

## Eid in the UK

In London, Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated in a big way. Eid is the celebration at the end of the Islamic holy month of fasting, or sawm as we call it. You may know this as the month of Ramadan. As Muslims, we believe that Allah commanded us to fast during this time, as it says so in the Qur'an.

On the morning of Eid we will often have a small, sweet breakfast, maybe just dates (we will really feast later, so don't want to ruin the big event). We will then go out and give donations to the poor, usually at our Mosque. This is still so important as there are more homeless people about than in the past two years in my local area. We call this the Zakat-ul-fitr. We then have Eid prayers together.

It's traditional to visit relatives over Eid, which is what I'm going to be doing - however, I'm also going to be stopping off to see an Islamic event in the afternoon which I've not seen before;

Sometimes in Manchester there are large outdoor concerts where singers, rappers, musicians and dancers will entertain a crowd of thousands. Although traditional religious songs are often sung, this isn't always the case as new Islamic artists are often given their first big performance at the 'Eid OnThe Square' celebrations at Trafalgar Square, London.

Eid is a special time for children too, and in cities fairground rides add to the days festivities. Food also plays a large part in Eid ul-Fitr, and with literally hundreds of different pastries and sweets available, it is little surprise that the popularity in London of the festival is growing with Muslims and non-Muslims alike. No one's too bothered about calories on days like these -

we traditionally walk to Eid prayers on foot and our Mosque is two miles away!

In 2020 there are many less traditional ways of celebrating Eid gaining popularity. Last year, hundreds of Muslim youngsters from across east London competed in the Leyton Orient Eid Cup in celebration of one of the most special festivals of the Islamic year. As Eid is a time when it is encouraged to show Happiness and praise to Allah, doing the fun things we love is a great way of celebrating the holiday.

Imagine you are a Muslim living in London. Write a letter to your cousin who lives in Egypt telling him or her how you have celebrated Eid.

You can use the sentence starters on the next page, make sure you complete the task at your correct challenge level.



**Challenge:**

Dear.....

Happy Eid ul-Fitr!

My family celebrated this year by (describe 3 ways) .....

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Some traditional and non-traditional ways of celebrating the festival in the UK include.....

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