

The Power of Words

Activities for Muslim children



وَقُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا

And speak good words to people

Holy Quran – Sura al Baqarah, verse 83

From the Holy Quran

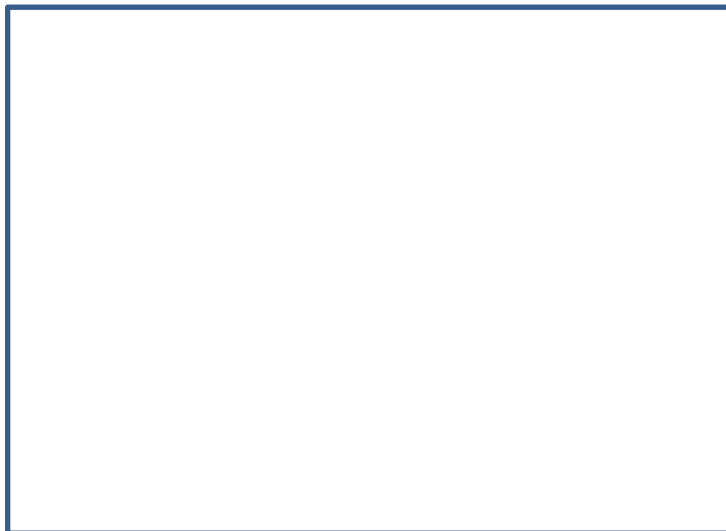
Read verses 24-26 of Sura Ibrahim (#14). Then answer the following questions:

1) How are a good word and a good tree similar?

2) Draw the tree described in the above verses



3) Draw the effects of a good word (its roots, branches, fruits)



4) Write a short story about the effect of a good word. Fill in the outline for your story below. Then write and illustrate your story on a separate paper (or book).

Story Starter:

Plot:

Characters:

Story Ending:

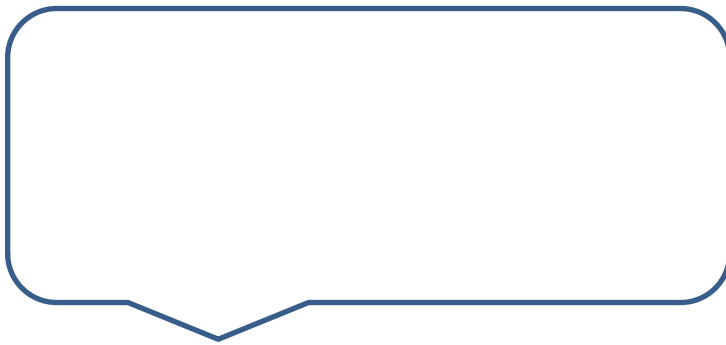


What could you say in the following Situations:

1) A girl drops her juice all over your desk



2) Someone wants to borrow your pencil

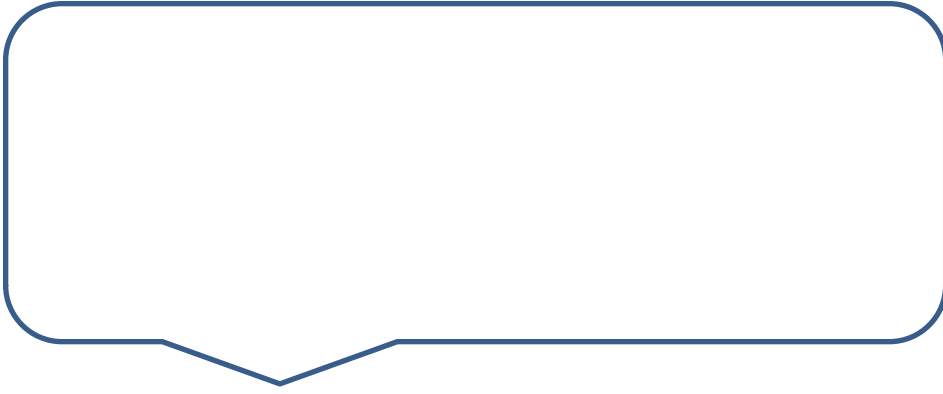


3) A boy messes up your book by mistake



4) Your mother has a headache

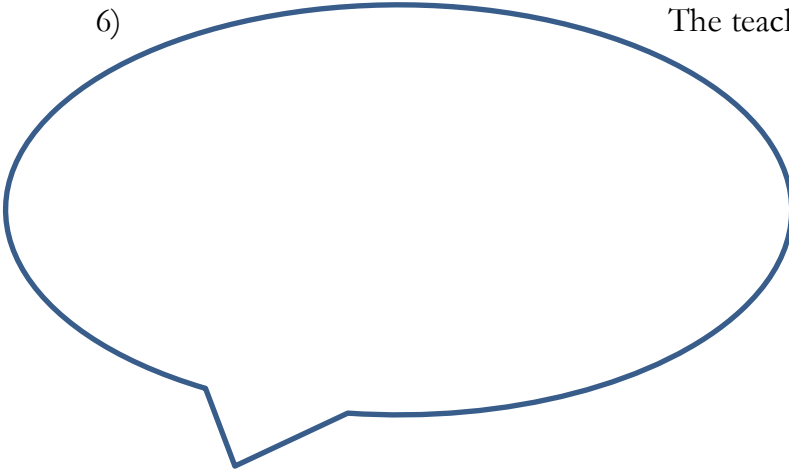




5) A friend is upset over a fight with someone else

6)

The teacher prepared an interesting lesson



7) Your cousin does not understand the homework



Sayings on the Tongue

The tongue deserves to be prisoned longer than anything else.

Holy Prophet (s)

The hurt caused by the tongue is worse than the strike of a sword.

Holy Prophet (s)

Think before speaking so that you may protect yourself from mistakes.

Imam Ali (a)

A fool's mind is at the mercy of his tongue and a wise man's tongue is under the control of his mind.

Imam Ali (a)

A wise man first thinks and then speaks, and a fool speaks and then thinks.

Imam Ali (a)

One who is quick in saying unpleasant things about others, will himself quickly become a target to their scandal.

Imam Ali (a)

The wiser a man is, the less talkative he will be.

Imam Ali (a)

One who has no control over his tongue will often have to face embarrassment and discomfort.

Imam Ali (a)

The tongue is such a wild beast that if let loose, it will act destructively.

Imam Ali (a)

No one is safe from sins unless he controls his tongue.

Imam al-Baqir (a)

A man is hidden behind his tongue. Imam al-Baqir (a)

Eleanor Roosevelt says: Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people.

The Rights of the Tongue

In Risalatul Huqooq (The Treatise of Rights), Imam Sajjad (a) says:

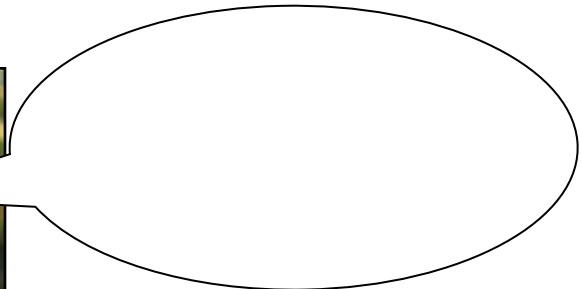
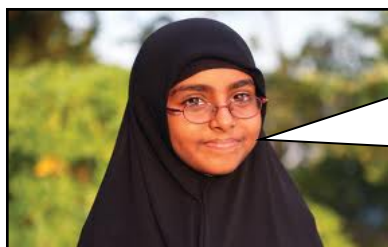
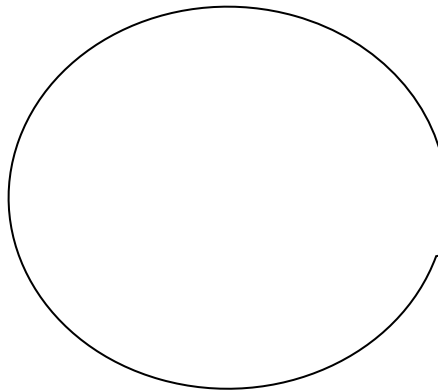
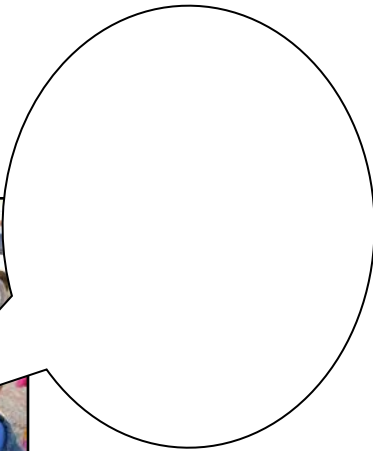
And the right of the tongue is that:

- you consider it too noble for indecent language
- accustom it to good
- direct it to politeness
- do not use it except in situations of needs and benefits of the religion and this world
- avoid any interfering in which there is little to be gained

Write a sentence about each of the above rights of the tongue

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Give an example of what you could say for three of the above rights:



Categories of Kind words

What words or phrases would you use for the following?



1) Praising something:

2) Showing affection: _____

3) Being sympathetic: _____

4) Offering help: _____

5) Displaying understanding: _____

What type of words do you use?

Give two examples of each type











The Triple Filter Test

During the Abbasid period, one of the scholars in Baghdad, the capital of Muslim caliphate at that time, was reputed to hold knowledge in high esteem. One day an acquaintance met the great scholar and said, "Do you know what I just heard about your friend?"

"Hold on a minute," the scholar replied. "Before telling me anything I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."

"Triple filter?"

"That's right," the scholar continued. "Before you talk to me about my friend it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you're going to say. That's why I call it the triple filter test. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"



"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it and..."



"All right," said the scholar. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good?"

"No, on the contrary..."

So," the scholar continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him, but you're not certain it's true. You may still pass the test though, because there's one filter left: the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really..."

"Well," concluded the scholar, "if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?"

(Source: www.ezsoftech.com)

Words blow away like Feathers

A younger woman one day said something that hurt (insult) her best friend. She regretted it immediately, and would have done anything to have taken the words back. But they were said, impulsively, in a moment of thoughtlessness, and as close as she and her friend were, she didn't consider the effects of her words beforehand.

In her effort to undo what she had done, she went to an older, wiser woman in the village. Explaining her situation, and asked for advice. The older, wiser woman listened patiently in an effort to determine just how sincere the younger woman was, how far she was willing to go to correct the situation.

The older, wiser woman said, "There are two things needed to do to make amends. The first of the two is extremely difficult. Tonight, take your best feather pillows, and open a small hole in each one. Then, before the sun rises, you must put a single feather on the doorstep of each house in town. When you are through, come back to me. If you've done the first thing completely, I'll tell you the second."



The younger woman hurried home to prepare for her chore. All night long she laboured alone in the cold. She went from doorstep to doorstep, taking care not to overlook a single house. Her fingers were frozen, the wind was so sharp it caused her eyes to water, but she ran on, through the darkened streets, thankful there was something she could do to put things back the way they once were.

Just as the sun rose, she returned to the older, wiser woman. She was exhausted, but relieved that her efforts would be rewarded. "My pillows are empty. I placed a feather on the doorstep of each home." Now, said the older, wiser woman, "Go back and refill your pillows. Then everything will be as it was before." The younger woman was stunned. "You know that's impossible! The wind blew away each feather as fast as I placed them on the doorsteps! You didn't say I had to get them back! If this is the second requirement, then things will never be the same."

"That's true", said the older, wiser woman. "Never forget. Each of your words is like a feather in the wind. Once spoken, no amount of effort, regardless how heartfelt or sincere, can ever return them to your mouth. Choose your words well, and guard them most of all in the presence of those you love, because remember one kind word can warm three winter months."

(Source: www.ezsoftech.com)