



EMPOWER | EDUCATE | ELEVATE

# Muslimaats

## The Shahadah – Embracing Islam

Your First Step into a Life of  
Faith, Peace, and Submission to Allah

اللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ  
وَعَلَى سَائِرِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

الشّهادة

KNOW  
+  
BELIEVE  
+  
LIVE  
+  
LOVE  
+  
SUBMIT

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE | A LIFELONG JOURNEY | A PURPOSEFUL LIFE

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# The Shahadah

## What it is and why it matters

The Shahadah is the testimony of faith. It is the first pillar of Islam: a person enters Islam by sincerely testifying that Allah alone is worthy of worship and that Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allah.

### The core belief

Islam teaches tawhid: worship Allah alone, without partners. The Qur'an says: "Know that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah" (Qur'an 47:19).

### A sincere beginning

Taking Shahadah is simple. It does not require a ceremony, a certificate, or perfect pronunciation. What matters is that you understand, believe, and say it sincerely.

- Knowledge: understand the meaning of the words.
- Certainty: believe the truth of the testimony.
- Sincerity: say it for Allah, not for pressure or show.
- Acceptance: begin your journey as a Muslim step by step.

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The words of faith

# What to Say

Arabic, transliteration, and meaning

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا  
رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

**Ash-hadu an la ilaha illa Allah,  
wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan rasul Allah.**

I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.

### Say it slowly

You may repeat after someone, read it from this page, or say the meaning in a language you understand. Arabic is the traditional wording, but sincerity and belief are the essential matters.

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Reassurance for new Muslims

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# If You Make a Mistake

Allah knows what is in the heart

### Do not worry

New Muslims are learning. If the pronunciation is difficult, repeat the words calmly and ask a trusted Muslim to help you practise.

### Meaning matters

The purpose is to knowingly and sincerely testify to the truth. You are not expected to speak Arabic perfectly on your first day.

### Take your time

After Shahadah, continue learning step by step. Good teachers and supportive Muslim sisters can help you grow with confidence.

**Allah is Most Merciful and Most Kind.**

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Taking your Shahadah

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# Simple Steps

A calm way to embrace Islam

- 1 Make your intention**  
In your heart, intend to accept Islam for the sake of Allah alone.
- 2 Understand the meaning**  
Know that you are accepting the oneness of Allah and the messengership of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.
- 3 Say the Shahadah**  
Say the words clearly, sincerely, and with conviction. You can say them alone, with a friend, at a mosque, or with a teacher.

### Simple checklist

- I understand the meaning.
- I believe it sincerely.
- I am ready to begin as a Muslim.

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Community and support

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# Witnesses and Certificates

Helpful, but not what makes Islam valid

### Witnesses

Witnesses are helpful for community support and official records. Scholarly sources state that witnesses are not a condition for the Shahadah to be valid.

### Certificates

A certificate is not required to become Muslim. It may be useful later for marriage, Hajj/Umrah arrangements, or community records.

### Where to go

If you want witnesses or a certificate, contact a local mosque, Islamic centre, or recognised new Muslim support organisation.

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Your first days as a Muslim

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# After Shahadah

Begin gently and keep going

### 1. Learn how to pray

Start with the basic movements and words of salah. Learn step by step.

### 2. Keep close to the Qur'an

Read a reliable translation and listen to recitation. Begin with short chapters and simple meanings.

### 3. Find good company

Connect with kind, trustworthy Muslim sisters, a local mosque, or a new Muslim support group.

- Ask questions without embarrassment.
- Keep learning from authentic teachers and books.
- Avoid harshness and rushing too many changes at once.

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Gentle reminders

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# Common Questions

Simple answers for new Muslims

### **Do I need to change my name?**

No, not unless your name has a clearly bad or un-Islamic meaning.

### **Do I need to be perfect?**

No. Islam is a lifelong journey. Begin with belief, prayer, learning, and sincere repentance when you make mistakes.

### **What about family and friends?**

Be wise, patient, and respectful. Seek support from trusted Muslims, especially if you are worried about safety or pressure.

### **Can I take Shahadah privately?**

Yes. If public declaration may cause hardship, speak with a trusted imam or new Muslim mentor for personal advice.

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Checked sources

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# Sources Checked

## Primary texts and trusted guidance

- Qur'an 47:19, translation on Quran.com: "there is no god worthy of worship except Allah." <https://quran.com/muhammad/19>
- Hadith: Islam is built on five pillars, beginning with the testimony of faith. Sunnah.com, Forty Hadith an-Nawawi, Hadith 3. <https://sunnah.com/nawawi40:3>
- IslamQA: "How to Become a Muslim" explains that one should pronounce the Shahadah with conviction. <https://islamqa.info/en/answers/11819>
- IslamQA: "Conditions of La ilaha illa-Allah" outlines knowledge, certainty, acceptance, submission, truthfulness, sincerity, and love. <https://islamqa.info/en/answers/12295>
- SeekersGuidance: witnesses are not required for the Shahadah to be valid, though they can be useful for community and records. <https://seekersguidance.org/answers/calling-to-islam/does-taking-shahada-require-witnesses/>
- New Beginnings: guidance on declaring faith and taking first steps. <https://beginnings.org.uk/shahadah/>
- London Central Mosque / Islamic Cultural Centre: practical conversion service and certificate support. <https://www.iccuk.org/page.php?page=conversion&section=nmp>

### Important

This guide is intentionally simple. For personal circumstances, certificates, marriage, family issues, or safety concerns, speak to a trusted local imam, scholar, or new Muslim support organisation.