بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Surah al-Fātiḥa, word by word

The complete opening chapter of the Qur'an: every word translated, every grammar point explained in plain English.

A free study guide from QuranEasy, the online Quranic Arabic course by Sir Abdurrahim. For learners aged 15 and above who can read the Qur'an. Hindi, Urdu and English speakers welcome.

How to use this guide

Surah al-Fātiḥa is recited in every rak'ah of the prayer. You may know it by heart; this guide shows you what each word is doing. Take one verse a day. Read the Arabic, say the meaning aloud, then read the word table and the grammar spotlight.

> **Why grammar?** Every Arabic word is one of three things. Once you can tell them apart, a verse stops being a wall of sound and starts to make sense.

رَبّ

Ism · noun

Names a person, thing or idea.

Rabb = Lord

نعبد

Fe'il · verb

An action tied to time.

Na'budu = we worship

ل

Harf · particle

Links words and shapes meaning.

Li = for

Three endings worth noticing

Ḍamma (ٗ) is often the ending of the subject of a sentence. **Fatḥa (َ)** is often the ending of what a verb acts on. **Kasra (ِ)** is often the ending of a noun after a preposition, or the second part of a possessive phrase. These are simplified first rules; the full course explains the exceptions.

Colour code

Blue = noun · **Rose** = verb · **Gold** = particle

Reading the word tables

Each row shows the word, how it sounds, its type and meaning, and what its form tells you. Read the table from right to left in Arabic and from left to right in English: the meaning column is the one to say aloud.

The whole surah at a glance

Seven verses, as counted in the standard Madinah mushaf, where the Basmala is the first verse.

1	بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ	**Bismillāhir-raḥmānir-raḥīm** In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
2	الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ	**Al-ḥamdu lillāhi rabbil-ʿālamīn** All praise is for Allah, Lord of the worlds.
3	الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ	**Ar-raḥmānir-raḥīm** The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
4	مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ	**Māliki yawmid-dīn** Master of the Day of Judgment.
5	إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ	**Iyyāka naʿbudu wa iyyāka nastaʿīn** You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help.
6	اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ	**Ihdinaṣ-ṣirāṭal-mustaqīm** Guide us to the straight path.
7	صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ	**Ṣirāṭal-ladhīna anʿamta ʿalayhim ghayril-maghḍūbi ʿalayhim wa laḍ-ḍāllīn** The path of those You have favoured, not of those who earned anger, nor of those who went astray.

SURAH AL-FĀTIḤA · VERSE 1 OF 7

1 Bismillāhir-raḥmānir-raḥīm

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

“In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.”

WORD	SOUND	TYPE AND MEANING	GRAMMAR IN PLAIN WORDS
بِ	bi	**Particle · harf** **in, with, by**	A preposition. It puts the noun after it in the genitive case.
اسْمِ	ismi	**Noun · ism** **name**	Genitive after the preposition, and the first term of a possessive phrase. In writing, the alif drops: بِسْمِ.
اللَّهِ	Allāhi	**Noun · ism** **Allah**	The second term of the possessive phrase, so it carries the genitive ending.
الرَّحْمَٰنِ	ar-raḥmāni	**Noun · ism** **the Most Gracious**	An attribute of Allah following His name, so it takes the same genitive ending.
الرَّحِيمِ	ar-raḥīmi	**Noun · ism** **the Most Merciful**	A second attribute with the same ending.

Grammar spotlight · Possessive phrase (iḍāfa)

“The name of Allah” is two nouns side by side: the second noun is in the genitive case. The preposition بِ also puts the noun after it in the genitive. Two ideas, one ending: the kasra.

2 Al-ḥamdu lillāhi rabbil-ʿālamīn

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

"All praise is for Allah, Lord of the worlds."

WORD	SOUND	TYPE AND MEANING	GRAMMAR IN PLAIN WORDS
الْحَمْدُ	al-ḥamdu	**Noun · ism** **the praise**	It begins with al- ("the") and ends in a ḍamma: it is the subject (mubtada') of the sentence.
لِلَّهِ	lillāhi	**Particle · harf** **for Allah**	ل ("for, belongs to") joins اللَّهِ in the genitive. Together they complete the sentence: the praise belongs to Allah.
رَبِّ	rabbi	**Noun · ism** **Lord**	It describes "Allah", so it is genitive, and it is also the first term of a possessive phrase.
الْعَالَمِينَ	al-ʿālamīna	**Noun · ism** **the worlds**	A sound masculine plural: the ending -īna marks it here as genitive, the second term of the possessive phrase.

Grammar spotlight · A sentence without a verb

Arabic can build a full sentence from nouns alone. "The praise (is) for Allah": الْحَمْدُ is the subject and لِلَّهِ completes it. There is no word for "is"; it is understood.

Ar-raḥmānir-raḥīm

الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

“The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.”

WORD	SOUND	TYPE AND MEANING	GRAMMAR IN PLAIN WORDS
الرَّحْمَٰنِ	ar-raḥmāni	**Noun · ism** **the Most Gracious**	An attribute of Allah. It follows the name it describes and matches its ending.
الرَّحِيمِ	ar-raḥīmi	**Noun · ism** **the Most Merciful**	A second attribute, with the same ending.

Grammar spotlight · Describing words follow and match

In Arabic a describing word comes after the noun it describes and takes the same ending. That is why الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ look alike: both describe Allah.

Māliki yawmid-dīn

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

"Master of the Day of Judgment."

WORD	SOUND	TYPE AND MEANING	GRAMMAR IN PLAIN WORDS
مَالِكِ	māliki	**Noun · ism** **master, owner**	Genitive: it describes Allah, and is the first term of a possessive phrase.
يَوْمِ	yawmi	**Noun · ism** **day**	Second term of "master of the day" and first term of "day of judgment": each takes the genitive in the chain.
الدِّينِ	ad-dīni	**Noun · ism** **the Judgment, the Recompense**	The last term of the chain, so it carries the genitive ending.

Grammar spotlight · A chain of possessives
"Master of the day of the judgment": every noun in the chain except the last depends on the next, and each ends in a kasra. Spot the repeating kasra and you have spotted the chain.

5 Iyyāka naʿbudu wa iyyāka nastaʿīn

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

"You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help."

WORD	SOUND	TYPE AND MEANING	GRAMMAR IN PLAIN WORDS
إِيَّاكَ	iyyāka	**Noun · ism** **You alone**	A detached pronoun placed first for emphasis. That is why the meaning is "You alone".
نَعْبُدُ	naʿbudu	**Verb · fe'il** **we worship**	A present-tense verb. The prefix نَ means "we".
وَ	wa	**Particle · harf** **and**	Joins the second phrase to the first.
إِيَّاكَ	iyyāka	**Noun · ism** **You alone**	Repeated for emphasis: help, too, is asked from Allah alone.
نَسْتَعِينُ	nastaʿīnu	**Verb · fe'il** **we ask for help**	A present-tense verb. The prefix نَ again means "we". Its root letters (ع و ن) relate to help.

Grammar spotlight · Word order for emphasis

Normally the verb comes first. Putting إِيَّاكَ in front of the verb limits the action to Allah alone: not "we worship You" but "You alone we worship". The repetition makes the same point for asking help.

6 Ihdinaṣ-ṣirāṭal-mustaqīm

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

“Guide us to the straight path.”

WORD	SOUND	TYPE AND MEANING	GRAMMAR IN PLAIN WORDS
اهْدِنَا	ihdinā	**Verb · fe’il** **guide us**	A command verb (“guide!”) with نَا attached, meaning “us”. Here it is a request to Allah.
الصِّرَاطَ	aṣ-ṣirāṭa	**Noun · ism** **the path**	What the verb acts on (the object), so it ends in a fatḥa.
الْمُسْتَقِيمَ	al-mustaqīma	**Noun · ism** **the straight**	It describes the path, so it takes the same ending as the path.

Grammar spotlight · The command verb

A command (fe’il amr) is how Arabic says “do!”. Here it is a request to Allah: “guide!”. Notice that the verb and its pronoun نَا (“us”) are joined into one word.

7 Ṣirāṭal-ladhīna anʿamta ʿalayhim ghayril-maghḍūbi ʿalayhim wa laḍ-ḍāllīn

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

"The path of those You have favoured, not of those who earned anger, nor of those who went astray."

WORD	SOUND	TYPE AND MEANING	GRAMMAR IN PLAIN WORDS
صِرَاطَ	ṣirāṭa	**Noun · ism** **path of**	Repeats and explains "the straight path", so it keeps the fatḥa ending. It is the first term of a possessive phrase.
الَّذِينَ	alladhīna	**Noun · ism** **those who**	A relative pronoun: it introduces a describing clause ("those who...").
أَنْعَمْتَ	anʿamta	**Verb · fe'il** **You have favoured**	A past-tense verb. The ending تَ means "You" (addressing Allah).
عَلَيْهِمْ	ʿalayhim	**Particle · harf** **upon them**	عَلَى ("upon") with هِمْ ("them") attached: "You favoured them".
غَيْرِ	ghayri	**Noun · ism** **other than, not**	A noun meaning "other than". It is genitive because it describes "those whom You have favoured".
الْمَغْضُوبِ	al-maghḍūbi	**Noun · ism** **the one who earned anger**	A passive participle (the one anger falls on). Genitive, as the second term after غَيْرِ.
عَلَيْهِمْ	ʿalayhim	**Particle · harf** **upon them**	As before: "upon them". Together: "those on whom anger fell".
وَلَا	wa lā	**Particle · harf** **and not, nor**	وَ ("and") + لَا ("not"). It adds a second group to be excluded.
الضَّالِّينَ	aḍ-ḍāllīna	**Noun · ism** **those who went astray**	An active participle in the plural. The ending -īna marks it as genitive, joined to the previous group by "and".

Grammar spotlight · Explaining and excluding

This verse explains "the straight path" (it repeats the word to define it) and then rules out two other groups using غَيْرِ ("other than") and وَلَا ("and not"). Reading the connecting words is what makes the long verse clear.

Word bank: all 27 words of the surah

Every different word in al-Fātiḥa, with its meaning. Cover the right-hand columns and test yourself.

بِ	bi	in, with, by
اسْمِ	ismi	name
اللَّهِ	Allāhi	Allah
الرَّحْمَٰنِ	ar-raḥmāni	the Most Gracious
الرَّحِيمِ	ar-raḥīmi	the Most Merciful
الْحَمْدُ	al-ḥamdu	the praise
لِلَّهِ	lillāhi	for Allah
رَبِّ	rabbi	Lord
الْعَالَمِينَ	al-ʿālamīna	the worlds
مَالِكِ	māliki	master, owner
يَوْمِ	yawmi	day
الدِّينِ	ad-dīni	the Judgment, the Recompense
إِيَّاكَ	iyyāka	You alone
نَعْبُدُ	naʿbudu	we worship
وَ	wa	and
نَسْتَعِينُ	nastaʿīnu	we ask for help
اهْدِنَا	ihdinā	guide us
الصِّرَاطَ	aṣ-ṣirāṭa	the path
الْمُسْتَقِيمَ	al-mustaqīma	the straight
صِرَاطَ	ṣirāṭa	path of
الَّذِينَ	alladhīna	those who
أَنْعَمْتَ	anʿamta	You have favoured
عَلَيْهِمْ	ʿalayhim	upon them
غَيْرِ	ghayri	other than, not
الْمَغْضُوبِ	al-maghḍūbi	the one who earned anger
وَلَا	wa lā	and not, nor
الضَّالِّينَ	aḍ-ḍāllīna	those who went astray

Your next step

You have just taken the most-recited chapter of the Qur'an apart, word by word. The QuranEasy course teaches the words and grammar used across the whole Qur'an, so that after completing it you can understand its verses. It is not a spoken-Arabic course.

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