



# The Fajr Islamic Center

## F.A.Q's About Fasting

**Q: What happens to my fast if I eat or drink forgetfully?**

**A: This fast will remain valid and is not invalidated.**

*(Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)*

**Q: If a person accidentally swallows water during wudhū, does his fast break?**

**A: Yes. In such a case only qadhā is necessary and not kaffārah, meaning he has to make up only one fast in place of it.**

*(Fatawa Rahimiyyah 4/75)*

**Q: Is it permissible to use toothpaste while fasting?**

**A: It is makrūh (disliked) to use toothpaste whilst fasting. There is a strong possibility of the toothpaste being swallowed.**

*(Hidayah, 1/123)*

**Q: Is it permissible to use the miswak during fasting?**

**A: Yes**

*(Tirmidhi, 716)*

**Q: Is it permissible to take a blood test while fasting?**

**A: Yes. It is permissible to take a blood test provided that it does not cause weakness in the body to such an extent where one is unable to fast.**

*(Ahsan al-Fatāwā 4/435)*

**Q: Will injections break my fast?**

**A: No**

*(Fatāwā Rahimiyyah 4/72-73)*

**Q: I am diabetic and need to use insulin injections during my day. Will this break my fast?**

**A: No, injections do not break the fast.**

*(Fatāwā Rahimiyyah 4/72-73)*

**Q: Is one allowed to have a dentist appointment during Ramadān?**

**A: Visiting the dentist's office will not invalidate one's fast, however, it is advisable to delay the appointment until after Ramadān as there is a strong possibility of something reaching the throat.**

*(Ahsan al-Fatāwā 4/436)*



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**Q: Will my fast break if I have my tooth taken out?**

**A: No**

*(Fatāwā Rahimiyyah 4/76)*

**Q: Will smoking nullify the fast?**

**A: Yes.** It is impermissible to smoke while fasting and it will necessitate a qadhā as well as a kaffārah, meaning he must fast two consecutive months to make up for this.

*(Fatawa Rahimiyyah 4/89) (Durr al-Mukhtār 3/366)*

**Q: Will using a nasal spray invalidate the fast?**

**A: Yes.**

*(Radd al-Muhtār 2/395)*

**Q: Is one excused from fasting merely because the fasting hours are long?**

**A: No**

*(Ahsan al-Fatāwā 4/70,433)*

**Q: Is taking part in suhoor (a meal before Fajr time) a condition for the fast to be valid?**

**A: It is mustahab (recommended) to eat suhoor, as it has been encouraged by the Prophet (s). However, if one is unable to take part in suhoor, the fast will still be valid**

*(Bukhari, 1923) (Muslim, 1095)*

**Q: Is it preferable to delay in breaking the fast (after the sun has set)?**

**A: After the sun has set, one should not delay in breaking the fast. It is reported in Musnad Ahmad that the Prophet (s) said, “My ummah will remain upon good so long as they delay the suhoor, and hasten in iftar (after the sun has set).” It is reported in another hadith in Sahih Bukhari that the Prophet (s) said, “The people will remain upon good so long as they hasten in iftar (after the sun has set).”**

*(Musnad Ahmad, 21507) (Bukhari, 1957)*

**Q: If a student has an exam during the month of Ramadan, is he or she permitted to forego the fast in order to study for the test?**

**A: No**

*(Fatāwā Rahimiyyah 4/67)*

**Q: Can a person fast on someone else’s behalf?**

**A: No**

*(Imdād al-Fatāwā 2/151) (Radd al-Muhtār 2/119)*



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**Q: Are women permitted to fast during their cycle or during post-natal bleeding?**

**A:** Women are not permitted to fast on the days of their cycle nor post-natal bleeding. Those fasts must be made upon later date, after Ramadan.

*(Ahsan al-Fatāwā 4/438)*

**Q: When making up Ramadan fasts, should Taraweeh prayers also be made up?**

**A:** Taraweeh prayers are specific for the month of Ramadan. The fast is to be made up without performing any Taraweeh prayer.

*(Bukhari, 37) (Muslim, 759)*

**Q: If blood goes down a person's throat, will the fast be invalidated?**

**A:** If there is no doubt that blood did go down a person's throat, that fast will be nullified and will need to be made up.

*(Radd al-Muhtār 3/367)*

**Q: If one can't fast in the month of Ramadan because of old age what should they do?**

**Can his family fast for him?**

**A:** No one can fast on behalf of another person. If a person is not capable of fasting in the month of Ramadān due to some reason, such as old age and or such an illness from which he has no hope of recovery, then he may offer fidya (monetary compensation) for each day he is unable to fast.

*(Imdād al-Fatāwā 2/151) (Radd al-Muhtār 2/119)*

*These fidyah payments are meant to feed a miskīn (person in need) for each of the fasting days missed and are equivalent to the price of feeding one person twice.*

*If he wishes he can give fidyah from the beginning of Ramadān for the entire month or he can give it at the end of the month. To give fidyah before the month commences will not be correct.*

*(Ahsan al-Fatāwā 4/430,445)*

**Q: Will using an inhaler break my fast? Please keep in mind that I am an asthma patient.**

**A:** Yes, since inhalers contain medicine, they will break the fast. If a patient has asthma then their difficulty in breathing is a good indication that they should break the fast and use the inhaler if there is a flare-up and makeup one fast later as qadha. Therefore, if your doctor feels that your condition is severe enough to cause weakness or worsen your health if you fast then this could be considered a chronic illness which will allow you to break your fast and pay fidyāh. If you recover from your illness then you will need to perform make up fasts (qadha).

*(Ramadān aur Jadīd masā'il pg.141)*



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**Q: If I apply cream or lotion will it break the fast?**

**A:** All creams, lotions and medications that are for external use and are applied to the skin will not break the fast.

*(Ramadān aur Jadīd masā'il pg.187)*

**Q: I have a chest infection and my doctor gave me some medication to take, can I break my fast?**

**A:** If your doctor considers it to be a severe illness because of which your condition will worsen if you fast, then you should take your medication and perform a qadā later. There will be no need for kaffārah.

*(Maraqiy al-Falāh pg.258)*

**Q: I have an appointment with my gynecologist for a pap-smear procedure during Ramadān, will it break my fast?**

**A:** This will break the fast because generally this type of procedure is carried out using lubricants and creams which will enter the private area. If lubricants and creams are not used then it will not break the fast.

*(Fatāwā Rahimiyyah 4/72)*

**Q: Can a woman on her period eat food in Ramadān during the day?**

**A:** She will be allowed to eat anytime during the day. It will be preferable not to eat in front of others who are fasting.

*(Ahsan al-Fatāwā 4/438)*

**Q: Will eye drops break my fast?**

**A:** Eye drops and any other eye procedures will not break the fast even though the medication can be tasted in the mouth. The same applies to apply Surma.

*(Ahsan al-Fatāwā 4/439)*

**Q: Will vomiting break the fast?**

**A:** Fast will not break a person vomits unintentionally, regardless of how much vomit came out. If he vomits intentionally (by putting his finger in his throat), his fast will break if a mouthful or more of vomit comes out. In such a case, only qadha is necessary.

*(Tirmidhi, 711)*