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**Pillars, Obligatory and Sunnah  
parts of the Salah**

**Salah consists of obligatory and non obligatory actions.  
It is important to know these, as some actions being omitted would  
render the salah not being accepted.**

### **Pillars**

A pillar cannot be waived, either deliberately or by mistake. The Salah is not complete if a Pillar is omitted.

### **Obligatory Actions**

An obligatory part is waived if one forgets, and it can be compensated for by doing the prostration of forgetfulness (sujood al-sahw).

### **Sunnah words of Salah**

The prayer is not invalidated if one omits one of these actions, even if that is done deliberately, unlike the pillars and obligatory parts.

### **Sunnah actions of Salah**

The prayer is not invalidated if one omits one of these actions, even if that is done deliberately, unlike the pillars and obligatory parts.

### Pillars (1 of 2)

1. Standing during obligatory prayers if one is able to do so.
2. The opening takbeer (saying “Allaahu akbar”).
3. Reciting al-Faatihah in every unit of prayer.
4. Rukoo’ (bowing), the least of which means bending so that the hands can touch the knees, but the most complete form means making the back level and the head parallel with it.
5. Rising from bowing.
6. Standing up straight.
7. Sujood (prostration), the most perfect form of which is placing the forehead, nose, palms, knees and toes firmly on the ground, and the least of which is placing a part of each of these on the ground.
8. Rising from prostration.
9. Sitting between the two prostrations. However one sits is good enough, but the Sunnah is to sit on the left foot and holding the right foot upright with the toes pointing towards the qiblah.
10. Being at ease in each of these physical pillars.
11. The final tashahhud.

### Pillars (2 of 2)

12. Sitting to recite the final tashahhud and the two salaams.
13. The two salaams. This means saying twice, “al-salaamu ‘alaykum wa rahmat-Allaah (Peace be upon you and the mercy of Allaah).”
14. Doing the pillars in the order mentioned here. If a person deliberately prostrates before bowing, for example, the prayer is invalidated; if he does that by mistake, he has to go back and bow, and then prostrate.

### Remember

A pillar cannot be waived, either deliberately or by mistake. The Salah is not complete if a Pillar is omitted.

## Obligatory Actions

1. Takbeers other than the opening takbeer. (Saying 'Allaahu Akbar)
2. Saying "Sami'a Allaahu liman hamidah (Allaah hears those who praise Him)".
3. Saying "Rabbana wa laka'l-hamd (Our Lord, to You be praise)".
4. Saying "Subhaana rabbiy al-'azeem (Glory be to my Lord Almighty)" once when bowing.
5. Saying "Subhaana rabbiy al-a'laa (Glory be to my Lord most High)" once when prostrating.
6. Saying "Rabb ighfir li (Lord forgive me)" between the two prostrations.
7. The first tashahhud.
8. Sitting for the first tashahhud.

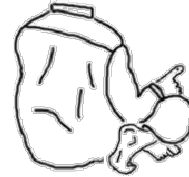
## Sunnah words of Salah

1. Saying after the opening takbeer, “Subhaanaka Allaahumma wa bi hamdika, wa tabaaraka ismuka, wa ta’aala jadduka wa laa ilaaha ghayruka (Glory and praise be to You, O Allaah; blessed be Your name, exalted be Your Majesty, and there is no god but You).” This is called du’aa’ al-istiftaah (opening du’aa’).
2. Seeking refuge with Allaah.
3. Saying Bismillaah.
4. Saying Ameen.
5. Reciting a soorah after al-Faatihah.
6. Reciting out loud, in the case of the imam.
7. Saying the tasbeeh when bowing more than once, such as a second or third time or more.
8. Saying the tasbeeh in prostration more than once.
9. Saying “Rabb ighfir li (Lord forgive me)” more than once between the two prostrations.
10. Sending prayers upon the family of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) in the last tashahhud and sending blessings upon him and upon them, and saying du’aa’ after that.

### Sunnah actions of Salah (1 of 2)

1. Raising the hands when saying the opening takbeer.
2. Raising the hands when bowing.
3. Raising the hands when rising from bowing.
4. Dropping them after that.
5. Placing the right hand over the left.
6. Looking towards the place of prostration.
7. Standing with the feet apart.
8. Holding the knees with fingers spread apart when bowing, holding the back straight and making the head parallel with it.
9. Placing the parts of the body on which one prostrates firmly on the ground.
10. Keeping the elbows away from the sides, and the belly from the thighs, and the thighs from the calves; keeping the knees apart; holding the feet upright; holding the toes apart on the ground; placing the hands level with the shoulders with the fingers spread.

11. Sitting mutawarrikan in the second tashahhud.



12. Placing the hands on the thighs with the fingers together between the two prostrations, and in the tashahhud, except that in the latter the thumb and ring fingers should be held in, a circle made with the middle finger and thumb, and one should point with the forefinger when remembering Allaah.

13. Turning to the right and left when saying the salaam.



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