

KITZUR HALACHOS

ROSH HASHANA | R' TZVI YAAKOV STEIN

EREV ROSH HASHANA

HATARAS NEDARIM

- Any three visibly adult males can be on the beis din.¹
- They have to understand what they're saying.²
- Relatives are allowed.³
- It only works for nedarim that are unknown.⁴
- If there's a specific neder that needs annulment it should be specified⁵ to at least one of the judges.⁶
- It must be done by the person himself not by someone on his behalf.⁷
- The minhag is that women don't say hataras nedarim. They should have it in mind when they say Kol Nidrei on Yom Kippur.
- A husband is allowed to say hataras nedarim on behalf of his wife. He should tell the judges that he's also having his wife in mind.⁸

FASTING

- Many have the minhag to fast until chatzos.
- If possible it's better to fast until after mincha so that aneinu can be said in shemona esrei.⁹
- Mincha should be davened with extra concentration because it's the last mincha of the year and we want to end the year on a high note.¹⁰
- Some have the minhag to go daven at the cemetery.¹¹

MIKVA FOR MEN

- Many have the minhag to go to mikva on Erev Rosh Hashana.¹²
- It's best not to go earlier than an hour before chatzos.¹³
- If it's difficult to go to mikva then a swimming pool is allowed. Preferably with the filter off.

- If it's difficult to go to Mikva, at least take a long shower.¹⁴
- It's better not to have relations on Rosh Hashana unless it's mikva night. If there's desire then it's better to be together but the man should go to mikva in the morning before davening¹⁵

FIRST NIGHT

- We wish each other לשנה טובה תכתב ותחתם on the first night. This is an important minhag¹⁶. Many add the words לאלתר לחיים טובים ולשלום. It's too difficult to say then they don't have to be said.
- This can be said until midday on the first day.¹⁷
- The minhag is to eat special foods that will be a siman for a good year and say a special יהי רצון for each one.¹⁸
- The foods that are mentioned in the Gemara are: קרא, רוביא, כרתי, סילקא, תמרי.¹⁹
- יהי רצון can be said on anything that infers having a good year.²⁰
- Some say that the foods don't have to be eaten, just looked at. Therefore, those that don't want to eat the foods can just look at them.²¹
- Not getting angry is a very good siman for a good year.²²
- The minhag is not to eat walnuts on Rosh Hashana.²³
- Some say all nuts shouldn't be eaten.²⁴
- It's preferable not to eat nuts that are made into pastes and creams.²⁵
- Peanuts are not nuts and can be eaten.
- The minhag is not to eat sour²⁶ or bitter foods.²⁷
- If you don't taste the sour or bitter ingredients in the food then it's allowed.²⁸
- Sharp/hot/spicy foods are allowed to be eaten.

- The minhag is to dip the challah into honey.²⁹
- A Bracha of Haetz is said on the fruits.³⁰
- No Bracha is necessary on vegetables that are eaten for the Simanim³¹
- If using an apple for the first siman, it's best to leave the pomegranates and dates in a different room but make sure to have it in mind with the Bracha of haetz.³²
- The first יהי רצון should not be said before making the Bracha of Haetz and not immediately after the Bracha. It should be said after eating a little bit of the fruit.³³
- All the subsequent יהי רצון should be said before eating the food.³⁴
- The shechyanu fruit is meant for the second night not for the first night.³⁵

SECOND NIGHT

- Because Rosh Hashana is one long day, there's some doubt as to whether or not shechyanu should be said by Kiddush. Therefore a new fruit should be on the table during Kiddush.³⁶
- Some have the minhag to eat the new fruit immediately after Kiddush before eating challah³⁷. Others eat it after the challah.
- The new fruit should be on the table for candlelighting so that shechyanu can be said when lighting the candles.³⁸
- Some have the minhag to say the יהי רצון on the second night too³⁹. If that's not your minhag, then based on the shitos that Hashem's name shouldn't be said in the יהי רצון, do it without saying Hashem's name .

MISCELLANEOUS

- We're not supposed to sleep on Rosh Hashana⁴⁰ because we don't want our Mazal to sleep⁴¹ (not because we'll have a sleepy year).
- Many say that after chatzos (midday) this doesn't apply.⁴²
- Sitting around and doing nothing is the equivalent of sleeping.⁴³

- Some wake up before daybreak so that they won't be sleeping during daytime on Rosh Hashana⁴⁴ but most don't have that minhag.⁴⁵
- We're ALLOWED to daven for personal requests on Rosh Hashana.⁴⁶ On shabbos they should only be added after אלקי נצור.⁴⁷
- If yaleh viyavo was forgotten in birchas hamazon, at the night meals it should be repeated. At the day meals it should NOT be repeated.⁴⁸
- It is preferable not to go visiting during Rosh Hashana.

SHOFAR

- It's best to not eat before Shofar.⁴⁹
- If eating cake, it can't be more than the equivalent of a kibeitza (egg) [half of a piece of rye bread]. Fruits, vegetables and drinks can be unlimited.
- There's no talking from the Bracha before shofar until after the last tekiyos.⁵⁰
- Learning is allowed but it can't be verbalized.
- Tehilim is allowed.⁵¹
- Asher yatzar after using the bathroom is allowed.⁵²

DAVENING

- Slightly bow when saying ונחננו כורעים during the silent mussaf shemona esrei.⁵³
- When the chazan says עלינו לשבח say the words silently along with the chazan.⁵⁴
- When bowing on the floor during chazaras hashatz of mussaf, make sure to place something under the HEAD before putting the head on the floor⁵⁵ (under the knees is not necessary⁵⁶).
- Get up from the floor before saying the word הקב"ה.⁵⁷
- Continue to say the words silently until after the words אין עוד.⁵⁸
- It's preferable not to run out of shul after davening. It's best to sit and learn for a little bit before going home.

1.	שולחן ערוך (יורה דעה סימן רכח סעיף א)	30.	מגן אברהם (סימן תקפג סעיף קטן א)
2.	שולחן ערוך (יורה דעה סימן רכח סעיף א)	31.	אליה רבה (סימן תקפג סעיף קטן ג)
3.	שולחן ערוך (יורה דעה סימן רכח סעיף ג)	32.	קובץ הלכות (פרק ז סעיף יד)
4.	שולחן ערוך (יורה דעה סימן רכח סעיף יג)	33.	מגן אברהם (סימן תקפג סעיף קטן ב)
5.	שולחן ערוך (יורה דעה סימן רכח סעיף יג)	34.	כף החיים (סימן תקפג סעיף קטן טו)
6.	דרך החיים	35.	מגן אברהם (סימן תר סעיף קטן ב)
7.	שולחן ערוך (יורה דעה סימן רכח סעיף טז)	36.	שולחן ערוך (אורח חיים סימן תר סעיף ב)
8.	שו"ת רב פעלים (חלק ד סימן לד)	37.	מטה אפרים (סימן תר סעיף ו)
9.	משנה ברורה (סימן תקסב סעיף קטן י)	38.	משנה ברורה (סימן תר סעיף קטן ד)
10.	מטה אפרים (סימן תקפא סעיף נז)	39.	מטה אפרים (סימן תר סעיף יד)
11.	רמ"א (אורח חיים סימן תקפא סעיף ד)	40.	רמ"א (אורח חיים סימן תקפג סעיף ב)
12.	רמ"א (אורח חיים סימן תקפא סעיף ד)	41.	ט"ז (סימן תקפג סעיף קטן ג)
13.	משנה ברורה (סימן תקפא סעיף קטן כו)	42.	משנה ברורה (סימן תקפג סעיף קטן ט)
14.	שו"ת מנחת יצחק (חלק ד סימן כא)	43.	משנה ברורה (סימן תקפג סעיף קטן ט)
15.	משנה ברורה (סימן תקפא סעיף קטן כו)	44.	מטה אפרים (סימן תקפד סעיף א)
16.	רמ"א (אורח חיים סימן תקפב סעיף ט)	45.	קובץ הלכות (פרק כ סעיף ג)
17.	משנה ברורה (סימן תקפב סעיף קטן כה)	46.	קצה המטה (סימן תקפד סעיף קטן כז)
18.	שולחן ערוך (אורח חיים סימן תקפג סעיף ג)	47.	הליכות שלמה (פרק א סעיף טו)
19.	כריתות (ו, א)	48.	תהלה לדוד (אורח חיים סימן קפח)
20.	מגן אברהם (ריש סימן תקפג)	49.	שערי תשובה (סימן תקפד סעיף קטן ג)
21.	קצה המטה (סימן תקפג סעיף קטן ט)	50.	שולחן ערוך (אורח חיים סימן תקצג סעיף ג)
22.	משנה ברורה (סימן תקפג סעיף קטן ה)	51.	אורחות רבינו (חלק ב עמוד קצא)
23.	רמ"א (סימן תקפג סעיף ב)	52.	קובץ הלכות (פרק טז סעיף יז)
24.	מטה אפרים (סימן תקפג סעיף ג)	53.	קובץ הלכות (פרק יח סעיף ה)
25.	קובץ הלכות (פרק ז הערה כה)	54.	מטה אפרים (סימן תקצב סעיף א)
26.	מגן אברהם (ריש סימן תקפג)	55.	שולחן ערוך (אורח חיים סימן קלא סעיף ח)
27.	ערוך השלחן (סימן תקפג סעיף ג)	56.	ארחות רבינו (חלק ב עמוד קפח)
28.	קובץ הלכות (פרק ז סעיף כא)	57.	נוהג כצאן יוסף (סימן יג)
29.	מגן אברהם (סימן תקפג סעיף קטן א)	58.	מטה אפרים (סימן תקצב סעיף א)