



MINDING THE TONGUE

SOCIAL ISLAM

LEVEL 1

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Understand that Allah (SWT) Has given us a unique ability to speak and write
- Be reminded that we should be thankful to Him for this gift by using it wisely
- List the number of sins and good things one can do through speech
- Understand that we have to be careful as to what we say

Minding the Tongue

Can animals speak and write? Can plants speak and write? Can insects speak and write? Can **humans** speak and write? That's right, we can. Allah (SWT) has given us the unique (special) ability to speak and write! Our ability to talk is what makes us special in comparison to all the other creations of Allah (SWT).

Imagine it was your birthday and your parents buy you a really special, expensive present like a brand new mobile phone. Do you think they would be happy if you did not take care of it? Would they be happy if, for example, you threw it around and scratched it? I don't think they would be happy. In the same way, Allah (SWT) has given us the valuable gift of being able to talk and he trusts us to use it wisely & carefully. This means never to lie, not to talk badly about others, not to swear but instead we should use our tongues to praise Allah (SWT), to spread goodness and say good things to people.

By using our tongues the right way, we would be thanking Allah (SWT) for this beautiful gift he has given us. Allah (SWT) will be very pleased with us if we use our tongue in the right way.

Let's think of some ways we can use our tongues in the **RIGHT** way. Here are some to help you:



We should use our tongues to **praise Allah (SWT)** for e.g. saying 'Alhamdulillah' (which means Praise to God), and saying 'Shukran lillah' (which means Thanks to Allah). We should also say 'Bismillah' before starting anything.

We can use our tongues by **sending blessings** upon our Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and his family (reciting Salwat).

We can be **polite** when we talk to others for e.g. using magic words such as 'please' and 'thank you'.

We should say **good** things to people for e.g. if you like your mum's food then tell her or if your friend looks nice then tell her she looks nice. (Think about how happy it would make you if someone told you something nice – wouldn't you want to make someone happy just like that?)

Can you think of any other ways?

Now let us think of ways that we should **NOT** use our tongues: Here are some to help you – can you think of more?



We should **NOT** swear or say bad words!

We should **NOT** backbite. Backbiting is when someone talks badly about someone else behind their back. Even if what is said is true, it is not allowed in Islam.

We should **NEVER** lie! Lying & not telling the truth is also not allowed in Islam. Therefore, we can thank Allah (SWT) for our special gift by always telling the truth!

WE CAN'T TAKE OUR WORDS BACK...

The hardest and most important way of minding our tongue is to be careful what we say. For example, sometimes we say things that we do not mean. This may happen because we are angry or sad and not thinking straight. Even though we don't mean it, it can be very hurtful to the person we say bad things to; and remember, words are something we can *never* take back. This story about a young woman will help you understand better:

There was once a lady who said something very hurtful to her best friend. She said it when she was angry and didn't mean it. A little while later, she felt very bad and wished she could take her words back. With this in mind, she visited a wise lady in the village. She told the old lady "I have really upset and hurt my best friend and said things to her I would like to take back now. Please tell me how I can take back what I said".

The old lady said to her "There are two things you can do to undo this; the first of which is very hard" The old lady continued "Tonight, after everybody is asleep, take feathers from your pillow and place one feather on each doorstep of every house in the village. Once you've done that come to me and I'll tell you the second thing to do".

So that night, this young woman, set out to do exactly as the old woman had ordered. It was cold and very windy making it very hard for the young woman to place all feathers. The feathers were flying away almost as soon as she was placing them on the doorstep. After a lot of effort, she completed the task given to her and went back to the old lady the next morning.

She arrived at the old woman's house and told her "I've completed the first task, now please tell me what else I have to do?" The old woman looked at her and said "Now go back to town and collect all those feathers and refill your pillows again".

The young woman was surprised! She told the old woman "that's impossible! The wind blew away every feather as soon as I placed them on each doorstep. Oh, now things will *never* be the same".

"That's true", said the older, wiser woman. "Never forget. Each of your words is like a feather in the wind. Once spoken, no amount of effort, regardless how heartfelt or sincere, can ever return them to your mouth. Choose your words well, and guard them most of all in the presence of those you love, because remember one kind word can warm three winter months."

Activity

Using these notes, make a poster to stick up on your wall which will remind you ways in which you **SHOULDN'T** use your tongue; for example we shouldn't lie. Make sure you include pictures and colours to make it interesting!