**Muslim**

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*For other uses, see* [*Muslim (name)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_%28name%29) *and* [*Muslim (disambiguation)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_%28disambiguation%29)*.*

Famous [Muslim converts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_converts_to_Islam) from various fields.

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| Part of [a series](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category%3AIslam) on |
| [**Islam**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) |
|  |
| [Beliefs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iman_%28concept%29)* [Oneness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawhid) of [God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_in_Islam)
* [Prophets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_and_messengers_in_Islam)
* [Revealed books](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_holy_books)
* [Angels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_angels)
* [Predestination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predestination_in_Islam)
* [Day of Resurrection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_eschatology)
 |
| [Practices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Pillars_of_Islam)* [Profession of faith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahada)
* [Prayer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salat)
* [Fasting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawm)
* [Alms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakat)
* [Pilgrimage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj)
 |
| [Texts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Islamic_texts) and [laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia)* [*Quran*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran)
* [*Sunnah*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunnah)
* [*Hadith*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith)
* [*Sharia* (law)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia)
* [*Fiqh* (jurisprudence)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiqh)
* [*Kalam* (dialectic)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ilm_al-Kalam)
 |
| [History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Islam)* [Timeline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Islamic_history)
* [Muhammad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_in_Islam)
* [*Ahl al-Bayt*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahl_al-Bayt)
* [*Sahabah*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahabah)
* [*Rashidun*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashidun)
* [Imamate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imamah_%28Shia_doctrine%29)
* [Caliphate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate)
* [Spread of Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spread_of_Islam)
 |
| [Denominations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_schools_and_branches)* [Sunni](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni_Islam)
* [Shia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia_Islam)
* [Sufism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism)
* [Ibadi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibadi)
* [Quranism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quranism)
* [Mahdavia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahdavia)
* [Ahmadiyya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadiyya)
 |
| [Culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_culture) and [society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_world)* [Academics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_studies)
* [Animals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_animals)
* [Art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_art)
* [Calendar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_calendar)
* [Children](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_children)
* [Demographics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_by_country)
* [Festivals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_holidays)
* [Mosque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosque)
* [Philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_philosophy)
* [Politics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_aspects_of_Islam)
* [Proselytizing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dawah)
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* [Women](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_Islam)
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A **Muslim**, sometimes spelled **Moslem**, relates to a [person](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Person) who follows the [religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion) of [Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam), a [monotheistic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monotheistic) and [Abrahamic religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abrahamic_religions) based on the [Quran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran). Muslims consider the Quran to be the verbatim word of [God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_in_Islam) as revealed to the [Islamic prophet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_of_Islam) [Muhammad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad). They also follow the [teachings and practices of Muhammad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunnah) as recorded in traditional accounts called [*hadith*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith). "Muslim" is an Arabic word meaning "one who submits (to God)". A female Muslim is sometimes called a **Muslimah**. There are customs holding that a man and woman or teenager and adolescent above the age of fifteen of a [lunar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar_calendar) or solar calendar who possesses the faculties of [rationality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rationality), logic or [sanity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanity), but misses numerous successive [Jumu'ahs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jumu%27ah) without a valid excuse, no longer qualifies as a Muslim.

Most Muslims will accept anyone who has publicly pronounced the declaration of faith ([*shahadah*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahadah)) as a Muslim. The *shahadah* states:

There is no [god](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ilah) but [God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allah), Muhammad is the [messenger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rasul) of God.

Islamic beliefs commonly held by Muslims include: that God ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): الله‎ [*Allāh*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All%C4%81h)) is eternal, transcendent and absolutely one ([monotheism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawhid)); that God is incomparable, self-sustaining and neither begets nor was begotten; that Islam is the complete and universal version of a primordial faith that has been revealed before through many [prophets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_in_Islam) including [Abraham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_in_Islam), [Moses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses_in_Islam), [Ishmael](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ishmael_in_Islam) and [Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_in_Islam); that these previous messages and revelations have been partially [changed or corrupted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahrif) over time[]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim#cite_note-Distorted-9#cite_note-Distorted-9) and that the Qur'an is the final unaltered revelation from God (The Final Testament).

The religious practices of Muslims are enumerated in the [Five Pillars of Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Pillars_of_Islam), which, in addition to Shahadah, consist of daily prayers ([salat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salat)), [fasting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fasting) during the Islamic month of [Ramadan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramadan) ([sawm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawm)), almsgiving ([zakat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakat)), and the [pilgrimage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilgrimage) to [Mecca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca) ([hajj](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj)) at least once in a lifetime.

**Lexicology**

*See also:* [*Islam § Etymology and meaning*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#Etymology_and_meaning)

The word *muslim* ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): مسلم‎, IPA: [[ˈmʊslɪm]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_Arabic); English [/ˈmʌzlɨm/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English), [/ˈmʊzlɨm/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English), [/ˈmʊslɨm/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English) or *moslem* [/ˈmɒzləm/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English), [/ˈmɒsləm/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)) is the [participle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Participle) of the same verb of which *islām* is the [infinitive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinitive), based on the [triliteral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triliteral) [*S-L-M*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S-L-M) "to be whole, intact". It is a liturgical phonology that is formed from two components; the pronoun prefix "mu" and the triconsonantal root "slim". A female adherent is a *muslima* ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): مسلمة‎). The plural form in Arabic is *muslimūn* (مسلمون), and its feminine equivalent is *muslimāt* (مسلمات). The Arabic form *muslimun* is the stem IV [participle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_grammar#Participle)of the triliteral *S-L-M*. A female Muslim can variously be called in their etymologically Arabic form of *Muslimah*, also spelled *Muslima*, *Muslimette*, *Muslimess* or simple the standard term of Muslim. General alternative epithets or designations given to Muslims include *mosquegoer*, *masjidgoer*, or archaic, dated and obsolete terms such as *Muslimite* or *Muslimist*.

The ordinary word in English is "Muslim". It is sometimes [transliterated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transliteration) as "Moslem", which is an older spelling. The word [*Mosalman*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosalman) ([Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language): مسلمان‎, alternatively *Mussalman*) is a common equivalent for *Muslim* used in Central Asia. Until at least the mid-1960s, many English-language writers used the term [*Mohammedans*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammedan) or *Mahometans*. Although such terms were not necessarily intended to be [pejorative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pejorative), Muslims argue that the terms are offensive because they allegedly imply that Muslims worship Muhammad rather than God.

**Meaning**

[Afghan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demography_of_Afghanistan) Muslims praying inside [Gardens of Babur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bagh-e_Babur) in [Kabul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabul), [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan).

In defining *Muslim*, the Sufi spiritual leader [Ibn Arabi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Arabi) said:

A Muslim is a person who has dedicated his worship exclusively to God...*Islam* means making one's religion and faith God's alone.

**Used to describe earlier prophets in the Qur'an**

The Qur'an describes many [prophets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_of_Islam) and messengers as well as their respective followers as Muslim: [Adam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_%28Bible%29), [Noah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noah), [Abraham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham), [Jacob](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob), [Moses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Moses) and [Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Jesus) and his [apostles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostles) are all considered to be Muslims in the Qur'an. The Qur'an states that these men were Muslims because they submitted to God, preached His message and upheld His values, which included praying, charity, fasting and pilgrimage. Thus, in Surah 3:52 of the Qur'an, Jesus' disciples tell Jesus, "We believe in God; and you be our witness that we are Muslims (*wa-shahad be anna muslimūn*)." In Muslim belief, before the Qur'an, [God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God) had given the [Torah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawrat) to [Moses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses), the [Psalms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zabur) to [David](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David) and the [Gospel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Injil) to [Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus), who are all considered important Muslim [prophets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_of_Islam).

**Demographics**

World Muslim population by percentage (2010 data[[update]](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Muslim&action=edit) from [Pew Research Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pew_Research_Center)).

Main article: [Islam § Demographics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#Demographics)

*See also:* [*List of countries by Muslim population*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Muslim_population)

About 13% of Muslims live in [Indonesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Indonesia), the largest Muslim country 25% in [South Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia), 20% in the [Middle East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East) and [North Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Africa), 2% in [Central Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asia), 4% in the remaining South East Asian countries, and 15% in [Sub-saharan Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Africa). Sizable communities are also found in [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_China) and [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Russia), and parts of the [Caribbean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean). The country with the highest proportion of self-described Muslims as a proportion of its total population is [Morocco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morocco). Converts and immigrant communities are found in almost every part of the world.

The majority of Muslims are [Sunni](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni), being over 75–90% of all Muslims. The second and third largest sects, [Shia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia) and [Ahmadiyya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadiyya), make up 10–20%, and 1% respectively. The most populous Muslim-majority country is Indonesia home to 12.7% of the world's Muslims followed by Pakistan (11.0%), Bangladesh (9.2%), and Egypt (4.9%). Sizable minorities are also found in [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_India), [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_China), [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Russia), [Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Ethiopia), [Americas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_the_Americas), [Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Australia) and parts of [Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Europe). With about 1.6 billion followers, almost a quarter of [earth's population](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population), Islam is the [second-largest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_religious_groups) and one of the [fastest-growing religions in the world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claims_to_be_the_fastest-growing_religion).

**See also**

* [Islamic schools and branches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_schools_and_branches)
* [Lists of Muslims](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_Muslims)
* [Muslim holidays](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_holidays)
* [Muslim world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_world)
* [Musulman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musulman)
* [Mu'min](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mu%27min)

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