JAMIA HAFS
SCIENCES OF THE QUR'AN

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Islamic *Glossary*

A plain-English A to Z of the words every Muslim hears: what they mean, and why they matter.

262 TERMS · EVERYDAY PHRASES · QUICK FACTS

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BEFORE YOU START

How to use this *glossary*

Islamic words come from Arabic, and the same word can be spelt several ways in English. This glossary uses the everyday English meaning first, then gives the Arabic term. Each entry is short on purpose. For a full explanation, look for the matching guide in the Jamia Hafs Library.

How the words are spelt

Where a word is commonly spelt more than one way, the second spelling is shown in brackets next to it, such as **Adhan** (azan), so you can find it whichever way you know it. Arabic words are written in English letters, without vowel marks. When you see ﷺ, it stands for the blessing said after the name of the Prophet Muhammad: *sallallahu alayhi wa sallam*, "may Allah send blessings and peace on him".

A short guide to the sounds

'	A pause in the throat, or the deep 'ayn sound. In "Qur'an" and "Ma'ruf", it is a small catch in the voice.
kh	Like the "ch" in the Scottish word "loch".
gh	A soft gargle from the back of the throat, like a French "r".
q	A deep "k" said from the very back of the mouth.
dh, th	As in "this" and "think".
h	Always breathed out, as in "hat". There is no silent h.
aa, ee, oo	Long sounds. We write most words simply, so Rahman is read "Rah-maan".

The rulings mentioned in this booklet follow the Hanafi school of fiqh. If you have a question about your own situation, speak to a trusted teacher.

QUICK FACTS

The basics *at a glance*

The five pillars of Islam

1. **Shahadah:** declaring that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad ﷺ is His messenger.
2. **Salah:** the five daily prayers.
3. **Zakat:** giving a set part of your savings to those in need.
4. **Sawm:** fasting in the month of Ramadan.
5. **Hajj:** pilgrimage to Makkah, once in a lifetime, for those who are able.

The six articles of faith

1. Belief in **Allah**, the One.
2. Belief in His **angels**.
3. Belief in His **books**.
4. Belief in His **messengers**.
5. Belief in the **Last Day**.
6. Belief in **destiny**, the good and the bad of it, from Allah.

The five daily prayers

PRAYER	WHEN	FARD RAK'AHS
Fajr	From first light until just before sunrise	2
Dhuhr	After the sun passes its highest point, until Asr begins	4
Asr	Afternoon, until just before sunset	4
Maghrib	From sunset, until the red light of the sky has gone	3
Isha	From nightfall, until before Fajr	4
Witr (wajib)	After Isha, before Fajr	3
Jumu'ah	Friday, in place of Dhuhr, after two sermons	2

Exact times change with your place and the day of the year. Use the Jamia Hafs prayer times page for your city.

A

23 TERMS

Adab

Good manners and proper conduct: how to behave towards Allah, the Qur'an, teachers, parents, neighbours and guests.

Adhan azan

The call to prayer, said aloud before each of the five daily prayers to announce that the time has begun. See *Iqamah*.

Adl

Justice: giving everyone, including yourself, what is due to them and never wronging anyone.

Ahl al-Bayt

The family of the Prophet ﷺ: his wives, children and close relatives, who are loved and respected by all Muslims.

Ahl al-Kitab

"People of the Book": the Jews and Christians, who were given earlier scriptures.

Ahl as-Sunnah wal-Jama'ah

The main body of Muslims, who follow the Qur'an and the Sunnah as the Companions understood them. Usually called Sunnis.

Akhirah

The life after this one: death, the grave, the Day of Judgement, and then Paradise or Hellfire.

Alhamdulillah

"All praise belongs to Allah." Said to thank Allah, after eating and drinking, and after sneezing.

Allah

The Arabic name for the One God, who has no partner, child or equal. Muslims use this name in every language.

Allahu Akbar

"Allah is greater": greater than anything we can imagine. It opens the prayer and is said when moving between positions.

Amanah

Something entrusted to you, such as money, a secret or a responsibility. Keeping it faithfully is part of faith.

Ameen amin

"O Allah, accept." Said after Surah Al-Fatihah and at the end of a dua.

Aqidah

Creed: what a Muslim believes about Allah, the angels, the books, the prophets, the Last Day and destiny.

Aqiqah

A sacrifice offered, with its meat shared, to give thanks for a newborn child, usually on the seventh day when the baby is named. It is not required.

Arafah

The wide plain outside Makkah where pilgrims stand and make dua on 9 Dhul Hijjah. It is the heart of Hajj.

Ar-Rahman and Ar-Rahim

Two beautiful names of Allah, often translated "the Most Merciful" and "the Especially Merciful". Both come from *rahmah*, mercy.

Ashura

The 10th of Muharram. Musa and his people were saved from Pharaoh on this day. Fasting on it is recommended, together with the day before or the day after.

Asr

The afternoon prayer, four rak'ahs of fard. It is also the name of Surah 103.

Astaghfirullah

"I ask Allah for forgiveness." Said after a mistake, after a prayer and throughout the day.

Awrah

The parts of the body that must be covered in prayer and in front of others. For a man, from the navel to below the knees. For a woman in prayer, everything except the face, hands and feet. In front of men outside her close family, everything except the face and hands.

Ayah

A verse of the Qur'an. The word means "sign". The plural is *ayat*.

Ayat al-Kursi

The Verse of the Throne (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:255). The Prophet ﷺ called it the greatest verse of the Qur'an. Many Muslims recite it after each fard prayer and before sleeping.

Azimah

The normal rule, as opposed to *rukhsah*, a concession.

B

5 TERMS

Baraka

Blessing: goodness that Allah places in time, wealth, food or people so that it lasts and grows.

Barzakh

The barrier between this life and the next. The time between death and the Day of Judgement is spent in it.

Bid'ah

Something newly invented and added to the religion as an act of worship. New worldly things, such as phones and cars, are not bid'ah. Scholars discuss in detail which acts fall under it, so ask a teacher about a particular case.

Bismillah

"In the name of Allah." Said before starting anything good, such as eating, wudu or reading. In full: Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim.

Bulugh

Reaching puberty and the age of responsibility, when prayer, fasting and the other duties of Islam become required.

C

3 TERMS

Caliph

See *Khalifah*.

Companions

See *Sahabah*.

Congregation jama'ah

Praying together behind an imam. Men are strongly encouraged to pray the five daily prayers in congregation at the masjid, and the reward is far greater than praying alone.

D

10 TERMS

Da'if

"Weak." A hadith whose chain or narrators have a fault. It is not used to prove a ruling.

Dajjal

The great false messiah who will appear near the end of time. The Prophet ﷺ taught believers to seek Allah's protection from his trial.

Dawah

Inviting people to Islam and to goodness, with wisdom, kindness and a good example.

Dhikr

Remembering Allah, by tongue and heart: saying SubhanAllah, Alhamdulillah and Allahu Akbar, reciting the Qur'an, or simply being mindful of Him.

Dhuhr zuhr

The midday prayer, which begins after the sun passes its highest point. It has four rak'ahs of fard. On Fridays Jumu'ah takes its place.

Dhul Hijjah

The twelfth Islamic month. Hajj takes place in it and Eid al-Adha falls on the 10th. Its first ten days are among the best days of the year.

Din

Religion as a complete way of life. It also means "judgement", as in *Yawm ad-Din*, the Day of Judgement.

Dua

Asking Allah for what you need, in your own words or in the words of the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

Duha

A voluntary prayer prayed after the sun has risen well, until before midday. It is two rak'ahs or more.

Dunya

This worldly life, as opposed to the *akhirah*. It is a place to prepare, not a place to settle.

E

3 TERMS

Eid

A day of celebration. Muslims have two: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Each begins with a congregational prayer of two rak'ahs, which is wajib in the Hanafi school.

Eid al-Adha

The Festival of Sacrifice on 10 Dhul Hijjah, remembering Ibrahim's willingness to obey Allah. Those who own the nisab offer *qurbani*.

Eid al-Fitr

The Festival of Breaking the Fast on 1 Shawwal, after Ramadan. Fasting is forbidden on this day, and sadaqat al-fitr must be paid before the Eid prayer.

F

11 TERMS

Fajr

The dawn prayer, from first light until just before sunrise: two rak'ahs of fard, preceded by two sunnah rak'ahs that the Prophet ﷺ never left.

Fard

Obligatory: something Allah has clearly required. Leaving it without excuse is a major sin. See *Fard ayn* and *Fard kifayah*.

Fard ayn

A duty on every individual, such as the five daily prayers.

Fard kifayah

A duty on the community as a whole. If enough people do it, the rest are free of blame; if nobody does, everyone is blameworthy. The funeral prayer is an example.

Fatihah

Surah Al-Fatihah, "The Opening": the first chapter of the Qur'an, seven verses, recited in every rak'ah of the prayer.

Fatwa

A ruling given by a qualified mufti in answer to a question about Islamic law.

Fidya

What a person gives in place of fasts they can never make up, for example because of old age or a lasting illness: feeding a poor person for each missed day.

Fiqh

Understanding of Islamic law, drawn from the Qur'an, the Sunnah and the reasoning of scholars. Fiqh tells us how to pray, fast, trade and marry. The word means "deep understanding".

Fitnah

A trial, temptation or disorder that tests faith.

Fitrah

The natural disposition people are created with, inclined to know their Creator. It also names the natural habits of cleanliness, such as trimming the nails.

Furqan

"The Criterion" that separates truth from falsehood. A name of the Qur'an and of Surah 25.

G

5 TERMS

Ghaflah

Heedlessness: being so busy that you forget Allah and the Hereafter.

Ghayb

The unseen: what is beyond our senses, such as the angels, the grave and the Hereafter. Only Allah knows it fully.

Ghibah

Backbiting: mentioning something true about a person behind their back that they would dislike. If it is untrue, it is slander, which is worse.

Ghunnah

In Tajweed, the soft nasal sound held for about two counts, for example on a noon or meem with a shaddah.

Ghusl

The full ritual bath. It is required after intimacy, after an emission with desire, and at the end of the period and of post-natal bleeding. Its three fard parts are rinsing the mouth, rinsing the nose and washing the whole body.

H

19 TERMS

Hadith

A report of what the Prophet ﷺ said, did or approved, handed down through a chain of narrators.

Hadith Qudsi

A hadith in which the Prophet ﷺ reports words of Allah in his own wording. It is not part of the Qur'an.

Hafiz hafizah

A man (hafiz) or woman (hafizah) who has memorised the whole Qur'an.

Hajar al-Aswad

The Black Stone, set in one corner of the Ka'bah. Tawaf begins and ends at its line.

Hajj

The pilgrimage to Makkah in Dhul Hijjah. It is required once in a lifetime of every Muslim who has the means and the health to travel. One of the five pillars.

Halal

Permitted by Allah. It applies to food, income, relationships and everything else.

Halaqah

A study circle where people sit together to learn or to recite.

Hanafi

The school of fiqh named after Imam Abu Hanifa, followed by most Muslims in South Asia, Turkey and Central Asia. It is one of the four Sunni schools, with the Maliki, Shafi'i and Hanbali. The rulings in Jamia Hafs guides follow it.

Haram

Forbidden. Doing it is a sin, and leaving it for Allah's sake is rewarded.

Hasad

Envy: wishing that a blessing be taken away from someone else. It is not the same as wanting the same good for yourself.

Hasan

"Good." A grade of hadith just below sahih, which can be used to prove a ruling.

Haya

Modesty and a natural shame about doing wrong. The Prophet ﷺ taught that haya is part of faith.

Hayd

A woman's monthly period. In the Hanafi school it lasts at least three days and at most ten. See *Nifas* and *Istihadah*.

Hifz

Memorising the Qur'an.

Hijab

Modest dress and behaviour. In everyday speech, a woman's headscarf.

Hijrah

The migration of the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions from Makkah to Madinah. The Islamic calendar counts from it.

Hijri calendar

The Islamic lunar calendar. It has twelve months of 29 or 30 days: Muharram, Safar, Rabi al-Awwal, Rabi al-Thani, Jumada al-Ula, Jumada al-Thaniyah, Rajab, Sha'ban, Ramadan, Shawwal, Dhul Qa'dah and Dhul Hijjah. A new month begins with the sighting of the new moon.

Hikmah

Wisdom: knowing what to do, when and how, and doing it.

Hizb

A portion of the Qur'an. Each juz has two hizbs.

I

24 TERMS

Ibadah

Worship: every act, word and thought done for Allah's sake and in line with His guidance. It includes prayer and fasting, and also honest work and kindness.

Iblis

The jinn who refused to bow to Adam out of pride and became Shaytan.

Iddah

The waiting period of a woman after a divorce or after her husband's death. For a woman whose husband has died it is four months and ten days.

Ihram

The sacred state a pilgrim enters for Hajj or Umrah, with its own rules. It also names the two white, unstitched sheets men wear.

Ihsan

Excellence: to worship Allah as though you see Him, knowing that even if you do not see Him, He sees you.

Ijma

The agreement of the qualified scholars of an age on a ruling.

Ijtihad

A qualified scholar's full effort to work out a ruling from the sources.

Ikhfa

In Tajweed, "hiding": a noon sakinah or tanween before fifteen letters is said with a light hum and without the full sound of the noon.

Ikhlas

Sincerity: doing something for Allah alone. It is also the name of Surah 112.

Ilm

Knowledge. Seeking beneficial knowledge is a duty on every Muslim.

Imam

The one who stands in front to lead the prayer. It is also a title of respect for great scholars, such as Imam Abu Hanifa.

Iman

Faith: believing in the heart, declaring it with the tongue and acting on it. There are six articles of faith: Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, the Last Day and destiny.

Insha'Allah

"If Allah wills." Said when speaking about the future, because only Allah knows what will happen.

Iqamah

The second call, given just before the congregation stands to pray.

Iqlab

In Tajweed, "turning": a noon sakinah or tanween before the letter ba is pronounced as a meem.

Isha

The night prayer, four rak'ahs of fard, followed by Witr.

Isnad

The chain of narrators through which a hadith reached us.

Isra and Mi'raj

The Night Journey of the Prophet ﷺ from Makkah to Jerusalem, and his ascent through the heavens. The five daily prayers were given on this journey.

Istighfar

Asking Allah's forgiveness, for example by saying "Astaghfirullah". The Prophet ﷺ did so many times every day.

Istihadah

Irregular bleeding in a woman that is neither hayd nor nifas. She keeps praying and fasting, and makes wudu for each prayer time.

Istikhara

A prayer and dua asking Allah to guide you to the best choice in a matter.

Istinja

Washing or wiping the private parts clean after using the toilet.

Itikaf

Staying in the masjid for worship, most often in the last ten days of Ramadan.

Izhar

In Tajweed, "clarity": a noon sakinah or tanween is pronounced clearly, without merging, before the six throat letters.

J

11 TERMS

Jahannam

Hellfire, the place of punishment on the Day of Judgement.

Jahiliyyah

The time of ignorance in Arabia before the Prophet ﷺ was sent.

Janabah

The state of major impurity after intimacy or an emission with desire, which requires ghusl. A person in this state is called *junub*.

Janazah

A funeral, or the funeral prayer. The prayer is said standing, with four takbirs, and without bowing or prostration.

Jannah

Paradise, the home of reward for the believers.

Jibril

The angel Gabriel, who brought the revelation to the prophets.

Jihad

Striving in the way of Allah. It covers struggling against your own bad habits and striving to learn and to do good, and, under strict conditions, defending the community.

Jilbab

A loose outer garment that covers a woman's body.

Jinn

Beings created from smokeless fire, hidden from us, with free will. Some believe and some do not.

Jumu'ah

Friday. The Friday prayer takes the place of Dhuhr: two rak'ahs after two sermons, required of resident, healthy adult men.

Juz

One of the thirty equal parts of the Qur'an. In Urdu and Hindi it is called *para*.

K

11 TERMS

Ka'bah

The cube-shaped house in Makkah that Ibrahim and Isma'il raised for the worship of Allah. Muslims face it in prayer. It is not worshipped.

Kaffarah

A penalty that makes up for certain wrongs, such as breaking an oath or deliberately breaking a Ramadan fast.

Kafir

A person who rejects faith after the truth has reached them. The word means "one who covers" the truth.

Kalimah

"The word." Usually the Kalimah Tayyibah: *La ilaha illallah, Muhammadur Rasulullah*. See *Shahadah*.

Khalifah

A successor or steward. The first four leaders after the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr, 'Umar, 'Uthman and 'Ali, are called the Rightly Guided Caliphs (al-Khulafa ar-Rashidun).

Khimar

The headscarf. Surah An-Nur (24:31) tells believing women to draw it over their chests.

Khul'

A divorce the wife asks for, in which she returns the mahr or another agreed amount.

Khushu

Humility and presence of heart in prayer.

Khutbah

A sermon, especially the two sermons before the Friday prayer and the one at Eid.

Kufr

Disbelief: rejecting what Allah has revealed.

Kunya

A name that begins with "Abu" (father of) or "Umm" (mother of), such as Abu Bakr. It is a mark of respect.

L

3 TERMS

Lahn

In Tajweed, a mistake in recitation. A *lahn jali* is a clear mistake that changes a letter or vowel. A *lahn khafi* is a hidden fault that spoils the beauty of the recitation.

Lawh al-Mahfuz

The Preserved Tablet, where everything is written with Allah.

Laylat al-Qadr

The Night of Power, on one of the odd nights of the last ten of Ramadan. It is better than a thousand months, and the Qur'an began to be revealed in it.

M

27 TERMS

Madd

In Tajweed, lengthening a vowel sound. The natural madd lasts two counts; longer ones last four, five or six.

Madhhab

A school of fiqh. The four Sunni schools are the Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i and Hanbali. They differ only in details of law.

Madrasah

A school, usually one for Islamic studies.

Maghrib

The sunset prayer, three rak'ahs of fard. Its time begins when the sun has fully set.

Mahr

The gift the husband gives his wife at marriage. It is her right and her own property.

Mahram

A close relative a person can never marry, such as a father, brother or uncle. A woman may travel with her mahram and may appear before him without her full outer covering.

Makharij

In Tajweed, the places in the throat, mouth and lips that the letters come from. The singular is *makhraj*.

Makruh

Disliked. In the Hanafi school there are two kinds: *makruh tahrimi*, close to haram, and *makruh tanzihi*, which is better avoided.

Maktab

A traditional class where children learn to read the Qur'an and the basics of faith.

Malaikah

Angels: beings created from light who obey Allah fully. They include Jibril, Mikail, Israfil and the angels who record our deeds.

Mandub mustahab

Recommended: rewarded if done, and not sinful if left.

Mani, madhi and wadi

Three fluids that affect purity. Mani is released with desire and requires ghusl. Madhi is a thin, clear, sticky fluid that comes with arousal: wash it off and make wudu. Wadi is a thick, whitish fluid that may follow urine: wash it off and make wudu.

Manzil

One of seven portions of the Qur'an, made for people who finish it every week.

Masjid

A place of prostration; a mosque. The three most honoured are Masjid al-Haram in Makkah, Masjid an-Nabawi in Madinah and Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem.

Mawdu'

"Fabricated." A false report wrongly attributed to the Prophet ﷺ. It must never be passed on as hadith.

Mihrab

A niche in the wall of a masjid that shows the direction of the qibla.

Minbar

The raised steps from which the imam gives the Friday sermon.

Miswak

A natural tooth stick. Using it is a sunnah, especially before wudu and prayer.

Mu'adhdhin

The person who gives the adhan.

Mufti

A scholar qualified to give fatwas.

Muhajirun and Ansar

The Muhajirun are those who migrated from Makkah. The Ansar, "the helpers", are the people of Madinah who welcomed them.

Muharram

The first month of the Islamic year and one of the four sacred months.

Mu'min

A believer.

Munafiq

A hypocrite: someone who shows faith outwardly while denying it inwardly.

Musafir

A traveller. A person who travels about 77 km (48 miles) or more shortens four-rak'ah prayers to two.

Mushaf

A written or printed copy of the Qur'an.

Muslim

One who submits to Allah. A person becomes a Muslim by believing in and declaring the Shahadah.

N

11 TERMS

Nabi and Rasul

A *nabi* is a prophet, someone Allah chose to receive revelation. A *rasul* is a messenger, who brought a message and a law to a people. Every messenger is a prophet, but not every prophet is a messenger.

Nafl

Voluntary: prayers, fasts or charity that go beyond what is required.

Nafs

The self: the soul as it pulls towards desires. The Qur'an speaks of the nafs that commands evil, the nafs that blames itself, and the nafs at peace.

Najasah

Impurity: what must be washed from the body, clothes and place before prayer, such as urine, stool and blood.

Namaz

The Persian, Urdu and Turkish word for salah.

Nifas

Bleeding after childbirth, which can last up to forty days. A woman does not pray or fast during it.

Nikah

The Islamic marriage contract: offer and acceptance in front of two witnesses, with the mahr agreed.

Nisab

The smallest amount of wealth on which zakat is due. It is worth about 87.5 g of gold or 612 g of silver. Use the Jamia Hafs Zakat calculator for today's figure.

Niyyah

Intention, made in the heart. It is needed before prayer and fasting, and saying it aloud is not required.

Noon sakinah

In Tajweed, a noon with a sukun. It is the starting point of the rules of izhar, idgham, iqlab and ikhfa.

Nur

Light.

Q

11 TERMS

Qada

Making up a missed obligatory prayer or fast. It also means divine decree.

Qadar

Destiny: Allah knows, has written and wills everything, yet people still choose and are responsible for what they choose.

Qalqalah

In Tajweed, the slight echo on five letters when they carry a sukun: qaf, ta (the heavy one), ba, jim and dal.

Qari

A reciter of the Qur'an, especially a skilled one.

Qasr

Shortening four-rak'ah fard prayers to two while travelling. In the Hanafi school this is the rule for a traveller, not an option.

Qibla

The direction of the Ka'bah, which Muslims face in prayer.

Qiyam

Standing in prayer. *Qiyam al-layl* is standing for prayer at night.

Qiyas

Reasoning by comparison: scholars apply a ruling given in the texts to a new case that shares the same reason.

Qunut

A dua recited in the Witr prayer, in the third rak'ah before bowing in the Hanafi school.

Qur'an

The word of Allah, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through Jibril over about twenty-three years. It has 114 surahs and has been preserved word for word.

Qurbani udhiyyah

The animal sacrificed on Eid al-Adha and the two days after it, with the meat shared with family, friends and people in need. In the Hanafi school it is wajib on those who own the nisab.

R

11 TERMS

Rabb

Lord and Sustainer: the One who creates, owns, provides for and takes care of everything.

Rak'ah

One unit of prayer: standing, bowing, two prostrations and sitting between them.

Ramadan

The ninth month, in which Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. The Qur'an was first revealed in it.

Riba

Interest and certain unfair exchanges. Taking it, paying it, recording it and witnessing it are all forbidden.

Riwayah

In Tajweed, a way of reciting the Qur'an handed down through a chain of teachers. Most Muslims in the world read the riwayah of Hafs from 'Asim.

Rizq

Provision: everything Allah gives, not only money but also health, time, family and knowledge.

Ruh

The soul or spirit. Its reality is known only to Allah.

Rukhsah

A concession, such as shortening the prayer while travelling. The normal rule is called *azimah*.

Rukn

A pillar: an essential part without which an act is not valid.

Ruku

Bowing in prayer, with hands on the knees and the back straight. In a printed mushaf, a ruku' is also a short section of verses marked in the margin.

Ruqyah

Reciting the Qur'an and authentic duas for healing and protection.

S

27 TERMS

Sabr

Patience: staying steady in obedience, away from sin and through hardship. It is not passive.

Sadaqah

Voluntary charity given to please Allah. A smile and a kind word count too. *Sadaqah jariyah* is ongoing charity, such as a well, a school or knowledge that continues to benefit.

Sadaqat al-Fitr fitrah

Charity paid before the Eid prayer, for yourself and for those you support, by each Muslim who owns the nisab. It is wajib. It is half a sa' of wheat (about 1.75 kg), or one sa' of dates or barley (about 3.5 kg), or its value in money.

Sahabah

The Companions: those who met the Prophet ﷺ as believers and died as believers.

Sahih

"Authentic." The highest grade of a hadith. *Sahih al-Bukhari* and *Sahih Muslim* are the two most trusted collections.

Sa'i

Walking seven times between the hills of Safa and Marwah, as part of Hajj and Umrah.

Sajdah

Prostration, with the forehead, nose, hands, knees and toes on the ground. A *sajdah of recitation* is made at fourteen places in the Qur'an and is wajib in the Hanafi school. A *sajdah sahw* is two prostrations that make up for a mistake in the prayer.

Sakinah

The calm and tranquillity that Allah sends into hearts.

Salaf

The earliest generations of Muslims: the Companions and the two generations after them.

Salah

The five daily prayers, the second pillar of Islam.

Salam

Peace. "As-salamu alaykum" is the greeting, and the salam is also how the prayer ends, to the right and then to the left.

Sawm

Fasting: keeping away from food, drink and intimacy from true dawn to sunset, with the intention to fast. One of the five pillars.

Seerah

The life story of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Shaddah

The mark that doubles a letter. A letter with a shaddah is pronounced twice, once with a sukun and once with its vowel.

Shahadah

The declaration of faith: "I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His messenger." It is the first pillar.

Shari'ah

The way Allah has set: all the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah on belief, worship, manners and law.

Shawwal

The tenth month, which begins with Eid al-Fitr. Six voluntary fasts in Shawwal after Ramadan are a recommended act.

Shaytan

Satan: Iblis and the devils who whisper to people to do wrong. His plan is weak.

Shirk

Associating partners with Allah. It is the gravest sin, and Allah does not forgive it if a person dies without repenting from it.

Shukr

Gratitude to Allah, by the heart, the tongue and actions.

Sihr

Magic. Learning and practising it is forbidden.

Sirat

"The path." *As-Sirat al-Mustaqim* in Surah Al-Fatihah is the straight path. It is also the name of the bridge over Hellfire on the Day of Judgement.

Subhanallah

"Glory be to Allah": Allah is free of any fault. Said in wonder and as dhikr.

Sun letters and moon letters

In Arabic, the lam of "al-" is not pronounced before fourteen letters, the sun letters, and is pronounced before the other fourteen, the moon letters. Ar-Rahman is an example of the first, and al-Hamd of the second.

Sunnah

The way of the Prophet ﷺ: his words, actions and approvals. It also names the prayers he prayed regularly: *sunnah muakkadah* are emphasised, and *ghayr muakkadah* are not emphasised.

Surah

A chapter of the Qur'an. There are 114.

Sutrah

An object, such as a wall or pillar, placed in front of the one who is praying to mark the space in front of him.

T

22 TERMS

Tabi'un

The generation after the Companions, who met them and learned from them.

Tafsir

Explanation of the meaning of the Qur'an.

Tahajjud

The voluntary night prayer, prayed after waking from sleep, best in the last third of the night.

Taharah

Purity, both ritual and physical. The Prophet ﷺ said that purity is half of faith.

Tahiyyat al-masjid

Two rak'ahs prayed on entering a masjid, as a greeting to it.

Tajweed

The rules of reciting the Qur'an correctly: giving each letter its proper place, quality and length. The word means "making better".

Takbir

Saying "Allahu Akbar". The *takbir tahrimah* is the opening takbir that starts the prayer.

Talbiyah

The pilgrim's call: "Labbayk Allahumma labbayk", "Here I am, O Allah, here I am", said from the time of ihram.

Taqwa

God-consciousness: guarding yourself from Allah's displeasure by obeying Him and staying away from what He has forbidden.

Tarawih

The night prayer of Ramadan, prayed after Isha. In the Hanafi school it is twenty rak'ahs, prayed in sets of two.

Tarteel

Slow, clear, measured recitation of the Qur'an.

Tasbih

Saying "SubhanAllah". It also names the string of beads used for counting dhikr.

Tashahhud

The sitting part of the prayer, in which you recite the greeting to Allah and the declaration of faith.

Tasleem

The salam that ends the prayer.

Tawaf

Walking seven rounds around the Ka'bah, keeping it on your left, starting from the Black Stone.

Tawakkul

Trusting Allah after doing your part. The Prophet ﷺ taught a man to tie his camel and then rely on Allah.

Tawbah

Repentance: stop the sin, feel regret, resolve not to return to it, and, if someone's right was involved, return it or ask their forgiveness.

Tawhid

The Oneness of Allah: He alone is the Lord, worthy of worship, with names and attributes no one shares. It is the heart of Islam.

Tawrat, Zabur and Injil

The earlier scriptures given to Musa (Moses), Dawud (David) and 'Isa (Jesus). Muslims believe in them as they were first revealed. The Qur'an is the final book and is preserved.

Tayammum

Dry ablution: striking clean earth and wiping the face and arms when water is not available or would cause harm.

Tazkiyah

Purifying the soul of bad character and filling it with good.

Tilawah

Recitation of the Qur'an.

U

6 TERMS

Ulama

Scholars: those with deep knowledge of the religion.

Ummah

The worldwide community of Muslims.

Umm al-Mu'minin

"Mother of the Believers": a title of the wives of the Prophet ﷺ.

Umrah

The lesser pilgrimage, which can be done at any time of the year: ihram, tawaf, sa'i, and then shaving or trimming the hair.

Usul al-fiqh

The principles scholars use to work out rulings: the Qur'an, the Sunnah, consensus, analogy and more.

Uswah

An example to follow. The Qur'an calls the Prophet ﷺ the best example (*uswah hasanah*).

W

10 TERMS

Wahy

Revelation: Allah's communication to His prophets.

Wajib

In the Hanafi school, an act that is required but proved by a text of less certainty than fard. Leaving it on purpose is sinful, and forgetting it needs sajdah sahw. Examples: Witr, the Eid prayers, reciting Al-Fatihah in prayer, qurbani and sadaqat al-fitr.

Wali

A guardian, for example a woman's guardian in marriage. It also means a friend of Allah.

Walimah

The wedding feast hosted by the groom. Accepting the invitation is encouraged.

Waqf

In Tajweed, stopping on a word to take a breath. In fiqh, property given for Allah's cause for good, such as a masjid, a school or a well, which can never be taken back.

Wasiyyah

A will. A person may leave up to one-third of their wealth to people who are not heirs. The heirs receive their fixed shares.

Wasl

In Tajweed, joining a word to the next without stopping.

Waswasa

Whispers and nagging doubts from Shaytan or from the self, especially in wudu and prayer.

Witr

The odd-numbered prayer prayed after Isha, wajib in the Hanafi school: three rak'ahs, with the Dua Qunut in the third.

Wudu

Ablution: washing the face, the arms to the elbows and the feet to the ankles, and wiping part of the head. It is required before prayer and before touching the mushaf.

Y

3 TERMS

Ya'juj and Ma'juj

Gog and Magog, a destructive people whose release is one of the signs near the Last Hour.

Yaqin

Certainty: firm belief with no doubt.

Yawm al-Qiyamah

The Day of Resurrection, when all people are raised and judged.

Z

6 TERMS

Zakat

The obligatory charity: 2.5% of savings and trade goods above the nisab, held for a full lunar year, given to the eight groups named in Surah At-Tawbah (9:60). One of the five pillars.

Zamzam

The blessed well beside the Ka'bah, which began with Hajar and Isma'il. Pilgrims and visitors drink its water.

Zawal

The moment the sun reaches its highest point at midday. No prayer should be started at the exact moment of sunrise, zawal or sunset (apart from that day's Asr at sunset), so check your timetable.

Zina

Unlawful intimacy outside marriage. It is a major sin, and Islam also closes the paths that lead to it.

Zuhd

Not letting the world take hold of your heart: living simply and holding wealth in your hand and not in your heart.

Zulm

Wrongdoing and injustice, including wronging yourself by sin.

SAY IT RIGHT

Everyday *phrases*

Muslims all over the world use these short phrases every day. Here is what each one means and when to say it.

PHRASE	MEANING AND USE
Assalamu alaykum	Peace be upon you. The greeting of Muslims. The reply is *Wa alaykum assalam*, "and upon you be peace".
Bismillah	In the name of Allah. Said before starting something.
Alhamdulillah	All praise belongs to Allah. Said in thanks, after eating and after a sneeze.
SubhanAllah	Glory be to Allah. Said in wonder, and as dhikr.
Allahu Akbar	Allah is greater. Said in the prayer, at Eid, and when something amazing happens.
Ma sha Allah	What Allah has willed. Said when admiring something, to remember that it is from Allah.
Insha Allah	If Allah wills. Said when speaking about anything in the future.
Jazakallahu khayran	May Allah reward you with good. A way of saying thank you. The reply is *Wa iyyak* ("and you").
Barakallahu feek	May Allah bless you.
Astaghfirullah	I ask Allah for forgiveness.
La hawla wa la quwwata illa billah	There is no power and no strength except with Allah. Said in difficulty.
Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un	We belong to Allah, and to Him we will return. Said on hearing of a death or at a loss.
Yarhamukallah	May Allah have mercy on you. Said to someone who sneezes and says Alhamdulillah. The reply is *Yahdikumullah wa yuslihu balakum*.
Wallahu a'lam	And Allah knows best. Said when you are not sure.
Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam (ﷺ)	May Allah send blessings and peace on him. Said after the name of the Prophet Muhammad.
Alayhis salam	Peace be upon him. Said after the name of any other prophet or an angel.
Radiyallahu anhu / anha / anhum	May Allah be pleased with him / her / them. Said after the name of a Companion.
Rahimahullah	May Allah have mercy on him. Said after the name of a scholar or good person who has passed away.
Subhanahu wa ta'ala	Glorified and exalted is He. Said after the name of Allah.
Eid Mubarak	A blessed Eid. The greeting on Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

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