Muslim Prayer

It was narrated from Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) that The Prophet (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) said: *«What do you think if there was a river by the door of any one of you and he bathed in it five times a day, would there be any trace of dirt left on him?» They said, «No trace of dirt would be left on him.» He said, «That is like the five daily prayers, by means of which Allah erases sin.»*

(Agreed upon)

1 Pillars of Prayer

These **essential parts** of prayer are not waived, whether omitted by mistake or deliberately, or due to ignorance.

Standing
if one is able

Takbeerat al-Ihram
the opening *Allah akbar*

Al-Fatihah
reciting it in full, correctly, and without interruptions

Ruku
bowing

Rising from bowing
until standing up straight

Sujud
Prostration on seven parts: forehead (incl. nose), both hands, both knees, toes of both feet

Rising from sujud & sitting
between the prostrations

Pausing
in every part of the prayer

Final tashahhud & sitting
At-tahiyyaatu Lillah...

Sending blessings upon the Prophet
Allahumma salli ala Muhammad...

Tasleem
As-salamu alaykum wa rahmatullah

Performing these in correct order

2 Obligatory parts of prayer

Important parts of the prayer that, if omitted deliberately, render the prayer invalid. If missed by mistake or due to ignorance, they can be compensated by doing the prostration of forgetfulness *(sujud as-sahw)*

Takbeer between postures
Saying *Allah akbar* while moving from one posture to another

Tasbeeh during ruku & sujud
Saying *Subhana Rabby al-Adheem* during bowing
and *Subhan Rabby al-A'la* during sujud

Tasmee and Tahmid
Saying *Sami'a Allahu liman hamidah* while rising from bowing,
and responding *Rabbana wa lake l-hamd* when stood up straight

Rabb ighfir li between sujuds
Saying these words to ask for forgiveness between prostrations

First tashahhud & sitting for it
Whereas the **last** tashahhud is a pilar, the first one is *obligatory (after the first 2 rak'ahs in prayers that have more than 2)*

3 Sunnah of prayer

These are not obligatory but they are usually followed, and including them brings great rewards. Following the Sunnah of our Prophet (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) means we are trying to pray closer to the manner in which He prayed, and that is the most correct and perfect way.

Raising hands in 4 places
At the opening *takbeer*, when bowing, when rising from bowing, *and when standing up after the first tashahhud*

Placing the right hand over left while standing
On the chest, above navel, or below it

Dua al-istifah
The opening supplication – there are a couple of versions according to sunnah and it's best to alternate between them.

Isti'adha
Seeking refuge with Allah before reciting Quran by saying: *A'oodhu Billah min al-Shaytan ir-rajeem*

Basmalah
Saying *Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Raheem* **quietly** before reciting al-Fatihah and before whatever recitation follows it

Ta'meen
Saying *Ameen* at the end of al-Fatihah

Reciting something in addition to al-Fatihah
Reciting another fragment from the Quran in addition to al-Fatihah

Reciting loud and quietly
Reciting **loud** in Fajr and in the first two rak'ahs of Maghrib and Isha; reciting **quietly** in other obligatory prayers

Way of bowing
With the back straight, head in line with the back, and placing hands on the knees with fingers spread apart

Holding arms away from the sides in ruku and sujud
When bowing and prostrating

Extra tasbeeh in ruku and sujud
One is *obligatory*, more is *Sunnah*

Pointing the forefinger
... of the right hand while reciting tashahhud

Looking at the forefinger
while reciting tashahhud

Supplication before the tasleem

Sitting manner: tawarruk
after the final *tashahhud* – there are three ways of this way of sitting, with buttocks on the ground and feet to the right

Sitting with buttocks on the heels
as an alternative to *tawarruk* between the prostrations

Sitting manner: iftirash
In tashahhud after the first two rak'ahs, and between the prostrations – the right foot stays up, with the toes pointing to qiblah

! What invalidates the prayer

Breaking wudu

Contact with impure substance
being aware of it, and not removing it *immediately*

Uncovering the awrah deliberately

Turning one's back to qiblah deliberately

Speaking deliberately

Laughing out loud

Omiting a pillar, or an obligatory part
without excuse

Adding a pillar deliberately

Changing the order of pillars

Eating or drinking deliberately

Adult woman, donkey, or black dog crossing

Cancelling the intention

Things that are disliked (makrooh)

Turning slightly without reason
turning the whole body away from Qiblah invalidates prayer

Resting forearms on the ground in sujud
this resembles how a dog rests

Tucking or tying up hair or clothes
in a way that prevents them from prostrating

Putting hands on hips
one hand on a hip like the Jews is not allowed; both hands are not appropriate

Covering the mouth

Interlacing fingers

Moving a great deal and fidgeting

Praying when food is ready or resisting the urge to relieve oneself

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It was narrated that Buraydah ibn al-Husayb (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "I heard the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) say: *«The covenant that distinguishes between us and them is the prayer, and whoever neglects it has disbelieved (become a kaafir).»"*

(It was narrated by Ahmad, Abu Dawood, al-Tirmidhi, al-Nisaa'i and Ibn Maajah)