

## Lesson 5

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### **New words**

**break** /breɪk/ *verb* [I or T] to destroy or end something, or to come to an end:

*Eventually someone spoke, breaking the silence.*

**calendar** /'kæl.ɪn.də/ / US/-də/ *noun* [C] a printed table showing all the days, weeks and months of the year

**communal** /'kɒm.jʊ.n əl/ , /kə'mju:-/ US/'kɑ:.mjə-/ *adjective* belonging to or used by a group of people rather than one single person:

*communal facilities/property*

*We each have a separate bedroom but share a communal kitchen.*

**fast** /fɑ:st/ US/fæst/ *verb* [I] to eat no food for a period of time:

*One day a week he fasts for health reasons.*

**mark** /mɑ:k/ US/mɑ:rk/ *verb* [T] to be a clear sign of something; signalize:

*This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization.*

**moral victory** *noun* [C] /'mɒr.əl/ US/'mɔ:r-/ /'vɪk.t ə r.i/ US/-tə-/ a situation in which you show that your beliefs are right and fair, even if you do not win

**worshiper** /'wɜ:ʃɪp.ə/ / US/'wɜ:ʃɪp.ə/ *noun* [C] someone who goes to a religious ceremony to show respect and love for god:

*The cross marks the place where the body was found.*

## **EID UL-FITR**

### **A Special Occasion in Islamic Communities**

Eid-al-Fitr (Eid al-Fitr, Eid ul-Fitr, Id-Ul-Fitr, Eid) is the first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal, the tenth month in the Islamic calendar. It marks the end of Ramadan, which is a month of fasting and prayer. As with all months in the Islamic calendar, it begins when the new moon is seen. Fitr means “to break”, so Eid ul-Fitr represents the breaking of the fasting period.

On this day, Iranians, like Muslims in other countries, get up very early and attend a special communal prayer shortly after sunrise in big mosques or in large open areas. The prayer is rather short, and is followed by a *khutba* (sermon). After the prayer, worshipers greet each other in an atmosphere of spirit, love, and brotherhood. A common greeting heard on this day is “Eid Mubarak” which means “Happy Eid”.

When the communal prayer is over, everyone goes home to eat breakfast. Then around midmorning, people put on their best clothes and start visiting their friends and relatives. They often have lunch together.

Eid ul-Fitr is a day of forgiveness, moral victory, and peace. It is a day of thanksgiving too. Muslims celebrate the end of fasting by thanking God for the help and strength He gave them during Ramadan to practice self-control. All Iranians feel a sense of loss or sadness at the passing of Ramadan.