

Pronunciation: Beliefs and religions of the world

1. **Atheism** /'eɪθiːzəm/ the belief that God or gods do not exist
2. **Pantheism** /'pænθiːzəm/ the belief that God is present in all natural things
3. **Monotheism** /'mɒnəʊθiːzəm/ the belief that there is only one God
4. **Polytheism** /'pɒliθiːzəm/ the belief that there is more than one god
5. **Animism** /'ænimɪzəm/ the belief that plants, objects, and natural things such as the weather have a living soul
6. **Taoism** /'taʊɪzəm/ a Chinese philosophy based on the writings of Lao-tzu that express his philosophy of contemplation, nature, harmony of Yin and Yang and a simple life
7. **Hedonism** /'hedənɪzəm/ the belief that pleasure is the most important thing in life
8. **Humanism** /'hjuːmənɪzəm/ a system of thought that considers that solving human problems with the help of reason is more important than religious beliefs. It emphasizes the fact that the basic nature of humans is good.
9. **Confucianism** /kən'fjuːʃənɪzəm/ a religion based on the teachings of the Chinese philosopher Confucius that determines one's behavior toward family, society, and state and stresses the importance of learning and education.
10. **Hinduism** /'hɪnduːɪzəm/ the main religion of India and Nepal which includes the worship of one or more gods and belief in reincarnation /,riːmkɑː'neɪʃn/
11. **Judaism** /'dʒuːdeɪzəm/ the religion of the Jewish people, based mainly on the first five books of the Bible /'baɪbl/ and the Talmud /'tælməd/. It comprises the collective spiritual, cultural, and legal traditions of the Jewish people
12. **Christianity** /'krɪsti'ænəti/ the religion that is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the belief that he was the son of God. The Christian faith centers on beliefs regarding the birth, life, death and resurrection /,rezə'rekʃn/ of Jesus Christ /'dʒiːzəs kraɪst/.
13. **Islam** /'ɪzlɑːm/ the Muslim /'mʌzlɪm/ religion, based on belief in one God and revealed through Muhammad /mə'hæmɪd/ as the Prophet 'prɒfɪt/ of Allah /ə'ləː/. Followers of Islam aim to live a life of complete submission to Allah. They believe that nothing can happen without Allah's permission, but humans have free will.
14. **Communism** /'kɒmjənɪzəm/ a theory or system of social organization in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs
15. **Buddhism** /'bʊdɪzəm/ an Indian religion widely followed in Asia, based on the teaching of Siddhartha Gautama (or Buddha). Buddhists believe that human life is one of suffering and that meditation, spiritual and physical labor, and good behavior are the ways to achieve enlightenment or *nirvana* /nɪə'vɑːnə/