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Usul al-Fiqh for Beginners, Lesson 6: The Evidences

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[Usul al-Fiqh for Beginners](#)

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Evidence in Islam

Evidence in Islam, where rulings are deduced, are split into two broad categories:

1. The **Quran** and **Sunnah**, which is the foundation and source of knowledge of Allah and the sharia rulings.
2. **Ijma** and **Qiyas**, which is connected to number one in that it must have a basis in the Quran and the Sunnah. It's not possible for there to be an Ijma' or for Qiyas to be done except that it is based upon a text of the Quran and Sunnah

The ahkam are divided into two types:

1. The important ahkam (rulings) needed for most people such as prayer, buying and selling, etc is proven in the Book, the Sunnah, Ijma' and Qiyas. The Ahkam are built on bringing about a benefit where it is a command and repelling a harm where it is a prohibition.
2. You find differences of opinion in few of the ahkam. The rulings of the prayer are generally agreed upon, at least three quarters of the rulings, such as when you pray, the conditions for the prayer, standing, what is recited etc. with a few issues having difference of opinion such as when you raise your hands with takbir, etc.

How can you know the stronger opinion when there is a difference of opinion? The scholar who uses the Quran, Sunnah, Ijma and Qiyas as evidence, the four evidences above.