

Islamic Beliefs

English I

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Preface

All praise is due to the One Who created us, mankind, with a will to survive and a mind to understand. We are the creatures who agreed to accept the burden of consciousness and self-awareness. We have chosen to be the ones to be granted the ability to reason and choose the course of our actions. Allah, the Exalted, did not force us to be self-aware. Indeed, He offered this blessing and burden to the rest of creation. There were no takers. This is a mighty responsibility which rests upon our shoulders.

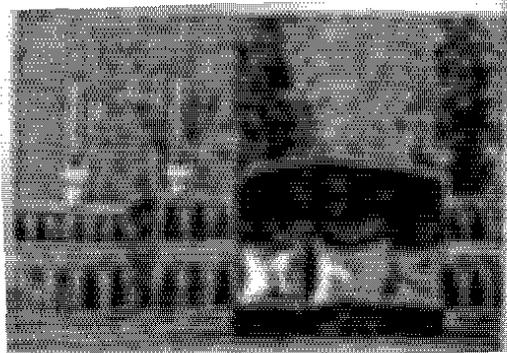
This book deals mainly with the Islamic beliefs. It is divided into ten units. Each unit covers one main topic. It starts with a definition of the meaning of Islâm and the main sources of information we refer to for knowledge of Islâm. Then it touches upon the primary resource, namely the Glorious Qur'ân, its miraculous nature, how it was revealed and recorded and the fact that it never changes. After that the book deals with a detailed explanation of the meaning of Allâh, the Prophets and Messengers, and the angels and the jinn, in accordance with the Islamic beliefs. Finally, the book tackles the vague questions that humanbeings ask, such as 'who controls man's life' and 'what happens after death'?

The objective of this course is to teach the student English via some Islamic topics relevant to his major studies. By the end of the course, the student is expected to be able to converse and write in English about the above topics. He is also expected to be able to answer the comprehension questions given at the end of each passage, to have learned the relevant vocabulary, be able to translate and write one relevant paragraph, and to have studied the grammar lessons and practiced the pronunciation drills provided in each unit.

We hope and pray for the mercy and reward of our Lord. May He grant us the best in this short life of ours, and may He grant us the best in Paradise, not according to what we deserve, which is a trifling, but according to His Mercy and Compassion. May He protect us from the punishment of the grave and the trials of the Day of Judgment.

Reda Bedeir

Islamic Beliefs

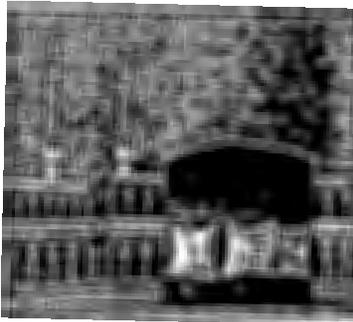


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(1)

What is Islam?



Pre-reading Questions:

1. What is the meaning of Islam?
2. What are the Pillars of Islam?
3. What is Allah's final message to humanity?

Unit (1)

What is Islâm?

The word *Islâm* comes from the Arabic root word "*Salima*" which stands for both *surrender* and *peace*. This name was given by Allâh in the *Qur'ân*; and, this sets us apart from all other religions and doctrines. Judaism, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and all the other beliefs of the world were named by men, either after a person or a place. However, *Islâm* obtained its name from Allâh.

The name *Islâm* implies the following concept: By surrendering one's desires and will to the Will of Allâh, one can abandon one's fears and earthly temptations, so that one can finally achieve peace in one's soul. *Islâm is surrendering your will to Allâh and finding peace.* Our *fitrah*, or inner nature, prompts us towards Allâh, so when we answer that call we find happiness in our hearts.

According to the *Qur'ân*, *Islâm* is the way of life Allâh chose for humanity, just as the rest of the universe submits to His will. We merely choose whether to accept it or not. Allâh declared, "*Certainly the religion acceptable to Allâh is Islâm (surrender to His Will).*" said

Once Prophet *Muhammâd* (peace be upon him), that the Jews were divided up into 71 sects, or groups, the Christians into 72 and that the Islamic nation would eventually divide up into 73. Then he said that all the sects would go to Hell, except one. When the Prophet (peace be upon him) was asked about the one that was going to Paradise, he replied that it was the one that would follow his example and that of his Companions.

We are blessed as a community as we have our original book and a

complete record of the life of our Prophet. If anyone comes and says that, "this" or "that" is *Islām*, we can easily make sure whether or not it is true. If what they say does not come from the *Qur'ān* or *Hadīth*, then it cannot be *Islām*. So we use these two sources to explain what *Islām* really is. Sincere people seek to learn and practice the truth, and Allāh guides those who seek Him to the true religion that He accepts.

"*Islām*" is founded on five pillars: Declaring that there is no god but Allāh and that *Muḥammād* (peace be upon him) is the Messenger of Allāh, performing prayer, giving *Zakah*, fasting during the month of *Ramadān* and performing pilgrimage (for those who are physically able and can afford to do it). *Islām* is a complete way of life for all men and women to follow. It touches upon our minds, emotions, senses and feelings. It guides us in this troubled world and gives us the hope that we badly need. Allāh said, "*Declare to them, (Muḥammād) (p.b.u.h), 'if you love Allāh, then follow me. Allāh will love you and forgive your sins. For Allāh is the Forgiving and Merciful.'*"

Islām is the way of life that will prevail over all other ways of life with the help of Allāh. Although *Muslims* may not always be living up to the teachings of *Islām*, many *Muslims* do follow them and seek to make their voices heard in this huge modern world. They seek to live together in the total brotherhood that *Islām* demands.

Anyone who learns of this message is given the chance to discover it. No one can be forced to follow *Islām*. It is a free option for men and women to accept, but those who decide to reject it in this life will be the losers on the Day of Judgment, when we are shown the record of our lives.

Allāh asks, "*Who is more wrong than the person who is reminded of the signs of his Lord but turns away from them, forgetting the deeds which his hands have done?*"

Islām was perfected as Allāh's way of life for humanity, until the end of time. To follow it is to be successful and to deny it is to fail in the most important decision of life. "O you who believe! Fear Allāh as He should be feared and do not die unless you're submitted (to Allāh). "If anyone desires a way of life other than *Islām*, it will never be accepted from him. In the Hereafter he will be among those who lost all good."

Every Prophet taught *Islām*, or peaceful self surrender to Allāh. They all taught about doing good and forbidding evil. Even though their teachings were not known by the name *Islām*, they all taught the same basic framework, which Allāh labeled as *Islām* in the *Qur'ān*. Their messages were lost or changed throughout the centuries resulting in the variety of religions we now have throughout the world.

The final message of Allāh to humanity came in the year 610 CE, when Allāh began revealing His last message of guidance for us. This guidance, which is called the *Qur'ān*, contains a complete description of the way of life chosen by Allāh for mankind. The Prophet who bore this message, *Muḥammād ibn 'Abdullāh* (peace and blessings be upon him), showed us how to implement it and gave us advice on how to be better followers of Allāh.

Once, *'Āishah*, the wife of Prophet *Muḥammād* (peace and blessings be upon him) was asked about how he lived his life. She replied, "His manners were the *Qur'ān*." So when we talk about *Islām*, we must depend completely on the *Qur'ān* and the *Sunnah*, i.e. the example of Prophet *Muḥammād* (peace and blessings be upon him).



Word Study

Look up the following words in your own dictionary and write their meaning in English with relevance to the text. Use the word in a sentence.

sects:

Islâm:

variety:

philosophy:

division:

implement:

revelation:

prevail:

live up to:

Pillars of *Islâm*: (*Arkan ul-Islâm*)

humanity:

forbid:

1. Comprehension questions.

1. Define: (a) Islâm (b) Sect.
2. What brings true peace to our hearts?
3. Why are we a blessed community?
4. What are the five Pillars of Islâm?
5. What is the fate of those who reject Islâm?
6. What was the basic message taught by all the Prophets in the past?
7. How did 'Āishah describe the behaviour of the Prophet (p.b.u.h.)?

2- Mark each of the following sentences as True or False.

- 1- Islam is not a religion, it is a philosophy ().
- 2- Islam is surrendering your will to yourself and finding peace ().
- 3- The final message of Allah to humanity came in the year 610 CE ().
- 4- Islam is a complete way of life for any man or woman to follow. ()
- 5- If anyone desires a way of life other than Islam, it will be accepted from him ().

3- Complete the following sentences with reference to the text:

1. The root word "*Salima*" means
2. The one sect that will go to paradise is
3., and other beliefs were named by men.
4. "*Islâm*" is founded on five pillars:,,,, and
5. We are blessed as a community because

4- Supply the missing part of speech.

| Verb | Noun |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1- memorize | ----- |
| 2- ----- | sympathy |
| 3- reveal | ----- |
| 4- ----- | direction |
| 5- migrate | ----- |

5- Fill in the blanks by using one of the following words.

| |
|---|
| implies – submit – divided – distributed – produced – cover – understand |
|---|

- 1- All creatures are required toto Allah's will.
- 2- No human could have the *Qur'ân*.
- 3- *Islâm*surrendering to Allah.
- 4- *Qur'ânic* verses..... a wide area of topics.
- 5- The *Qur'ân* was all over the world in book form.

6- Give the opposite meaning of the following words from the text:

| Opposite | Word |
|-------------|---------|
| 1- accurate | ----- |
| 2- ----- | wide |
| 3- mystical | ----- |
| 4- ----- | shallow |
| 5- cursed | ----- |

7-Translation:

Translate paragraphs 2 and 3 into Arabic.

8- Composition.

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

- 1- What is the difference between Islâm and other religions in form and content?
- 2- The Qur'ân is the most widely read book in the world.
- 3- Why couldn't the have been written by a human being?.

Grammar

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

In English it is important to recognize the two subcategories of the Noun class, because there are many grammatical distinctions between them.

They are countable and uncountable nouns.

Countable nouns are things we can count e.g. pen, car, house etc.

So we can say one pen, two pens, many pens etc.

Uncountable nouns are things we cannot count e.g. water, milk, history, love etc.

Note:

Countable nouns may be singular or plural.

Uncountable nouns only have one form.

'A' or 'an' and numbers are used with countable nouns.

'The', 'some', and 'a lot of' are used with both count nouns and non-count nouns.

| Countable Nouns | | Uncountable Nouns |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Singular</i> | <i>Plural</i> | <i>Singular</i> |
| A letter |letters | |
| One letter | Two letters | |
| The letter | The letters | The mail |
| | Some letters | Some mail |
| | A lot of letters | A lot of mail |

Ex. 1. Use the plural of the following countable nouns in questions using 'any'.

Then give affirmative answers using a number before each noun.

Example: book Do you have any books?

Yes, I have three books.

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. map | 4. apples | 7. stamp | 10. picture |
| 2. box | 5. orange | 8. letter | 11. package |
| 3. key | 6. tomato | 9. pencil | 12. postcard |

Ex. 2. Use these uncountable nouns in questions using 'any'.

Then give affirmative answers using 'a lot' of before each noun.

Example: fruit Does Miss Brown have any fruit?

Yes, she has a lot of fruit.

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. milk | 4. juice | 7. butter | 10. perfume |
| 2. soup | 5. sugar | 8. cheese | 11. jewelry |
| 3. cake | 6. candy | 9. coffee | 12. furniture |

Examples of uncountable nouns (this is only a small sample)

(a) Whole groups that are made up of similar items: Baggage, clothing, equipment, food, fruit, furniture, jewelry, luggage machinery, mail, makeup, money, cash, change.. etc.

(b) Fluids: water, coffee, tea, milk, oil, soup, gasoline, petrol, blood, etc.
wood, cotton, wool, etc.

(c) Solids: ice, bread, butter, cheese, meat, gold, iron, silver, glass, paper, etc.

(d) Gases: steam, air, oxygen, smoke, pollution, etc.

(e) Particles: rice, chalk, corn, dirt, dust, flour, grass, hair, pepper, salt, sand, sugar, etc.

(f) Abstractions: Beauty, courage, education, fun, happiness, health, help, honesty, justice, knowledge, laughter, luck, music, patience, peace, pride, progress, sleep, truth, violence, wealth, etc.

Advice, information, news, evidence, proof, etc.

Time, space, energy.

Homework, work.

Grammar, vocabulary.

(g) Languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, English etc.

(h) Fields of study: chemistry, history, literature, mathematics, physics, psychology etc.

(i) Recreation: tennis, football, billiards, dominoes, etc.

(j) General activities: driving, studying, swimming, walking, etc.

(k) Natural phenomena: weather, fog, heat, humidity, rain, thunder, wind, darkness, sunshine, electricity, fire, gravity.

Ex. 3. With the help of your teacher select as many nouns as you can from the reading passage and write "c" above the countable nouns and "unc" above the uncountable ones.

Ex. 4. Add final 's'/'es' to the nouns in italics, if necessary. Do not add or change any other word.

1. Mary always has fresh *egg* available because she raises *chicken* in her yard.
2. I had *chicken* and *rice* for dinner last night.

-
3. Outside my window, I can see a lot of *tree, bush, grass, dirt,* and *flower*.
 4. Tom gave me some good *advice*. Milly also gave me some good *suggestion*.
 5. Lina learned several new *word* today. She increased her *vocabulary* today.
 6. I drank two *glass* of water.
 7. Window are made of *glass*.
 8. Jack wears *glass* because he has poor eyesight.
 9. The air is full of *smoke, dust, carbon monoxide,* and many other harmful *substance*.
 10. I like to read good *literature*. I especially like to read *novel, poetry,* and *essay*.

Pronunciation:

Learning to pronounce the sound /p/ as in the following words:

Prophet, people, play, pay, park, paint, part, prayer, pillar, performed, profess, pen, pot, palm.

Repeat the following words after your teacher:

/p/ and /b/

/p/ put path park pack pig pull pill

/b/ but bath bark back big bull bill

Repeat each sentence three times:

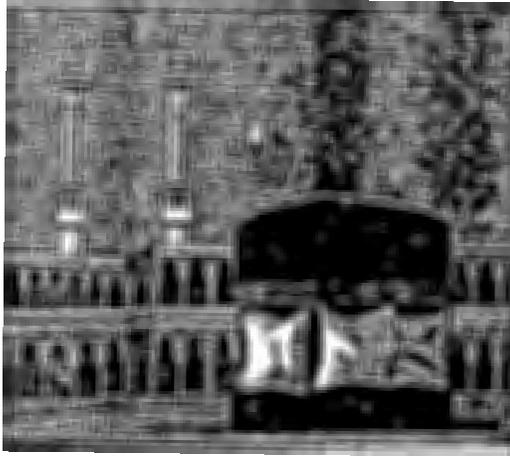
- Put the pens and pencils down.
- Tip the porter for posting the packet.

-
- Peel the potatoes and I'll prepare the pie.
 - I have kept a pound to pay for the papers.
 - I eat brown bread for breakfast.
 - Both the brothers have brought umbrellas.
 - Be sure to bring the books back.
 - Bring the bat and ball to the beach.



(2)

The Book of Miracles



Pre-reading Questions:

1. What makes the *Qur'ân* unlike any other book?
2. What is the difference between *ayat* (verses) *Muhkamat* and *ayat Mutashabihat*?
3. How is the *Qur'ân* a guide for the hearts?

Unit (2)

The Qur'ân: The Book of Miracles

Allâh declares, "*If this Qur'ân were bestowed upon a mountain, it would crumble.*" Indeed, the Holy Qur'ân is a book of great power and miracles. No other book has been read or memorized more than the Qur'ân. It moves people to action and brings joy and happiness to the hearts of both young and old, and rich and poor.

The Qur'ân is truly the miracle of Prophet *Muhammâd* (p.b.u.h). Many books have been written about the great qualities of the Holy Qur'ân, from the perfect way that it uses expressions, to the rhythm of its verses when they are recited aloud. As Allâh said, "*If it were a Book from anyone else besides Allâh, you would have found many mistakes in it.*" But there are no mistakes or errors in this book. It is a perfect book and some people have spent their entire lives studying just one aspect of it.

Some of them examine the many scientific statements, others wonder at the perfect grammar, some look for the hidden meanings of its verses, while yet others meditate over the solutions given for people's problems in this life. The Qur'ân uses many words to describe itself such as the Guidance, the Good News, the Noble Message, the Standard, the Clear Book and the Glorious Book. It was revealed gradually to the Blessed Prophet *Muhammâd* (p.b.u.h), who could neither read nor write, over a period of 23 years.

The Prophet memorized the whole message and thousands of his Companions did so as well. It was recorded within his lifetime and was checked and rechecked for accuracy in the earliest days of *Islâm*, and later distributed in book form all over the world.

It has 114 chapters called *Sûrah*s containing 6,236 *ayât*, or verses. The verses cover a wide range of topics and themes, which relate to the

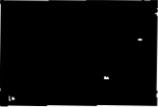
world of humans and the next life. Some verses are clear in meaning (*Muhkamah*) while others are mystical (*Mutashabihah*) with deeper meanings. There are 77,437 words and 323,671 letters.

The *ayât*, or verses, of the Qur'ân are often referred to as *Makkiyah* or *Madaniyah*. That is, any *Sûrah* that was revealed to the Prophet while he was in the first phase of his mission in *Makkah* are called *Makkiyah*. The *Sûrahs* that came to the Prophet after migrating to *Madinah* are called *Madaniyah Sûrahs*. *Makkiyah Sûrahs* deal mainly with *Islâmic* beliefs and teachings while *Madaniyah Sûrahs* mostly emphasize how to form an *Islâmic* society and how to distinguish and establish good laws and rules.

The *Qur'ân* is the most widely read and memorized book in the world. It contains scientific statements, which a human being could neither have known at the time of Prophet *Muhammâd* (p.b.u.h), nor for over a thousand years afterwards. Allâh indicated this fact to us in the *Qur'ân*.

Through the study of this book, millions have come to know why they were given life and what their role is in this life. It is the book of guidance, of direction and of healing. No man or woman could have ever produced it, and no one can ever claim to understand all of its meanings.

It is the book, which provides guidance for humans both in their personal and spiritual affairs. It is unlike any other book on earth. It is the book given to us by the Creator of the Universe. We must pay attention to what it says because our fate depends on it. Those who follow it will be successful while those who refuse it will fail.



Word Study

Look up the following words in your own dictionary and write their meaning in English with relevance to the text. Use the word in a sentence.

role:

mystical:

memorize:

amazing:

qualities:

expression:

guidance:

miracle:

recite:

reveal:

meditate:

solution:

check:

unique:

verse:

1. Comprehension questions:

- 1- Define: Memorize.
- 2- What does Allâh say about the *Qur'ân* ?
- 3- What are the two types of *ayat* and how are they described?
- 4- What is the most widely read book in the world?
- 5- What does the *Qur'ân* provide for humans?

2- Mark each of the following sentences as True or False.

- 1- The *Qur'ân* is read and memorized less than any other Holy Book. ()
- 2- Many books have been written about the amazing qualities of the *Qur'ân*. ()
- 3- The *Glorious Qur'ân* is full of mistakes and errors. ()
- 4- The *Glorious Qur'ân* was revealed over a period of 25 years. ()
- 5- The *Holy Qur'ân* has 114 chapters called suras. ()

3- Complete the following sentences with reference to the text:

1. The *Qur'ân* is truly the miracle that the Prophet
2. The *Qur'ân* uses many words to describe itself such as
3. The *Qur'ân* was revealed gradually to Prophet *Muhammâd* over a period of
4. The *Qur'ân* has chapters called *Sûrahs*, comprising *ayat* or verses.
5. Some verses are clear in meaning (*Muhkamat*) while others are

4- Supply the missing part of speech.

| | Verb | Noun |
|----|-------|--------------|
| 1- | move | ----- |
| 2- | ----- | expression |
| 3- | mean | ----- |
| 4- | ----- | distribution |
| 5- | live | ----- |

5- Fill in the blanks by using one of the following words.

| |
|---|
| Hidden - verses - miracle distribution - memorize - recite - meditate - chapters - unique |
|---|

- 1- A is something amazing that ordinary people can not do.
- 2- Every day I some verses of the *Holy Qur'ân*.
- 3- I looked for the pen everywhere. I found out that it was under the magazine
- 4- You must have a good memory in order to 20 verses everyday.
- 5- The *Holy Qur'ân* has 114 called *Sûrahs* containing 6,236 (*ayat*).

6- Give the opposite meaning of the following words from the text:

| | Word | Opposite |
|----|---------|----------|
| 1- | clear | ----- |
| 2- | ----- | sadness |
| 3- | falsely | ----- |

-
- 4- ----- bad
5- death -----

7- Translation.

Translate paragraphs 2 and 3 into Arabic.

8- Composition.

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

- 1- How is the *Holy Qur'ân* unique?
- 2- The *Glorious Qur'ân* is a guide for the heart.
- 3- The *Qur'ân* is a Book of Miracles.

Grammar

Adjectives

Words that describe nouns are called adjectives.

| | Adjective | Noun |
|------|-----------|---------|
| e.g. | clear | meaning |

'clear' describes the noun 'meaning'.

Adjectives modify nouns. 'Modify' means change a little.

An adjective changes the meaning of a noun by giving more information about it.

| Adjective | Noun |
|-------------|----------|
| good | man |
| prominent | place |
| traditional | medicine |
| beautiful | girl |
| difficult | question |

Adjectives in English are neither singular nor plural. They do not change as in the above examples and they can also follow the verb 'to be'.

- e.g. The woman is tall.
 His shirt was white.
 This honey is diluted.

Using Nouns as Adjectives

Sometimes words that are usually used as nouns are used as adjectives, e.g. leather jacket (both words are nouns) but one describes the other.

The first noun describes the second one.

The leather jacket we are talking about is a jacket which we describe as being made of leather.

Examples of nouns describing other nouns:

Blood supply – wound closure – healing process – granulation tissues.

When I have an adjective and a noun describing something the adjective comes before the noun, e.g. : The young school boy. The beautiful leather jacket

Exercise

Make each list of words into a noun phrase following the pattern.

| Determiner | Adjective | Noun | Noun |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| That | low | garden | fence |
| Our | lively | summer | holiday |
| Those | fresh | prairie | flowers |

- i. A, street, village, narrow.
- ii. Engagement, lovely, her, rings.
- iii. Desk, large, office, his.
- iv. Typewriter, my, portable
- v. Cheap, ballpoint, these, pens.
- vi. Leather, her, shoes, old.
- vii. Wool, blue, his, pullover.
- viii. Happy, boy, this, school.
- ix. Clever, a, college, student.

x. Vacations, his, winter, long.

Pronunciation:

Learning how to pronounce the sound /f/.

Repeat the following words after your teacher.

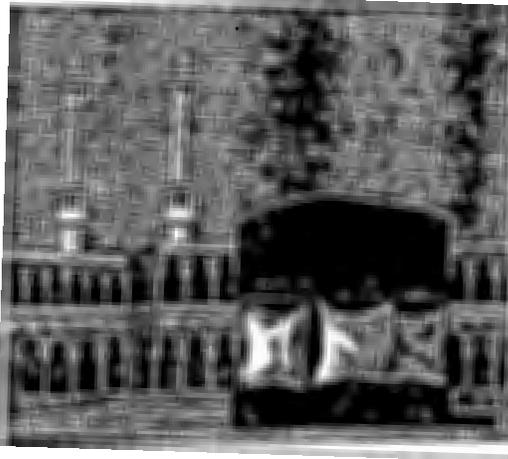
Family, farm, faith, full, fasting, feel, fire, fight, free, fan, feeling, follow, friend, fat, film, fat, freeze, false.

Repeat each sentence three times:

1. Four fast flying fish.
2. She found fame and fortune in Florence.
3. He followed the foot path through the fields to the forest.
4. Fill the pail with fresh water from the fountain.
5. Famine and failure faced the frightened farmer.

(3)

How the Qur'an was Revealed and Recorded



Pre-reading Questions:

1. How was the *Qur'ân* revealed?
2. How did the *Qur'ân* become known to people?
3. How was the *Qur'ân* recorded?

Unit (3)

How the *Qur'ân* was Revealed and Recorded

The Holy *Qur'ân* is Allâh's final message to this world. It was revealed between the years 610 and 632 (A.D.) to a righteous man, who lived in Arabia. The one who received this Book of Light was known by the name of *Muḥammâd* (p.b.u.h), the son of 'Abdullâh and Aminah. *Muḥammâd* had a reputation for honesty and wisdom. Allâh chose *Muḥammâd* to be His last Prophet to all humanity.

Although Prophet *Muḥammâd* (p.b.u.h) had many enemies, who did their best to kill him and stop his mission, Allâh protected him and granted him final victory. Today, *Muslims* love and respect Prophet *Muḥammâd* (p.b.u.h) and they ask Allâh to send peace upon his soul countless times everyday.

Whenever we hear or read his name, it is recommended to say either silently or aloud: "*Sala Allâhu 'alayhi wa sallam.*" This means the peace and blessings of Allâh be upon him. To understand the Blessed Prophet's mission is to understand the purpose of life of every human being. To learn about his noble and honorable example, is to come to love him more than any other human being who ever lived.

"*Read!*" commanded a voice out of nowhere. The sudden appearance of a Creature of Light shocked *Muḥammâd* (p.b.u.h) out of his deep sleep. He had come to the lonely mountain cave to meditate the meaning of life, when suddenly he was faced with something so fantastic that he could hardly move or breathe. He was frozen in his place. "I can't read!" he replied.

The angel then wrapped itself around *Muḥammâd*'s body and almost squeezed the breath out of him, commanding him once again to read. *Muḥammâd* (p.b.u.h) protested again, so the angel repeated the strange embrace once more and commanded a third time, "Read!" *Muḥammâd* (p.b.u.h) cried out, "What should I read?" Then the angel began to recite, "Read in the Name of your Lord Who created humans from a clinging (embryo). Read, for your Lord is Generous. He is the One who taught people with the pen, taught them things they didn't know before." (*Surâh Al-'Alaq*)

Muḥammâd rushed out of the cave worried and frightened. He ran back down the mountain as fast as he could! All he wanted to do was to escape, and get away from this strange sensation that he didn't understand. Then, as he paused for breath, he looked up at the horizon and saw the most incredible sight of his life. There, filling the space between the earth and the sky was the same angel who had confronted him in the cave. *Muḥammâd* (p.b.u.h) turned around and he saw the same angel, larger than the mountains staring at him. He couldn't bear this phenomenal vision so he turned and ran straight back to his home in *Makkah* without stopping.

When he entered the front door of his house, he fell into the arms of his beloved wife, *Khadijah*. She held her husband tightly as he shook with fear. She wondered anxiously what was happening. "Cover me! Cover me!" he cried. So *Khadijah* took him to the bedroom and covered him with a sheet. She watched over him the whole night, sometimes holding his hands, other times wiping his moistened brow.

Later that night, when *Muḥammâd* (p.b.u.h) wondered aloud if trouble was coming to him, *Khadijah* comforted him and explained that Allâh would never let anything evil happen to him. He was an honest, charitable and decent man. If something was to happen, it surely wasn't going to be bad.

After some time, the angel, whose name was *Jibra'il*, came once again to *Muḥammād* (p.b.u.h). This time, he was more prepared and when the angel finished speaking, *Muḥammād* (p.b.u.h) memorized the revelation, or *Wahy*, from Allāh. "O You wrapped up in sheets! Stand (in prayer) at night, but not all night, maybe half, or a little less or more. Recite the *Qur'ân* in slow, measured tones. Soon We, (Allāh) will give you a heavy Message. Truly, getting up late at night is powerful for controlling (one's soul) and the best for forming words (of prayer and praise)." (*Surâh Al-Muzzammil*).

When Prophet *Muḥammād* (p.b.u.h) was receiving the revelations from Allāh, he memorized them and then taught them to other people. In this way the message of the *Qur'ân* was safe because so many people learned and discussed its message meaning. In addition, the Prophet had people, who acted as secretaries as they knew how to write. These people would record the words of the revelation directly from the Blessed Prophet himself on paper, leather or whatever else was handy to write on.

The most important of these secretaries was *Zayd ibn Thabit*, who also memorized the entire *Qur'ân*. We know the *Qur'ân* was written down during the lifetime of the Blessed Prophet and arranged by him according to revelation. Many copies of the text were used for study and teaching, even in *Makkah* before the *Hijrah*, and after the migration to *Madinah*.

Look up the following words in your own dictionary and write their meaning in English with relevance to the text. Use the word in a sentence.

reveal:

record:

honesty:

wisdom:

reputation:

mission:

grant:

victory:

light:

recommend:

frighten:

incredible:

revelation:

example

1. Comprehension questions.

- 1- Describe: (a) *Jibra'il* (b) *Khadijah* (c) revelation
- 2- What did *Jibra'il* command *Muḥammâd* (peace and blessings be upon him) to do in the cave?
- 3- How did *Muḥammâd* (peace and blessings be upon him) feel when *Jibra'il* first appeared to him in the cave?
- 4- What did *Muḥammâd* see while he was rushing home?
- 5- What did he ask his wife to do when he saw her?
- 6- How did *Khadijah* comfort him?
- 7- What did the first revelation *Muḥammâd* received tell him about his future mission?

2- Mark each of the following sentences as True or False.

- 1- *Muḥammâd* was made victorious when the *Qur'ân* was revealed to him. ()
- 2- The more a Muslim reads about the Prophet the more he/she loves him. ()
- 3- *Khadijah* was supportive and protective of her husband. ()
- 4- Only a small number of people were able to learn the *Qur'ân*. ()
- 5- The *Qur'ân* was recorded after the *Hijrah*. ()

3- Complete the following sentences with reference to the text:

- 1- "Sala Allâhu 'alayhi wa sallam." means
- 2- The message of the *Qur'ân* was sure to succeed because

3- The first word of revelation was.....

4- The *Qur'ân* was written on,.....or anything else.

5- was one of the secretaries who also memorized the entire *Qur'ân*.

4- Supply the missing part of speech.

| | Verb | Noun |
|----|---------|--------|
| 1- | ----- | breath |
| 2- | command | ----- |
| 3- | reveal | ----- |
| 4- | recite | ----- |

5- Fill in the blanks by using one of the following words.

sensation – stared – integrity – blessed –
mission – scarcely

1. He at him in fascination.
2.be the person who helps the poor.
3. I can carry out this....., I assure you.
4. A strong came over me when I entered the dark room.
5.is the one quality that can abolish corruption.

6- Give the opposite meaning of the following words from the text:

| | Word | Opposite |
|----|------------|----------|
| 1- | deep | ----- |
| 2- | ----- | noble |
| 3- | appearance | ----- |

4- _____ remote

5- strong _____

7- Translation.

Translate paragraphs 4 and 5 into Arabic.

8- Composition.

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

- 1- Islam is a religion that recognizes the value of education.
- 2- *Khadijah* was an excellent example of a perfect wife.
- 3- Recording the *Qur'ân* was a process that lasted a long time.

Grammar

Defective verbs *can* and *may*

Defective verbs (or modal auxiliaries) do not work in exactly the same way as other verbs.

Defective verbs never change in form. Study the following table.

| Defective Verbs (or Modal Auxiliaries) | Other verbs |
|---|-------------|
| I must go. | I go. |
| We will work. | We work. |
| You should think. | You think. |
| They can learn. | They learn. |
| He may go. | He goes. |
| She might think. | She thinks. |
| It may work. | It works. |

The negative forms of defective verbs are different from those of other verbs: defective verbs never add 'do' or 'does'.

| Defective Verbs (or Modal Auxiliaries) | Other verbs |
|---|----------------------|
| I must not see. | I do not see. |
| We can not leave. | We do not leave. |
| You should not sleep. | You do not sleep. |
| They might not make it. | They do not make it. |
| He may not come. | He does not come. |

The defective verb *can* is used to express ability / possibility

- I can speak English.
- I can walk to the bus stop.

The defective verb *may* is used to express possibility but a weaker possibility than *can*.

- I may walk to the bus stop or I may take a taxi.
- Ahmad may be at the library.

Ex. 1. complete the sentences with *can* and *can't*

- 1- A catclimb trees, but it.....fly.
- 2- A fishwalk, but itswim
- 3- A dogbark, but it sing.
- 4- Youbuy stamps at the post office, but youbuy shoes.
- 5- Treesproduce oxygen, but rocks.....
- 6- Fishlive in the air, but theylive in the water.
- 7- Youride on the back of a cat, but youride on the back of a horse.
- 8- Iwrite with a pen, but Iwrite with a paper clip.

Ex. 2. Rewrite the sentences using the defective verb *may* following the example given.

- Example * It is possible that she likes poetry
(present) * It is possible that she may like poetry
Example * It is possible that he will come later.
(future) * It is possible that he may come later.
- 1- It is possible that the policeman knows something about it.
 - 2- Maybe your parents will visit you soon.
 - 3- It is possible my mother will tell you the details.
 - 4- Maybe her friend is rich.
 - 5- Possibly she meets her brother for lunch.
 - 6- Perhaps my sister will not be coming.
 - 7- Maybe the judge will believe your story.
 - 8- It is possible that he has a very good job.
 - 9- Perhaps your brother will buy a car.
 - 10- It is possible that John is sick.

Pronunciation:

Learning how to pronounce the sound /k/.

Repeat the following words after your teacher.

Call, capital, correct, can, call, collection, card, companions, corn, coined, contribution, command, act, *Zakât*, brick, cook, lack, camp, park, camera.

Repeat each sentence three times:

1. Don't you keep that kind of lock in stock?
2. The cook's crazy! Coca and caviar?
3. Come into the kitchen and look at the mark on the carpet.





The Qur'an Never Changes

Pre-reading Questions:

1. Which book is the word of Allâh?
2. Is there a difference in the versions of the *Qur'ân* throughout the world?
3. How did Allah protect the *Qur'ân*?

Allâh has said in the *Qur'ân* that He is the One Who will protect His Book. No human will ever be allowed to lose or change this last message as they had lost and changed the previous messages. Indeed, Allâh has kept His promise. The *Qur'ân* that we read today contains the same words, and the same letters, that were spoken by Prophet *Muhammâd* (peace be upon him) over 1400 years ago.

This is quite a miracle, especially when you consider that no other group of people can say that their book has never changed. There are so many different Bibles in the world that a bookstore could be opened devoted to selling them alone. The Bible contains the Old Testament (which includes the *Taurat*, the book of the Jews) and the New Testament (which includes some of the *Injil*, the message brought by Jesus (*a.s*)). The New Testament contains four gospels, which tell the story of Jesus (peace be upon him) from the point of view of four of his disciples. The other books in the New Testament are letters and books written by Paul. The Christians consider him to be a Saint, whereas those who know the truth know him to be the innovator who introduced the idea of the trinity, the atonement and the idea of Jesus as the son of God, into the Bible. Hence much of the Bible has been distorted.

One Bible will have words, verses and sometimes whole chapters that do not appear in other versions and when a comparison is made between ancient Bibles, even between the Greek and Hebrew copies some of them have different contents.

The Buddhists have many different holy books and no one is certain who wrote them. The Hindus also have numerous books, filled with stories of fantastic gods, monsters, war stories and philosophy, which are difficult to accept as true.

Only the *Qur'ân* has survived throughout the centuries unchanged and what is also important is that people today still retain the ability to read and understand it in its original language. The language of the Hindu books, *Sanskrit*, is a dead language. The ancient Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew of the Jews and ancient Christians are no longer spoken in the same way today. The Buddhist writings are written in a number of languages and have no connection to any original source documents. Arabic, however, has been preserved and is still studied by Muslims all over the world. Not the colloquial Arabic that is spoken by people in the Middle East, but the pure Arabic of the *Qur'ân*; *Fus-ha*, or classical standard Arabic.

The entire *Qur'ân* was written down during the lifetime of Prophet *Muhammâd* (p.b.u.h). It was arranged by him according to revelation, and whenever a new verse was revealed the Prophet would call a scribe, or someone who knew how to write, so they could write it down on paper, leather, or whatever else they had available to write on. Then he would instruct the person, "*Put this ayah in the Surâh in which this is mentioned.*"

In addition, every year during the month of *Ramadân*, the Prophet would recite the whole *Qur'ân* from beginning to end and everyday people could hear it from his own lips in the mosque. Its proper order was no mystery. Many of the *Sahaba*, or (Companions), not only memorized it completely, but they also wrote it down and even added *Tafsîr* (commentary) on their own personal study sheets. When the Prophet passed away, the whole *Qur'ân* had already been written down, but it wasn't yet compiled in book form.

During the rule of the first *Khalifa* (ruler) *Abû Bakr* (may Allah be pleased with him), there was a rebellion among some distant Arab tribes, who wanted to leave the *Islâmic* nation and change *Islâm* as they liked. The Muslim leadership organized armies to stop this dangerous plot. During one battle with the rebels, at a place called *Yamamah*, about seventy Companions who had memorized the *Qur'ân* were killed. 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) became worried that the knowledge of the *Qur'ân* was in danger. If more people who had memorized the *Qur'an* were also lost at a later time, then the *Qur'ân* might be lost. So he went to *Abû Bakr* and convinced him that the *Qur'ân* should be put into a book form as a way of preserving it once and for all.

Zayd ibn Thabit was made responsible for undertaking this important task. He was the Prophet's chief secretary and was himself a *Hafiz* (memorizer) of the entire *Qur'ân*. He arranged the text of the *Qur'ân* into its agreed upon order and compiled it into book form. *Zayd* followed strict methods in his compilation and even had dozens of other *Huffaz* (plural of *Hafiz*) recheck his work to make sure that everything was perfectly accurate. *Abû Bakr*, who was also a *Hafiz*, approved of everything. After *Abû Bakr* passed away, 'Umar took charge of the book and when he passed away, the copy was kept with his daughter *Hafsa*, who was also one of the Prophet's widows.

However as the Muslim world expanded into lands where the people spoke Arabic as a second language, the new Muslims had a difficult time learning the correct pronunciation of the text. The *Khalifa Uthman* consulted other *Sahaba* and they agreed that something should be done to prevent Muslims from losing the correct pronunciation of the *Qur'ân*. *Uthman* ordered official copies of the *Qur'ân* to be made, using only the pronunciation of the *Quraysh* tribe, which was the Arabic dialect that the Prophet had spoken. This was done so that everyone could learn correctly.

Zayd ibn Thabit was again given this assignment. Three other *Huffaz* were assigned to help him in this task. Together, the four *Huffaz* borrowed the original, complete copy of the *Qur'ân* from *Hafsa* and made many more copies of the *Qur'ân* from it. Each major Muslim city was then sent a copy from which they could make more copies and thus they were able to spread the *Qur'ân* in written form to other areas.



Word Study

Look up the following words in your own dictionary and write their meaning in English with relevance to the text. Use the word in a sentence.

Bible:

devoted:

versions:

monsters:

survived:

preserved:

proper:

mystery:

strict:

companions:

commentary:

tribes:

plot:

battle:

accurate:

1- Comprehension Questions:

1. Define: (a) *Huffaz* (b) *Sahaba* (c) *Fus-ha*
2. Whenever the Prophet received a revelation, what would he ask to be done?
3. Why did some of the Arab tribes stage a rebellion after the Prophet passed away?
4. Why did 'Umar want the *Qur'ân* to be put into book form?
5. Who was placed in charge of compiling the *Qur'ân* into book form and why was he chosen?
6. What is common among all *Huffaz*?

2- Mark each of the following sentences as True or False.

1. The arrangement of the verses of the *Qur'an* is chronologically based ().
2. *Uthman* unified the pronunciation of the *Qur'ân* on his own ().
3. The Christians of today speak the language of the early Bible ().
4. The order of the *Sûrâhs* of the *Qur'ân* is arguable ().
5. The first to suggest compiling the *Qur'ân* into book form was *Zayd ibn Thabit* ().

3. Complete the following sentences with reference to the text:

- 1- The language of the Hindu books is called
- 2- The is the book of the Christians.

-
- 3- *Uthman* unified the pronunciation of the *Qur'ân* because
 - 4- There is only one version of the *Qur'ân* because
 - 5- *Uthman* ordered copies of the *Qur'ân* to be made, using only the pronunciation of the tribe.

4- Supply the missing part of speech.

| Verb | Noun |
|--------------|------------|
| 1- pronounce | ----- |
| 2- ----- | devotion |
| 3- preserve | ----- |
| 4- ----- | motivation |
| 5- dedicate | ----- |

6- Fill in the blanks by using one of the following words.

plot – authentic – accurate - Companions – proper
– treason – devoted

- 1- The copy of the *Qur'ân* survived throughout the centuries unchanged.
- 2- is punishable by the death penalty.
- 3- It is not to accuse people randomly without evidence.
- 4- Scribes their efforts to writing down the *Qur'ân*.
- 5- Jews are famous for their ability to conspiracies.

6- Give the opposite meaning of the following words from the text:

| | Word | Opposite |
|----|-------------|-----------------|
| 1- | ----- | inaccurate |
| 2- | forget | ----- |
| 3- | ----- | unrealistic |
| 4- | separation | ----- |
| 5- | ----- | flexible |

7. Translation:

Translate paragraphs 5 and 6 into Arabic.

8- Composition.

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

- 1- There are virtually no 'versions' of the *Qur'ân*
- 2- The *Sahaba* (Companions) played a great role in recording the *Qur'ân*.
- 3- Unlike any other book, the *Qur'ân* never changes.

Grammar

The Present Continuous

Study the following sentences.

When a person fasts, he feels that he is joining the whole Muslim world.

This means that at the moment of fasting (when he is fasting) he has a great feeling.

We use the present continuous for something that is happening at or around the time of speaking.

The Present Continuous

BE + V + ing

For example: e.g.

I am studying now.

You are going now.

We are walking today.

They are laughing now.

He is working today.

She is working today.

It is raining now.

Ex. 1. Write 'am', 'is' or 'are' in the blank space in each sentence.

- 1- Miss Soha talking to the students right now.
- 2- I sitting at my desk at this moment.
- 3- Weworking on our assignment right now.
- 4- Ilooking out of the window right now.
- 5- The studentslistening to the lecturer.
- 6- Heexplaining a difficult theory.
- 7- Someonetalking to Miss Soha right now.
- 8- She.....talking and writing at the same time.

Ex. 2. Write the verb in the blank space in the present continuous tense.

- 1- (work) Heon a term paper right now.
- 2- (study) Wean important lecture.
- 3- (help) Sheme with my lectures notes.
- 4- (sit) The girlsat their desks now.
- 5- (write) Noha.....in my autograph.
- 6- (work) Everyone.....very hard.
- 7- (watch) Imy mother decorate the cake.
- 8- (listen) Theyto the news on the radio.
- 9- (dictate) The teachera quotation to the students.
- 10- (cut) The gardenerflowers for us.
- 11- (collect) The teacherthe test papers.
- 12- (laugh) Imanwith her friends.
- 13- (sit) Nohabesides her grandmother.
- 14- (look) Mr. Smithat the painting on the wall.

Ex. 3. Write the verb in the correct form, present continuous or simple present.

- 1- Let's go out. It (not / rain)now.
- 2- Julia is very good at languages. She (speak).....four languages very well.
- 3- Hurry up! Everybody (wait)for you.
- 4- The River Nile (flow)very fast today – much faster than usual.
- 5- We usually (grow)vegetables in our garden.
- 6- But this year we (not/grow)any.
- 7- “How is your English?” Not bad. It (improve)slowly.”
- 8- Normally I (finish)work at 5.00.
- 9- But this week I (work)..... until 6.00 to earn a bit more money.
- 10- My parents (live)in Tanta. They were born there and have never lived anywhere else. Where (your parents/ live).....



(5)

Allāh

Pre-reading Questions:

1. How can we understand who Allāh is?
2. Have you ever wondered why every religion in the world focuses on a Supreme Being or a Higher Power in the Universe?
3. What are the names of Allāh?

Throughout human existence, people have wondered about the meaning of their lives. According to *Islâm*, humans are a creation of Allâh, who have been given free will to either obey or disobey Him. But who is Allâh? What is He? How do we understand the One Who has the power to create a billion galaxies with a word? People have often wondered about their Creator. Many have been tempted to draw fantastic pictures or make statues, claiming that they were Allâh. Others thought that there were many gods, each with unique powers, running around in the spiritual world and meddling in the affairs of the people in this world.

Adam and *Hawwa* (Eve) were the first human beings to live on Earth. They were made to leave the garden in Paradise when they disobeyed Allâh. Later generations of their descendants spread throughout the Earth, eventually developing into different ethnic groups and races. As Allâh remarked, "*All humans were one nation, but they fell into differences (and scattered).*" Most likely these differences revolved around issues of power, resources, and perhaps, belief. Allâh had told *Adam* and *Hawwa* that later generations were going to be sent Prophets. If the people accepted their teachings, then they would prosper, but if the people fell into different groups and ignored Allâh, they would be unbelievers and they would be the losers.

Our Creator has many names, with which He named Himself and the name Allâh is chief among them. His other names, which He revealed to us in His last Book, are known collectively as the *Asma' ul Husna*, or the Most Beautiful Names. They are a group of adjectives, which describe the

attributes of Allâh. These are important to us because Allâh has no form that we can see nor shape that we can comprehend.

Any image, statue or painting that humans produce can never be like Allâh. He declared, '*Laysa kamithlihi sha-y*' "He has no counterpart." So by studying His descriptions and attributes we can obtain a mental picture of who Allâh is.

We can never imagine exactly who Allâh is or how powerful He is, all we can manage is an understanding of how He operates. In a *Hadîth*, Prophet *Muhammâd* (peace be upon him), said that people will keep asking who made things until they begin to ask who made Allâh. At that point, the Prophet advised, we should stop questioning because we will never know the answer. Instead we must say Glory be to Allâh.

One of the most important qualities of Allâh is that He is One. He has no partner, son, daughter, wife or helper of any kind. This doctrine, known as *Tawhîd* (monotheism), is one of the clearest lines of separation between *Islâm* and all other ways of life.

The doctrine of *Tawhîd*, as explained in the *Qur'ân*, also overcomes other false ideas that people have about Allâh. In fact, there are so many *ayat* that explain who Allâh is. Clearly, Allâh wants us to be free of all superstition and misinformation about our Creator. Perhaps the best known *Sûrah* which explains *Islâmîc* teachings is *Sûrat ul-Ikhlâs*. It states, "Declare: "He is One God; Allâh, the Eternal, the Absolute. He neither begets nor was He begotten, and there is nothing comparable to Him."

Another often quoted passage is the famous, *Âyat ul Kursi* found in the *Qur'ân* which reads: "Allâh! There is no god but He, the Living, Eternal and Self-subsisting. No slumber overtakes Him nor does He rest. Everything in space and on Earth belongs to Him. Who can intercede in His presence without His permission? He knows what happens before, after and behind

them. No one can gain anything of His knowledge except as He wills. His throne extends over space and the Earth. He does not tire in guarding and protecting them. He is the Most High, the Supreme."

Allâh's relationship with His creation is unique. He describes Himself as the *Rabb* of the entire universe. The word *Rabb* is often translated as Lord, and we have followed this same pattern in this book also for the sake of convenience. However, the term '*Rabb*' in Arabic actually means something deeper. It means the One who takes care of, watches over and preserves something in a loving way.

Everything in the universe depends on Allâh, and He is the Guardian and Preserver of all He created. He keeps order in the universe and applies His will as the basis of all natural law, whether governing animate or inanimate objects. He needs nothing from His creation, whereas all His creation can not live without Him.



Word Study

Look up the following words in your own dictionary and write their meaning in English with relevance to the text. Use the word in a sentence.

Creator:

galaxy:

descendant:

generation:

ethnic:

race:

attribute:

eternal:

absolute:

relationship:

quality:

superstition:

misinformation:

Lord:

1- Comprehension Questions:

1. What would make a person start to worship idols instead of Allâh?
2. What warning did Allâh give to *Adam*, *Hawwa* and their descendants?
3. Why is the name Allâh unique and the best one to use?
4. List three things that Allâh is not.
5. What is one of the most important qualities of Allâh?
6. Why is idol-worshipping such a terrible sin?
7. Which surah of *Qur'ân* best describes *Islâmic* Monotheism (*Tawhîd*)?
8. What is the meaning of the term *Rabb*?

2- Mark each of the following sentences as True or False.

- 1- We can approach a description of Allâh ().
- 2- Nature guards Allâh and creation ().
- 3- *Islâmic* beliefs rely on superstitions ().
- 4- *Adam* and *Hawwa* were the first to walk on the Earth ().
- 5- Human *fitrah* is deformed by shirk ().

3. Complete the following sentences with reference to the text:

- 1- We can get a mental picture of what Allâh is by
- 2- There are many proofs that Allâh is the Creator of the universe like
- 3- *Ayat ul-Kursi*, found at *Surât Al-Baqarah* explains

4-, and are the laws man must strive towards.

5- The word *Rabb* means

4- Supply the missing part of speech.

| | Verb | Noun |
|----|--------|-------------|
| 1- | ----- | prosperity |
| 2- | guide | ----- |
| 3- | ----- | subsistence |
| 4- | create | ----- |
| 5- | ----- | advice |

5- Fill in the blanks by using one of the following words.

doctrine - operates - describes -
Paradise - fitrah - wonders

1. Humancan be made to spiral into depraved directions.
2. We can only understand how Allāh
3. Man alwaysover the meaning of his life.
4. *Adam* and *Hawwa* left the garden in when they disobeyed Allāh.
5. The of *Tawhīd* gives a clear concept of *Islāmic* beliefs.

6- Give the opposite meaning of the following words from the text:

| | Word | Opposite |
|----|----------|----------|
| 1- | advanced | ----- |
| 2- | ----- | animate |
| 3- | goodness | ----- |

-
- 4- ----- curse
5- ----- accept

7- Translation.

Translate the last two paragraphs into Arabic.

8- Composition.

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

- 1- Discuss the attributes of Allâh that you know.
- 2- All people come originally from two parents.
- 3- The human mind is bound by certain limits.



Grammar

THE SIMPLE PAST

Study the following sentences:

- Ex. 1. Isma'il drove away the devil by throwing stones at him.
2. Prophet *Ibrahim*, sacrificed a ram when Allāh spared him the sacrifice of his son.

In general, the simple past is used to express events and situations that happen at one particular time in the past. It began and ended in the past.

For example:

- I walked to school yesterday.
- He lived in Tanta for ten years but he lives in Alexandria now.

Very often the simple past ends in 'ed' (regular verbs). See examples above.

- Walk becomes walk + ed = walked, live becomes live + ed = lived.

Write → wrote Shakespeare wrote many plays.

See → saw We saw Ahmad in town last week.

Go → went I went to Alexandria last summer.

Shut → shut The children were noisy, so I shut the door.

How irregular verbs change into the past tense form will have to be learned by heart.

Note:

In questions and negatives we use did/didn't + infinitive (enjoy/see/go etc.)

| Statement | Question | Negative |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| I enjoyed the film. | Did you enjoy the film? | I didn't enjoy the film. |
| She saw the film. | Did she see the film? | She didn't see the film |

The verb 'to be' in the past tense.

I / he / she / it was / wasn't was I / he / she / it?

We / you / they were / weren't were we / you / they?

Ex. 1. Rewrite the following sentences in the past, using yesterday in place of every day.

- 1- Ahmad talks to Amr at school every day.
- 2- He waits for him after class every day.
- 3- They walk to the library every day.
- 4- They study there together every day.
- 5- They try to finish their homework every day.
- 6- Sue attends class with Mary every day.
- 7- Mr. Weston works at his office every day.
- 8- He starts at eight o'clock every day.
- 9- He closes his office at five every day.
- 10- He stops to buy a newspaper every day.

11- He rests a while before dinner every day.

12- He watches the news on TV every day.

Ex. -2. Write the verb written between the brackets in the blank, using the simple past tense.

1- "How did you learn to drive?" My father (teach).....me.

2- We could not afford to keep our car, so we (sell).....it.

3- I was very thirsty. I (drink).....the water very quickly.

4- Don (fall)down the stairs this morning and (break).....his leg.

5- Jim (throw).....the ball to Sue, who (catch).....it.

6- Ann (spend).....a lot of money, yesterday. She (buy).....a dress which (cost).....100 L.E.

7- I (go).....to the cinema three times last week.

8- It was cold so I (shut)the window.

9- We (see) Rose in town a few days ago.

10- I (write) a letter to my parents last night.

Ex. - 3. Complete the sentences. Write the verb into the correct form, positive or negative.

1- It was warm, so I (take)..... my coat off.

2- The film wasn't very good. I (enjoy)it very much.

3- I knew Sarâh was very busy, so I (disturb).....her.

4- The bed was very uncomfortable. I (sleep)very well.

5- I was very tired, so I (go).....to bed early.

6- Sue wasn't hungry, so she (eat).anything.

-
- 7- We went to Kate's house but she (was).....at home.
 - 8- It was a funny situation but nobody (laugh).....
 - 9- The window was open and a bird (fly).....into the room.
 - 10- The hotel wasn't very expensive. It (cost).....very much.
 - 11- I was in a hurry, so I(have) time to phone you.
 - 12- It was hard work carrying the bags. They (be) very heavy.

Pronunciation:

Learning to pronounce the sounds /θ/ and /ð/.

Initial position: three, thin, think, thank, thought, thermometer, thumb.

Final position: health, bath, wealth, month, breath, oath, math, birth.

Repeat the following words after your teacher.

/θ/ bath, breath, cloth,

/ð/ bathe, breathe, clothes,

Study those common words that have the sounds you are studying:

/θ/ thin, thousand, three, through, throw, earth, health, wealth, both

/ð/ the, their, there, then, that, this, those, though, with,

Repeat each sentence three times

I have three thousand three hundred and thirty-three pounds.

Ruth took the path to the theater.

The thieves thought the author was really wealthy.

Those are things worth thinking about.

Thin thousands from the cloth are on the floor.



Prophets and Messengers

Pre-reading Questions:

1. Why are there so many religions in the world?
2. Why didn't Allâh send angels as Prophets and Messengers?
3. What struggles did the early Prophets face?

Unit (6)

Prophets and Messengers

Islām has a unique answer to the question many people ask: "Why are there so many religions in the world?" This issue often comes to mind when they drive past temples, churches, synagogues and mosques. Some people take the easy way out and say that all religions are correct and lead to Allāh while others take the opposite approach and say that they don't need to follow any of them. Both groups of people will be losers in the next life. It is true that there are many different religions in the world, and many of them began from the same source: a prophet or messenger from Allāh. Only *Islām*, the last revealed way of life, has survived intact and without change.

According to *Islāmic* teachings, Allāh raised chosen people in every nation, who taught their community to serve Him and to establish piety. After the chosen guides passed away, the people often forgot or altered the teachings, advice and example of their prophet and over many generations they became mixed up in their beliefs which then became distorted and they were no longer following a true way of life as described by Allāh. Thus man-made "religions" were born. "Many were the ways of life that passed away before you. Travel through the Earth and see what was the end of those who rejected (Allāh)."

For example, if we look at Hinduism, we can see that it is a complicated mixture of myths, legends, spiritual philosophy and strange rituals. No true prophet ever taught that women should be burned alive on their husband's funeral fire; or that cow's urine was holy to drink or that it was good to become a beggar, or sleep on a bed of nails. But these are some of things that Hindus are taught to believe in, generation after generation. At the same time, Hinduism teaches that good is better than evil and that the

soul of a person lives on after his body has died. Although they add the strange idea of reincarnation to that concept. Some of the original teachings have survived, although not many and what remains has been twisted and corrupted.

The origin of humanity goes back thousands, possibly millions of years. The first two humans were *Adam* and *Hawwa*. Adam (peace be upon him) is considered to be the first Prophet of Allâh, given that he taught the message to his descendants for as long as he lived. A prophet (*Nabi*), is one who gives prophecies and news about Allâh and the way of life He wants us to live. In ancient times, humans lived a simple style of life gathering, and later on hunting. Although they developed a well-defined social structure, there was also a need for spiritual and moral guidance as well.

Along with the growth of villages, came the development of trade. At first it was based on bartering or trading one item for another. It was during this period that something significant happened, surplus food became available. This meant that not everyone had to be involved in the production of food. It allowed others to figure out how to make better tools, baskets, weapons and even jewelry. Allâh's Prophets still depended upon the oral tradition to carry their message on after them, but with stable villages where generations could be raised in relative safety, it became easier for the teachings of the Prophets to survive longer. At the same time, however, it also became easier for false ideas to grow and survive as well.

The earliest known messenger was *Ibrâhîm*, who lived in the city of Ur in Mesopotamia. He confronted the idol-worshipping beliefs of his people and was persecuted for his efforts. Allâh commanded him to leave and settle in a new land with those who followed him. *Ibrâhîm* recorded his revelation on clay tablets and leather scrolls. This message, written almost 4,000 years ago, did not survive, except for a few passages from the *Suhuf Ibrâhîm*.

Other people who are specified as Messengers in the *Qur'ân* are *Mûsa* (Moses), *Dawûd* (David), *'Iesa* (Jesus) and *Muhammâd* (p.b.u.h). A Messenger can also be a Prophet, or *Nabi*, because they also bring news of Allâh and the truth. Following a well-known saying of the Blessed Prophet *Muhammâd*, there were 124,000 Prophets and 313 Messengers raised throughout human history.

According to the *Qur'ân*, Allâh gives us the story of some but not of others. There are a total of twenty-five mentioned by name in the *Qur'ân*. There are also others mentioned besides these but their identities were not given. *"We have told you the story of some Messengers and others We have not."* The Muslim's attitude, upon learning of someone's beliefs, should be one of interest and curiosity. Every nation in the past received Prophets from Allâh. Later generations lost, corrupted or changed those teachings, resulting in the thousands of different religious systems we have today.

What we must do when we talk to those of other beliefs is to explain that *Islâm* is the last message which Allâh gave to humans, and that it is the only accurate standard to go by because it was never altered or added to. Then we must invite them to examine the *Qur'ân* and the history of the Prophet *Muhammâd* and then to look for any evidence in their own teachings, which confirms the truth of what we say. We can also encourage them to find out where their religion gets its information from, and whether that information is Divine or man made.

"We have sent you revelations, as We sent it to Nuh and the Prophets after him: also We sent revelation to Ibrâhîm, Isma'il, Is'haq, Yaqûb and the clans, 'Iesa, Ayyub, Yunus, Harûn, Sulaiman and to Dawûd we gave the Zabûr."



Word Study

Look up the following words in your own dictionary and write their meaning in English with relevance to the text. Use the word in a sentence.

issue:

temple:

church:

synagogue:

mosque:

spiritual:

approach:

Prophet:

messenger:

alter:

example:

legend:

man-made:

myths:

1- Comprehension Questions:

1. Define: *Nabi* (Prophet), *Rasûl* (Messenger).
2. Why did Allâh send Prophets to every community?
3. Why are there so many religions in the world today?
4. On what did Allâh's Messengers depend to carry on the message after them?
5. Why was idol-worship so successful?
6. How should Muslims behave when they hear about someone's beliefs?

2- Mark each of the following sentences as True or False.

- 1- According to Islâmic beliefs, prophets are good people chosen by their community to serve Allâh ().
- 2- Prophets taught different messages ().
- 3- There might have been a prophet who advised people to be beggars ().
- 4- *Mûsâ* and *Dawûd* were Messengers ().
- 5- Humanity's origin goes back thousands of years ().

3- Complete the following sentences with reference to the text:

- 1- A Messenger can be a Prophet because
- 2- Though Prophets were granted miracles, they never
- 3- On the Day of Judgment, every people will be raised up
- 4- Prophets were sent to,, and all other peoples.
- 5- What enabled Islam to travel fast was

4- Supply the missing part of speech.

| | Verb | Noun |
|----|-------------|-------------|
| 1- | ----- | involvement |
| 2- | prophecy | ----- |
| 3- | ----- | acceptance |
| 4- | ----- | addition |
| 5- | generate | ----- |

5-Fill in the blanks by using one of the following words.

morals – fraction – similar – clay –
cow urine – unique – different

- 1- The messages of the Prophets were
- 2- Only a of humanity listened to the teachings of the Prophets.
- 3- *Ibrâhîm* recorded his revelation on
- 4- Prophets had the best
- 5- is holy to drink according to Hinduism.

6- Give the opposite meaning of the following words from the text:

| | Word | Opposite |
|----|-------------|-----------------|
| 1- | rejection | ----- |
| 2- | ----- | physical |
| 3- | ----- | hell |
| 4- | evil | ----- |
| 5- | ----- | immoral |

7- Translation:

Translate paragraphs 5 and 6 into Arabic.

8- Composition.

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

- 1- Why are there so many religions in the world?
- 2- Describe the factors that helped Islam to spread quickly.
- 3- The basic message of all religions is the same. Discuss.

Grammar

Study the following sentences, paying particular attention to the words in boldprint:

1. When a man makes a proposal of marriage to a woman, no other man **can** propose to the same woman.
2. A divorced, pregnant woman **cannot** get married before giving birth.
3. A non-Muslim husband **may** render his Muslim wife a non-Muslim.
4. A young girl **might** not have enough experience to choose the right man for herself to wed.
5. There **must** be a good cause for divorce.
6. Marriage **should** be based on the consent of both parties.
7. If both parties desire agreement, Allah **will** effect harmony between them.
8. Without marriage, there **would** be no family.

The words, written in boldprint in the examples above, are some of the words called defective verbs or modal auxiliaries. The modal auxiliaries in English are: can, could, may, might, must, ought to, shall, should, will, would.

Modal auxiliaries generally express a speaker's attitude, or "mood". For example, moods can express that a speaker feels that something is

necessary, advisable, permissible, possible, or probable and in addition, they could convey the strength of these attitudes.

In example (1) above, '**can**' expresses possibility in the present or future. It may also express ability in other cases. The negative form of '**can**' may be written 'cannot', 'can not' or 'can't' (Example 2)

In examples (3) and (4) '**may**' and '**might**' express possibility in the present or future. In most cases 'may' and 'might' have the same meaning.

In example (5) '**must**' means that something is very necessary; there is no other choice.

In (6) '**should**' expresses advisability.

The meaning ranges in strength, from a suggestion ("This is a good idea") to a statement about responsibility or duty ("This is a very important thing to do")

In (7) '**will**' expresses certainty in the future. In other words, 'will' indicates that there is no doubt in the speaker's mind about a future event.

To understand the meaning of '**would**' in example (8), let's rewrite the sentences as "if there was no marriage, there would be no family". Compare this to example (7) where we have a conditional sentence in the present (desire, will)

Exercise:

Use the most appropriate defective verb (modal auxiliary) to complete these sentences:

- 1- Marriage be protected from any harm.
- 2- Without the family, there be no psychologically balanced human life.
- 3- A divorced woman or a widow wait for a certain period before she can get married to another man.
- 4- In spite of the facility with which divorce be effected, it only takes place rarely.
- 5- All means to effect reconciliationbe exhausted before resorting to divorce.
- 6- The impression that a Muslim husbanddivorce his wife at his mere wish is a grave misunderstanding.
- 7- The *Qur'ân* refers to several causes when divorcebecome necessary.
- 8- When either husband or wife finds himself or herself unable to live together, divorcefollow.
- 9- If the two judges desire agreement, Allâheffect harmony between them.





The Angels

Pre-reading Questions:

1. What do angels do?
2. How do angels interact with humans?
3. Are angels like humans?

Unit (7)

What are Angels?

Islâm teaches that there are other intelligent beings with us in this universe. One type of creature, which was made by Allâh specifically to carry out His commands, is known as the *Mala'ikah*. In English we often use the word 'angels', but they are not the same types of beings that Christianity believes in.

In non-Islâmic nations, angels are portrayed in various ways that range from the ridiculous to outright blasphemy. It is not difficult to understand why Christians have mistaken ideas about angels, when you consider that they are the same people who believe that Allâh consists of three beings, and that He was born of a human mother or that He had to kill Himself and before He could forgive us for a sin committed by our ancestors, *Adam* and *Hawwa*.

Centuries of myths, legends, and folklore have combined together to paint a picture of angels that is way beyond the boundaries of the Divine sources of knowledge. Christians believe that angels can have pride and sin and that they come and talk to people, especially to their preachers. Non-Muslims even make movies and TV shows where the main characters are angels who are basically fun-loving people with magical powers. They further believe that *Shaytân* and his devils are just angels that went bad. *"They have no knowledge about (the Angels). They follow nothing but guesses. Guessing is nothing in the face of truth."*

Muslims must protect themselves from being affected by these false ideas. Instead, we must learn what Allâh and His Messenger told us about

them. That is the most accurate picture. According to *Islâm*, the angels were made from the elements of light. They have some type of “wings” and can travel, therefore, at the speed of light.

They can assume physical form and can appear like one of us. However, they are so perfect that they usually dazzle the eyes of those who see them. They are neither male nor female, nor are they the children of Allâh. They are intelligent beings, who have definite tasks and duties to perform. They see everything we do although we cannot see them. They have no independent desires or whims so they never disobey Allâh. The angels declare:

“We don’t descend except by the command of our Lord. To Him belongs what is in front of us and what is behind us and everything in between. Your Lord never forgets. He is the Lord of space and the Earth and all in between. So serve Him and be firm in serving Him. Do you know any other who is worthy of the same name as He?”

One of the most important duties that the angels have, is to record the deeds and actions of humans. Allâh does not need them to do this, He merely wills it so. The angels who record our deeds are stationed to our right and left and are called the *Kiraman Kâtibîn*, Noble Writers. They take note of what we do and record everything as if they had a camera trained on us at every moment.

Other angels intervene with nature whenever Allâh wills. For example, if Allâh was going to punish a people for their wickedness, He might send angels to cause a natural disaster. If some people were going to be shown mercy, on the other hand, because they may yet be believers, Allâh might send angels to protect them from harm.

Multitudes of angels fill space and perform a variety of functions both in this world and in the next. There are two angels, who stand at each

of the eight gates of Paradise. They greet those who are about to enter with the greetings of peace.

There are angels, which question the soul of the dead person when they are buried. The names of these two angels are *Nakir* and *Munkir*. The Angel of Death, or *Malak ul-Mawt*, is in charge of taking the souls of people when they die. A good person will have his or her soul removed gently at death while an evil person's soul is ripped violently away.

Hell-fire, too, has angels standing over it. There are nineteen in all. They will throw the wrongdoers into the pit of Hell and will push them back when they try to escape, telling them that that is the fate they deserve for leading such a sinful life. The chief of the Angels of Hell-fire is named *Malik*.

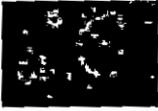
"The unbelievers will be led to Hell-fire in crowds, when they arrive there, its gates will be opened and its keepers will say, 'Didn't Messengers come to you from among your own kind, explaining to you the signs of your Lord and warning you of the meeting on this Day of yours?' Then (the keepers will) answer their own question thus, 'It is true. The order of punishment has been proved against the unbelievers.' They (the unbelievers will be told,) 'Enter the gates of Hell and dwell inside. Terrible is the home of the arrogant!'"

The angel who brings Allâh's messages to humans is named *Jibra'il*. He is the one who brought revelation to all the Prophets, and he is considered to be the most important of all the angels. He is also known as, *Ruh ul-Quddus*, or the Spirit of Holiness for his role in bringing good news to the people of the world.

There is also a special angel named *Israfil* whose only job is to sound the note that will signal the end of the world and the Day of Judgment. The sound will reverberate over all the Earth and cause people to

stare in awe.

"They don't fully estimate the (power of Allâh) as they should. On the Day of Judgment the entire Earth will be but His handful, and space will be rolled up in His right hand. Glory to Him! He is high above the partners they associate with Him. The horn will be sounded, and then all beings in space and on Earth will faint, except as Allâh wills. Then a second sound will be sent forth and everyone will be standing looking on (in the Plain of Judgment)."



Word Study

Look up the following words in your own dictionary and write their meaning in English with relevance to the text. Use the word in a sentence.

angel:

intelligent:

portray:

magical:

character:

devil:

accurate:

pride:

sin:

disaster:

protect:

soul:

signal:

judgment:

1- Comprehension Questions:

- 1- Mention five tasks that the angels perform.
- 2- Who is the Angel of Revelation?
- 3- Have the angels appeared in the form of human beings? If so, give an example.
- 4- Once the Blessed Prophet mentioned the angels that hover to your left and right side and said that the one on the right records your good deeds while the one on the left records your bad deeds. When the records of a person's life will be brought forward, how will an evil person respond when he sees it?
- 5- What will Allâh command the angels to do with evil people?

2- Mark each of the following sentences as True or False.

1. Christians and Muslims believe in the existence of angels. ()
2. *Israfil* takes note of man's actions. ()
3. There are angels whose duties will be performed in the Hereafter. ()
4. Magic is sometimes involved when angels perform their functions. ()
5. Most angels are male. ()

3- Complete the following sentences with reference to the text:

1. Angels are made from
2. *Jibra'il*'s duty is to
3. *Sakinah* (peace of mind and heart) is achieved when
4. *Munkir* and *Nakir* question
5. *Malik* is

4- Supply the missing part of speech.

| | Verb | Noun |
|----|-------------|-------------|
| 1- | ----- | portrayal |
| 2- | depend | ----- |
| 3- | ----- | performance |
| 4- | picture | ----- |
| 5- | ----- | punishment |

5- Fill in the blanks by using one of the following words.

| |
|---|
| legend – went – assume – light – cosmos- push - Christians |
|---|

1.picture angels like naked babies.
2. According to Christian beliefs, *Shaytan* was an angel whobad.
3. Angels might physical form.
4. Many angels fill the
5. Angels are made of

6- Give the opposite meaning of the following words from the text:

| | Word | Opposite |
|----|-------------|-----------------|
| 1- | Hell | ----- |
| 2- | ----- | strong |
| 3- | false | ----- |
| 4- | ----- | obey |
| 5- | real | ----- |

7-Translation:

Translate paragraphs 5 and 6 into Arabic.

8- Composition.

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

1. Angels perform various functions.
2. Islam has a unique understanding of angels.
3. Compare the image of angels according to Islamic and Christian beliefs.

Grammar

The Simple Present Tense

The simple present tense is used as follows:

- (1) for action in the present which happen usually, habitually or generally, e.g. He usually directs his attention towards problems which he notices have no satisfactory explanation.
- (2) for stating general truths, e.g. Science plays an important role in the societies in which we live, or for stating scientific laws, e.g. Water freezes at 0°C ;
- (3) for describing processes in a general way, e.g. A scientist observes carefully, applies logical thought to his observations, tries to find relationships in data, etc.

Ex. Put the verbs in brackets into their correct forms:

Note that some sentences are statements and some are questions.

- 1- A statistician (apply) mathematics in his work.
- 2- You (accept) incomplete evidence?
- 3- The evidence (seem) incomplete?
- 4- The government official (use) objective methods?
- 5- Trained observers usually (utilize) data to the fullest.
- 6- He always (try) to look for underlying relationships in collections of data.

-
- 7- A scientist always (think) logically?
 - 8- What (be) the nature of the scientific attitude?
 - 9- What (be) these special methods of thinking and acting?
 - 10- It (seem) that a successful scientist is full of curiosity.



(8)

The Jinn

Pre-reading Questions:

- 1- Who are the jinn?
- 2- What is *Iblis*?
- 3- How do jinn affect us?

In addition to the angels, there is another type of creature in our universe that came into existence before us. They are known as the jinn. These beings exist in another dimension which we can not reach. They can see us and are aware of us, but we cannot see them. However, we can sometimes feel their presence, usually in a way that makes us feel uncomfortable.

Allâh created this species from the elements of fire. Scientists have long wondered what shape other life forms take in our universe, but Allâh revealed this to us long ago. The jinn cannot travel as fast as the angels nor do they have any power over them. They were given a limited form of freewill. Like us, they live, die and procreate and they can choose whether or not to surrender their wills to Allâh. But their fiery temper and arrogance can lead them astray far faster than our own animal desires can affect us. Those jinn who accept Allâh as their Lord are generally peaceful and leave the physical world of humans alone.

The other jinn, who choose to reject Allâh, become so twisted in nature that they become what we call "*Devils*" or evil spirits. The first jinn to turn against Allâh was named *Iblis*. He was present when Allâh commanded the angels to bow down to *Adam* (the first human) in respect. All the angels bowed, as they obey by nature, but *Iblis*, who should have bowed also, being a creation of Allâh, arrogantly refused. When Allâh asked why he didn't bow, *Iblis* replied, "*I'm not going to bow to any humans that You made from mud!*" Then he vainly boasted, "*I'm better than him. You made me from fire...*"

For his arrogance, Allâh ordered *Iblis* to be thrown out of Paradise. But *Iblis* asked Allâh to delay his death. Allâh agreed to *Iblis*'s request and said that he would give him time until the Day of Judgment. This means that *Iblis* will not die until then. He said to Allâh, "*Because You have thrown me out of the right way, I'll lie in ambush for them on Your straight way, I'll attack them from their front and back, from their right and left and (in the end,) You'll find most of them to be thankless.* Allâh commanded *Iblis*, "*Get out of here, you are cursed and rejected. If any of them follow you, I will fill Hell with you all!*"

Allâh placed the first two humans in a garden in Paradise. They were basically good and lived a simple life. Then *Iblis*, who was renamed *Shaytân*, formed his plans against them. The name *Shaytân* means "to pull people away from" and this is what *Shaytân* wants to do with people and their relationship to Allâh. He began to whisper suggestions into the minds of the first man and woman. He influenced them to question the one law Allâh made for them. Allâh had ordered them to live in the garden in peace and to eat anything they wished, however, they were not to come close to one certain tree.

Shaytân tempted them in their thoughts and dreams and suggested that the tree must be special, that it could make them live forever like the angels. After a while, he succeeded in tempting them to eat from the tree. They didn't live forever, nor did they gain any magical powers. They realized that they had done wrong.

Adam and his mate, *Hawwa* were expelled to Earth and from them descended all human beings until our own time. The twisted jinn, known as *Shaytân*, was able to tempt the first humans, but they had a capacity that he had not counted on. They could feel sorry and ask for forgiveness from Allâh. So Allâh forgave them, wiping the sin clean. *Shaytân* succeeded in influencing other jinn to join him and they too became twisted and evil.

They formed a sort of powerful army whose only insane purpose is to cause corruption and discord among humans.

Allâh has sent Messengers to the race of jinn and some have surrendered their wills to Him. But most jinn still need guidance. The jinn can steal information from the angels whom they spy on. But most of the jinn's "secrets" are a jumble of made-up confusion. Most people who go to fortune tellers do not pay attention to the errors of "professional" fortune tellers because they have been programmed to believe in them. The Blessed Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) once said, *"For every truth (fortune-tellers) say, there are 99 lies mixed in."*

Muslims are warned to avoid astrology, witchcraft and seeking hidden knowledge of the future because it is a tool of *Shaytân* to turn us from our Lord. If we look to find out the future for ourselves then we no longer place our *Iman* (faith) and trust in Allâh. It is such a serious crime that the Prophet once remarked, *"Whoever consults a fortune-teller will not have his or her prayers accepted for forty days."* (Muslim)

In the end, those jinn who accept their mission and surrender their wills to Allâh will be rewarded with Allâh's Paradise. But those who disobey Allâh will be thrown into the Hell-fire. The *Shaytân* will disown such people on Judgment Day and say truthfully that he didn't make them stray, but that they chose to listen and obey him.

Word Study

Look up the following words in your own dictionary and write their meaning in English with relevance to the text. Use the word in a sentence.

jinn:

dimension:

arrogance:

procreate:

surrender:

Hell-fire:

disobey:

reward:

punish:

twisted:

bow:

corrupt:

tempt:

astrology:

witchcraft:

1. Comprehension Questions:

1. Define: (a) Jinn (b) *Iblis*
2. How did *Iblis* describe the way he was going to attack humans? (7:15-17) and (6:119)
3. One quality of being misled by the *Shaytân* is that you begin to look upon bad things as being good. How does Allâh describe this in the *Qur'ân* (35:8) and (18:104)?
4. When the Day of Judgment comes and people are shown all the foolish mistakes they made, they will point to *Shaytân* and cry that he made them do wrong. But the *Shaytân* will give a very interesting reply. Look up what he will say and copy down that *ayah* (verse) from the *Glorious Qur'ân* (14:22).
5. Explain what Allâh says about seeking protection against the *Shaytân* in the *Qur'ân*(41:36).

2. Mark each of the following sentences as True or False.

- 1- We can see the jinn but they can not see us ().
- 2- *Adam* and *Hawwa* were expelled from Paradise because they disobeyed Allâh ().
- 3- The jinn came into existence after mankind ().
- 4- The jinn are made from the element of light ().
- 5- Muslims are advised to believe in astrology ().

3. Complete the following sentences with reference to the text:

- 1- Allâh created the jinn from

- 2- The first jinn to turn against Allâh was named
- 3- Because *Iblis* refused to bow to *Adam*, Allâh
- 4- Muslims are warned against astrology and seeking hidden knowledge of the future because
- 5- When *Adam* and *Hawwa* ate from the tree and disobeyed Allâh, they

4. Supply the missing part of speech.

| | Verb | | Noun |
|----|---------|--|-----------|
| 1- | ----- | | existence |
| 2- | affect | | ----- |
| 3- | ----- | | decision |
| 4- | forgive | | ----- |
| 5- | ----- | | guidance |

5- Fill in the blanks by using one of the following words.

Hellfire- cursed – follow – tempted – avoid – Paradise –
bow – expelled – arrogance – dimension

- 1- The jinn and humans who surrender their wills to Allâh will go to.....
- 2- *Shaytan**Adam* and *Hawwa* to eat from the forbidden tree.
- 3- When *Iblis* disobeyed Allâh's order to bow to *Adam*, Allâh *Iblis* andhim from Paradise.
- 4- Because of his fiery temper and, *Iblis* refused to to *Adam*.

5- will be the place for those jinn and humans who chose not to Allâh's guidance.

6- Give the opposite meaning of the following words from the text:

| | Word | Opposite |
|----|-----------|----------|
| 1- | before | ----- |
| 2- | ----- | end |
| 3- | friend | ----- |
| 4- | ----- | live |
| 5- | impatient | ----- |

7- Translation.

Translate paragraphs 5 and 6 into Arabic.

8- Composition.

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

- 1- Where are the jinn?
- 2- *Iblis*, the enemy of man.
- 3- The punishment of disobedience in hell.

Grammar

Subject & Object Pronouns

Study the following sentences.

We wash the exposed parts of our body.

They form a congregation.

The group form straight parallel lines behind him.

It is obligatory for them.

Subject & Object Pronouns:

| PERSON | Subject | | Object | |
|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | SINGULAR | PLURAL | SINGULAR | PLURAL |
| 1 | I | We | Me | Us |
| 2 | You | You | You | You |
| 3 | He | They | Him | Them |
| | She | | Her | |
| | It | | It | |

Ex. Replace the italicized words by a pronoun. Study the first two sentences.

1- **The girl** is reading **the book**.

She is reading it.

2- **The students** are talking to **Tom**.

They are talking to him.

3- May is studying her lesson with Noha.

4- My parents enjoy television very much.

5- That fellow understands the lesson.

6- The children like their teachers very much.

7- Do Eman and Maha like that English book?

8- Is Miss Smith explaining the lesson to the girls?

9- The women are talking about the party.

10- The man is moving the furniture into the other room.

11- Those people need the money as soon as possible.

12- Edward and Fred are writing the letter now.

13- The two girls are putting the food on the table.

14- Are the men speaking to Mr. Wilson at this moment?

15- The teachers spoke to the students about the examinations.

16- Amal, Noha and I are studying the new words.

17- The waitress always washes the tables.

18- Does Mrs. Wilson buy her groceries at the store?

19- May sends a letter to her parents every week.

20- Mr. Harris is helping his student with the lesson.

(9)

Who Controls My Life?

Pre-reading Questions:

1. What is the meaning of *Qada'* and *Qadar*?
2. Why should a Muslim say "*insha'a Allah*"?
3. How should I react to what happens to me in this life?

Unit (9)

Who Controls My Life?

Why do we do the things we do? If Allâh knows what I'm going to do, then why does He need to punish or reward me later? If Allâh already knows everything that is going to happen, why did He create the universe to begin with? Do I have any free choice in my life? These are the difficult questions that people sometimes ask when they try to make sense of their lives and why they're alive. *"If we are being tested," they ask, "then what are the rules? Does Allâh make people do bad or good?"*

The answer to these questions is easily and logically given by Allâh, Himself, in the Holy *Qur'ân*. So why do today's Muslims feel that they can't understand basic Islâmic teachings? The problem is that many Muslims often read everything *but* the *Qur'ân* and then rely on their own opinions and ideas. Then they end up becoming confused.

To begin with, the universe was created by Allâh according to His Will. Everything is here by His will and He allows the universe to function in a certain way. Within this universe, Allâh created humans with a limited free-will, or ability to choose whether to serve and obey Him, or not.

The areas of our lives over which we have control are primarily related to our attitudes, intentions, feelings, goals, desires and motivations. We can choose to believe in something or not. We can choose to do right or wrong. We can choose to control our anger or loose our temper, we can choose to learn from our life experiences, or we can remain ignorant. We can even decide whether to love or hate those around us.

On the other hand, we are part of a whole web of relationships with others and the world, and often we have no choice in the flow of events.

You cannot stop an earthquake or a tornado. You cannot prevent meeting someone by chance, nor can you change what other people do, in most cases, and what they do may affect your life in ways you never imagined.

So we can see that the events of our lives are not always within our power. But at the same time, we can decide how we react to what happens around us. This is exactly how *Islâm* describes our relationship with this life and to Allâh and His knowledge.

The Blessed Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) once said, *"How excellent is a believer's situation, unlike all others. There is good in everything he does. If he is prosperous, he thanks Allâh, which is good. But if some bad thing happens, he endures it with patience, and that is best for him."* (Muslim)

Islâm teaches a unique concept known as *Qada'* (pre-determination) and *Qadar* (fate). Allâh has determined the operating mode of the entire universe and time we will spend on Earth, whether we will be rich or poor, the land we will die in, etc.

Within that framework of measured things, you have all the choice in the world about how to react to circumstances in your life. You are given the five senses, intelligence, reasoning and a spiritual motivation at birth, which you can choose to employ in seeking Allâh. Alternatively, you can choose to ignore what your senses tell you and live a life filled with bad habits and meaningless pleasures. *"Whatever good happens to you, it is from Allâh. But whatever wickedness (you perform) is from your own self."*

The choice is yours. If anyone is born blind, deaf, handicapped, deformed or mute, they merely get a tougher test (and perhaps an easier judgment) than the rest of us. Those who are born mentally damaged or who die as children are not held accountable for their actions at all and go straight to Paradise.

How are we to live? What should be our attitude towards life? It's really quite simple. If we take responsibility for all our actions and remember that we will have to face Allâh in the end, then we can act without fear or apprehension. We don't have to answer for other people's sins and we don't give up nor do we forget our own ultimate fate. A balance can be achieved. To illustrate this point read the following story.

Once the Blessed Prophet (peace be upon him) came out of the *Masjid*, (Mosque), and he saw a camel wandering around in the street. When he asked whose it was, a man came forward and claimed it. Then the Prophet asked him why he hadn't tied it up at a post. The man asked, *"Should I tie my camel first and then depend on Allâh or should I set my camel free and then depend on Allâh?"*

Obviously he misinterpreted what *Qada'* and *Qadar* meant, for he must have thought Allâh would return his camel to him if it were his destiny. The Prophet (peace be upon him) corrected him and informed him, *"Tie your camel first and then trust Allâh."* (*Tirmidhi*) This is a clear sign that we have responsibility for our lives first, and then we place our trust in Allâh *after* we have done our best to take care of things.

Those who place their trust in Allâh and surrender their wills to Him do not worry about the future because they know where everything will end up. They are even taught to say, *"insha'Allah"* (If Allâh wills) when planning any important action. Those who deny Allâh are gripped with fear when they think about their death and ultimate end.



Word Study

Look up the following words in your own dictionary and write their meaning in English with relevance to the text. Use the word in a sentence.

experience:

taught:

logically:

opinions:

choice:

web:

earthquake:

affect:

knowledge:

situation:

framework:

circumstances:

motivation:

responsibility:

trust:

1. Comprehension Questions:

1. Define: (a) *Qada'* and (b) *Qadar*.
2. *Islâm* does not teach destiny or fatalism. Why are some Muslims confused when such issues are mentioned?
3. How can the concept of *Qadar* be explained?
4. Explain the message of the verse 16:35-40 in detail. What is being said, how is it answered and what will the unbelievers find out in the end?
5. Why is it easy for Allâh to know the future and the past? (Refer to these verses 6:59 and 6:103.)
6. Why do people consult astrologers and fortune-tellers? How does the verse 6:71 relate here?
7. What does Allâh tell us about this life and the next life in the verse 2:122?
8. Read the verse 2:102. What does Allâh say at the end of the *ayah* (verse) about those who spend money on magic and astrology?

2- Mark each of the following sentences as True or False.

- 1- Islam teaches fatalism ().
- 2- Allah is not bound by time ().
- 3- It is paradoxical that Allah knows what man does and then punishes or rewards him ().
- 4- Man is free to control his feelings and motivations ().
- 5- Leading people astray means guiding them to the right path. ()

4. Complete the following sentences with reference to the text:

- 1- Man is not free to choose.....
- 2- *Qada'* and *Qadar* means.....
- 3- A Muslim can come closer to Allâh by
- 4- can be controlled by man.
- 5- Allâh leads those who reject Him astray by

4- Supply the missing part of speech.

| | Verb | Noun |
|----|----------|-----------|
| 1- | free | ----- |
| 2- | ----- | ignorance |
| 3- | motivate | ----- |
| 4- | ----- | solution |
| 5- | guide | ----- |

5- Fill in the blanks by using one of the following words.

serve – responsibility – measured –
react – fatalism – destined – answer

- 1- Allâh the time man will spend on earth.
- 2- You are free toor disobey your Lord.
- 3- A Muslim does not take for others' sin.
- 4- Man is free to to life's circumstances.
- 5- *Islâm* does not teach..... :

6- Give the opposite meaning of the following words from the text:

| | Word | Opposite |
|----|--------|------------|
| 1- | punish | ----- |
| 2- | birth | ----- |
| 3- | ----- | meaningful |
| 4- | reward | ----- |
| 5- | ----- | poor |

7- Translation:

Translate paragraph 7 into Arabic.

8- Composition.

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

- 1- The concept of reward and punishment in *Islām*.
- 2- Man has limited freedom on earth.
- 3- How should a Muslim perceive this worldly life?

Grammar

Conjunctions

We connect ideas with conjunctions such as **and**, **but**, **or**, etc.

- **and** joins structures that are alike
- **but** joins structures that are opposite or show contrast.
- **or** joins structures that give choices or alternatives.

Single Words:

Nouns Men **and** women attend evening classes.

You can have fish **or** chicken for dinner.

Adjectives My parents were kind **and** generous.

My parents were poor **but** happy.

Verbs Last night I was sitting **and** thinking about you.

Infinitives I have to write **and** to type this paper tonight.

Phrases:

Noun Phrase A tall man and a young boy were standing next to me.

Prepositional Phrase There is still plenty of food in the living room and
in the kitchen

Verb Phrase I am sitting here and writing a letter.

Dependant Clauses :

Where you go **and** what you do is none of my concern.

Independent Clauses:

The bride's guests sit on the left **and** the groom's guests sit on the right.

Would you like some water **or** (~~would you like~~) some fruit?

I washed my shirt **but** it didn't get clean.

Note:

When 'and', 'but', and 'or' connect two items within a sentence, NO COMMAS need to be used. But when 'and', 'but', and 'or' connect three or more items in a series in a sentence commas are used.

For example: I saw a cat and a mouse .

I saw a cat, a mouse, a rat, and a dog.

Ex. 1. Add 'and', 'but', or 'or' to the following sentences. Adding commas if necessary

- 1- I washed my face brushed my teeth.....took a shower
- 2- I invited the Carters to dinnerthey couldn't come.
- 3- I was hungrydidn't eat on the plane. The food didn't look appetizing.
- 4- Jennifer wore boots jeans a long-sleeved shirt.....gloves when she worked in her garden.
- 5- Footballtennis are popular sports.
- 6- Sara is a good tennis playershe has never played golf.

-
- 7- Who called whom? Did Bob call Bill ... did Bill call Bob?
 - 8- I dropped the vase.....it didn't break.
 - 9- Some states allow you to get married at age sixteen.....most states require you to be eighteen.
 - 10- A religious officiala government official may perform the marriage ceremony.
 - 11- The bride's family pays for the engagement party.....the groom's family pays for the wedding.
 - 12- The bride usually wears a white dress.....carries a bouquet of flowers in her hands.
 - 13- Wedding guests may bring a gift to the wedding receptionthey may send a gift to the bride's home before the wedding.
 - 14- Tom likes to swim.....he doesn't like to play tennis.
 - 15- I might either go to AlexandriaSharm El Sheik during my next summer holiday.
 - 16- At the beach some sunbathers are listening to their radios.....others are readingsleeping.

Pronunciation:

Learning how to pronounce the sound /ðu/ as in the following words:

Poet – odd – both – flowed – made – most – old – tropes – followed
– composed – only – those – knows – hope – composed – close –
though

Common words with that vowel sound which are not in the text:

Go – low – no – show – slow – blow – road – stone – coal – pole –
soul – cold – hold – told – boat – over

Repeat each sentence three times

They chose to go by coach.

They rowed the boat along the coast.

We need more homes for old folk.

Don't throw stones.



What Happens After Death

Pre-reading Questions:

1. Will all people die one day?
2. What is the meaning of *Barzakh* and *Sirât*?
3. What happens to the soul after death?

Unit (10)

What Happens After Death?

Every living creature that walks on earth will one day leave this life. We are all going to die someday; maybe sooner, maybe later, but death will come to you, to me and to everyone else. No matter how much we learn or gain or understand, it will all be over with our last breath. Death is the greatest fact of life and the thing that people fear the most. But what happens to us when our body dies? Do we merely become dust? Do we, as individuals, cease to exist? These are the questions everyone wants to know the answer to. *Islâm* is very clear on these issues. Everyone will die, yes, but they will live again in a new form, in a new reality. *"Every soul will taste of death. In the end you will be brought back to Us."*

Islâm teaches that there are four definite stages for every human life. The first is our existence in the womb of our mothers. There flesh is united with a *Ruh* or spirit. According to the saying of the Blessed Prophet, this joining takes place sometimes after the 120th day in the development of the foetus. The second stage is our life on Earth. We are born, grow from childhood into adulthood and then we reach old age when we gradually decline in strength and awareness. Although some people die in their youth and others live longer than most, the lifespan of the human being is a time of testing for all who make it past the age of puberty.

The third stage begins after our death. When we breathe our last gasp of air and close our eyes for the last time, then we cross over into the first stage of the next life. We enter into the punishment or peace of the grave. *"I don't hesitate in anything I have to do as much as I hesitate in taking the life of My believing servant. He hates death and I, (Allâh,) hate to hurt him."*

That part of us, which is released the moment our physical body dies, is the real you. It is your soul, which is up your essence, your individuality. It is everything about you, your deeds, your nature and your character are contained in your soul. The *Ruh* that you were given before birth was transformed by your life and was worn by you. It became your *Nafs* (self) or your soul.

The period between your death and being raised up on the Day of Judgment is called *Barzakh* or the Partition. Time has no meaning there. The Blessed Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) once said it was the first step on the way to the next life and whoever found safety there would have an easy time later on.

The fourth and final stage of our existence begins at the end of the world. The appointed angel, *Israfil*, will sound the trumpet and fantastic events will engulf the globe. The Earth will be destroyed in a great catastrophe before it is transformed into a new Earth. Every human being living at that time will die instantly. This is called the Last Day (*Al-Yaum al-Akhir*).

Whoever followed a prophet's teachings will be standing behind that prophet. Whoever followed idols, ideologies of false teachers will be behind them. We, Muslims, will be standing behind Prophet *Muhammad* (p.b.u.h). Allâh calls this 'the Sorting.' Then each person will be brought forward and shown the complete record of what he or she did in their life. Good people will receive their record in their right hand, while the evil people will receive it in their left or from behind their backs.

The worst people will be dragged and thrown through the gates of Hell-fire right away, while everyone else will wait. Then, when the judgment is finished, a bridge will be stretched over the top of the pit of

1. Comprehension Questions:

- 1- What are the four stages of a human's existence?
- 2- What is our *Nafs* and what does it contain?
- 3- What happens in the grave?
- 4- Even though some people may have sinned and performed evil deeds, what may Allâh do to them?
- 5- Describe the *Sirât* and the trip over it.
7. What is under the *Sirât* and what does it sound like?

2- Mark each of the following sentences as True or False.

- 1- The *Ruh* joins the flesh in the second stage of man's life. ()
- 2- Punishment and reward begin in the grave. ()
- 3- *Nafs* refers to the spiritual as well as the physical part of man. ()
- 4- Dead people can hear and see the living. ()
- 5- Allâh judges those who die after the age of puberty. ()

3- Complete the following sentences with reference to the text:

- 1- 'The Sorting' means
- 2- Greedy people on the Day of Judgment will find.....
- 3- The only thing man is required to do in this life is to
- 4- The first step on the way to the next life is
- 5- Those whowill be standing behind Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him).

4- Supply the missing part of speech.

| | Verb | Noun |
|----|-------------|---------------|
| 1- | ----- | communication |
| 2- | punish | ----- |
| 3- | ----- | forgiveness |
| 4- | bless | ----- |
| 5- | ----- | paralysis |

5- Fill in the blanks by using one of the following words.

| |
|---|
| receive – zoom – abandon – obey – recreate – show – drag |
|---|

- 1- Allāh willeach person the complete record of his actions.
- 2- Prophets willright over *Sirāt* quickly.
- 3- We willpardon for some sins according to Allāh's mercy.
- 4- Allāh willpeople once more after death.
- 5- *Shaytan* willhis followers on the Day of Judgment.

6- Give the opposite meaning of the following words from the text:

| | Word | Opposite |
|----|-------------|-----------------|
| 1- | ----- | strength |
| 2- | physical | ----- |
| 3- | ----- | violently |
| 4- | spirit | ----- |
| 5- | merciful | ----- |

Hell. This bridge, called the *Sirât*, will lead to Paradise on the other side. Everyone will have to cross this bridge and feel the roar of Hell-fire below.

Our whole life is a test, which determines what will happen to us in the *Akhirah*, or the next life. Our few years on this planet will be gone in an instant. Do you want to live as if there were no tomorrow, even though it will surely come? Remember why you are alive and what will happen to you after you will die and then you will truly lose all fear of death. Instead you will spend your life seeking Allâh's forgiveness and following the way of life He ordained for us humans – *Islâm*.

"Is then the person who believes no better than the person who is rebellious and wicked? They are not equal. For those who believe and do righteous deeds are Gardens as homes for their (good) deeds. As to those who are rebellious and wicked, their abode will be the Fire: every time they wish to get away from it they will be forced back and it will be said to them, 'Taste the penalty of the fire which you used to reject as a lie.'"



Word Study

Look up the following words in your own dictionary and write their meaning in English with relevance to the text. Use the word in a sentence.

die:

fear:

reality:

stage:

flesh:

adulthood:

decline:

event:

strength:

awareness:

physical:

essence:

safety:

idol:

evil:

7. Translation:

Translate paragraphs 3 into Arabic.

8. Composition.

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

- 1- There are four stages of human life.
- 2- Life after death.
- 3- There is no injustice on the Day of Judgment.



Grammar

The Present Simple and the Present Perfect

Study following sentences:

Social relations are infinitely varied.

Sociologists have concentrated their attention on those relations which have come to assume a definite formin society.

The verb phrases above are either in the present tense because it is about something that is true in general (a fact) or it is in the present perfect because it has been happening in the (recent) past and is still happening, as in the examples given above.

Other sentences to study:

Sami is in hospital

He has been in hospital since Monday

He is still asleep.

He hasn't woken up yet.

Tamer is at home.

He hasn't left home yet.

Ex. 1. Write the verb between brackets in the correct form.

(Present Simple or Present Perfect).

1- Sayed is a friend of mine. I (know) him very well

2- Saad is a friend of mine. I (know) him for a long time.

-
- 3- I (like) your house. How long (lived) you there?
 - 4- Ali (work) in that shop for the last few years.
 - 5- Rice (not, grow) in cold climate.
 - 6- Ahmad (not, have) a job; He (not, work) for two months.
 - 7- You (see) Mona very often? No, I (not, see) her for three months.
 - 8- I (walk) for an hour every day to keep fit.
 - 9- Today I (walk) for more than two hours.
 - 10- That (be) a very old car. How long you (have) it?

Ex 2. Change the following statements into 1) Yes / No questions and then into (2) the negative.

- 1- Jasim plays football at the club.
- 2- The earth goes round the sun.
- 3- Tasneem has worked in our office for more than a year.
- 4- Ali has made a lot of money since 1990
- 5- I love my country.
- 6- Yemen produces good coffee.
- 7- Anas has finished his composition.
- 8- The teacher has corrected the papers.

Ex 3. Complete the following paragraphs with the simple present tense or present perfect of the verbs between brackets.

Ali and Ahmad(be) graduate students from the department of Arabic Studies at Al Azhar University. This institution of higher learning.....(be) the oldest university in the world.

This year, Ahmad(work) in the library on Sunday and Monday nights. He(attend) all the lectures. He(want) to pass his exams. His friend Sami.....(try) to convince him not to go on with his studies. He(believe) that it will be a waste of time. But Ahmad(want) to pass his exams.

Ali, on the other hand,(not, go) to the library at all. He(attend) many classes either. I(not, believe) he will pass his exams at the end of the year.

Pronunciation:

Learning to pronounce the sound /ʃ/ as in the first sound of the word should and the last sound in fish. This sound is not always represented by the letters sh in writing particularly when it occurs in the middle of a word.

For example in the word social /ʃ/

Compare sociology /s/

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| social | Russia | sure | relation |
| ambitious | partial | racial | mission |
| insure | interaction | cautious | official |
| tissue | nation | special | motion |
| institution | | | |

Repeat each sentence three times

Is she sure she shut the shop?

He shouted that he'd been shot in the shoulder.

The motion of the ship as they fished wasn't excessive.

Polish the shoes with the brush.

You should show more caution.