

## A-4: Prohibition

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### Definition

The role of the prohibitive is to communicate a compelling prohibition. The prohibitive may be recognised by the use of *lā* and the present tense in the jussive mood.

For rhetorical purposes, the prohibitive may be used for purposes other than prohibition.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

**A4: Prohibition**

**Category** Sentence Construction & Syntactical Stylistics ('ilm al-ma'ānī)

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### Examples

#### 1) To supplicate

رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِنْ نَسِيْنَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا

"Our Lord! Do not punish us if we forget or make a mistake."

Quran 2: 286

#### 2) To threaten

لَا تُسْتَخْلِمْ حِزَامَ الْآمَانِ.

**Do not use a seatbelt.**

(Implied threat of harm in the event of an accident)

#### 3) To express sarcasm

لَا تَمْارِسِ الْرِّياضَةَ لِأَنْ صَحْنَتِكَ لَيْسَ مُهِمَّةً.

**Don't do any exercise, because your health is not important.**

#### 4) To guide

لَا تُضْيِعْ وَقْتَكَ

**Do not waste your time**

#### 5) To challenge

لَا تَحاوُلُ الْحَصُولَ عَلَى درَجَاتٍ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ أَخِيكَ.

**Do not try to get better grades than your brother.**

#### 6) To rebuke

لَا تَفْخُرْ كَثِيرًا بِإِنجَازَاتِكَ.

**Do not be so proud of your achievements.**

#### 7) To express a desire

يَا نَقْوَدِي، ابْقِ فِي جِيبِي

**Oh money, stay in my pocket!**

### References

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