

What does it mean to be Muslim in Britain today?

Key Vocabulary

ibadah	Worship and belief in action	Shi'a Muslims	Muslims who believe that Ali should have been the prophet Mohammed's successor
Sunni Muslims	The largest denomination of Muslims (87–90%), who believe that Mohammed's father in law, Abu Bakr was the prophet's successor	Sadaqah	Voluntary charity
denomination	A type or branch of a certain faith	Abu Bakr	Father in law of the prophet Muhammed



Key Knowledge

The word *Islam* is an Arabic word related to *Salam* which means peace. Islam is the peace that comes from obeying the will of God. The word *Muslim* is also an Arabic word which means someone who obeys the will of God.

Allah means 'The God' and is singular, not plural. This reflects the Muslim belief that there is only One God. Allah is the name that Muslims use for God.

Muhammad is the name of the Arabic man who lived about 1,500 years ago) in Arabia and became the prophet of Islam. Many Muslims add the letters pbuh which stand for 'Peace and Blessings Upon Him' after his name.

Muhammad's (pbuh) messages were all written down and collected together. The book that they are written in is called the Holy Qur'an. It is written in Arabic, the language in which it was revealed, but it has been translated into many other languages.

Muslims have five rules which are most important. These come from the Qur'an and the actions of Muhammad (pbuh). They are often called The Five Pillars of Islam:

Muslims pray on their own and together. When they pray together they often go to the Mosque.

Islam is one of the biggest religions in the world today. There are Muslims in most countries and Britain is no exception. There are around 2 million British Muslims.



Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam, where all Muslims are required to perform a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia at least once in their life time. They have to be fit and financially secure in order to go, if they can't someone may go on their behalf.

The Five Pillars of Islam

These are the five most important duties for Muslims.



Zakah (sometimes seen as Zakat) refers to making an annual charitable donation to help the poor.