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Common Terms & Phrases

- **Alhamdulillah** “All praise belongs to Allah”
 - This phrase is often used to answer the question “How are you?”
 - It is also used when someone is excited about something or has heard good news.
 - This is also what should be said after sneezing.
- **As-salaamu alaykum** “Peace be upon you”
 - The Prophet (peace be upon him) instructed us to respond to a greeting with one like it or one better than it.
 - The response to *as-salaamu alaykum* is ***wa alaykum as-salaam*** (“And may peace be upon you also.”)
 - One may also say ***wa alaykum as-salaam wa rahmatullah*** (“And may peace be upon you as well as the Mercy of Allah.”) or ***wa alaykum as-salaam wa rahmatullahi wa barakaatuhu*** (“And may peace be upon you as well as the Mercy of Allah and blessings.”)
- **Bismillah** “In the Name of Allah”
 - This phrase begins 113 of the 114 chapters of the Qur’an. ***Bismillah ir-Rahmaan ir-Raheem*** means “In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.”
 - Islam is a way of life. As such, everything in our daily lives relates to one’s Islam – by way of intentions, goals, means of carrying it out, etc. So, in general, we say *bismillah* before doing anything.
- **Insha’Allah** “If Allah Wills it”
 - We say *insha’Allah* anytime we mention the future, our efforts to reach a goal, or even something like “See you tomorrow.” Instead, we say, “See you tomorrow *insha’Allah*.”
 - We should not say it when making *du’a* (supplication).