LEARN TO PRAY SALĀH

By Almaas Alam

What does "Prayer" mean to you?

Definition of Salah

An Arabic word originating from the word Silah meaning connection

Salah is the name for the formal prayer in Islam

The Story Of Salah

- Salah is our one to one connection with Allah, our Creator
- The only pillar out of the five, that was commanded in Heaven
- Allah spoke directly to The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
- > Originally 50 daily prayers
- We pray 5 compulsory daily prayers

Why should we pray?

The Prophet (pbuh) asked:

"Tell me, if one of you had a river at his door and took a bath in it five times a day, would there remain any dirt on his body?"

The companions said:

"No, no dirt would be left on his body"

The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"This is the example of the five prayers by which Allah washes away the sins"

(Bukhari & Muslim)

Reasons to pray

It is the command of Allah
"Oh you who claim to believe!
Bow, prostrate and worship your Lord"

(22:77)

- It is the main pillar if Islam after the Shahadah (declaration of faith)
- It is the best of your deeds
 The Prophet (pbuh) said:
 "The best of your deeds is Salah"

(Tirmidhi)

Salah is the first deed to be judged by Allah on the Day of Judgement The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"The first question that will be addressed to the servant is about Salah. So if Salah is done perfectly, he/she will be a winner. Otherwise he/she will be a loser."

(Tirmidhi)

Salah is a strong reminder of Allah, and a way of increasing Allah's love for you.

"Then remember Me; | will remember you" (2:152)

Salah shows our understanding of our constant need for Allah's guidance and support.

"You alone do we worship and You alone we ask for help. Guide us to the straight way.

(1:5-6)

Being consistent with your Salah is a sign of true faith.

"The masjids of Allah are frequently visited by those who believe in Allah and The Last Day; establish their prayers and give regular charity."

(9:18)

> Salah is a way for us to cope in difficult times.

"Oh you who claim to believe! Seek help with patience, perseverance and Salah. Without a doubt Allah is with those who are patient" (2:153)

Committing ourselves to the Salah, protects us from going astray.

"Certainly, Salah restrains from shameful and evil deeds"

(29:45)

Salah is a way to protect ourselves

The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"Whoever prays the Fajr Salah (dawn prayer) will be protected by Allah"

(Muslim)

Salah leads to success.

"Come to the Salah, come to success"

(adhan)

Who should pray?

- > Muslim
- Once Shahada is taken
- > Adult
- Signs of puberty
- > Sane

The names of the 5 daily prayers

Fajr: 2 rakah (units)

The dawn prayer. This prayer is performed after dawn and before sunrise) It is prayed aloud.

Dhuhr: 4 rakah

The noon prayer is performed when the sun begins to decline from the zenith point. It is prayed silently.

> Asr: 4 rakah

The afternoon prayer. This is performed midway between noon and sunset. It is prayed silently.

Maghrib: 3 rakah

The sunset prayer. This is performed immediately after sunset. It is prayed aloud.

► | shaa: 4 rakah

The evening prayer. This is performed after twilight up until fajr (although it is better to pray it before midnight) It is prayed aloud.

When do | pray?

"Verily the prayer is enjoined on the believers at fixed times"

(4:103)

- Pray on time.
- It is best to pray as soon as the time for the prayer starts.
- Don't delay beyond the permitted time.

What if | miss a prayer?

- Make it up as soon as you remember!
- Any made up prayer is performed in the exact same manner as the prayer that you miss.

Wudu

- Cleanliness is considered half of faith.
- Salah cleanses and purifies the heart. (spiritual purification).
- > Wudu cleans the body (physical purification).

The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"The Salah of anyone of you who has invalidated their purification, is not accepted unless they make Wudu"

(Bukhari)

Benefits of Wudu

The Prophet (pbuh) said:

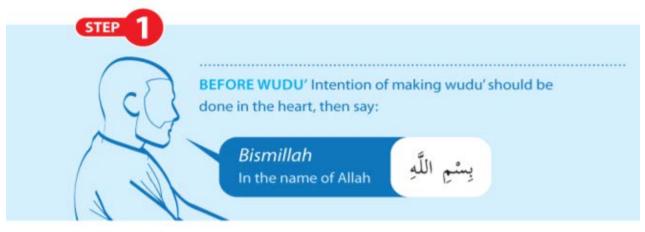
"When the Muslim performs ablution and washes his her face, each sin he she committed by his her eyes washes away with water. When he she washes his her hands, each sin his her hands have committed washes away with the water until he she becomes free of sin.

(Malik)

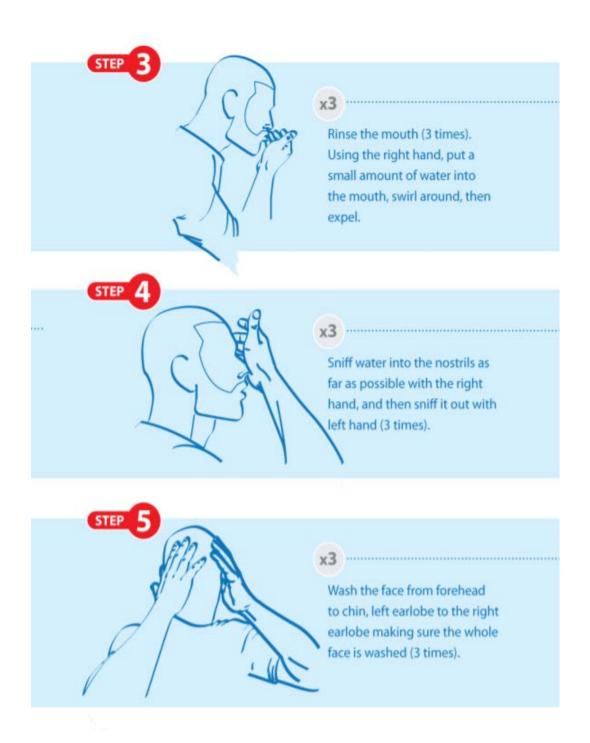
How to perform wudu

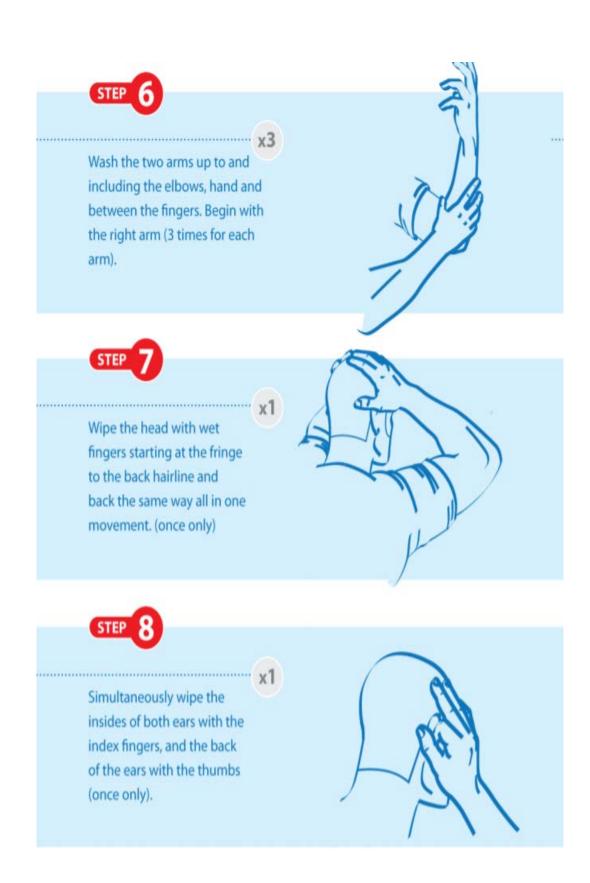
HOW TO PERFORM WUDU' (STEP-BY-STEP)

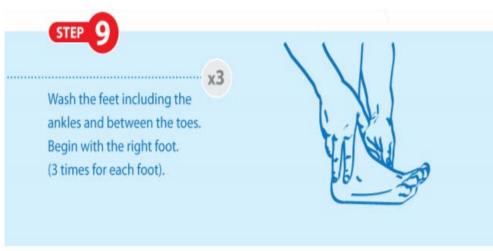
THE FOLLOWING STEPS MUST BE OBSERVED IN ORDER (TARTEEB).













The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"Whoever performs wudu well, then says (the dua mentioned before); the eight gates of Paradise will be opened for him/her to enter through any one he/she wills"

(Tirmidhi)

Oh Allah, make me among those who turn in repentance to you and make me among those who purify themselves.

Wudu at a glance

- (c) compulsory (s) Sunnah
 - 1. Remove anything that prevents water from covering the parts that are washed (eg: make up, nail varnish, fake nails, mud) (c)
 - 2. Intention (c)
 - 3. Say "Bismillah" (s)
 - 4. Wash hands to the wrist (s)
 - 5. Wash face, mouth, nose (c)
 - 6. Expelling the water from the nose (s)
 - 7. Using a brush (siwaak) to clean the mouth (s)
 - 8. Wash hands up to the elbows (c)
 - 9. Washing the limbs more than once (s)
 - 10. Wiping the head once including the ears (c)
 - 11. Washing the feet including the ankles (c)
 - 12. Starting with the right limb before the left (s)
 - 13. Saying the dua after the wudu (s)

What invalidates your wudu?

- Passing wind.
- Passing urine or faeces.
- Deep sleep, where you lose awareness.
- > Unconsciousness.
- Intimate relations between husband and wife, ejaculation or wet dream (a complete ghusl is needed after this.
- If you forget if you have broken your wudu then you assume you have NOT broken it, until you are certain of your situation.
- A menstruating or post-natal woman must not pray as long as blood is visible and she does not make up any missed prayers from that time. A ghusl is needed at the end of the period of bleeding.

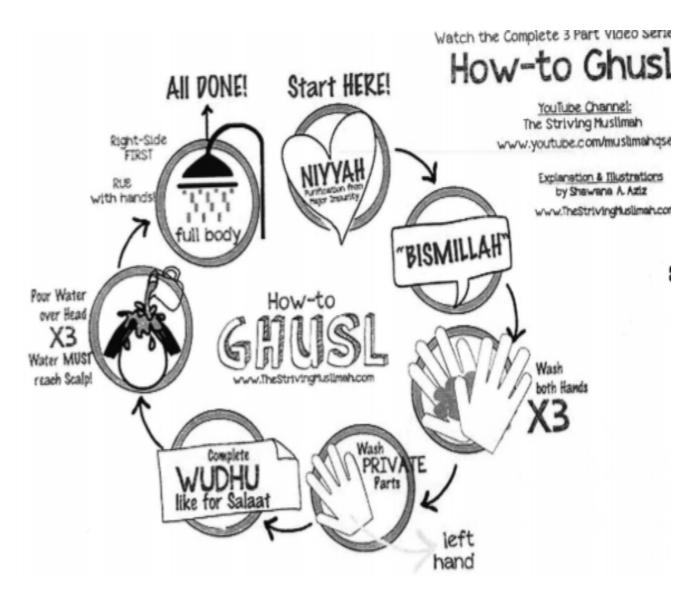
What is a Ghusk?

This is an all over wash.....like a shower but with certain specifics.

You would need a ghusl after:

- Sexual intercourse.
- > Ejaculation of sperm for any reason .
- The monthly menstruation has finished.
- The post-natal bleeding has finished.
- A non-Muslim embraces Islam.

(but this is not compulsory)



❖ Must | use the toilet?

Although you don't have to go to the toilet as part of your wudu or ghusl, it's disliked to pray while you feel you need to go! It is distracting and so it's better to "spend a penny" before you make your wudu/ghusl if you need to. To maintain cleanliness a Muslim washes their private parts with water (using their left hand) after they have relieved themselves.

What is Al-Masah?

- This is when you can wipe over socks with wet hands instead of washing your feet.
- This is only if you have already made wudu and then put socks on.
- This is allowed for 24 hours as a resident and for 3 days as a traveller.
- After this time the socks must be removed if you are making wudu.
- This will include bandages, although no time restrictions apply in this case

What is Tayammum?

- This is a "dry wudu" or "dry ghusl", when you don't have any water, or if someone is injured or ill and using water would aggravate their condition.
- Tayummum can also be done in severe cold.

 (but I mean really cold where you could catch your death!)

How do | make Tayummum?

It's easy!

- 1. Strike both hands with fingers outstretched on clean earth
- 2. Blow away any excessive earth/dust
- 3. Pass your hands over your face and rub the two hands over each other including your wrists.

What is the Adhan?

- The Arabic word adhan means "to listen." The ritual serves as a general statement of shared belief and faith for Muslims, as well as an alert that prayers are about to begin inside the mosque.
- A second call, known as *igama*, then summons Muslims to line up for the beginning of the prayers

The words of the Adhan

Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!

God is Greater! God is Greater! God is Greater! God is Greater!

Ashhadu an la ílaha ílla Allah. Ashhadu an la ílaha ílla Allah.

I bear witness that there is no god except the One God.

I bear witness that there is no god except the One God.

Ashadu anna Muhammadan Rasool Allah. Ashadu anna Muhammadan Rasool Allah.

I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of God.

I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of God.

Hayya 'ala-s-Salah. Hayya 'ala-s-Salah.

Hurry to the prayer. Hurry to the prayer.

Mayya 'ala-l-Falah. Hayya 'ala-l-Falah.

Hurry to success. Hurry to success.

Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!

God is Greatler God is Greater!

La ilaha illa Allah.

There is no god except the One God.

- For the dawn (fajr) prayer, the following phrase is inserted prior to the final repetition of Allahu Akbar
- As-salatu Khayrun Minan-nawm. As-salatu Khayrun Minan-nawm.

Prayer is better than sleep. Prayer is better than sleep.

What do | say when | hear the Adhan?

When Adhan is called, those who listen to it should answer by repeating the same words, except when the caller says Hayya 'alas-salaah and Hayya 'alalfalaah, the listener should say:

"Laa hawla wa laa quwwata illaa billaah"

There is no power and no strength except with Allah (Bukhari)

What do I say after the Adhan?

When the Adhan is completed, the caller and the listener both should invoke the blessing of Allah on the Prophet (pbuh) as follows:

"Allahumma sallí 'alaa Muhammad wa 'alaa aalí Muhammad kamaa sallayta 'alaa Ibraaheema wa 'alaa aalí Ibraheem, ínnaka Hameedun Majeed. Allaahumma baarik 'alaa Muhammad wa 'alaa aali Muhammad kamaa baarakta 'alaa Ibraaheem wa 'alaa aali Ibraheem, innaka Hameedun Majeed."

O Allah! Show mercy to Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as You have shown mercy to Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim. You are indeed Praiseworthy, Glorious. O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you have blessed Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim. You are indeed Praiseworthy, Glorious.

The Prophet (pubh) said,
"Whoever after listening to the Adhan says,
'Allahumma Rabba hadhihi-dda' watit-tammah, wassalatil qa'imah, ati Muhammadan al-wasilata walfadilah, wa b'ath-hu maqaman mahmudan-il-ladhi
wa'adtahu'

"O Allah! Lord of this perfect call and of the prayer which is going to be established, give Muhammad the right of intercession and high position, and resurrect him to the best and the highest place in Paradise that You promised him"

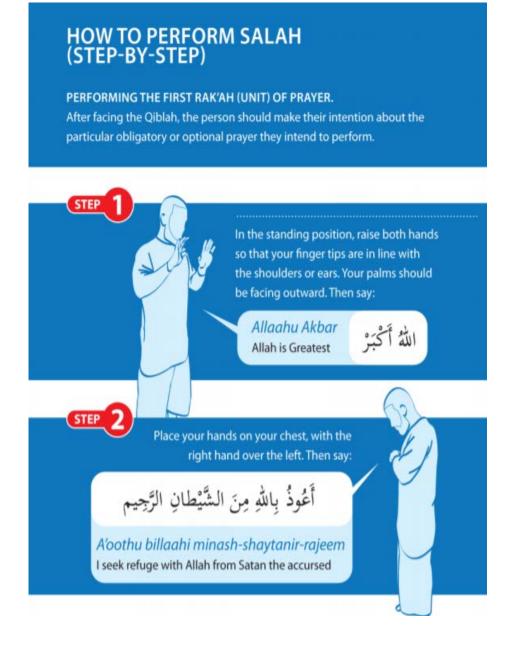
Then my intercession for him will be allowed on the Day of Resurrection".

(Bukhari)

Before you pray: checklist

- > Niyyah (intention)
- ➤ Wearing the correct clothing:
 - Cover your entire body except face and hands
 - ► Loose, Non transparent clothing
- Clean body, clothing and place of prayer
- A state of purity (wudu or ghush) The Prophet (pbuh) said: "Allah does not accept prayer without purity" (Muslim)
- ➤ Has the time for prayer started? The Prophet (pbuh) said: "Indeed the prayer is enjoined on the believers at fixed times"
- Facing the Qiblah (The direction of the Ka'bah in Makkah)
- Try and pray somewhere quiet with minimal distraction.
- If you have to pray somewhere public pray with some sort of "marker" in front of you (a *sutrah*)

How to Perform Salah





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Bismillaahir-rahmaanir-raheem
 In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the
 Most Merciful

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

2 Al-hamdu lillaahi rabbil 'aalameen
Praise be to Allah the Lord of the Worlds

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

3 Ar-rahmaanir-raheem
The Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

4 Maaliki yawmiddeen
Master of the Day of Judgement

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

Si lyyaaka na'budu wa iyyaaka nasta'een You alone we worship and in You alone we seek help

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

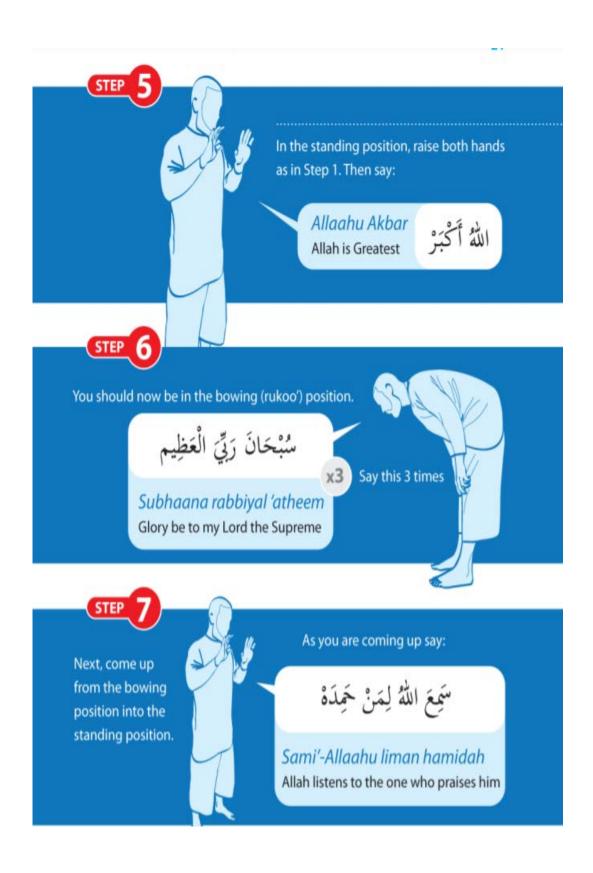
6 Ihdinas-siraatal mustaqeem
Guide us to the straight path

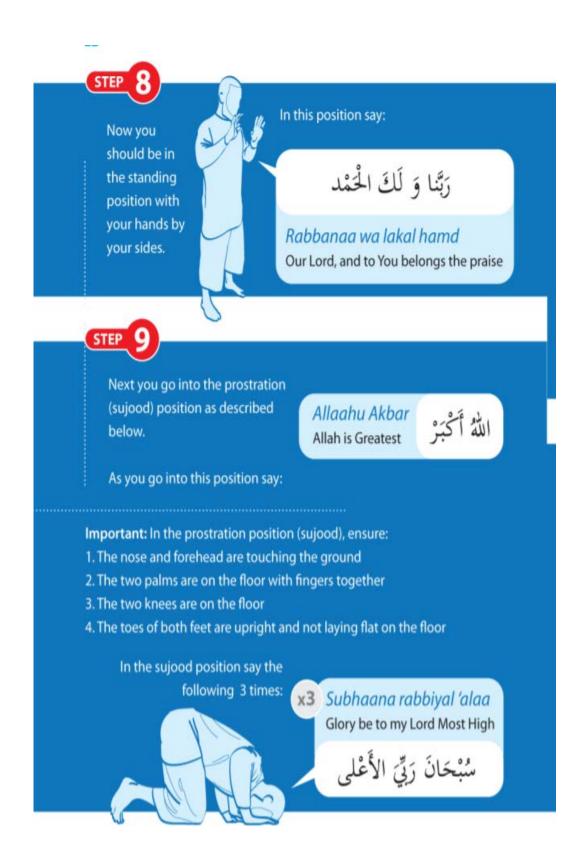


STEP 4

Recite another chapter from the Qur'an if this is the 1st or 2nd Rak'ah (Unit). Refer to the end of this booklet for some short chapters from the Qur'an.

In the 3rd and 4th Rak'ah (Unit), only recitation of the Fatiha is required.







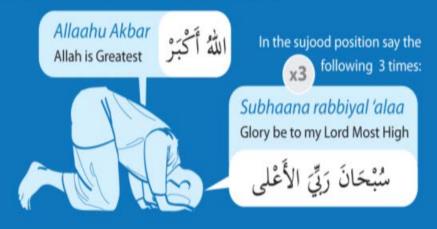
Next you come up into the sitting position, saying:

In this position, sit on the left thigh, with the left foot along the ground and the right foot upright. The toes of the right foot should be facing the Qiblah and the hands should be placed of the knees.



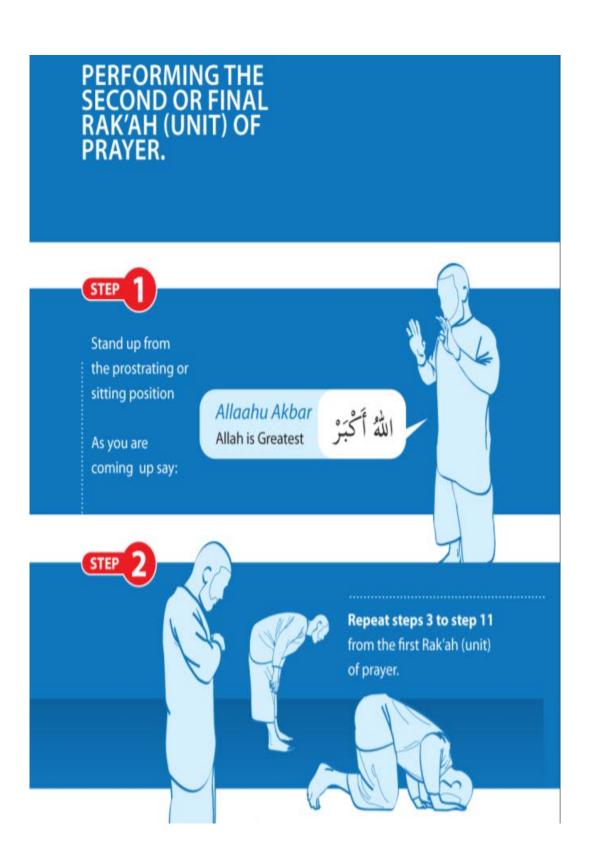


Next you go into the prostration (sujood) position for a second time as described in step 9. As you go into this position say:

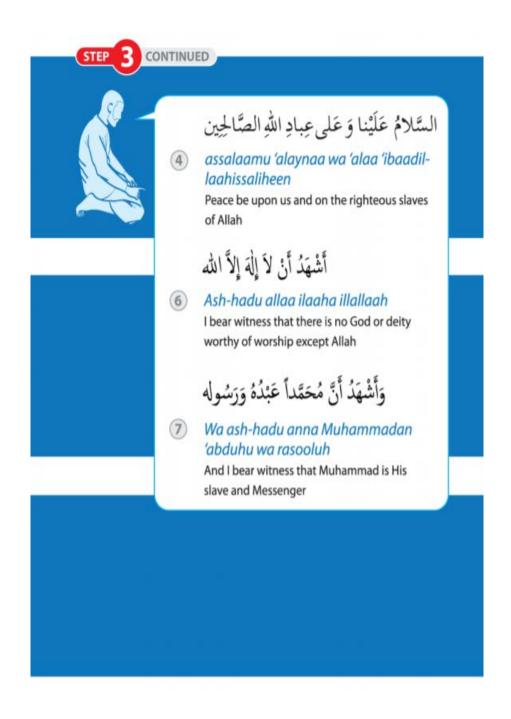


The first unit is now complete.

Now you should complete the second/final rak'ah (unit).







If this was a three or four Rakah salah you would stand up after this point

COMPLETING THE PRAYER.





- اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّد
- 1 Allahumma salli 'ala Muhammad
 Oh Allah, send prayers upon Muhammad
 على آلِ مُحَمَّد
- wa 'ala aali Muhammad and upon the family of Muhammad

(3) kamaa salyta 'ala Ibraheem as You sent prayers upon Ibrahim

wa 'ala aali Ibraheem and upon the family of Ibrahim

innaka hameedun Majeed indeed You are praiseworthy, Most glorious

STEP 1 CONTINUED



وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمّدٍ

- 6 wa baarik 'alaa Muhammad and send Your blessings upon Muhammad
- وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّد wa 'alaa aali Muhammad and upon the family of Muhammad

كَما بَارَّكْتَ عَلى إِبْراهِيم

8 kamaa baarakta 'alaa Ibraheem as You sent prayers upon Ibrahim

وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْراهيم

9 wa 'alaa aali Ibraheem and upon the family of Ibrahim

إِنَّكَ حَميدٌ بَحيد

innaka hameedun Majeed
indeed You are praiseworthy, Most glorious

Upon completion of the Tashahhud and the words that follow, the prayer is finished with the Tasleem by doing the following:



❖ This is the end of the salah

What parts of the prayer are compulsory?

Pillar (p) Duty (d)

- 1. To pray standing if you are able (p)
- 2. To say the opening Takbir (Allahu Akbar) (p)
- 3. Reciting the surah Fatihah (p)
- 4. Saying Allahu Akbarfor the bowing (d)
- 5. Making the bowing (p)
- 6. Saying Subhaana Rab-biyal atheem once (d)
- 7. Rising from the bowing (p)
- 8. Saying "Samí" Allahu líman Hamída" & Rabana

wa lakal Hamd"(d)

9. Saying Allahu Akbar for going into prostration

(d)

10. Making the prostration (p)

- 11. Saying Subhaana rabi'al 'Alaa" once (d)
 - 12. Saying Allahu Akbar after first prostration

(d)

- 13. Sitting after first prostration (p)
- 14. Saying Allahu Akbarto go into second prostration (d)
- 15. Making the second prostration (p)
- 16. Saying Subhaana rabi'al 'Alaa" once (d)
- 17. Saying Allahu Akbarto stand up for the second rakah (unit) (d)

That's the end of the first rakah/unit of prayer

The second Rakah at a glance:

- * after the second prostration
- 1. Sitting for the tashahud (p)
- 2. Reciting the tashahud (p)
- 3. Reciting the blessings on the Prophet (pbuh)

(p)

4. Performing the first salaam (p)

General rulings:

- Performing the steps in order (p)
- Not rushing the prayer (p)
- Missing out a pillar of the prayer invalidates the prayer and the prayer would need to be repeated.
- Missing out a duty of the prayer requires a Sajda Sahuw (see page....)

What nullifies my Salah?

- Not facing the Qiblah intentionally.
- Not having wudu intentionally.
- Missing out a pillar of the prayer.
- > Speaking during the prayer intentionally.
- The wudu breaking during the prayer.
- ► Loud laughter.

What should I avoid during the Salah?

- ► All unnecessary movements.
- Turning your head/looking around.
- Looking up to the ceiling/sky.
- Closing your eyes.
- Placing your whole forearm on the ground in prostration.
- Reciting the Fatihah repeatedly to get more reward.

What is ok to do during the Salah?

- Holding something to read the prayer while you are learning.
- Picking up your child if they need comforting.
- Crying while praying.
- Saying "Alhamdulillah" if you sneeze.
- Turning off your mobile phone if

it's a disturbance.

After the Salah

It is recommended to make supplication after the completion of the prayer, and pray any sunnah prayers (where applicable).



Sajda Sahuw

Prostration of forgetfulness

When do I need to do this?

- When you miss out a wajib (duty) from the prayer
- When you are unsure how many rakah/units of prayer you have prayed
- When you miss out sitting for the tashahud in the second rakah.

How do I do the sajda sahuw?

- ♦ | t`s easy!
- Make 2 extra prostrations just before you take the salaam at the end of the prayer.
- The prostration is done in the same way as a prostration that you learned for the prayer.

How do | pray the Maghrib salah?

- Maghrib is a three Rakah prayer.
- The first Rakah is the same as the first Rakah of a two Rakah prayer.
- You will sit after the second prostration in the second Rakah. After saying the shahadah, where the finger is raised, you will say Allahu Akbar and stand up for the third Rakah.
- The third Rakah is the final Rakah so after the second prostration you will sit and finish off the prayer with the entire tashahud and salaam at the end.

How do I pray a four Rakah salah?

- Dhur, Asrand Ishaa are all four Rakah prayers.
- The first Rakah is the same as all first Rakahs.
- The second Rakah is the same as the second Rakah of Maghrib......sitting after the second prostration and after the finger is raised in shahadah, you stand for the third Rakah.
- The third Rakah is the same as the first Rakah.
- The fourth Rakah is the same as all final Rakahs.

Congregational prayer

The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"Salah in congregation is twenty-seven times more rewarding than a Salah performed individually."

(Bukhari & Muslim)

What do | say when | go into a Masjid?

► Enter with your right foot and say:

Allahumma íftaHlee abwaaba raHmatík.

Oh Allah! Open for me the gates of your mercy.

Then pray a 2 Rakah prayer. This is called Tahiyyat-ul-masjid (Greetings to the mosque)

The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"When one of you enters the masjid, he/she should perform 2 rakah before taking his/her seat"

(Bukhari & Muslim)

How do | pray in congregation?

- If you are being led in salah by the imam and if the imam is reciting loudly (in Fajr, Maghrib or Isha salah) then you recite Al Fatihah quietly.
- If the Imam is reciting quietly (Dhur or 'Asr salah) then you should recite quietly as well.
- If you join the congregational prayer after the lmam has started, then you join by saying Allahu Akbar while standing and then joining at whatever position of prayer the lmam is in.
- If you join the congregation while the Imam is in Ruku 'then that Rakah is counted.
- If you join the congregation after the Imam has come out of *Ruku*' then that *Rakah* is not counted.
- Any missed Rakah must be made up at the end after the Imam has made the taslim.

What do | say when | leave the masjid?

Exit with your left foot and say:

"Allah humma innee as`aluka min fadlik"

Oh Allah! I ask you for your Blessings

*A note about congregational prayer:

- Congregational prayer is not just confined to the masjid.
- If more two or more people are present it is better for you to pray together, so as to gain the extra reward.
- You can pray anywhere, except in a bathroom or a graveyard.

Sunnah prayers

The extra prayers that were emphasized by the Prophet (pbuh) were:

- 2 Rakah before fajr
- > 2x2 Rakah before Dhur
- > 2 Rakah after Dhur
- 2 Rakah after Maghrib
- > 2 Rakah after | shaa

The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"If anyone prays in a day and a night twelve rakah of voluntarily prayers, a house will be built for him/her in Paradise on account of these (rakahs)" (Muslim)

Witr

This is an emphasised sunnah prayer that some scholars consider to be wajib (A Duty)

When do | pray it?

This is an odd number rakah prayer that is prayed after the ishaa salah

How do | pray it?

- There are two ways of praying the witr salah
- 1. Perform a two rakah prayer. End with the salaam to the right and left. Then stand up and perform a one Rakah salah.

OR

2. Perform a three Rakah salah with sitting ONLY in the LAST Rakah.

The Jummua Salah

(The Friday Prayer)

- The Friday prayer is an obligatory congregational prayer for every male Muslim who has no valid excuse not to attend.
- The following people are not obligated to attend but if they do they will get rewarded by Allah:
- > Women
- > Children
- Someone who is ill
- A man who is classed as a traveller
- People confined to their homes for bad weather or any other reason.
 - If you do not attend the congregational Friday prayer, you pray the *Dhur salah* instead.

Some etiquettes of the Jummua Salah:

- To have a *ghusl* and put on clean clothes before heading out to the prayer.
- To listen quietly as the during the *khutbah* (sermon) before the prayer.
- To join/follow the Imam in the two Rakah Friday prayer.

Eid Salah

- Like the Friday prayer, the *Eid* prayer has a sermon and a two *Rakah* prayer lead by the *Imam*, but on *Eid* the sermon is after the prayer.
- The Eid prayer also has some additional Takbir (saying Allahu Akbar).

The Janaazah Salah

(The Funeral prayer)

- The funeral prayer is a collective obligation for the Muslim community as a whole. If no one in the community attends then Allah will hold everyone in the community accountable.
- It is quite different in its format to a regular prayer. The prayer is performed only standing with no bowing or prostrating.

How do | pray the funeral prayer?

- 1. Make the intention.
- 2. Raise your hands to the shoulders or ears and say Allahu Akbar.
- 3. Place your hands on your chest, right on top of left.
- 4. Recite surah Fatihah.

- 5. Say Allahu Akbar and send peace and blessings on the Prophet (pbuh)
- 6. Say Allahu Akbara third time and pray for the deceased.
- 7. Say Allahu Akbar a fourth time, pray again for the deceased.
- 8. Finish by turning your face to the right, and say the salaam to finish the prayer.
- 9. Turn your face to the left and say the salaam.
- 10. Turn your face to the right and say the salaam (optional).
- The funeral prayer can be done by yourself at home if need be, or while standing in congregation and led by the *Imam* in the *masjid*.

And may Allah accept all our prayers. Ameen

Useful Links

To learn to pronounce The Fatihah:

https://youtu.be/04xGcNJwHDY

To learn to pronounce The Tashahud:

https://youtu.be/-mHffb104m0

