

My Salah

The **pillars (arkaan)** are that which if one fails to perform any of them out of forgetfulness or intentionally, his prayer is rendered invalid because of his abandoning it.

Sujood as Sahuw will not make up for someone neglecting one of these pillars – even out of forgetfulness. If, for example, someone realizes during the third rak'ah of the 'Isha prayer that he left out a rukun (pillar) during each of the first two rak'ah, then he must make up those first two rak'ah.

Additionally, before taslim, he should make Sujood as Sahuw. But if he were to say, "I'll just make Sujood as Sahuw at the end" and not make up those first two rak'ah in which he left off a rukun, then his prayer would be null and void.

The **obligatory (waajibaat)** are that which if one fails to perform any of them intentionally, his prayer is rendered invalid due to his abandoning it, but if he leaves any of them due to forgetfulness, he is obligated to perform the (extra) prostrations for forgetfulness.

The Wajibaat (obligatory) matters are similar to the Arkaan (pillars) in that they cannot be left off on purpose. However, the wajibaat are different in that if left off unintentionally (out of forgetfulness), Sujood as Sahuw at the end make up for it; whereas the neglected arkaan (pillars) must be repeated even if unintentionally left off.

Everything mentioned in the manners of Salat, apart from the conditions of Salat and its essential and compulsory parts, are all recommended acts. Omitting any of this does not affect the validity of Salat; and it is not mandatory to prostrate due to forgetting when any of them is left out.

Checklist – Test Your Salah

The pillars of prayer, of which there are fourteen	
1. Standing during obligatory prayers if one is able to do so	
2. The opening takbeer (saying "Allaahu akbar")	
3. Reciting al-Faatihah	
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)	
8. Rising from prostration	
9. Sitting between the two prostrations.	
10. Being at ease in each of these physical pillars	
11. The final tashahhud	
12. Sitting to recite the final tashahhud, prayer on the Prophet 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.	

The obligatory parts of prayer, of which there are eight,

1. Takbeers other than the opening takbeer	
2. Saying "Sami'a Allaahu liman hamidah (Allaah hears those who praise Him" – for the imam and for the one who is praying alone.	
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	

Some recommended (Sunnah) actions of prayer

1. Al-Istiftah: It is the invocation said (silently) before reciting Fatiha. 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)."	
2. At-Ta'awuzz: It is by saying: "A`udhu billahi minas-Shaytanir-Rajeem."	
3. Al-Basmalah: It is by saying: "Bismillahir- Rahmanir-Raheem."	
4. Any at-tasbeeh (e.g. subhana rabbiyal a' la) said after the first one during bowing and prostration.	
5. Saying: "Rabbighfirli" other than the first one, in between prostrations.	
6. Whatever is said after "Rabbana wa lakal hamdu" while rising from bowing position.	
7. Any (i.e. any Surah) recited after Fatiha.)"prostrating	
8. Raising the hands while saying the initiating Takbeer, just before bowing, rising from bowing and when rising to perform the third rak'ah.	
9. Casting the gaze towards the point of prostration.	
10.Keeping the arms away from the stomach and one's sides during prostration.	

There are some differences of opinion among the fuqaha' regarding some of these issues; what is regarded as obligatory by some is regarded as Sunnah by others. This is discussed in detail in the books of fiqh.

And Allaah knows best.

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