



﴿ فَاسْتَجَابَ لَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ ﴾

(آل عمران: 195)

Question

What is the difference between **أجابَ** and **استجابَ**?

Reply from Admin (checked by our Shaykh):

أجابَ in day-to-day usage, means to reply to a question with any kind of reply. The questioner may not like the reply but the question has been answered. This is **أجابَ**.

استجابَ in day-to-day usage, means to answer a question and respond in a favourable way. The questioner will like the reply because the reply is favourable. This kind of reply is **استجابَ**.

استجابَ also means *to grant a prayer or request*.

استجاب in the Qur'aan: In the following *ayah* it means:
to grant a prayer:

﴿ فَاسْتَجَابَ لَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ أَنِّي لَا أُضِيعُ عَمَلَ عَامِلٍ مِنْكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ ﴾
(آل عمران: 195)

And in this *ayah* it means: *to grant a request:*

﴿ إِذْ تَسْتَغِيثُونَ رَبَّكُمْ فَاسْتَجَابَ لَكُمْ أَنِّي مُمِدُّكُمْ بِالْفِ مِّنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ ﴾
(الأنفال: 9)

In this *ayah* it means: *to respond favourably:*

وقال الشيطان لَمَّا قُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَعَدَكُمْ وَعَدَ الْحَقِّ وَوَعَدْتُكُمْ فَأَخْلَفْتُكُمْ
وما كان لي عليكم من سلطانٍ إلا أن دعوتكم فاستجبتم لي (إبراهيم: 22)

أجاب in the Qur'aan: Most of the time, it means استجاب – as in this
ayah:

﴿ يَا قَوْمَنَا أَجِيبُوا دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ ﴾ (الأحقاف: 31)

But in the following *ayah*, it means ردّ:

﴿ يَوْمَ يَجْمَعُ اللَّهُ الرُّسُلَ فَيَقُولُ مَاذَا أُجِبْتُمْ ﴾
(المائدة: 109)

i.e. ردّدتم.