making a round shape. The round shape of the lips is retained while pronouncing the letter.

2- By using the lower lip and the upper incisors:

The letter **Faa** ف originates when the upper incisors hold the **wet** portion of the lower lip and then the upper incisors are released while pronouncing the letter.

Practice: Use the same rule that we used before to make sure you are getting the letter from its right Makhraj.



* We call these letters (ف - و - م - ب):

al-Huroof ash-Shafawiyah الحُرُوف الشَّفَوِيَّة (The Labial Letters).

5- The Nasal Cavity: (الحَيْشُومُ al-Khayshoom):

We have one detailed Makhraj (1) in the nasal cavity but there are no letters (0) originating from it.

The nasal cavity is the Makhraj of **الغنة al-Ghunnah** (Nasal Sound)

- Ghunnah is not a letter.
- Ghunnah is an attribute of Noon ن and Meem م .
- The letter Noon ن has a stronger Ghunnah than Meem م .
- All attributes originate from the same Makhraj as their letters **except** Ghunnah which its Makhraj is different than the Makhraj of its letters.

- There are five levels (5) of Ghunnah:

1- Noon ن and Meem م with Shaddah

(ن - م)
أنا - لَمَّا - آمَنَّا

وَأَنَا لَمَّا سَمِعْنَا الْهُدَىءَ آمَنَّا بِهِ
فَمَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِرَبِّهِ فَلَا يَخَافُ بَحْسَ آلِهِ وَلَا رَهَقًا

2- Idghaam with Ghunnah: when we have Noon Sakinah (or Tanween) followed by one of the following letters: Yaa ي, Noon ن, Meem م, Waw و.

(ن + (ي ن م و))
فَمَنْ يُؤْمِنُ

وَأَنَا لَمَّا سَمِعْنَا الْهُدَىءَ آمَنَّا بِهِ
فَمَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِرَبِّهِ فَلَا يَخَافُ بَحْسَ آلِهِ وَلَا رَهَقًا

3- Ikhfaa: when we have Noon Sakinah (or Tanween) followed by one of the Ikhfaa letters – or when we have Meem Sakinah followed by Baa.

(م + ب) (ن + (ت ث ج د ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ف ق ك))

كُنْتُمْ - كُنْتُمْ بِهِ

هَذَا يَوْمَ الْقَعْلِ الَّذِي كُنتُمْ تُكذِّبُونَ

4- Ithhar: When we have Noon Sakinah (or Tanween) followed by one of the Ithhar letters – or when we have Meem Sakinah followed by any letter other than Meem or Baa.

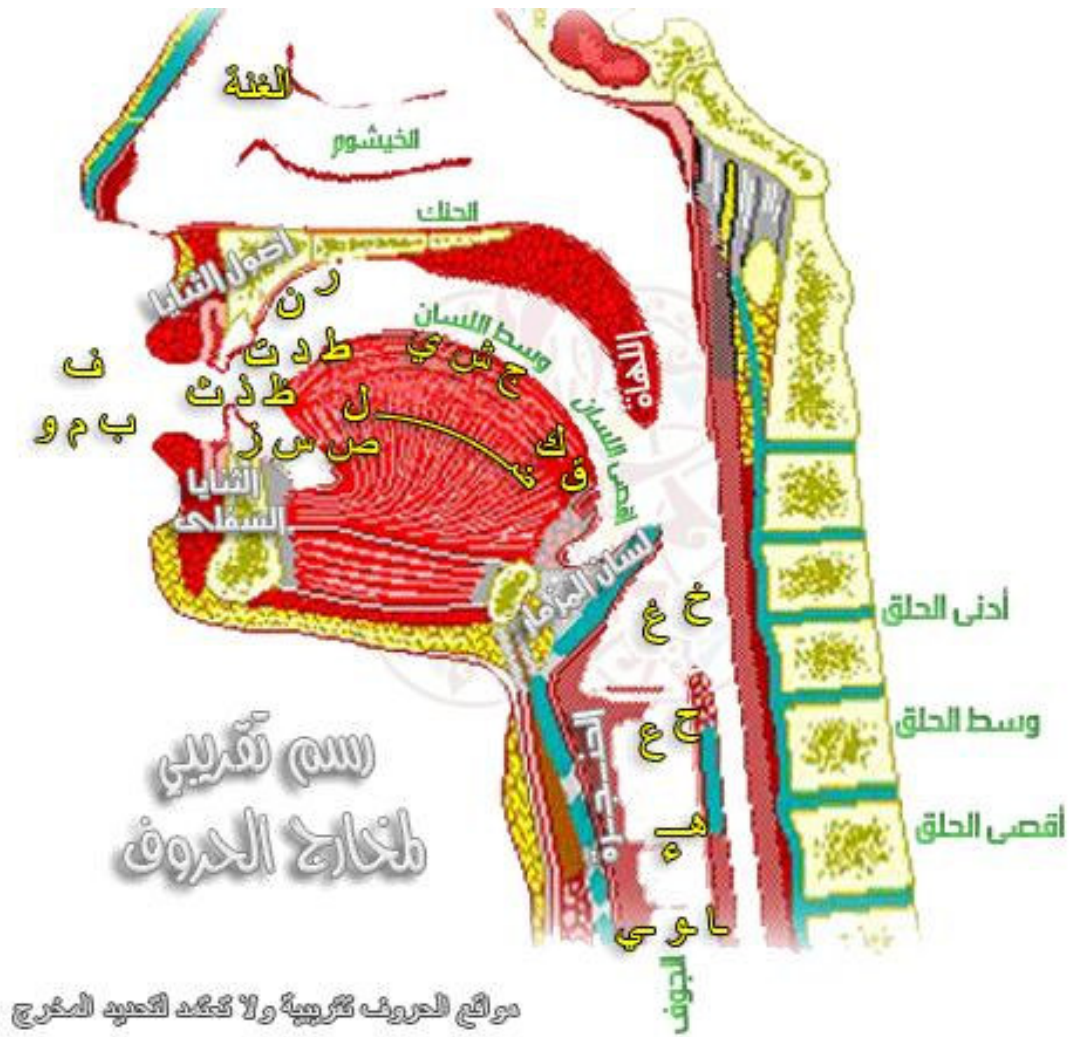
(م ب all but + م) (ن + (ع ه ح غ خ))
يَنْهَوْنَ - يَنْهَوْنَ

وَهُمْ يَنْهَوْنَ عَنْهُ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنْهُ

5- Noon ن and Meem م with Harakat : (م م م - ن ن ن)

Notes:

- We **do not** have Ghunnah in the last two levels (level 4 – level 5).
- The **elongation** on Ghunnah is only two Harakas (2).
- We will discuss Ghunnah more after we study the rules of Meem Sakinah and the rules of Noon Sakinah & Tanween .



Important Note:

Learn the proper use of Makharij from a teacher and practice very well otherwise they cannot be mastered.