

My Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم Did Not Backbite



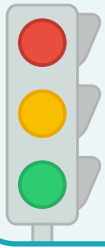
Learning Objectives

In this lesson, I will:

Define 'backbiting'

Discuss the consequences of backbiting

Explain how I can stay away from backbiting



Key Words

Backbiting (*ghibah*) - غَيْبَةٌ

Pollute

Consequence

T Thinking Starter

Think of a time when somebody made an unkind comment about you to others. How did you feel?



Backbiting

Backbiting (*ghibah*) is to say something which is true about a Muslim that they would not like, behind their back (i.e. when they are not there). Backbiting is a very serious sin and it angers Allah. Allah سبحانه وتعالى says:

وَلَا يَغْتَابَ بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا

“...And do not backbite one another...” (Surah al-Hujurat: 12)

Our Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم would never backbite. One day, one of his wives told him صلى الله عليه وسلم something about a man. He صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “I do not like to talk about a man, even if I were to get this or that.” He meant that even if someone gave him so much money, he would still not like to say something bad about that man.

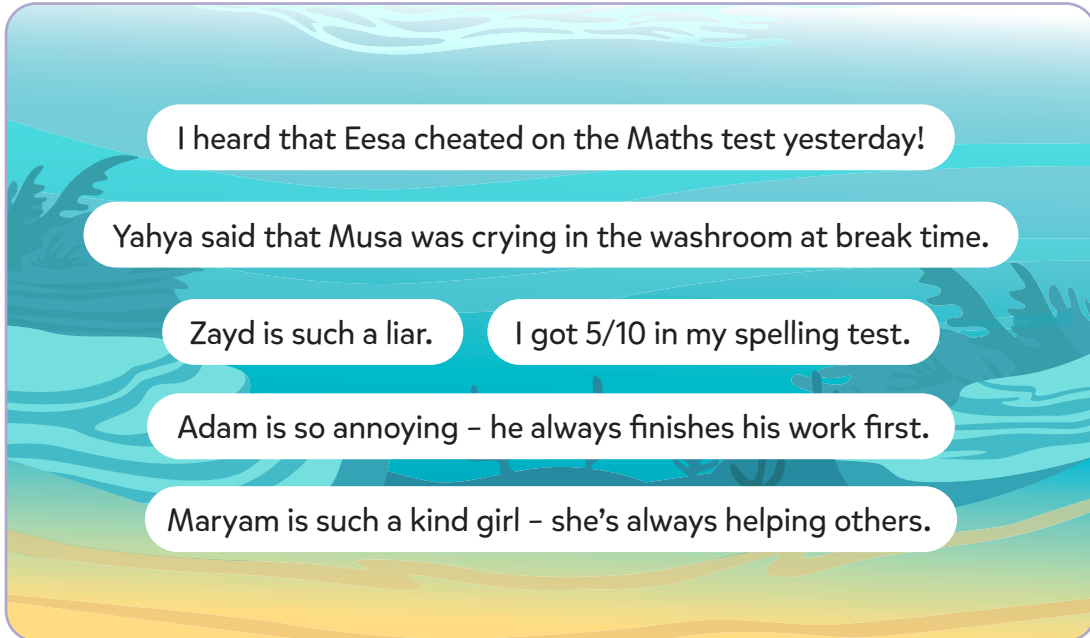
She then said, “Safiyah is a woman who is ...” and she used her hand as if to indicate that she is short. So the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said to her: “You have said a statement which, if it were mixed in the water of the sea, it would **pollute** it.” (Abu Dawud)

Pollute: to make something very dirty



Task 1

Which of the comments below would pollute the water of the sea if they were mixed with it? Can you shade them in?



Did You Know?

It is not ghibah when you report someone for harming someone or something. It is our duty to stop others from doing wrong.



IT'S STORY TIME!

Playground Whispers

Children are running, laughing, and playing together on the school playground. Ustadh Jamal calls Yusuf to the side to have a word with him. Adam whispers to Salih that Yusuf must be in trouble because he saw him taking a sweet from Ustadh's jar. Then, Yusuf and Ustadh Jamal go inside.

When the children line up at the end of break, Salih is standing behind Khadijah and he tells her what Adam told him about Yusuf. Some other children hear this and they all become curious, *thinking badly* of Yusuf.



The *gossip spreads like wildfire* amongst the children in the class. Yusuf's other friends *start avoiding him*, whispering amongst themselves whenever he comes over. Yusuf overhears them speaking about him. He starts tearing up: he is *hurt and confused*, feeling *lonely and unloved*.

By the next day, Yusuf *loses his confidence*. He cries at the school gate, refusing to go into school. Adam and Salih watch regretfully from a distance, realising the *damage* their gossip has caused.

Later on, Ustadh Jamal tells the class, "I told Yusuf to take a sweet from my jar as he was feeling dizzy. Then, on the playground, I called him over to see if he was feeling better. He wasn't feeling better, so we came back inside where he could sit and take a rest." Adam and Salih are speechless and ashamed of themselves. It clearly wasn't what it seemed! *They wish they could take back what they said, but it isn't possible now.*

The children all apologise to Yusuf and express how they wish they hadn't believed what they were told. Adam and Salih admit that they had started the gossip. Yusuf forgives them, but he finds it very difficult to *trust* them again.



Reflect on the story above and identify at least **five consequences** of ghibah.



Task 2

At the end of the school day, the teacher writes a question on the board:

'Why is ghibah not allowed in Islam?'

Write an answer to the teacher's question.

How Can I Stay Away From Backbiting?

- ★ Remind yourself that it is a major sin – something which makes Allah angry.
- ★ Ask yourself: Would I want someone to say this about me?
- ★ Ask yourself: Do I want Allah to wipe out my good deeds and give them away to another person?



Task 3

Role Play

You are thinking of telling your friend, 'My neighbour is very nosy.'

What questions can you ask yourself before you say this?

Your friend says, 'Did you see that boy? His clothes were so dirty.'

How should you respond to your friend?

I Act On What I Learn

I will stay far away from backbiting just like my Prophet ﷺ!

Progress Check



1. What is ghibah? ☐

2. What are some of the consequences of ghibah? ☐

3. How can we keep away from ghibah? ☐
