

## Text:1

### Prayer in Islam

Prayer is just one act amongst many acts of worship; it holds a very special place in Islam because of the way it was enjoined. It was not brought down to earth by an Angel rather it was bestowed upon Prophet Muhammad, may God praise him, during his unique ascension into the Heavens. Fifty prayers were first enjoined upon the believers but this was reduced to five, while the reward for prayer remains as if it were still fifty.<sup>1</sup> This reduction shows just how great God's love for humanity is, a few minutes throughout the day is rewarded as if it were continuous worship.

Muslims pray five times per day. If possible men should pray in a mosque or in a congregation of men. Women have the option of praying at home. The believers stand alone, or surrounded by others, they stand in their homes and workplaces, the parks and the mosques. They stand, bow, prostrate, and sit. Their voices are sometimes raised and sometimes silent, but the words remain the same. When a Muslim prays he or she addresses God in the Arabic language and uses the same words and movements as every other Muslim across the globe. Muslims unite in the ritual and language of prayer.

For prayer, Muslims stand facing the direction of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, where the Holy House of God, known as the Kaba is situated. If a person is ill or injured it is possible to pray sitting, or even lying down. The leader of the prayer known as an *imam*, is not an intermediary between the people and God; rather, he is usually the person able to recite the most Quran. Women may also pray with a congregation of women. When Muslims pray together they stand shoulder to shoulder. Their proximity to each other demonstrates unity. No one person is better than another except by his or her piety.

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Kings stand next to the poor, the white stand next to the black, Arabs stand beside Europeans. The believers then raise their hands to ear level and proclaim that God is the greatest. This indicates that the prayer has begun and that all matters related to this world are left far behind. The connection is made and in the few minutes, it takes to pray each person stands before God in full submission. Interestingly the Arabic word for prayer is *Salat* and it is derived from a root word that means to connect. Muslims then recite the opening chapter of the Quran and sometimes another chapter from Quran. They then go through a set of ritual movements bowing and then prostrating, all the while proclaiming God's greatness, glory and majesty.

In prostration, when the forehead touches the ground, the believer is closer to God than at any other time. There is now an opportunity to make supplication, asking God for help, mercy or forgiveness (this can be in any language). Towards the end of the prayer, Muslims sit to praise and ask God to bless Prophets Muhammad and Abraham. The prayer concludes with the words *Assalamu alaikum wa Rahmatullah* (May God's peace and blessings be upon you) spoken while turning the head towards the right and then the words are repeated while turning towards the left.

The prayer has now ended and the world comes rushing back. However, for those few minutes the believer was alone with God. Whether he or she was praying alone or within a congregation, the connection was between God and the individual. It was a moment of bliss, peace, and tranquillity. Prayer is a reminder and a comfort. Every hour of every day somewhere in the world, a Muslim is praying. The believer is seeking the comfort that comes from feeling close to God and the peace that comes from feeling God's love and mercy.

## **Introduction to verbs**

## **Past tense**

The past tense is used to describe an activity or an event that has happened in the past or a past state of being and needs to include a time marker for when the event or action took place.

Structural formula:

Subject + verb (2nd form) + object.

Examples:

- We met *yesterday*.
- He bought a new laptop *last week*.

## **Present tense**

The simple present tense or present tense is one of the most basic tenses in English. We use present tense to talk about something that is currently going on, something that is habitually performed, or a state that generally or currently exists.

Structural formula:

Subject + verb (s/es) + object.

Examples:

- She *lives* in Spain.
- Bob *drives* a taxi.

## **Future tense**

The future tense is a verb tense used to describe an event or action that has not yet happened and is expected to happen in the future. Structural formula, Subject + shall/will+ verb (s/es) + object.

Example:

- He *will* be here soon.

Now that we have understood the three main types of tenses, communicating in English with a native English speaker will become easier. But to make communication in English easier and simpler, we need to learn more about tenses.

Apart from the three main types of tenses - present, past, and future - there are different subtypes of tenses which are mentioned below.

## **Past continuous tense**

The past continuous tense is used to describe events or actions that have already occurred in the past. It's employed to describe any action which has happened in the past.

Structural formula:

Subject + helping verb (was/were) + verb (ing) + object.

Examples:

- I *was* watching TV.
- We *were* sleeping.
- She *wasn't* eating her lunch.

### **Past perfect tense**

The past perfect tense is used to describe an event that occurred before a completed action in the past.

Structural formula:

Subject + had + verb (ed) + object.

Examples:

- He *had gone* when she became ill.
- She *had not lived* in New York.
- *They had not been married long when I was born.*

### **Past perfect continuous tense**

The past perfect continuous tense represents any action or event that started in the past and sometimes continued into another action or another time.

Structural formula:

Subject + had been + Verb (ing) + object (optional) + time of action.

Examples:

- *We had been playing games for 6 hours when Dad came home.*
- *She had been reading magazines for 1 month before she decided to apply for the job.*
- *Had she been washing dishes all day?*

### **Present continuous tense**

The present continuous tense is used to talk about the ongoing actions, events, or conditions that are still not finished.

Structural formula:

Subject + helping verb (is / am/ are) + main verb (ing) + object.

Examples:

- She *is playing* basketball.
- Birds *are flying* in the sky.
- I'm *learning* English.

### **Present perfect tense**

The present perfect tense is used to describe a situation or event that has already occurred but has immediate ramifications. The present perfect tense can be used to describe experiences, and situations that occurred in the past but still have an influence on the present. We don't use it with time markers.

Structural formula:

Subject + helping verb (have/has) + verb (ed) + object.

Examples:

- She *has not finished* her work yet.
- I *have seen* that movie twice.
- We *have visited* LA several times.

### **Present perfect continuous tense**

The present perfect continuous tense shows a situation that has started in the past and continues in the present.

Structural formula:

Subject + helping verb (have/has) + been + verb (ing) + object (optional) + since / for + time duration + object.

Examples:

- I *have been learning* English for many years.
- He *has been working* here since 2010.
- We *have been saving* money.

### **Future continuous tense**

The future continuous tense is used to describe an ongoing action that will occur or occur in the future.

Structural formula:

Subject + shall/will be + verb (ing) + object.

Example:

- He *will be coming* to visit us next week.
- She *will be watching* TV.
- He *will be writing* a letter to Mary.

### **Future perfect tense**

The future perfect is used to describe an action that will be completed between now and a certain point in the future.

Structural formula:

Subject + shall/will + have + verb (3rd form) + object.

Examples:

- *They will have finished the film before we get home.*
- *She will have cleaned the house by 9pm.*

### **Future perfect continuous tense**

We use the future perfect continuous to focus on the duration of an action before a specific time in the future.

Structural formula:

Subject + shall/will + have been + verb (ing) + object (optional) + time instant.

Examples:

- He will have been studying hard for 2 weeks before the exam.
- *By the time the alarm goes off, we will have been sleeping for 8 hours.*

### **Examples of tenses in English**

<b>Tense</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>Future</b>
Simple	He rides a bike	He rode a bike	He will ride a bike
Continuous	He is riding a bike	He was riding a bike	He will be riding a bike

Perfect	He has ridden a bike	He had ridden a bike	He will have ridden a bike
Perfect continuous	He has been riding a bike since the morning	He had been riding a bike since 8 am	He will have been riding a bike at 8 am tomorrow

<u>tense</u>	<u>Affirmative/Negative/Question</u>	<u>Signal Words</u>
<u>Simple Present</u>	A: He speaks. N: He does not speak. Q: Does he speak?	always, every ..., never, normally, often, seldom, sometimes, usually if sentences type I (If I talk, ...)
<u>Present Progressive</u>	A: He is speaking. N: He is not speaking. Q: Is he speaking?	at the moment, just, just now, Listen!, Look!, now, right now
<u>Simple Past</u>	A: He spoke. N: He did not speak. Q: Did he speak?	yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday if sentence type II (If I talked, ...)
<u>Past Progressive</u>	A: He was speaking. N: He was not speaking. Q: Was he speaking?	while, as long as
<u>Present Perfect Simple</u>	A: He has spoken. N: He has not spoken. Q: Has he spoken?	already, ever, just, never, not

**Present Perfect Progressive**

A: He has been speaking.  
N: He has not been speaking.  
Q: Has he been speaking?

yet, so far,  
till now, up  
to now

all day, for  
4 years,  
since 1993,  
how long?,  
the whole  
week

**Past Perfect Simple**

A: He had spoken.  
N: He had not spoken.  
Q: Had he spoken?

already,  
just, never,  
not yet,  
once, until  
that day  
if sentence  
type III (If I  
had  
talked, ...)

**Past Perfect Progressive**

A: He had been speaking.  
N: He had not been speaking.  
Q: Had he been speaking?

for, since,  
the whole  
day, all day

**Future I Simple**

A: He will speak.  
N: He will not speak.  
Q: Will he speak?

in a year,  
next ...,  
tomorrow  
If-Satz Typ  
I (If you  
ask her, she  
will help  
you.)  
assumption:  
I think,  
probably,  
perhaps

**Future I Simple**

(going to)

A: He is going to speak.  
N: He is not going to speak.  
Q: Is he going to speak?

in one year,  
next week,  
tomorrow

**Future I Progressive**

A: He will be speaking.

in one year,





As a guide, the following definitions and table summarize the basic use of articles. Continue reading for a more detailed explanation of the rules and for examples of how and when to apply them.

### **Definite article**

**the** (before a singular or plural noun)

### **Indefinite article**

**a** (before a singular noun beginning with a consonant sound)

**an** (before a singular noun beginning with a vowel sound)

Count nouns - refers to items that can be counted and are either singular or plural

Non-count nouns - refers to items that are not counted and are always singular

	COUNT NOUNS	NON-COUNT NOUNS
<b>Rule #1</b> Specific identity not known	<i>a, an</i>	(no article)
<b>Rule #2</b> Specific identity known	<i>the</i>	<i>the</i>
<b>Rule #3</b> All things <i>or</i> things in general	(no article)	(no article)

For the purposes of understanding how articles are used, it is important to know that nouns can be either **count** (can be counted) or **noncount** (indefinite in quantity and cannot be counted). In addition, count nouns are either **singular** (one) or **plural** (more than one). **Noncount** nouns are always in **singular** form.

For example, if we are speaking of water that has been spilled on the table, there can be one drop (**singular**) or two or more drops (**plural**) of water on the table. The word *drop* in this example is a **count** noun because we can count the number of drops. Therefore, according to the rules applying to **count** nouns, the word *drop* would use the articles *a* or *the*.

However, if we are speaking of water in general spilled on the table, it would not be appropriate to count *one water* or *two waters* -- there would simply be *water* on the table. Water is a **noncount** noun. Therefore, according to the rules applying to **noncount** nouns, the word *water* would use *no article* or *the*, but not *a*.

Following are the three specific rules which explain the use of definite and indefinite articles.

**Rule #1 - Specific identity not known: Use the indefinite article *a* or *an* only with a singular count noun whose specific identity is not known to the reader. Use *a* before**

**nouns that begin with a consonant sound, and use an before nouns that begin with a vowel sound.**

- Use the article *a* or *an* to indicate any non-specified member of a group or category.

*I think **an** animal is in the garage*

*That man is **a** scoundrel.*

*We are looking for **an** apartment.*

- Use the article *a* or *an* to indicate one in number (as opposed to more than one).

*I own **a** cat and two dogs.*

- Use the article *a* before a consonant sound, and use *an* before a vowel sound.

***a** boy, **an** apple*

◇ Sometimes an adjective comes between the article and noun:

***an** unhappy boy, **a** red apple*

- The plural form of *a* or *an* is *some*. Use *some* to indicate an unspecified, limited amount (but more than one).

***an** apple, **some** apples*

**Rule #2 - Specific identity known: Use the definite article *the* with any noun (whether singular or plural, count or noncount) when the specific identity of the noun is known to the reader, as in the following situations:**

- Use the article *the* when a particular noun has already been mentioned previously.

*I ate **an** apple yesterday. **The** apple was juicy and delicious.*

- Use the article *the* when an adjective, phrase, or clause describing the noun clarifies or restricts its identity.

***The** boy sitting next to me raised his hand.*

*Thank you for **the** advice you gave me.*

- Use the article *the* when the noun refers to something or someone that is unique.

***the** theory of relativity*

***the** 2003 federal budget*

**Rule #3 - All things or things in general: Use *no article* with plural count nouns or any noncount nouns used to mean *all* or *in general*.**

*Trees are beautiful in the fall.* (All trees are beautiful in the fall.)  
*He was asking for advice.* (He was asking for advice in general.)  
*I do not like coffee.* (I do not like all coffee in general.)

### **Additional Information Regarding the Use of Articles**

- When indicating an unspecified, limited amount of a **count** or **noncount** noun, use *some*.

*My cousin was seeking some advice from a counselor* (not advice in general or advice about everything, but a limited amount of advice).

*I would love some coffee right now* (not coffee in general, but a limited amount of coffee).

*We might get rain tomorrow.* Some rain would be good for the crops (a certain amount of rain, as opposed to rain in general).

*There are some drops of water on the table* (a limited number, but more than one drop).

- **Noncount nouns** are those which usually cannot be counted. Following are some common examples:

◇ **Certain food and drink items:** bacon, beef, bread, broccoli, butter, cabbage, candy, cauliflower, celery, cereal, cheese, chicken, chocolate, coffee, corn, cream, fish, flour, fruit, ice cream, lettuce, meat, milk, oil, pasta, rice, salt, spinach, sugar, tea, water, wine, yogurt

◇ **Certain nonfood substances:** air, cement, coal, dirt, gasoline, gold, paper, petroleum, plastic, rain, silver, snow, soap, steel, wood, wool

◇ **Most abstract nouns:** advice, anger, beauty, confidence, courage, employment, fun, happiness, health, honesty, information, intelligence, knowledge, love, poverty, satisfaction, truth, wealth

◇ **Areas of study:** history, math, biology, etc.

◇ **Sports:** soccer, football, baseball, hockey, etc.

◇ **Languages:** Chinese, Spanish, Russian, English, etc.

◇ **Other:** clothing, equipment, furniture, homework, jewelry, luggage, lumber, machinery, mail, money, news, poetry, pollution, research, scenery, traffic, transportation, violence, weather, work

◇ **Use *the* with:** united countries, large regions, deserts, peninsulas, oceans, seas, gulfs, canals, rivers, mountain ranges, groups of islands

*the Gobi Desert*

*the United Arab Emirates*

*the Sacramento River*  
*the Aleutians*

◇ **Do not use *the* with:** streets, parks, cities, states, counties, most countries, continents, bays, single lakes, single mountains, islands

*Japan*  
*Chico*  
*Mt. Everest*  
*San Francisco Bay*

### **Examples of the Use of Articles**

*I do not want **a** gun in my house (any gun).*

***The** gun is in his closet (implies there is a specific gun).*

*I am afraid of guns (all guns in general).*

*She sent me **a** postcard from Italy (an unspecific postcard - not a letter, not an e-mail).*

*It's **the** postcard that I have in my office (one specific postcard).*

*Getting postcards makes me want to travel (any postcard in general).*

*I have **a** dog (one dog).*

***The** dog is very friendly (the dog that I have already mentioned).*

*Dogs make great pets (dogs in general).*

*Greta needs furniture in her apartment (furniture is a noncount noun).*

*She is going to select **the** furniture that she needs (the specific furniture that she needs).*

*She hopes to find **some** furniture this weekend (an unspecified, limited amount of furniture).*