



ISLAMIC CONVERSATION

SOCIAL ISLAM

JUNIOR LEVEL

HOW TO GREET OTHERS

When we see someone, we should:

- Make eye contact
- Smile
- Greet them with words

If we see our fellow Muslim brothers and sisters, we are also expected to:

- Say 'assalāmu 'alaykum' or similar greetings.
- Shake hands (if they are of the same gender)
- Hug one another on special occasions (again if they are of the same gender)



ACTIVITY: NADIA AND HER UNCLES

Nadia has two uncles. One of them is rich but the other is not as well off. Whenever she sees her rich uncle, she greets him very nicely, knowing that he will give her gifts. However, when she sees her poorer uncle, she barely says 'salam'. Can you think of what she is doing wrong?

Islam teaches us to make sure that we do not treat anyone better or worse for the wrong reasons, especially in our greetings. In our example, how should Nadia greet and treat her two uncles?

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Understand the Islamic etiquette for greetings
- Discuss that we should not favour people over others in greetings for the wrong reasons
- Understand that Islam encourages humour in conversation
- Know the limits we have to keep when making jokes
- Discuss the issue of 'pranks'

Islamic Conversation

As we all know, Islam is a religion which has the perfect guidelines for everything in our lives. These guidelines include how we should go about our greetings and conversations between each other, which we will be learning more about in this lesson.

GREETING KINDLY

Islam encourages us to greet all people in a friendly and kind manner. We should make sure that we are always the first to start a greeting as this is the tradition of our Holy Prophet (saw).

If someone else greets us first, then we have to make sure we reply in an equal manner, though we are recommended to reply with a better or longer greeting.

Salim is very popular at school. Whenever Ahmad meets him, he makes sure to greet him nicely, and talk to him as much as he can. Ali is not so popular, and when Ahmad meets Ali, he says a quick 'salam' and then walks off. Are Ahmad's actions right? What he could do to correct his actions?

HUMOUR

Islam is a religion which encourages humour. This is shown to us by the example of our Holy Prophet (saw) as well as the Ahlul Bayt. You may have heard the story of when the Holy Prophet told an old lady that old women will not enter paradise. He then explained that they enter paradise as young girls, and told the lady that he jokes but says only the truth.

This is the model that we have to follow. When making jokes or words of humour, we must make sure that we do so within the boundaries of Islam, by:

- Never ever lying.
- Never hurting someone's feelings, making fun of others, or being racist.
- Not becoming a clown by joking way too often as others will see us as foolish and never take us seriously.
- Not disrespecting holy or solemn occasions or places.
- Not becoming over-friendly with the opposite gender. This does not include the elderly and those who are *mahram* to us.

PRANKS



We sometimes have some fun performing practical jokes or 'pranks' on others. This can sometimes be okay but we have to make sure that we are very careful so that we do not unintentionally harm ourselves or others.

Imagine scaring an old lady, who may have heart conditions. Or imagine ordering pizza to a fake address

and therefore wasting the time and food of others. Would we like to be treated like this?

We must definitely stay away from such evil pranks and make sure that we do not harm others in order to make ourselves feel happy.

GOOD JOKES



Can you think of some good jokes that do not go against our Islamic values?

Here are some examples:

- Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hall. One hat said to the other, "You stay here, I'll go on a head."
- What do you call a skeleton that rests all day?
Lazy bones.
- How do you sink a submarine full of fools?
Knock on the door.
- What do you call cheese that is not yours?
Nacho cheese!

Review Questions

Q1. Islam encourages to:

- a. Greet others kindly, and be the first to greet.
- b. Wait for others to greet us.
- c. Not greet others.

Q2. Islam encourages humour, but we have to make sure that we:

- a. Never be serious.
- b. Never lie, never hurt others, and do not become a 'clown'
- c. Never laugh.

**Q3. If someone says Assalāmu ‘Alaykum to us,
which is the best reply?**

- a. ‘Salam’
- b. ‘Wa Alāykum Assalam’
- c. ‘Wa Alāykum Assalam Wa Raḥmatullāh Wa Barakātuh’