Introduction to Prayers

Prayer brings us closer to God. When we ask for things from God, even though God already knows what we want and need, we get merit (*zechut*) for the prayer.
Particularly in *synagogue*, a holy place, we must be always cognizant of God's presence and take special care to show respect to God in His house. This awareness is even more important than memorizing the *halachot* of prayer: those who speak in *synagogue* are showing disrespect to God as well as disturbing others and preventing them from praying with concentration (*kavana*).
The three daily prayer services--*shacharit*, *mincha*, and *ma'ariv*--are related to the three forefathers who instituted them. They partly take the place of—and are modeled after--the *Temple* sacrifices.
If you find you have made an error in saying a blessing or prayer, you may correct your error without having to repeat any previous parts if you do so within 2.5 seconds.

NOTE Prayers (tefilot) are said at set times; blessings (*brachot*) are said whenever the correct situation occurs for them. Even though prayers contain blessings within them, blessings and prayers are in separate sections in this website.

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