

Sajdah *Sahw*

The two prostrations of forgetfulness: how to fix a mistake in Salah

WHAT IT IS

Two extra sajdahs at the end

If you make certain mistakes in Salah by forgetting, you do not need to pray again. You make two extra sajdahs at the end, and your Salah is complete.

SAHIH AL-BUKHARI 1226 · SUNAN ABI DAWUD 1038

IN ONE LINE

When is it *wajib*?

When you leave out or delay a **wajib** act of Salah by mistake, or delay a fard act. Missing a **fard** act cannot be fixed by Sajdah Sahw.

THE WHOLE ENDING AT A GLANCE



STEP BY STEP · HANAFI

Sit for the last tashahhud

1

In the final sitting, read at-Tahiyat up to "wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasuluh".

One salam to the right

2

Turn your face to the right and say "As-salamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullah" once.

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Two sajdahs

3

Say Allahu Akbar and go into sajdah, sit up, then make a second sajdah, as in any Salah.

Sit and finish

4

Sit again and read at-Tahiyat, the durood (Salawat) and a du'a, then end with salam to the right and left.

JAMI' AT-TIRMIDHI 395

REMEMBER

Only for mistakes made *by forgetting*

- Sajdah Sahw is done once at the end, even if you made more than one mistake.
- If you forget the Sahw itself and give both salams, you can still do it, as long as you have not turned away from the qiblah, spoken, or done anything that ends the Salah.
- It is the same for brothers and sisters, and for fard, sunnah, nafl and witr.



Common *cases*

When you need it, when you don't, and when Salah must be repeated

SAJDAH SAHW NEEDED

Forgot the first sitting

You stood up for the 3rd rak'ah without sitting. If you are nearer to sitting, sit back down (no Sahw). If you are nearer to standing, carry on and do Sajdah Sahw.

SAJDAH SAHW NEEDED

Forgot Surah al-Fatihah

You missed al-Fatihah in a rak'ah where it is wajib, or read a surah before al-Fatihah.

SAJDAH SAHW NEEDED

Forgot the extra surah

In the first two rak'ahs of a fard Salah (or any rak'ah of sunnah, nafl or witr) you did not add a surah or ayat after al-Fatihah.

SAJDAH SAHW NEEDED

Did an act twice or out of order

For example three sajdahs in one rak'ah, or two ruku' in one rak'ah, by mistake.

SAJDAH SAHW NEEDED

Paused too long

You stopped to think, silent, for as long as it takes to say "SubhanAllah" three times, between two acts of Salah.

SAJDAH SAHW NEEDED

Forgot Du'a al-Qunut in Witr

Remembered it after going into ruku': do not go back. Do Sajdah Sahw at the end.

DOUBT

Not sure how many rak'ahs?

If this rarely happens to you, start the Salah again. If it happens often, go with what you think is most likely; if you cannot decide, take the lower number. Do Sajdah Sahw in both of the last two cases.

BEHIND AN IMAM

If you are following

Do not do Sajdah Sahw for your own mistake. If the imam does it, follow him in it.

SALAH MUST BE REPEATED

A fard act is missed

A missed ruku' or sajdah, or anything done on purpose, cannot be fixed by Sajdah Sahw. Pray again.

SALAH MUST BE REPEATED

Sahw was needed but not done

If it was wajib and you left it, repeat the Salah while its time is still in.

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