

AKHLAQ

(Ethics)

Lesson 1

Islamic Expressions

Learn the following phrases and when to use them:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Al-Hamdu Lilāh

To thank Allāh, when we finish our food and when we sneeze.



يَرْحَمُكَ اللَّهُ

Yarhamuk Allāh

Whenever we hear someone sneeze. If a girl sneezes, we should say Yarhamu Killāh

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

Subhān Allāh

When we see anything beautiful. Instead of 'Wow!'

فِي أَمَانٍ لِلَّهِ

Fi Amāni Lāh

When we are leaving. Instead of 'Bye!'

إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ

In shā Allāh

Whenever we plan to do something. For example,
'Tomorrow I will.... In shā Allāh!'

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ

Astaghfirullāh

When we do something bad or when we see someone
doing something bad.

Manners of Greeting Others and Talking

When we meet another Muslim, we should always first
say to them:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

As-Salāmu 'Alaykum

And when someone else says to us 'As-salām 'alaykum',
we should always reply:

وَ عَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَام

Wa 'alaykumu salām

When talking to others, especially our elders, we should always be polite. We should not say anything rude. We should never swear and we should also speak with a polite voice. We will learn more about not being rude in Lesson 6.

When we are sitting and an adult comes into the room, we should always stand up and greet them. When we want to leave the room, we should ask their permission before leaving the room.

Lesson 2

Exercises

Activity Ideas:

- Skit for when one sneezes and another person sneezes (saying Alhamdu Lilāh and Yarhamu kallāh/Yarhamu killāh), saying Inshā Allāh, Salām and Fi Amāni Lāh.
- Listen to the nasheed '**Sing Children of the World**' on the Teacher's DVD. The nasheed teaches 'SubhanAllāh', 'wal hamdulillah' and 'Allāhu Akbar'.
- Read the stories on Inshā Allāh in the Student Workbook (Abdullah and the Donkey).
- Listen to the nasheed '**I am a Muslim**' on the Teacher's DVD. This nasheed teaches 'Bismillah' and 'Alhamdulillah'.

Lesson 3

Entering & Leaving Home & Manners at the Masjid

When Leaving Home

- Make sure you have your parents' permission. Never go out without the permission of your mom or dad.
- If anyone is staying at home when you are going out, say 'Fi Amāni Lāh' to them before leaving. If your mum or dad is at home, hug them before leaving.
- Put your right foot out first.
- Say 'Bismillahir Rahmānir Rahim'. If you like, after saying Bismillah, you can also recite this short du'a to ask Allāh to protect you and keep you safe:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ . لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

Bismillāhi tawakkaltu 'alallāhi. Lā hawla walā
quwwata illa billāh

which means:

*In the name of Allāh, I put my trust in Allāh. There is
no ability or power except by Allāh's permission*

- Recite Ayāt al-Kursi and any short surahs you know like Surah al-Fātiha and the four 'Quls' (Surah Qul huwAllāhu Ahad, Surah Qul 'audhu bi Rabbin Nās,

Surah Qul ‘audhu bi Rabbi al-Falaq and Surah Qul ya ayyuhal kāfirun’).

- If you’re travelling to another place like going on a holiday or ziyārah, then give some money for the poor first. If you have a money box for sadaqa, you can put some money in it before leaving the house.
- When travelling, we should also recite this āyah of the Qur’ān for protection:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِي فَرَضَ عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ لَرَادُّكَ إِلَىٰ مَعَادٍ﴾

He (Allāh) Who has revealed to you the Qur’ān will bring you back to the place of return.

- Surah al-Qasas, 28:85

- Once we sit on the plane, train, bus or car or even if we are riding an animal, we should also recite this āyah of the Qur’ān for protection:

﴿سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ﴾

Glory be to the One (Allāh) Who gave us control of this, because we were not able to do so ourselves.

- Surah az-Zukhruf, 43:13

When Entering Home

- Put your right foot in first.
- Say ‘Bismillahir Rahmānir Rahim’.

- Then say ‘as-Salāmu ‘Alaykum’ loudly even if there is no one at home or no one can hear you.

Our home should be a happy and cheerful place and we should all try to make it a happy place by keeping it clean, listening to what our parents tell us to do, being nice to our brothers and sisters and welcoming our guests and making them feel comfortable.



When Visiting Other People’s Homes

- We must never enter anyone’s house without permission. We should wait for them to welcome us in.
- When we enter with permission, we should first greet the people inside by saying ‘as-Salāmu ‘Alaykum’.
- We should not be inquisitive or touch things we do not need to, when we are at someone’s house.
- We must not ask for food until it is given or offered to us. It is ok to ask for water if you are thirsty.
- We must not try to overhear when other people are talking. We must never open other people’s

letters, cupboards, bags or even walk around their house without permission. Allāh does not like people who interfere in other people's affairs.

When we are someone's guests,
we must be very well behaved.

Exercise: Read the story 'Ahmad visits his Friend' in the Student Workbook.

Manners at the Masjid

- Enter with the right foot and say 'Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim'. You can also say, 'Allāhummad khilni fi rahmatika' which means 'O Allāh, enter me into Your Mercy and Kindness.'
- Put your shoes in the shoe shelf. Do not leave them lying around where people can trip on them.
- When you enter the masjid, find a place to sit without blocking others. Sit straight without slouching. Do not stretch your legs and do not sit on the chairs or against the wall that may be needed by the elders.
- If there is salāh going on, do wudu and join the salāh as soon as possible.

- After salāh in the masjid, shake hands with those around you.
- When there is something being recited (like Qur'ān, adhān, dua, majlis, matam) do not talk to anyone. Keep silent. If it's urgent, speak very slowly in whispers.
- Wear your best clean clothes to the masjid.
- When you meet others, start by saying, 'as-Salāmu 'Alaykum'.
- Keep the masjid clean. Do not litter. If you see any litter, put it in the bin. If you spill anything, tell someone about it so they can help you clean it up.
- Keep the washrooms clean. Always flush after using the washroom.
- When food is being given out, wait to be given. If there are elders around you, don't push. Let them take some food first unless they ask you to. Don't fill your plate and then leave the food to go to waste.
- When leaving the masjid, say 'Fi Amānil Lāh' to those around you. Don't push anyone. If you see anyone behind you, hold the door for them. Leave with your left foot first.
- Don't forget to say 'Please' and 'Thank You' whenever you need to.



Every Masjid is a House of Allāh

Class Activity:

Listen to and sing along the nasheed: **Upsy Daisy, Now Don't Be Lazy, It's Time to Go to the Masjid** (see Fiqh Lesson 5 for the words).

Lesson 4

Keeping Promises

When you promise to do something, always try your best to do it. Not keeping a promise is like lying. Allāh does not like people who lie or break their promises.

When you promise someone, always say ‘Inshā Allāh’ and pray to Allāh to help you keep your promise.

If you promise someone and then cannot keep it, you should tell the person you are sorry and why you couldn’t keep your promise. For example, if you promise to go to someone’s house and then you forget, don’t keep quiet or make up a lie. Instead say you are sorry and try and do something good to make up for it.

If you know you won’t be able to keep a promise, then it is better to say politely, ‘I’m sorry, I cannot do it’ instead of promising and then breaking the promise.

Always remember that to fulfil a promise is wājib. No matter whether it is big or small or to whom it is made (Muslim or non-Muslim). So think before you promise!

Lesson 5

Always Say the Truth

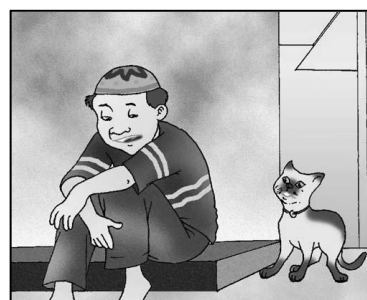
Allāh loves those who never lie and always say the truth. To say the truth requires us to be brave and courageous. People who lie are cowards because they are afraid to say the truth.

Always speaking the truth is called honesty. What is honesty? Honesty means never to cheat others. When we cheat others, we hide the truth from them. That is why cheating is the same as lying and honesty is the same as being truthful.

Ahmad the Honest Muslim Boy

Ahmad wanted to buy a soccer ball. His mother refused to give him money, but she said that he could save some of his pocket money and then buy his soccer ball.

One day, Ahmad's mother said: 'Ahmad! Go and buy a box of tea from Uncle Salim's store.'



'Yes mother!' said Ahmad. And off he went to Uncle Salim's convenience store down the street from where he lived.

Uncle Salim, the owner of the store, was an old man who could not see much without his glasses.

‘As-Salāmu ‘Alaykum, Uncle Sālim!’ said Ahmad. And Uncle Salim recognized Ahmad’s voice.

‘Wa ‘Alaykum Salām Dear Ahmad!’ said old Uncle Salim.

‘Can I have a box of tea please?’ asked Salim politely. And so Uncle Salim picked a box of tea and gave it to Ahmad. ‘Here you are my dear,’ he said.

Ahmad gives him a 5-dollar bill. Old Uncle Salim took the money and returned some change to Ahmad.

On the way back to home, Ahmad realized that the poor Uncle Salim had given him more change than he actually should have. He happily said, ‘Wow! Now I can buy the soccer ball without saving any more of my pocket money!’

But then he said to himself: ‘Hmm.. isn’t this dishonest? Am I not cheating poor old Uncle Salim who cannot see very well without his glasses?! But if I return the extra money, then what will happen to m..y.. s..o..c..c..e..r b..a..l..l??!’

While Ahmad was thinking about what to do, he remembered what his mother had once said: “Whenever you are in trouble, say ‘*A’udhu bil lāhi minash shaytānir rajim,*’ and shaytan will run away and Allāh will help you.”

And so Ahmad began thinking how Allāh was watching him to see what he would do and he recited, '*A'udhu bil lāhi minash shaytānir rajim*' and suddenly Ahmad could think more clearly. He decided to be truthful and honest and he ran back to the store and returned the extra change to Uncle Salim. Ahmad realized that keeping that money would mean stealing, and stealing is a great sin.

When Uncle Salim saw what Ahmad did, he was very happy. 'May Allāh bless you, my dear son!! Here, take this candy as a gift from me,' he said.

That evening, when his father returned from work, Ahmad told him the whole story. His father was very, very proud of his son. Ahmad's father took out some money from his wallet and said, 'Dear Ahmad, take this money as a gift for being honest and truthful. Tomorrow you can go and buy a soccer ball for yourself. May Allāh bless you, my son!'



So finally Ahmad did not have to wait any longer to get his soccer ball. Because he was honest and truthful, Allāh was happy with him and his parents were happy with him. Uncle Salim was happy with him and he felt good that he did not cheat anyone!

Prophet Muhammad (s) was known for his honesty. Even before he began preaching Islam and calling people

to worship Allāh, some people used to call him 'As-Sādiq' and other people called him 'Al-Amin'. **As-Sādiq** means 'The Truthful One' and **Al-Amin** means 'The Honest' or 'The Trustworthy'.

We, too, should always be honest, because that is what a good Muslim is like.

A TRUE MUSLIM IS NEVER DISHONEST. A TRUE MUSLIM NEVER LIES OR CHEATS OTHERS.



Islam teaches us to be brave and always to say the truth. Sometimes when we say the truth, others may get upset with us and even hate us. But if we love Allāh and Rasulullāh (s) and the Ahl al-Bayt (‘a), we should not be afraid to say the truth.

And sometimes we may even make mistakes in life. And then when our parents or others question us, we are afraid to say the truth. But we should be brave and say the truth. When we speak the truth, we become stronger and more courageous and Allāh loves the brave and the truthful.

In your Student Workbook, you can read the story called ‘The Caller to Truth’. It is about Abu Dhar, the brave and truthful companion of Prophet Muhammad (s).

Lesson 6

Always be Polite and Nice to Others

Everyone enjoys talking to others. But when we talk to others, we must always remember to be polite and nice and never to gossip especially about those who are not present.

Some people also blabber. Blabbering means to talk too much about things that are of no use or importance, without stopping.

You will notice that no one pays attention to a person who talks too much. As a result, they lose their respect. People try to avoid them because they know they will talk too much and a lot of it will be nonsense.

When a person talks too much, he is giving away all his secrets, and he does not even realize it.

Even when we are joking with our friends, we must be careful not to make fun of others and not to say lies in our jokes. That is why Imām Ali ('a)



has said, 'The heart of a fool is behind his tongue. But the tongue of a wise man is behind his heart.' This

means a fool talks without thinking but a wise person thinks carefully before talking.

Rudeness

To be rude means to talk or behave in a way that insults others, hurts their feelings or makes them feel bad. When we are not polite or respectful, we are being rude.

To be rude is a bad habit. It can make you lose your friends and may make people dislike you.

Sometimes people are rude and they do not even realise it.

Some examples of being rude are:

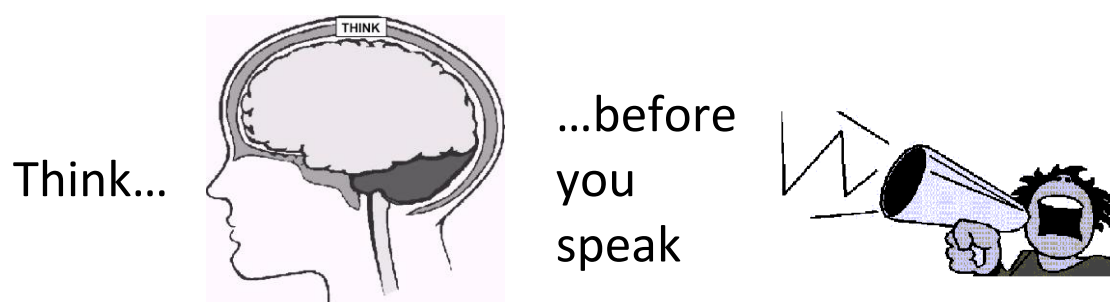


1. Answering back and arguing with your parents, teacher or elders.
2. Not listening when someone is talking to you.
3. Swearing or using other bad language even if you are angry.
4. Telling jokes that are dirty and crude.

We should never be rude because Allāh does not like it and we will lose our respect and our friends. No one likes rude people.

When we are angry and we cannot say anything nice, we should not say anything at all. Instead we should wait until we are no longer angry before deciding what to do.

When people first look at you, they may decide what kind of person you are by the way you are dressed. But their final feeling or impression about you will be based on *what* you say and *how* you say it.



When speaking, always speak about useful things, always speak the truth, and never say anything that will hurt someone else. Never say hurtful things or backbite anyone. Do not even listen to others who gossip and backbite.

Never hurt anyone's feelings even jokingly. Never use bad language.

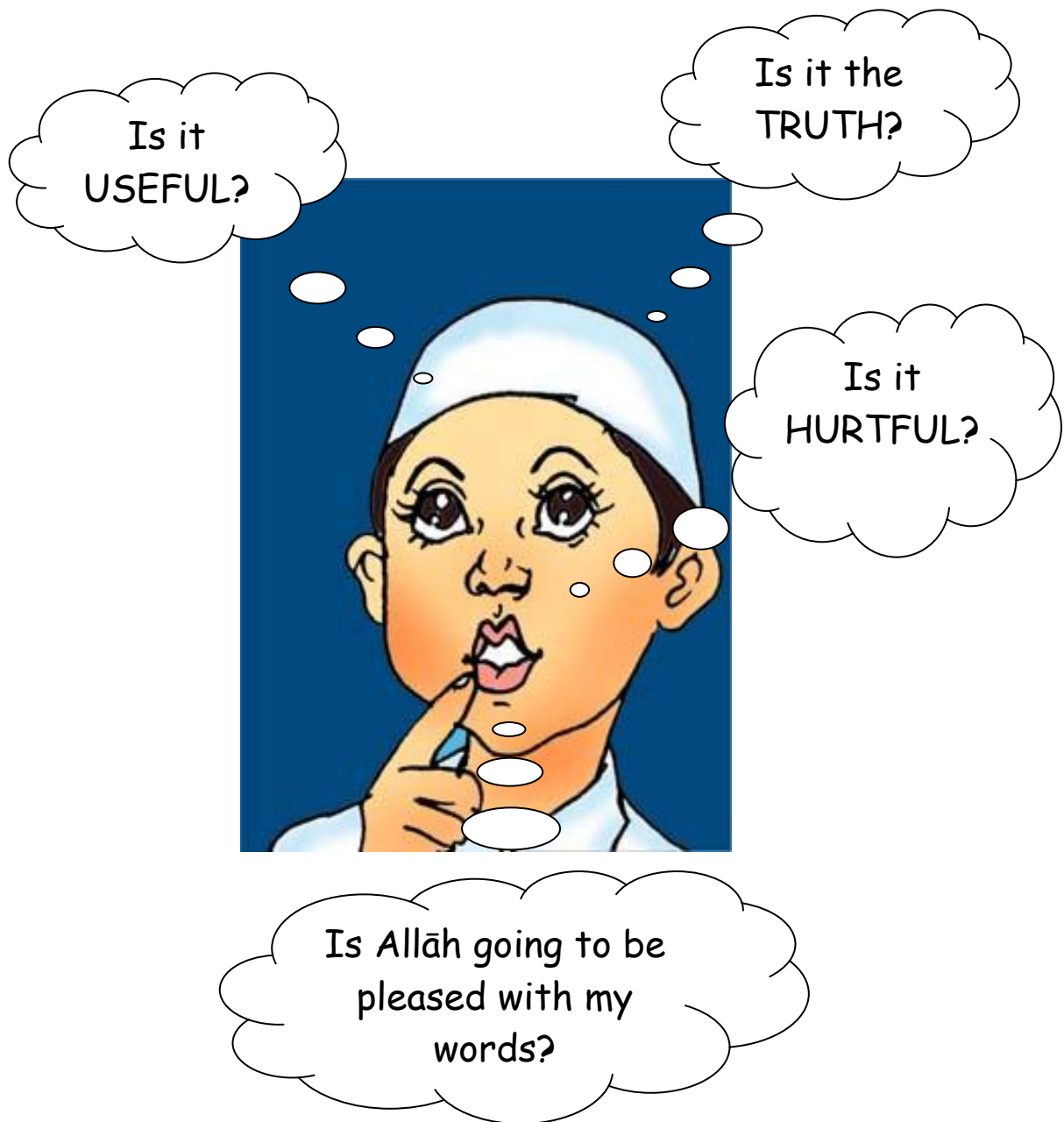
When you are not sure whether to say something or not, imagine Imām al-Mahdi (‘atfs) is standing next to you. What would you do?

What should we do when someone is rude to us? We should always be polite even when others are rude to us. If they are still rude, we can walk away. Some people are bad only because they don’t know the truth. Instead of fighting, you can change an ignorant person with your good manners. For example, read the story of the Ignorant Bedouin and Imām Hasan (‘a) in your Student Workbook.

THE MOUTH TEST

We know that it is polite to speak softly and clearly but we must also speak the truth and that which is useful.

Before you speak always take the Mouth Test:



Lesson 7

Allāh does not like those who Waste

﴿وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ﴾

...and eat and drink but do not be wasteful; He (Allāh) does not love the wasteful.

- Surah al-Ar'āf 7:31

In Arabic, wastefulness is called *isrāf*. Islam teaches us that it is harām to do *isrāf*. *Isrāf* means to waste something that other people need or can use. For example, when we leave the water running, we are doing *isrāf*. Allāh does not like it. Or when we put too much food in our plates and then we cannot finish the food and we have to throw it away, it is also *isrāf*. It is always better to put a little food first, finish it and then a little more if we are still hungry.

If we have lots of clothes and shoes and toys and then we still buy more and never use what we already have, that is also *isrāf*. The complete opposite of *isrāf* is to be a miser, which is also bad. A miser never spends on himself or on others.

Islam teaches us not to be a miser and not to be wasteful.

How Not to Do Isrāf

1. When you are eating, don't put so much food on your plate that you cannot finish.
2. When you drink water, don't fill the glass and drink half and then spill the rest. Water is very precious. In many parts of the world, people don't have clean water to drink. If you can keep the leftover water, always keep it and drink it later on. If you cannot drink it, use it somewhere else like watering a tree or plant in your backyard.
3. When you are showering or brushing or doing wudu, be careful not to use too much water or let the water run wastefully. Your teacher will teach you how to do wudu without wasting water.
4. When you have guests at home and there is a lot of food left over, instead of throwing the food, you can take it to a meal centre (also called soup kitchen) where poor people (like the homeless) can be given the food for free.
5. If you have extra cans of unopened food, you can donate it to a food bank.
6. If you have clothes, toys, furniture or anything in the house that you don't want but others can use, don't throw it in the garbage. If the masjid is collecting used items you can donate them there, or you can donate them to a thrift store or give it to others for free.
7. If you have things that are broken and cannot be used by others, instead of throwing it in the

garbage, first ask yourself: can this be recycled?
Always recycle if you can.

8. When you leave a room, always turn off the lights. Leaving the lights on, all over the house, is *isrāf*. If it is during the daytime, open the blinds or curtains to let the natural light come in.

Remember: Allāh loves everything that He has created. And He loves those who respect His creations such as the environment, animals, birds, and so on.