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Usul al-Fiqh for Beginners, Lesson 3: Ahkam (Legal Rulings)

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[Usul al-Fiqh for Beginners](#)

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Ahkam / Rulings

The rulings related to Taklif (agency and liability) fall under are five categories:

1. **Wajib / Obligation:** An obligation is an action that the person is rewarded for doing and is deserving punishment for omitting it. The five daily prayers is an example of an action that is wajib, as it is a command of Allah in Surah al-Israa, verse 87.
2. **Masnoon / Desirable:** An action that the person is rewarded for doing but not under threat of punishment for omitting. Pardoning the harmful actions of others is Masnoon is encouraged in the speech of Allah in Surah Ash-shura verse number 43, but it is not obligatory.
3. **Al-Haram / prohibition:** An action that the person is rewarded for omitting it if he intends worship and punished for intentionally doing. Dealing in Riba, usury is haram, as Allah forbids it in Surah Ali Imran, verse number 130.
4. **Al-Makruh / discouraged:** An action that the person is rewarded for avoiding but not punished for doing. Looking around in prayer is Makruh.
5. **Al-Mubah / permissible:** An action that the person is neither rewarded for doing nor punished for omitting. All commercial transactions are mubah in general. Allah gives the option of choosing to do commerce or to leave it in Surah al-Baqarah verse number 278, so it is permissible.