

# Prayer in Islam

Learning the Complete Islamic  
Teachings on Salah

written by  
**Islamic Life and Education**



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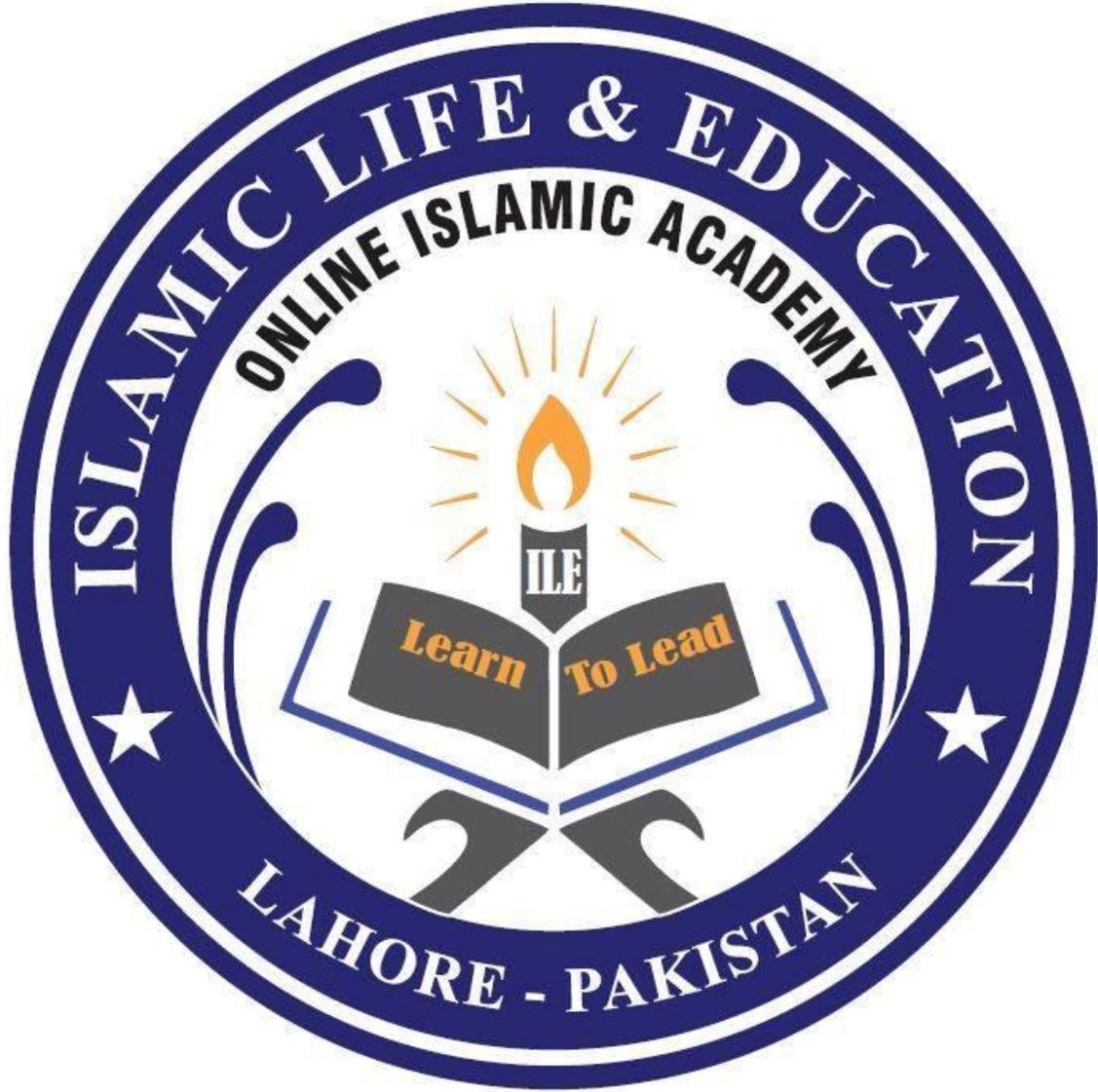
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



## SALAAT (PRAYER)

### The Importance of Salaat

In the sight of **Allah Ta'ala**, **Salaat (prayer)** is a very special act of worship. No other worship is as dear to Allah as Salaat. Allah has made **five daily prayers** compulsory for all Muslims. When we offer our Salaat, Allah gives us **great rewards**, and if we leave it, it becomes a **big sin**.

### Wudu and Concentration

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:  
When a person performs **Wudu (ablution)** properly and offers Salaat with full **concentration**, then on the **Day of Resurrection**, Allah will **forgive his minor sins** and **grant him Paradise**.

### Salaat is the Pillar of Islam

The Prophet ﷺ said:  
“Salaat is a pillar of Deen. Whoever keeps it strong has upheld the Deen, and whoever leaves it has destroyed the Deen.” Just like a building stands on pillars, **Islam stands on five pillars of them is a Salaat**.  
If we don't pray, our faith becomes weak.

### Bright Faces on the Day of Judgment

The Prophet ﷺ said:  
“The first thing Allah will ask about on the Day of Judgment is Salaat.”  
Those who prayed regularly will have **faces, hands, and feet shining like the sun**, but those who missed their prayers will be **deprived of this light**.

### Never Leave Salaat!

It is **never allowed** to leave Salaat on purpose. If someone **forgets** to pray or **sleeps** through the prayer time, there is **no sin**, but they must **offer that missed Salaat** as soon as they **wake up or remember**.

## THE TIMES OF SALAAT (PRAYER TIMES)

Allah Ta'ala has made **five daily prayers (Salaat)** for Muslims. Each prayer has its **own special time**. We should offer every prayer **at its proper time** because that is what pleases Allah most.

### Fajr (Morning Prayer)

- The time for **Fajr** begins when **the white light of dawn** appears in the sky from the **east**, before the sun rises.
- It lasts **until the sun starts to rise**.
- When even a small part of the sun appears, the time for Fajr ends.
- It is **best to pray Fajr early**, when it is still a little dark.

### Zuhr (Midday Prayer)

- The time for **Zuhr** starts **just after the sun has passed its highest point (noon)**.
- You can tell this by looking at **shadows** — when shadows stop shrinking and start to grow again, Zuhr time begins.
- Zuhr time continues **until the shadow of an object becomes twice its size**.
- It is **better to pray Zuhr early in winter**, but in **summer**, when the sun is very hot, it's better to pray **after the heat cools a little**.

### Asr (Afternoon Prayer)

- The time for **Asr** begins when Zuhr time ends and it lasts **until sunset**.
- It is **not good** to pray Asr when the **sun becomes yellow or weak**, but if you get late, it's **better to pray than to miss it**.

### Maghrib (Evening Prayer)

- The time for **Maghrib** starts **just after sunset**.
- It continues **until the redness in the western sky disappears**.
- We should **not delay Maghrib** so long that **many stars appear** in the sky, because delaying too much is **makruh (disliked)** (disliked).
- It's **best to pray Maghrib right after sunset**.

## Esha (Night Prayer)

- The time for **Esha** starts when **the redness of the sky disappears** after sunset.
- It lasts **until dawn (Fajr time)**.
- But after **midnight**, praying Esha becomes **makruh (disliked)**, and the **reward is reduced**.
- It is **best** to pray Esha **before one-third of the night passes**.

## Times When Salaat Is Not Allowed

There are **three times** when no Salaat is allowed:

1. **When the sun is rising**
2. **At mid-day (when the sun is right above your head)**
3. **When the sun is setting**

However:

- If someone **has not yet prayed Asr**, they **can pray it even at sunset**.
- During these three times, even **Sajdah-e-Tilaawat** (prostration after a verse of Sajdah) is **not allowed**.

## Times When Nafl Salaat Is Makruh (Disliked)

- After **Fajr prayer**, **no extra (nafl) Salaat** should be offered **until the sun rises**.
  - But you **can pray Qada (missed) Salaat** or **Sajdah-e-Tilaawat** before sunrise.
  - Once the **sun rises**, wait until it becomes **bright** — then you can pray again.
- After **Asr prayer**, also **no nafl Salaat** is allowed.
  - But you can pray **Qada Salaat** or do **Sajdah-e-Tilaawat** before the **sun's rays become weak**.
  - When the sun's rays turn **yellow**, then even these are **not allowed**.

## Sunnah of Fajr When Time Is Short

If someone fears that the **sun will rise soon**, he should quickly pray **only the Fard (obligatory)** part of Fajr first. Then, **after the sun becomes a bit bright**, he can pray the **Sunnah** and other Salaats.

## What to Pray After Dawn

When **dawn breaks** and **Fajr time starts**, only the following are allowed:

- **Two Sunnah Rakaats** of Fajr
- **Two Fard Rakaats** of Fajr

### If the Sun Rises or Sets During Salaat

- If the **sun rises** while someone is praying **Fajr**, that prayer **does not count**.
  - After the sun gets bright, they must **repeat (Qada)** it.
- But if the **sun sets** while praying **Asr**, that prayer **is valid** — there's **no need to repeat** it.

## RULES ABOUT THE TIMES OF SALAAT (Part 2)

### Jumu'ah (Friday) Salaat Time

- The **time for Jumu'ah Salaat** is the same as **Zuhr**.
- In **summer**, it is **Mustahab** to **delay Zuhr**, even if it's not very hot.
- In **winter**, it is **Mustahab** to **pray Zuhr early**.
- But the **Friday Jumu'ah prayer** should be prayed **early throughout the year**

### Eid Salaats (Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha)

- The time for **Eid prayers** begins **after the sun rises well** — when it becomes bright and you can't look at it directly.
- This time stays **until just before noon**.
- It is **Mustahab (liked)** to offer **Eid Salaats early**.
  - But for **Eid-ul-Fitr**, it is **better to wait a little** before starting,
  - and for **Eid-ul-Adha**, it is **better to pray early**.

### When the Imam is Giving a Khutbah (Speech)

It is **Makruh (disliked)** to pray any Salaat when the **Imam stands up to give the Khutbah (sermon)** for:

- **Jumu'ah (Friday prayer)**
- **Eid prayers**

- Hajj sermons
- Nikah (marriage ceremony)

## ADHAAN (The Call to Salaat)

### Timing of Adhaan

- The adhaan must be given **after the time** of that specific salaat has begun.
- If it is called **before** the time starts, the adhaan is **invalid**.
- Once the time begins, it must be **repeated**, whether for Fajr or any other prayer.

### Adhaan by Women

- The mu'azzin (caller) **must be male**.
- The adhaan given by a **woman is not valid** and must be **repeated**.
- Offering salaat after such an adhaan is equivalent to offering it **without adhaan but salaat is still valid**.

### Adhaan by Children or Unsound Persons

- The mu'azzin must be of **sound intellect**.
- If a **child without understanding**, a **lunatic** person gives adhaan, it will **not be valid**.

### Sunnah Method of Calling Adhaan

The sunnah method includes the following:

- The mu'azzin should be in a **state of purity** (free from both major and minor impurities).
- He should face the **Qiblah**, and place his **forefingers into both ears**.
- He should call the adhaan **loudly** (without overstraining his voice).

### Sequence of Words:

1. Allahu Akbar × 4
2. Ash-hadu an la ilaha illallah × 2
3. Ash-hadu anna Muhammadar Rasulullah × 2
4. Hayya 'alas-Salaah × 2 → (turn face to the right)
5. Hayya 'alal-Falaah × 2 → (turn face to the left)

6. **Allahu Akbar** × 2
7. **La ilaha illallah** × 1

### Additional for Fajr Adhaan:

- After **Hayya ‘alal-Falaah**, add:  
**As-Salaatu khayrun minan-naum** × 2  
(Meaning: “*Prayer is better than sleep.*”)

Hence, the **normal adhaan** has **15 phrases**, while the **Fajr adhaan** has **17**.

### Important Etiquette:

- Do **not** recite the adhaan in a **singing tone** or unevenly (some words loud, others soft).
- Pause briefly after each phrase—long enough for the listener to **repeat** the words.

### The Iqaamah

- The **method** of iqaamah is similar to adhaan, with some differences:
  - Adhaan is in a **loud voice**; iqaamah is in a **softer voice**.
  - In iqaamah, instead of “As-salaatu khayrun minan-naum”, say:  
**Qad qamatis-Salaah** × 2 in every prayer  
(Meaning: “*The prayer has been established.*”)
  - Do **not insert fingers** into the ears during iqaamah.
  - Turning right and left while saying **Hayya ‘alas-Salaah** and **Hayya ‘alal-Falaah** is **optional**.

### Rules Concerning Adhaan and Iqaamah

#### Praying at Home

- If you pray at home (alone or in congregation) after the nearby **masjid Adhaan** has already been given, giving Adhaan and Iqaamah again is **optional (mustahab)** — not necessary.

#### Women and Adhaan

- It is **makruh (disliked)** for women to give **Adhaan** or **Iqaamah**, whether they pray **alone** or **in a group**.

#### Adhaan for Other Prayers

- Adhaan is only for **Fard (obligatory)** prayers.
- There is **no Adhaan** for:
  - **Janazah** (funeral) prayer,
  - **Witr, Eid, or nafl (optional)** prayers.

## Replying to the Adhaan

- It is **mustahab** (recommended) for everyone — man or woman — to **repeat the words** of the Adhaan what Muazin says.
- When the mu’azzin says:
  - "**Hayya alas-salaah**" or "**Hayya alal-falaah**", reply:  
“**La hawla wa la quwwata illa billahil aliiyyil azeem**”
  - When he says “**As-salaatu khairun minan-naum**” (Fajr Adhaan), reply:  
“**Sadaqta wa bararta**” (*You have spoken the truth and done well.*)

## After Adhaan:

- After Adhan, recite the **du’a after Adhaan**:

اللَّهُمَّ رَبِّ هَذِهِ الدَّعْوَةُ الْكَامَّةُ، وَالصَّلَاةُ الْقَائِمَةُ، آتِ مُحَمَّدًا الْوَسِيلَةَ وَالْفَضِيلَةَ، وَأَبْعَثْهُ مَقَامًا مَحْمُودًا الَّذِي وَعَدْتَهُ  
(O Allah! Lord of this perfect call and the established prayer, grant Muhammad ﷺ the intercession and favor, and raise him to the honored station You have promised him.)

## Adhaan of Jumu’ah

- When the **Adhaan for Jumu’ah** is heard, it is **wajib (compulsory)** to:
  - Leave all work and trading,
  - Go to the **Jumu’ah prayer** at the main masjid.
- Doing business or other work after this Adhaan is **haram**.

## When Not to Reply to Adhaan

Do **not** reply to Adhaan when:

1. You are praying.
2. Listening to a khutbah (sermon).
3. In the state of **haidh** or **nifaas** (for women).
4. Teaching or learning Islamic knowledge.

5. Using the toilet.
6. Eating food.  
After finishing, if only a **short time** has passed, then reply; otherwise, do not.

## Method of Offering Fard Salah

### Starting the Prayer

- Before you start, **make the intention** in your heart that you are praying for Allah.  
Example: “I am praying Fajr (or Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha) for the sake of Allah.”
- Then **raise both hands to your shoulders** and say “**Allahu Akbar.**”  
This is called “**Takbeer Tahreema.**”
- Boys should keep hands outside their shawl or cap; girls should keep them **inside their scarf.**
- After that, **place your right hand over your left** —  
boys below the navel, girls on the chest.

### While Standing (Qiyam)

- Begin by reading **Subhanakallahumma wa bihamdika...** (this is called *Sanaa*, praising Allah).
- Then say **A‘udhu billahi** (Ta‘awwuz) and **Bismillah** (Tasmiyah).
- Recite **Surah Al-Fatiha** (from *Alhamdulillah Rabbil ‘Aalameen* to *Walad-dalleen*).
- After finishing, say “**Ameen.**”
- Then read **any short Surah** like Surah Al-Ikhlās, Surah Al-Kawthar, or any other.

### Ruku (Bowling)

- Say “**Allahu Akbar**” and bow down.
- Keep your **hands on your knees, fingers together, and back straight.**
- Boys should keep elbows **away from the body**, girls should keep them **close.**
- Recite “**Subhana Rabbiyal Adheem**” three, five, or seven times.
- Then rise up saying “**Sami‘Allahu liman hamidah.**”
- Stand straight and say “**Rabbana lakal hamd.**”

- This standing after Ruku is called “**Qawmah.**”

## Sajdah (Prostration)

- Say “**Allahu Akbar**” and go down for **sajdah**.
- First touch your **knees**, then **hands**, then **nose and forehead**.
- Keep your **fingers and toes pointing toward the Qiblah**.
- In Sajdah, recite “**Subhana Rabbiyal A‘la**” three times.
- Say “**Allahu Akbar**” and sit briefly — this sitting is called “**Jalsah.**”
- Then go again into **second Sajdah** and recite the same.

## Second Rak‘ah

- After the second Sajdah, **stand up** with **Allahu Akbar**.
- Repeat the same actions as the first Rak‘ah — recite Sanaa, Surah Fatiha, and another Surah.
- After the second Sajdah of this Rak‘ah, **sit for Tashahhud**.

## Tashahhud (Sitting and Reading)

- This sitting is called “**Qa‘dah**” or “**Qu‘ood.**”
- Recite “**At-tahiyatu lillahi...**” (Tashahhud).
- When you say “**Ashhadu alla ilaha illallah**”, raise your **right index finger** and lower it at “**illallah.**”

## For Four-Rak‘ah Prayers

- After reading **Tashahhud** in the second Rak‘ah, **stand up** again for the next two rak‘ahs (in Dhuhr, Asr, or Isha).
- In these rak‘ahs, recite only **Surah Al-Fatiha**, not another Surah.
- After completing the fourth Rak‘ah and its two Sajdahs, **sit again**.

## Durood and Dua

- While sitting in the last Qa‘dah, recite **Durood-e-Ibrahim** and any **Dua** you know, such as *Rabbana atina fid-dunya hasanah...*

## Salaam (Ending the Prayer)

- To end Salah, turn your head **to the right** and say:  
“As-salamu alaykum wa rahmatullah.”
- Then turn **to the left** and repeat the same.
- This completes your Salah!

## The 13 Fard (Essential) Acts of Salah

### Seven Fard Acts Before Starting Salah:

Before starting Salaah, the following are *wajib (compulsory)*:

1. Perform **wudu (ablution)** if without it.
2. Take **ghusl (bath)** if in a state of major impurity.
3. **Remove impurities (najaasat)** from the body, clothes, and place of prayer.
4. Ensure the **entire body (except face, hands, feet)** is covered.
5. **Face the Qiblah.**
6. **Make intention (niyyah)** for the specific prayer.
7. Ensure **the time for that prayer has entered.**

If any one of these is missing, Salaah will not be valid.

### Covering the Body

- Women must not pray in **thin or see-through scarves** — it is not permissible.
- If  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a woman's body (that must be covered) becomes exposed for the time it takes to say “Subhanallah” thrice, Salaah breaks.  
→ If she immediately covers it, the prayer remains valid.
- **Girls below puberty:** if their scarf slips, prayer remains valid.

### Intention (Niyyah)

- **Verbal intention is not required** — it's an act of the heart.  
→ Thinking, “I am praying Zuhr Fard” is enough.
- If one says aloud, that's fine, but not necessary.
- Mistakenly saying the wrong prayer name (e.g., “Asr” instead of “Zuhr”) — still valid.

- Saying wrong number of rak‘āt (e.g., “six” instead of “four”) — still valid.

### Eye Focus in prayer.

- While standing: look at **place of Sajdah**.
- In Ruku: look at **feet**.
- In Sajdah: look at **nose**.
- In Salaam: look at **shoulders**.
- Yawning: **close mouth**.
- Coughing: **suppress** if possible.

### Six Fard Acts Inside Salah:

1. Saying **Allahu Akbar** (Takbeer Tahreema) with intention.
2. **Standing** while reciting in Fard prayer.
3. **Reciting Quran** (at least Surah Fatiha and another Surah).
4. Doing **Ruku** (bowing).
5. Doing **two Sajdahs** (prostrations).
6. **Sitting at the end** long enough to recite full *At-Tahiyyat*.

If any of these are missed, the Salah is **not valid** and must be repeated.

### Wajib (Necessary) Acts of Salah

These are actions that **must be done**, but if forgotten **by mistake**, they can be corrected by **Sajdah-e-Sahw** (prostration of forgetfulness).

#### Examples:

1. **Reciting Surah Al-Fātiḥah** in every Rak‘ah.
2. **Reciting another Surah** (or three verses) along with Al-Fātiḥah in the first two Rak‘āt.
3. **Performing each Fard act in its proper place** (e.g., Ruku before Sajdah).
4. **Standing (Qiyām)** while reciting Al-Fātiḥah and the additional Surah.
5. **Performing Ruku** (bowing).
6. **Performing Sajdah** (prostration).
7. **Sitting after two Rak‘āt** (for Qa‘dah).

8. **Reciting At-Tahiyāt** in both sitting postures.

9. **Reciting Du‘ā-e-Qunūt** in Witr prayer.

10. **Completing the Ṣalāh with Salaam:**

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ

11. **Performing each action with calmness and composure**, not hastily.

#### **Sajdah-e-Sahw (Prostration for Mistake)**

If someone forgets a Wajib act by mistake:

1. After reading *At-Tahiyat* up to “*Wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasuluh*”,

say **Salam once to the right**.

2. Perform **two Sajdahs**, just like normal ones.

3. Sit again and recite *At-Tahiyat*, *Durood*, and *Dua*.

4. End Salah with Salam on both sides.

If this Sajdah is also missed, the Salah must be repeated.

#### **Sajdah-e-Sahw (Prostration of Forgetfulness)**

### **What is Sajdah-e-Sahw?**

- If you forget **any Wajib act** (necessary action) of salaah, **Sajdah-e-Sahw becomes wajib** (necessary).
- It makes your salaah correct and complete.
- If you forget to do it, the salaah may need to be repeated.

### **When Sajdah-e-Sahw is Required**

1. Forgetting a **Wajib act** (e.g., Tashahhud, sitting properly).
2. Forgetting to recite **another Surah after Faatihah** in Sunnah or Nafil salaah.
3. Delaying actions or thinking too long during salaah (e.g., after Faatihah, before ruku, during sitting).
4. Reciting **at-Tahiyat twice** by mistake.
5. Forgetting to recite **Dua-e-Qunoot** in Witr salaah.
6. Making **extra or fewer rukus or sajdahs** by mistake.
7. Making **salaam too early** in a 3 or 4 rakaat salaah.

**Tip:** One Sajdah-e-Sahw is enough for multiple mistakes in the same salaah.

## How to Perform Sajdah-e-Sahw

1. In the **last rakaat**, after reciting **at-Tahiyyaat till Al Saliheen**, make **salaam to the right only**.
2. Perform **two sajdahs**.
3. Sit again, recite **at-Tahiyyaat, durood, and dua**.
4. Complete the salaah by making **salaam to both sides**.

**Note:** If you accidentally perform Sajdah-e-Sahw **before salaam**, it is still valid.

## Notes for Witr Salat

- Forgetting **Dua-e-Qunoot** or reciting it incorrectly may make Sajdah-e-Sahw wajib.
- Reciting **Thanaa instead of Qunoot**: Sajdah-e-Sahw not required.

**Sajdah-e-Tilawat (Prostration Upon Reciting Certain Quranic Verses)**

## What is Sajdah-e-Tilawat?

- There are **14 verses in the Quran** where Sajdah is wajib.
- Whenever the word **“sajdah”** appears in the margin, performing sajdah becomes obligatory.
- It applies to both:
  1. **The one reciting the verse**, and
  2. **The one hearing it being recited**, even if unintentionally.

## How to Perform Sajdah-e-Tilawat

1. Say **Allahu Akbar** and go into sajdah.
  - Hands need **not be raised**.
2. In sajdah, say **subhāna rabbiyal a‘lā** at least **three times**.
3. Say **Allahu Akbar** and raise your head from sajdah.
4. **Preferred method:** Stand before sajdah and stand up after sajdah.
  - **Permissible:** Go into sajdah and rise from it while sitting.

Sajdah-e-Tilawat is made like the sajdah in salaah. Prostrating on the Quran itself is **not valid**. And Sajda Tilawat without **wudu**(ablution) is not valid.

## Key Differences Between Men and Women in Salah

### 1. Takbeer-e-Tahreemah

- **Men:** Raise hands up to ears.
- **Women:** Raise hands up to shoulders, inside scarf or shawl.

### 2. Placement of Hands

- **Men:** Right hand below the navel, left hand underneath.
- **Women:** Right hand on the chest, over the left.

### 3. Ruku (Bowing)

- **Men:** Back straight, elbows away from body.
- **Women:** Bend slightly, elbows close to body.

### 4. Sajdah (Prostration)

- **Men:** Arms and stomach away from body, toes upright.
- **Women:** Arms and stomach close, toes flat.

### 5. Sitting in Tashahhud

- **Men:** Sit on the left foot, right foot upright.
- **Women:** Both feet to the right side.

### 6. Voice in Salah

- **Men:** Recite aloud in Fajr, Maghrib, Isha (when in congregation).
- **Women:** Always recite **softly**.

## Order of Limbs in Sajdah

1. Knees
  2. Hands
  3. Nose
  4. Forehead
- Keep fingers **together and facing Qiblah**, toes **upright**, and body **raised** so the stomach does not touch the thighs.

## Dua After Salah

- Raise both hands to **chest level** and make **personal dua**.
- Imam should include **followers** in his dua.

- After dua, **wipe hands over face**.
- Dua after Fard should be **short** if Sunnah follows (e.g., Zuhr, Maghrib, Isha).
- Dua can be **lengthy** after **Fajr and Asr** (since no Sunnah immediately follows).

## Dhikr After Salaat

After Fard Salaah (especially when no Sunnah follows), recite:

- **Āyat al-Kursi**
- **Surah al-Ikhlās, al-Falaq, an-Nās**
- **33 × Subhānallāh, 33 × Alḥamdulillāh, 34 × Allāhu Akbar**

## Repetition of the Same Surah

- Reciting the **same Surah in both rak'ahs** is **allowed**, but doing so **unnecessarily** is disliked -

## Order of Surahs in prayer

- Surahs should follow the **Qur'anic order**:
  - e.g. If **Surah al-Kāfirūn** is recited first, the second rak'ah should contain **Surah an-Naṣr, al-Ikhlās, al-Falaq, or an-Nās**.
  - Reading a Surah that comes **before** the first one (like *al-Fīl*) is **Makrūh**, unless done unintentionally.

## Leaving a Surah Midway

- Once started, a short Surah **should not be left unfinished** without necessity. Doing so is **Makrūh**.

## Acts That Nullify (Break) Salaah

### Speech and Sounds

1. **Speaking intentionally or unintentionally** → Salaah breaks.
2. Saying “Ah”, “Oof”, or crying loudly **without emotion** → breaks Salaah.
  - But crying **from fear of Allah or remembrance of Jannah/Jahannam** does **not** break Salaah.

## Sneezing and Responses

4. Saying **Alḥamdulillāh** after sneezing and if he says **Yarḥamukallāh** to someone else → Salaah **breaks**.

## Reading from Mushaf

5. **Continuous reading** from the Qur'an (by looking) → breaks Salaah.
  - A brief glance is fine.

## Direction (Qiblah)

6. Turning the **chest away** from Qiblah → breaks Salaah.

## Replying to Greetings

7. Saying **Wa 'alaykum as-salām** while in Salaah → breaks Salaah.

## Eating or Drinking

9. **Any eating or drinking**, even a small particle (size of a grain), breaks Salaah.
  - If food **stuck in teeth** and is **smaller than a gram seed**, swallowing it **does not** break Salaah.

## Exclamations or Reactions

12. Saying **Alḥamdulillāh** at good news or **Innā lillāh** at bad news → breaks Salaah.
13. Saying **Bismillah** when something falls → breaks Salaah.

## Reading or Understanding Text

16. If a person **reads text by looking at frame o page aloud**, Salaah breaks.
  - If he merely **understands meaning silently**, Salaah is valid.

## Movement and Distractions

17. If **animals or people pass** in front of one praying:
  - Salaah **does not break**, but they **sin**.
  - Use a **sutrah (barrier)** like a stick, chair, or bag to prevent others passing in front.
18. Moving **slightly forward/backward** for necessity (without turning chest) → Salaah valid.

## Using a Sutra (Barrier)

When praying in open or public space:

- Place something in front **one arm's length** away, at least **one finger thick** (stick, chair, bag, etc.).
- Stand **slightly to the side** of it.
- Anyone passing **beyond the sutrah** does **not sin**.

## Acts That Are Makruh (disliked) in Salaah

### General Definition

- Makruh (disliked) in Salaah = an act **that does not nullify** the prayer, but:
  - **Reduces reward**, and
  - **Is sinful**.

### Body, Clothing, and Accessories

- Playing with clothing, body, or jewelry, or removing pebbles unnecessarily.
  - **Exception:** Moving something to make space to perform sajdah is allowed.
- Cracking fingers, turning head unnecessarily.
- Raising hands to reply to **salaam** (verbal reply breaks Salaah).
- Gathering clothes to prevent dirt.
- Wearing clothes **disorderly**
- Offering Salaah **bare-headed**.
- Wearing scarf or clothing over shoulders unnecessarily.
- Clothes very dirty or soiled (only permissible if no alternatives).
- Clothes with pictures of animate objects (Makruh (disliked)).
- Clothes with inanimate images (permissible).

### Posture and Movement

- Sitting improperly: on heels, squatting, sitting like a dog.
- Leaning against wall unnecessarily during Fard Salaah.
- Placing sajdah spot higher than feet unnecessarily.

- Men placing elbows on ground in sajdah.

## Recitation and Surahs

- Specifying one Surah for a particular Salaah and **never reading any other**.
- Not completing a short Surah in one raka'ah and rushing to ruku.
- Counting verses with fingers (permissible to press lightly).

## Concentration and Environment

- Offering Salaah where one fears **distraction, laughter, or mistakes**.
- Offering Salaah near someone talking loudly or facing each other.
- Offering Salaah on floors with pictures, or making sajdah on pictures.
- Closing eyes unnecessarily (permissible if concentration improves).

## Eating, Drinking, and Urges

- Offering Salaah when **very hungry** if food is ready (should eat first).
- Offering Salaah with a coin or other object in mouth.
- Offering Salaah when needing to relieve oneself.

## Interaction with Animals or Insects

- Catching bugs while praying (permissible if bitten, avoid killing unnecessarily).

## Conditions Which Permit Breaking Salaah

A person may break his Salaah in the following circumstances:

### Urgent worldly needs or emergencies:

- Train about to leave with belongings/family.
- Snake or dangerous animal appears in front.
- Shoes or belongings at risk of being stolen.
- Pot or item on fire or about to spill (even if cheap).

### Preventing harm to others:

- Someone's life is at risk of being killed.

- Parents or grandparents in real danger while offering **Fard Salaah** (wajib to assist).

## Salaah with Jama‘at (Congregation)

### 1. Definition

- Jama‘at = Minimum **2 people**, one as **Imam**, others as **Muqtadi** (follower).
- For **Jumu‘ah** and **Eid**, at least **3 followers apart from Imam**.

### Virtues of Salaah with Jama‘at

#### Reward multiplication:

- Ibn Umar: Reward = 27 times more than praying alone.
- Better with more people; more beloved to Allah.

#### Walking to the mosque:

- Steps towards mosque = reward itself.
- Esha jama‘at: waiting time = counted as if in Salaah.
- Going in dark = full light on the Day of Resurrection.

#### Night and Fajr rewards:

- Esha with jama‘at = reward of half the night in ibaadah.
- Esha + Fajr = reward of full night in ibaadah.

#### Emphasis from Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam):

- Severe warning for abandoning jama‘at.
- Even if only **3 persons in a locality** and they skip jama‘at, Shaytaan overpowers them.
- Those who hear **Adhaan** and avoid jama‘at without valid excuse (fear/sickness) = their individual Salaah may not be accepted.

#### Practical teaching from Hadith:

- Mihjan incident: Even if you prayed at home, upon seeing jama‘at started in mosque, join it.

## Conditions that Make Jama‘at Wajib

1. **Gender:**
  - Only **males** are required; not obligatory for women.
2. **Maturity:**
  - Only those who have reached **puberty**; not obligatory for children.
3. **Freedom:**
  - Only free persons; **not required for slaves**.
4. **Mental & Physical State:**
  - Must be **sane, conscious, and not intoxicated or mentally unstable**.
5. **Absence of Excuses:**
  - If a valid excuse exists, Jama‘at is **not wajib**, though attending despite an excuse is better.

## Valid Excuses for Leaving Jama‘at

1. No **sufficient clothing** to cover aurah.
2. **Mud or difficult road conditions**.
3. **Heavy rainfall**.
4. **Severe cold** causing risk of illness.
5. Fear of **theft of wealth or possessions**.
6. Fear of encountering an **enemy**.
7. Fear of encountering a **creditor** when unable to pay debt.
8. **Dark night** making the road unsafe (unless visibility aids available).
9. **Caring for a sick person**, risking harm by leaving them.
10. **Extreme hunger** affecting concentration in Salaah.
11. **Travel urgency** (e.g., catching a train or caravan).
12. **Severe sickness or disability** preventing travel to masjid (blind if unable to walk safely, crippled, amputee).

## Witr Salaat

- Witr is **wajib** (almost like fard). Missing it is a **major sin**.
- It has **3 rakaats**:
  1. After 2 rakaats, sit for at-tahiyyat (don't read durood).
  2. Stand up for the 3rd rakaat. Recite Surah Faatihah + another Surah.
  3. Raise hands, recite **dua-e-qunoot**, then go to ruku.
  4. Complete salaah with sajdah, at-tahiyyat, durood, dua, and salaam.

## If Dua-e-Qunoot is Forgotten

- If remembered in ruku → don't recite, make **sajdah-e-sahw** instead.
- If recited after ruku → salaah is valid but still make **sajdah-e-sahw**.
- If forgotten in first or second rakaat → recite in 3rd rakaat and make sajdah-e-sahw.

## If You Don't Know Dua-e-Qunoot

- Recite any **short dua three times**. Salaah will still be valid.

## Qada Salaat (Making Up Missed Prayers)

### What Is Qada?

When we miss a prayer that we were supposed to perform on time, we must **make it up later**. This makeup prayer is called **Qada**.

### When to Perform Qada

If you ever miss a prayer by mistake — maybe you forgot or overslept — you should **pray it as soon as you remember**.

Delaying Qada without a reason is **a sin**.

If someone dies without performing their missed prayers, they will be **punished for missing and delaying** the prayers.

### Making Qada for Several Missed Salaats

- If you missed many salaats, try to **make them all as soon as possible**.

- You can **offer several Qada salaats together**.
- It's **not necessary** to pray Zuhr at Zuhr time or Asr at Asr time.

## Time for Qada Salaat

- There is **no fixed time** for Qada salaat.
- Avoid **makruh (disliked) times** (times when praying is disliked).

## Order of Qada Salaats

1. **If you missed one salaah only:**
  - Pray it **before any other new salaah**.
  - If you forget, pray it when you remember.
2. **If you missed 2–5 salaats:**
  - Pray them in the **order you missed them**.
  - Example: Fajr → Zuhr → Asr → Maghrib → Isha.
3. **If you missed 6 or more salaats:**
  - You can pray them in **any order**.
  - You may also pray other new salaats **without completing the Qada first**.
4. **If you missed many but gradually finished most:**
  - Remaining 4–5 salaats can be prayed **in any order**.

## Making Qada After Taubah (Repentance)

- If someone rarely prayed and repents:
  - They must make Qada of **all missed salaats**.
  - Taubah forgives the sin but **does not excuse missed prayers**.  
If you only repent but don't perform Qada, the sin still remains.

## If You Die Before Completing Qada

If you have missed prayers and can't make them up before death, you should leave a **will (Wasiyyah)** asking your family to **pay Fidyah** (compensation) for those missed prayers.

## Witr Salaat

### Importance of Witr

Witr prayer is **Wajib** — which means it is **very close to Fard**.

Leaving it without reason is a **major sin**.

If you miss Witr, perform its **Qada** as soon as possible.

### Structure of Witr Prayer

- Witr consists of **three rakaats (units)**.
- After **two rakaats**, sit and read **At-Tahiyyat** (the testimony of faith).
- Don't read Durood yet — stand up for the **third rakaat**.
- In the third rakaat:
  1. Read **Surah Fatiha** and another **Surah**.
  2. Say **Allahu Akbar**, raise hands (to ears for men, shoulders for women).
  3. Read **Dua-e-Qunoot**.
  4. Then do **Ruku** and complete the prayer.
- In the final sitting, recite **At-Tahiyyat**, **Durood**, and a **Dua**.
- End the prayer by saying **Salaam** to both sides.

## Nafil Salaat (Voluntary Prayers)

### What Are Nafil Prayers?

Nafil prayers are **extra** prayers that bring **more reward and blessings**.

There is **no limit** to how many Nafil you can offer.

### Special Nafil Prayers and Their Rewards

#### 1. Tahiyyatul Wudu

After doing **wudu**, pray **two rakaats** to thank Allah for purification.

But don't perform this during **Makruh (disliked) times**.

## 2. Ishraq Salaat

After the sun rises properly, offer two or four rakaats.

The reward equals one Hajj and one Umrah!

## 3. Chaasht Salaat (Duha Prayer)

When the sun is high, offer two to eight rakaats.

It brings many blessings and peace.

## 4. Awwaabeen Salaat

After Maghrib Fard, pray six rakaats of Nafl.

It brings forgiveness and reward.

## 5. Tahajjud Salaat

The best Nafl prayer!

Offered at night, especially in the last third of the night.

Minimum: 4 rakaats; can go up to 12 rakaats.

If you can't wake up, you may pray it after Isha, but with less reward.

## Breaking or Sitting in Nafl

- If you start a Nafl, you must finish it — if you break it, you must make it up (Qada).
- You can pray Nafl while sitting, but you get half the reward.

If you are sick or weak, you'll get the full reward even while sitting.

### Sunnat-e-Mu'akkadah

These are very important Sunnah prayers that the Prophet ﷺ always performed.

They should not be missed unless there's a valid reason.

## List of Sunnat-e-Mu'akkadah

- 2 rakaats before Fajr
- 4 rakaats before Zuhr, and 2 after Zuhr
- 2 after Maghrib

- **2 after Isha**

These bring **immense blessings and protection** from Allah.

## Salaat on a Journey (Musafir Salaat)

### When a person is considered a Musafir

- Traveling **less than three manzils (~77 km)** → not a musafir. Full salaat must be offered.
- Traveling **three manzils or more (~77 km)** → regarded as a musafir.
  - Even if traveling by fast transport (train, cart), still considered a musafir.
- Traveling within your town/city → not a musafir.

### Shortening of Salaat

- Musafir offers **two rakaats** for the fard of:
  - Zuhr
  - Asr
  - Isha
- Fard of **Fajr, Maghrib, Witr** → offered fully.
- **Sunnah:**
  - Can be skipped if in a hurry.
  - Must not reduce rakaats; either offered fully or skipped.
- Offering more than 2 rakaats for the fard of Zuhr, Asr, Isha → **sinful**.  
Mistakenly offering 4 rakaats:
  - If sat after 2 rakaats → first 2 counted as fard, next 2 as nafl + sajdah-e-sahw.

### Stopping during a journey

- Staying **less than 15 days** → still a musafir.
- Staying **15 days or more** → no longer a musafir. Must offer full salaat.

## Jumu'ah Salaat (Friday Prayer)

### Importance of Salaat and Jumu'ah

- Salaat is the most beloved act of worship to Allah Ta'ala.
- Friday (Jumu'ah) is the most virtuous day of the week.
- Jumu'ah allows people from different areas to gather collectively, maximizing the spiritual benefits of congregation (jama'at).

Previous nations had a day of gathering: Jews on Saturday, Christians on Sunday. Muslims have been blessed with Friday as their day of gathering.

### Virtues of Jumu'ah

1. **Best of days** – creation of Adam, his entry and removal from Jannah, and the day of resurrection all occur on Friday. (Sahih Muslim)
2. **Send abundant durood** – Friday is the day to increase salutations upon the Prophet (SAW) as they are presented to him. (Abu Dawud)
3. **Passing away on Friday** – person is saved from grave punishment. (Tirmidhi)
4. **Day of Deen completion** – Jumu'ah and Arafah are the days Allah revealed “This day I have completed your Deen.”

### Recommended Sunnah on Friday

1. **Ghisl (bath)** – take a bath.
2. **Miswaak** – clean the teeth.
3. **Perfume** – apply fragrance.
4. **Attend Jumu'ah in congregation** – larger jama'at increases rewards.

### Arriving Early at the Mosque

- The earlier you go, the more reward:
  - Angels record the names of those who arrive first.
  - Rewards: first person = sacrifice of a camel; second = cow; third = chicken; fourth = egg. (Bukhari, Muslim)

### Recommended Recitations

- **Surah Kahf:** reciting it before or after Jumu'ah brings light (*nur*) from below the Arsh to the skies, helping in the darkness of Qiyamah and forgiving minor sins.

## Method of Offering Jumu'ah Salaat

1. **Before the second Adhaan:**
  - Offer **4 rakaats Sunnah-e-Mu'akkadah**.
2. **Khutbah and Fard Salaat:**
  - Listen to the **Khutbah attentively**.
  - Offer **2 rakaats Fard** with the Imam.
3. **After Fard:**
  - Offer **4 rakaats Sunnah-e-Mu'akkadah**.
  - And **additional 2 rakaats Sunnah**, also emphasized.

## Eid Salaat

### Special Days

- **Eid ul-Fitr** – 1st of Shawwal
- **Eid ul-Ad'haa** – 10th of Zil Hijjah
- On both days, **two rakaats of salaah** are offered as **gratitude to Allah**.
- Unlike Jumu'ah, **khutbah is after the salaah**, but listening is **wajib**.

#### Sunnah Acts for Eid ul-Fitr

1. Adorn oneself according to **Shariah**
2. Take a **bath**
3. Use **miswaak**
4. Wear **best clothing**
5. Apply **perfume**
6. Wake up **early**
7. Go **early to the Eid-gaah**
8. Eat something **sweet** (e.g., dates) before going
9. Give **Sadaqatul Fitr** before salaah
10. Offer Eid salaah in the **Eid-gaah**, not in the masjid
11. Return by a **different route**

12. Go on foot

13. Recite **takbeer softly** while walking

#### Method of Eid Salaat

- Make the **intention**:  
*“I intend offering two rakaats wajib of Eid ul-Fitr/Eid ul-Ad’haa Salaat with six wajib takbeers.”*
- Recite **Thanaa’**, then say **Allahu Akbar** three times, raising hands each time.
- Pause slightly between takbeers to recite **Subhaanallah** three times.
- In **second rakaat**, recite **Surah Faatihah** and another surah, then do **three takbeers** followed by ruku.
- After salaah, **imam delivers two khutbahs**, sitting briefly in between.
- **Dua** can be made after the salaah or khutbah.

#### Takbeer-e-Tashreeq (Eid ul-Ad’haa)

- Recited loudly from **Fajr 9th Zil Hijjah to Asr 13th Zil Hijjah**
- **Wajib** for residents of towns and villages
- Women recite softly
- Must be done **after fard salaah**

### How to Perform Istikhaarah

#### Definition of Salat al-Istikhara:

Salat al-Istikhara is a special prayer that a Muslim performs when seeking guidance from Allah (SWT) in making an important decision. The word “*Istikhara*” means “to seek goodness” or “to ask Allah to choose the best for us.”

1. Perform **two rakaats of nafl (voluntary) prayer**.
2. After finishing the prayer, recite the **Dua of Istikhaarah** with full concentration. When you reach the part about “this matter,” **think about what you are deciding**.
3. Go to sleep in a **clean state** (with wudu) and facing the **Qiblah**.
4. When you wake up, if a certain choice feels peaceful or clear in your heart, that is the best option for you.

If you still feel unsure, repeat Istikhaarah for up to **seven nights**.

## Salaatut Taubah (Prayer of Repentance)

### When You Make a Mistake

If a person commits a sin or disobeys Allah, he should immediately turn back to Allah with regret.

He should:

1. Perform **two rakaats of nafl prayer**.
2. After the prayer, **ask Allah for forgiveness** sincerely.
3. **Promise not to repeat the sin**.

Allah loves those who repent. Through this prayer, **Allah forgives sins** out of His mercy.

### Nafl Salaat Before Travelling

#### Before You Leave

When a Muslim prepares for a journey, it is **mustahab (recommended)** to:

1. Offer **two rakaats of nafl prayer** before leaving home.
2. When returning, first visit the **masjid**, offer **two rakaats**, then go home.

**Hadith:** The Prophet ﷺ said, “A person leaves nothing better behind at home than two rakaats before travelling.”

He also used to pray **two rakaats in the masjid** after returning from travel.

## THE JANAZAH SALAAT (Funeral Prayer)

### What is Janazah Salaat?

It is a **special prayer** for the deceased — a **dua (supplication)** to Allah to forgive them and grant mercy.

### Who Can Offer Janazah?

- Any **Muslim man or woman** can offer it.
- Even one person praying is enough, but **more people** means **more blessings**.

### Conditions Before Janazah Prayer

1. The deceased must be **Muslim**.
2. The **body should be clean** and covered.

3. The **deceased should be in front** of the people praying.
4. Everyone must **face Qiblah** and be in **wudu**.
5. The **body must be placed on the ground**, not carried or on a vehicle.

## Fard (Compulsory) Acts

1. Saying “**Allahu Akbar**” four times.
2. Standing while praying (if able).

## Sunnah (Recommended) Acts

1. **Praise Allah (Thanaa)** after first Takbeer.
2. **Send blessings on Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (Durood)** after second Takbeer.
3. **Make Dua** for the deceased after the third Takbeer.
4. Say the **fourth Takbeer** and end with **Salaam**.

## Dua for a Muslim (Adult)

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِحَيِّتِنَا وَمَيِّتِنَا، وَشَاهِدِنَا وَغَائِبِنَا، وَصَغِيرِنَا وَكَبِيرِنَا، وَذَكَرِنَا وَأُنثَانَا اللَّهُمَّ مَنْ أَحْيَيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَأَحْيِهِ عَلَى الْإِسْلَامِ، وَمَنْ تَوَفَّيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَتَوَفَّهُ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ

“O Allah! Forgive our living and our dead, our young and old, our men and women. O Allah! Keep alive those whom You keep among us upon Islam, and take those whom You take among us upon faith (Iman).”

## Dua for a Boy

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ لَنَا فَرْطًا وَاجْعَلْهُ لَنَا أَجْرًا وَذُخْرًا وَاجْعَلْهُ لَنَا شَافِعًا وَمُسَفَّعًا.

For a **girl**, the same dua is read with words changed to the **feminine form**.

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهَا لَنَا فَرْطًا وَاجْعَلْهَا لَنَا أَجْرًا وَذُخْرًا وَاجْعَلْهَا لَنَا شَافِعَةً وَمُسَفَّعَةً.

## Salaat al-Tasbeeh (The Prayer of Forgiveness)

### Purpose

This prayer wipes away **all sins**, big and small.

It can be offered **any time**, except during **Makruh (disliked) times**.

### How to Perform

1. **Make intention** for four rakaats of **Salaat al-Tasbeeh**.
2. In the **first rakaat**:
  - Recite **Subhana kallahumma, Ta'awwudh, Bismillah, Surah Fatiha**, and another **Surah**.
  - Before Ruku, recite:

**"Subhanallahi walhamdulillahi wa la ilaha illallahu wallahu akbar"**

(15 times)

3. In **Ruku**: recite this tasbeeh **10 times**.
4. In **Qawmah (standing after Ruku)**: recite **10 times**.
5. In **first Sajdah**: recite **10 times**.
6. In **Jalsa (sitting between Sajdahs)**: recite **10 times**.
7. In **second Sajdah**: recite **10 times**.
8. After the second Sajdah, before standing for the next rakaat, recite **10 times** again.  
That's **75 Tasbeehs per rakaat**.

When you complete **four rakaats**, you'll have recited **300 Tasbeehs!**

#### Notes

- You can pray this **any time** except sunrise, midday, and sunset.
- It's a **beautiful prayer** that brings **Allah's forgiveness and mercy**.