



# Social Independence

SOCIAL ISLAM

LEVEL 2

## Objectives >>>

### Students should:

- Understand that Islam encourages us to be independent in our personal and social needs, where possible
- Discuss some examples of independence in personal and social needs
- Understand that when it comes to Allah (SWT), we should ask Him for all our needs
- Understand that sometimes, especially when we are young, we do NEED help and in such cases we shouldn't be stubborn
- Discuss the best people to ask for help

## Being Independent

Most of the time, when we want to do something and someone else is around we ask him or her for a favour. For example if I wanted the remote control and my sister was sitting next to me I will ask her: "can you please pass me the remote". Or if we needed something from another room and someone stood up to get something else we will quickly ask them to 'do us a favour' and bring what we need.

### Class Activity:

In the table below draw or write 5 things that you usually ask people to do for you e.g. "Get me a tissue". If you think you can do this on your own tick the box.


	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have ticked most of the boxes you will see that most of the time we do not need other people's help - rather we are just lazy and like to rely on others.

In Islam Allah (SWT) likes us to be independent. Being independent means that we do our own jobs and don't always ask others to do them for us.

### Story: Let's Hide

There were once three friends, Alex, Peter and Ali. They met each other when they were in year 2 and were now in year 4. They used to do everything together, go to school, play soccer and go to each other's houses.

However as they got older they realised that Alex was starting to become quite lazy. He would always ask his friends to do almost everything for him. Get my bag, do my homework, get my ball, pass me a drink, change the channel...and so on.



After a while both Peter and Ali started to get bothered by Alex. They felt that every time they were together they would have to act like slaves for him and always do him favours.

So one day Ali and Peter spoke over the phone and came up with a plan to hide from Alex the next day at school so that he would not ask them to do anything for him.

They managed to hide up until lunch time. It was then that Alex noticed they were ignoring him. He came up to his friends and asked why they were doing this? They told him that they were getting annoyed by always having to do things for him that he could do himself.

He then apologised for being lazy and promised that he would only ask for help if he really needed it.

They played together for the rest of lunch time.

We can learn from this story that people, even our best friends, will get very annoyed from us if we are always asking them for favours and we may then lose our friends or they may not like to play with us.



### DON'T BE STUBBORN

It is important to know that being independent does not mean that we should be stubborn and NEVER ask for help. In fact there will be many times when we need help and we should ask people who are able to help us. For example if I want to get a spoon for my yoghurt, I can very easily go to the kitchen and get one myself, so if I ask someone else to do it for me I am being lazy. However if I want to do my homework and the task is too difficult for me I *should* ask for help and not try for hours to do it on my own.

### WHEN WE REALLY NEED HELP

One of the times that we really need help from someone who is older than us, like a parent or teacher, is if we are being bullied. Being bullied is never nice it can leave someone very sad for a very long time, sometimes even years.

People may bully others physically by hurting them or emotionally by calling them names or saying mean things about them to others. Either way bullying is unacceptable.

If this happens to you, it is very important that you tell an adult so that the bully can be spoken to and made to stop. Allah (SWT) likes when we ask for such help because we are stopping someone from doing bad things to others.

### THINGS I CAN DO

Below is a list of the normal activities we do every day. Circle Y for YES if you can do this on your own or H for HELP if you will need help.

Wake up and make my bed	Y	H
Brush my teeth	Y	H
Prepare breakfast	Y	H
Eat breakfast	Y	H
Get dressed	Y	H
Drive to school	Y	H
Do my classwork	Y	H
Pack my things	Y	H

You will see that we can be independent for most of the activities in our day, however especially while we are young we will always need help with some things.

### THE BEST PEOPLE TO ASK FOR HELP

There are many people that we can always ask help from, but it is important that the people we ask will know how to help us. The best people to always ask help from are:

- Parents, parents, parents

- Teachers
- Older siblings
- Grandparents
- Uncles/aunts

### THE ONLY ONE TO ASK FOR EVERYTHING

Although we have said that we should not ask *people* for many favours, it is very different with Allah (SWT). In fact we should ask Allah (SWT) for everything. This is because it is Allah (SWT) who gives us everything.

Therefore no matter how small what you want is, e.g. a new pencil, we should tell Allah (SWT) that we want it and ask Him to help us get it.

There is also no favour too big for Allah (SWT). Even if we want something to happen that we really don't think is possible we should still ask Allah (SWT). If He knows it is good for us He will let it happen, if not then it won't.

### Review Questions

#### Q1. Why did Ali and Peter hide from Alex?

- Because he was rude
- Because he would not listen to them
- Because he was lazy

#### Q2. When should we ask for someone's help?

- At any time
- Only when we cannot do it ourselves
- Never