

## Q &amp; A

## مَدُّ هَمْزَةِ الْاِسْتِفْهَامِ

## Question

I'm trying to find a correct description of what happens when the interrogative particle **أَ** is followed by **هَمْزَةُ الْوَصْلِ**

Are they merged together to form **آ** , or is one of them replaced by **آ** and the other dropped?

The English Key, [Madinah] book 2, lesson 9 #8 says:

“We have learnt the particle **أَ** which turns a statement into a question. If the noun following it has **ال** the **أَ** changes to **آ**. ”

Then what happens to the **هَمْزَةُ الْوَصْلِ** in **ال** ?

## Answer

Our Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim حَفْظُهُ اللهُ replied (quote):

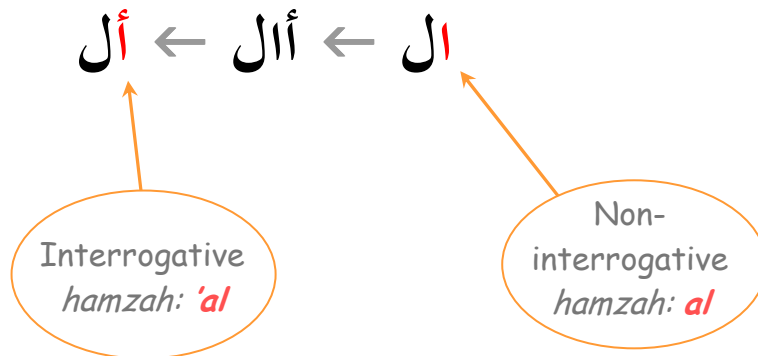
Dear Brother/Sister

السلام عليكم

As a rule, the *hamzah* of *al* is omitted in pronunciation when it is preceded by another word, e.g.:

الْيَوْمَ / وَالْيَوْمَ

So, when the *hamzat al-istifhaam* precedes *al*, naturally the *hamzah* of *al* is omitted (in pronunciation and writing), and the result is exactly what it was prior to the omission: there is no difference between the non-interrogative and the interrogative forms:



There is no difference in pronunciation between the *hamzat al-waSl* and the *hamzat al-qaT*". The difference is only in the omission of the former, and the non-omission of the latter when preceded by a word.

In order to overcome this problem (in the listener), the *fatHah* of the *hamzat al-istifhaam* is lengthened, and it becomes آل ('āl):

أَلْيَوْمَ؟ ← أَلْيَوْمَ؟

E.g.:

أَلْيَوْمَ وَصَلْتَ. ← أَلْيَوْمَ وَصَلْتَ؟

Is it today that you arrived?

I hope this has helped you.

والسلام

abdur rahim