

## 8531 - Does Shaking Hands with Sister-In-Law Break Wudu?

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### the question

Is it permissible for me to sit with my wife's sister, and does it break my wudu if I touch her?  
Please advise me, may Allah reward you with good.

### Summary of answer

If a man touches a woman with desire, this breaks his wudu, whether the woman is a non-mahram or otherwise. The kind of touching which breaks wudu is physical touching with no barrier in between.

### Detailed answer

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### Can you sit your wife's sister without mahram?

“It is haram for you to sit with your wife's sister or any other non-mahram woman on her own. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “No man is alone with a woman but the Shaytan is the third one present with them.” (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 9/290; Muslim, no. 1341; Ahmad, al-Musnad, 1/222 and 346)

It is haram for a man [to be alone with a woman who is not his mahram](#) . Your wife's sister is a [stranger](#) (i.e. non-mahram) to you, because if you were to divorce your wife, it would be permissible for you to marry her (her sister). So she is not one of your mahrams.

### Does shaking hands with sister-in-law break wudu?

With regard to breaking wudu, it is only broken by touching a woman with desire. [If a man touches a woman with desire](#), this breaks his wudu, whether the woman is a non-mahram or otherwise. The kind of touching which breaks wudu is [physical touching](#) with no barrier in between. This is what has been stated by the scholars.” (Fatawa Shaykh ‘Abd-Allah ibn Humayd, p. 48)

For more, please see the answers: [38153](#) and [12663](#)

And Allah knows best.