**Muslim** versus **Islam:**

**Islam** is a monotheistic faith based on the belief in one God and Prophet Muhammad as the last messenger of God.

*Pronunciation:* [is-lam] “s” as in [bliss, passing] “a” as in [acrobat, bat],

**Muslims** are the practitioners of Islam.

*Ex:* A Muslim believes in Islam.

*Pronunciation:* [mu s-lim] “u” as in [push], “s” as in [sit, passing], “i” as in [it, big]

**Allah:** The most commonly used linguistic term for ‘God’ in Arabic. Arabic-speakers of all faiths, including Christians and Jews, use the word "Allah" to mean "God"

*Pronunciation:* [ull luh] “u” as in [hull] “ll” as in [lull], “u” as in [hull]

**Alhamdu-lillah:** “All praise is due to God.” A Qur’anic phrase repeated by Muslims in all situations of life.

**Allahu Akbar:** “God is the Greatest.” Used when acknowledging or recognizing an individual or an event.

**Assalamu Alaikum:** “Peace be upon you.” An Islamic greeting. It is a cognate to the Hebrew phrase shalom aleichem.

**Azan:** a call to the five obligatory salah. Conducted audibly from mosques.

**Bismillah:** “In the name of God.” Phrase used to begin actions to ensure good and meritorious conduct.

**Eid:** the Arabic word for holiday. Muslims have two eids; Eid al-Fitr is the holiday celebrating the end of Ramadan on the first day of the 10th lunar month of the Islamic calendar. Eid al-Adha, occurs on the tenth day of the last lunar month, commemorates the end of Hajj in Mecca (in today’s country of Saudi Arabia) every year and the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son for the sake of Allah.

**Fatwa:** An opinion by an Islamic Scholar.

**Halal:** Permissible by Islamic law.

**Hajj:** see “Pillars of Islam”

**Hadith:** Recorded sayings, teachings, and practices of the Prophet Mohammad
**Haraam**: considered impermissible by Islamic law.

**Hijab**: Modest clothing that many Muslim women choose to wear in public. Generally, it is loose-fitting clothes and includes a head covering.

**Imam**: A leader of prayer.

**Insha Allah**: “God-willing.” A phrase often used when referring to anything happening in the future.

**Islam**: *(see above)*

**Jazaku Allahu Khayran**: “May God reward you.” A form of saying thank-you.

**Jihad**: literally means "to struggle", primarily for the sake of God. This can include inner struggle (against ones desires), social struggle (social justice and helping others), and physical struggle (self-defense, for example).

**Kufi**: A cap worn by some Muslim men.

**Masha Allah**: “Due to God.” A phrase often used when praising anything future.

**Masjid/Mosque**: The Arabic word for ‘mosque’ - an Islamic house of worship.

**Mecca/Makkah**: The capital city of Saudi Arabia's Makkah province where the prophet Muhammad was born. It contains the most sacred of mosques as well as the Ka'ba or Black Stone. Muslims position themselves to face Makkah whenever they pray,

**Muslim**: *(see above)*

**Niqab**: A face veil.

**Pillars of Islam**: The 5 basic devotional-ritual duties of Islam

  - **Shahada**: testifying that “There is no god but God and Mohammed is the Messenger of God.”
  - **Salat**: “five daily prayer services;”
  - **Zakat**: “almmsgiving;”
  - **Sawm**: “fasting during daylight in the month of Ramadan;
  - **Hajj**: The fifth pillar of Islam. It is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia and every able-bodied and financially capable Muslim must perform Hajj at least once in their lifetime.

**Prayer**: The second pillar of Islam. Islam mandates structured prayers five times a day. Muslims are also required to attend a weekly congregational prayer every Friday. During the month of Ramadan, many devout Muslims also observe extended evening prayers.
**Ramadan:** The ninth lunar month of the Islamic calendar. Muslims are required to observe daily fasting from sunrise to sunset of every day of this month.

**Subhna Allah:** “God alone is worthy of praise.” Used in appreciation or time of achievement, or blessing.

**Sunnah:** the way of life prescribed as normative for Muslims on the basis of the teachings and practices of Muhammad and interpretations of the Koran.

**Ummah:** Arabic word meaning community or nation usually used to refer to the Muslim nation.

**Quran:** The revealed text and holy book of Islam.

**Ramadan:** The Islamic holy month of fasting and the ninth lunar month of the Islamic calendar.

**Shariah:** Islamic law.