



Essential rulings of the Hanafi school

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The following are all **Fard** acts and leaving them will invalidate that action

1. Muqtadis must say takbir tahrimah even behind the imam loud enough to hear themselves.
2. For men, no part between immediately below the navel and up to and including the knees must become uncovered at any time during salah. Those wearing t-shirts must be careful in sajdah, etc.
3. The forehead and nose must be pressed against the ground during sajdah. If they're only touching but not pressed, sajdah, and therefore salah, is invalid.
4. Reciting Qur'an loudly. Reciting so quietly that you can't hear yourself doesn't count as recitation. Therefore, salah is invalid.
5. Muqtadis must say the four takbirs of janazah prayer loud enough to hear themselves.
6. Pronouncing every letter correctly. Mispronouncing any letter of the Qur'an such that it alters the meaning invalidates salah. It is obligatory to differentiate between:

ص س ث
ظ ز ذ
ط ت
ض د
ح ه
غ خ
ع ء

Learn tajwid!

7. Pronouncing Allahu Akbar correctly. If Allahu Akbar is pronounced in takbir tahrimah as Āllahu Akbar or Allahu Akbār then salah doesn't even commence.
8. Facing qiblah at all times. Turning your chest 45° away from qiblah invalidates salah.

9. If water isn't sniffed during ghusl such that it reaches the hard bone of the nose, ghusl isn't complete.

10. If the muqtadi finished saying 'Allahu Akbar' before the imam in takbir tahrimah, the muqtadi's salah didn't even commence. So just wait for the imam to say it all and then say it immediately after him.

11. When a latecomer joins salah and finds the imam in ruku – he must say takbir tahrimah standing upright then stand for a second and THEN join the imam in ruku. If takbir tahrimah is said whilst you start to bow, your salah is invalid.

12. In wudu, we're ordered to WASH body parts. Washing means two drops of water must flow over that body part. Many people wipe a part with wet hands and think wudu is done. That's not washing, that's masah.

13. If there is something stuck between your teeth or mucus in the nose that will stop water going through, it is necessary to remove it otherwise ghusl is not complete.

The following are all **Wajib** acts within salah and leaving them will make it **necessary to repeat salah**. If they are left forgetfully, then Sajdah Sahw must be performed where after repeating the salah is not required.

14. Muqtadis must say the two salams even behind the imam loud enough to hear themselves.

15. For men, the bottom of three toes of each foot must touch the ground at all times during sujud.

16. It is necessary to stand up straight after ruku, before going into sajdah.

17. Muqtadis must say the six takbirs of Eid loud enough to hear themselves.

18. It is necessary to add a surah in every rak'ah of wajib, sunnah and nafl prayers.

19. If the imam stands before the muqtadi finishes tashahhud, the muqtadi mustn't stand. He must first finish tashahhud.

20. Pausing in every action of salah is wajib. Pausing means staying still for the time it takes to say 'subhanAllah' once. Some people don't sit and pause between the two sajdahs or stand up straight and pause after ruku.

The following are all **Makruh Tahrimi** acts within salah and performing them will make it **necessary to repeat salah**. If they are done forgetfully, then Sajdah Sahw must be performed where after repeating the salah is not required

21. It is forbidden to read Surah Fatihah or any other surah when praying behind the imam.

22. It is forbidden to fold your trousers in salah. Even if they reach past your ankles, leave them unfolded. Though having trousers that reach past the ankles is slightly disliked [makruh tanzih].

23. If a person praying pauses to think for the time it takes to say 'subhanAllah' three times, he must do sajdah sahw.

24. For men, it is forbidden to lay the forearms on the ground during sajdah.

25. It is forbidden to pray when one desperately needs to answer the call of nature. It is also forbidden to commence salah in this state.

26. It is forbidden to pray with the image of a living being on your clothing which contains the head. It is also forbidden to pray in a room where such images are above, in front, right, left or behind the person praying.

27. It is forbidden to turn your face away from qiblah or look skywards during salah.

28. It is forbidden to purposefully yawn during salah.

29. It is forbidden to lift the trousers with both hands before going into sajdah. Some scholars said it breaks prayer so it must be avoided.

30. It is forbidden to play with the clothes and beard and body during salah.

31. It is forbidden to rise and go into ruku and sajdah before the imam.

32. It is forbidden to leave a scarf hanging over the shoulders unless it's tied around the neck. It is also forbidden to leave one end hanging at the front and the other at the back.

The following acts break salah

33. Laughing loud enough that the person next to you hears it breaks your salah AND your wudu.

34. Laughing loud enough that only you hear it yourself breaks salah but not wudu.

35. If you do an action during salah that an onlooker is reasonably sure you're not praying, then that invalidates prayer. This is called 'Ámal kathīr' (major action).

36. If you have to switch off your phone or put your hat back on, do so with only one hand as quick as possible so an onlooker doesn't think you're not praying. If he does, that invalidates prayer. Never use both hands.

37. If the latecomer did salam with the imam purposefully, his prayer is broken. If he did it forgetfully and at the same time as imam, he should stand up and complete his prayer and there's no need for sajdah sahw. If he made salam some time after the imam, he should stand and complete salah but do sajdah sahw at the end.

38. Scratching without real need three times or more in any one posture of salah will invalidate it.

Miscellaneous rulings

39. It is forbidden to drop used wudu water in the masjid.
40. It is not permitted to respond to the second adhan of jumu'ah verbally or kiss the thumbs.
41. It is sinful to make a habit of missing the sunnah mu'akkadah prayers.
42. If you didn't reach the ruku position before the imam said 'samiAllahu liman hamidah' - you didn't get that rak'ah.
43. It is forbidden to recite the Qur'an in reverse order. E.g. reciting 'Qul huwAllahu ahad' in the first rak'ah and then 'wal asr' in second rak'ah.
44. During the jumu'ah khutbah, it is forbidden to utter anything verbally. Even durud sharif and saying aameen to duas.
45. It is forbidden to eat, drink and sleep in the masjid unless you have a niyyah of iytikaf.
46. If you're late for tarawih and not sure whether the imam is praying Isha or tarawih - make an intention of Isha. If it is indeed Isha, fine. If not, you'll get the reward of nafl anyway.
47. It is disliked to come to the masjid with a repugnant smell. E.g. cigarette smoke.
48. It is disliked to run for salah. Some people see the imam in ruku and run.
49. It is necessary to fill the row in front before starting a new row in congregation.
50. It is necessary to straighten the rows during congregational prayer. Please put your heels on the line. It is also necessary to have your upper arm touching the person's next to you.
51. It is forbidden to leave clipping nails, removing armpit and pubic hair for 40 days.
52. It is against sunnah to stand during iqamah before the mukabbir says 'hayya 'alal salah'.

The reason why 52 rulings were chosen was for the weeks of the year so that one ruling can be taught after the jumu'ah speech over the year.