The Taraweeh Listener's Companion–Intermediate

Focus: Verb conjugations, narrative cues, and sentence structure.

1. Verb Decoder (Who is doing the action?)

In Arabic, the pronoun is built into the verb. Listen to the beginning and ending sounds of the action words.

A. The Past Tense (Suffixes)

Action is finished. Look at the end of the word.

Sound Ending	Meaning	Example
...oo	They (did it)	*Kafaroo* (They disbelieved), *Zalamoo* (They did wrong)
...ta	You (did it)	*An'amta* (You bestowed favor)
...tu	I (did it)	*Innee Tuh–tu* (Indeed I have repented)
...na	We (did it)	*Ja'alna* (We made/placed), *Anzalna* (We sent down)
(Silent vowel)	He (did it)	*Khalaqa* (He created), *Kataba* (He wrote)

B. The Present/Future Tense (Prefixes)

Action is happening now or generally happens. Look at the start of the word.

Sound Start	Meaning	Example
Ya...	He/They	*Yaqooloona* (They say), *Ya'lamoon* (They know)
Ta...	You/She	*Ta'budoon* (You worship)
A...	I	*A'budu* (I worship)
Na...	We	*Na'budu* (We worship)

2. High-Frequency "Taraweeh Verbs"

These verbs drive the themes of salvation, creation, and guidance found in long prayers.

Verb Root	Meaning	Common Forms to Listen For
جعل (Ja-'a-la)	To Make / Place	Ja'alna (We made), Yaj'alu (He makes)
خلق (Khalaqa)	To Create	Khalaqa-kum (Created you), Khalaq-na (We created)
نزل (Nazala)	To Send Down	Anzala (He sent down/revealed), Yunazzilu (Sends down rain/angels)
رجع (Ra-ja-'a)	To Return	Turja'oon (You will be returned [to Allah]), Yarji'oon (They return)
هدي (Ha-da)	To Guide	Yahdee (He guides), Ihdina (Guide us!)
ضلل (Da-lla)	To Go Astray	Dalloo (They went astray), Yudillu (He lets go astray)
تقي (Ta-qa)	To Fear/Be Conscious	Itta-qoo (Fear/Be conscious [of Allah]!), Yattaqoon (They who fear)
أتي (A-ta)	To Come / Bring	Ya'tee (It comes), Aatay-na (We gave/brought)

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3. Narrative Cues (Following the Story)

Quran is full of stories about Prophets. These words mark transitions:
- إِذْ (Idh): "When..." (Marks the start of a flashback or story).
  - Example: "Wa idh qala Musa..." (And when Moses said...)
- يَا قَوْمِ (Ya Qawmi): "O my people!" (Usually a Prophet pleading with his nation).
- فَكَذَّبُوهُ (Fa-kadh-dhaboohu): "But they denied/rejected him" (The turning point of the conflict).
- فَأَنْجَيْنَاهُ (Fa-anjay-nahu): "So We saved him" (The resolution/rescue).
- فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ (Fa-akhadhat-hum): "So it seized them" (The punishment/blast/quake).

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4. Passive Voice (Something was done)

Often used for decrees or laws. If the word starts with a "U" sound and has an "i" sound in the middle, it is often Passive (It was done).
- Kutiba: It was written/prescribed (Obligatory).
- Qeela: It was said.
- Zuyyina: It was beautified/made to look good (often referring to sins looking good to people).

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5. Recognizing "Ayah Endings" (The Rhythm)

The ends of verses usually pair two names of Allah. These confirm the context of the verse you just heard.

If the verse ends in...	The topic was likely...
Ghafoor Raheem (Forgiving, Merciful)	Sin, repentance, or rules where Allah is lenient.
'Aleem Hakeem (All-Knowing, Wise)	Laws, inheritance, or complex divine plans.
Shadeed al-'Iqab (Severe in punishment)	Disbelievers, hellfire, or breaking covenants.
Baseer / Khabeer (All-Seeing / Aware)	Hidden actions, hypocrisy, or private thoughts.
'Ala kulli shay-in Qadeer (Over all things Powerful)	Creation, life/death, or miracles.

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6. Conditional Statements ("If/Then" Logic)

Understanding these helps you grasp the consequences being described.
Structure: [If / Who] ... [Action] ... [Result]
- لَوْ (Law): "If only" (Usually expressing regret or hypothetical scenarios).
  - Ex: "If we had listened, we would not be in the Fire."
- إِنْ (In): "If" (Standard condition).
  - Ex: "If you help Allah, He will help you."
- مَنْ (Man): "Whoever" (General rule).
  - Ex: "Whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it."

Listening Tip: When you hear **Man** or **In** at the start, wait for the **Fa** (So/Then) later in the sentence. That is the result.

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7. "Emphasis" Words (Attention Grabbers)

When the Imam emphasizes these, the meaning is being stressed.
- إِنَّ (Inna): Indeed / Verily / Certainly.
- قَدْ (Qad): Has / Did (Confirmed action).
    - Qad Aflaha: Certainly, he has succeeded.
- بَلْ (Bal): Rather / Nay! (Correcting a previous statement).
- كَلَّا (Kalla): No! / By no means! (Strong negation/scolding).

How to Practice for Taraweeh

1. The "Qala" Tracker: In a story based Surah (like Yusuf or Qasas), just try to track the dialogue. Who is speaking? Listen for Qala (He said), Qalat (She said), Qaloo (They said), Qul (Say!).
2. The Plural Check: Listen for the "Oona" sound. Whenever you hear it, know that a group is being described (Believers, Disbelievers, Criminals, Liars).
3. Identify the "Camp": In every section, ask yourself: Is the Imam reading about the Jannah camp (words: Amanoo, Salihat, Jannat, Ajr) or the Nar camp (words: Kafaroo, Narr, Jahannam, 'Adhab)?