

# BLESSINGS: GENERAL RULES

## BLESSINGS: DOUBT (SAFEK) WHETHER YOU SAID

### If Doubt Whether You Said a Blessing (except for Birkat HaMazon)

If you are not sure if you said ANY blessing in ANY category, don't repeat it.

#### EXCEPTIONS

- Birkat ha'mazon.
- You may also include the first blessing over reading the Torah (Asher bachar banu mi'kol ha'amim.)

Even the blessing for mezonot is not an exception.

#### REASON

The only blessing commanded in the Torah is birkat ha'mazon (some say also the blessings on the Torah); all others are from Chazal.

### If Doubt Whether You Said Birkat HaMazon

Say birkat ha'mazon if:

- You are not certain that you said birkat ha'mazon, and
- You were satiated from your meal.

**NOTE** You are considered to be “satiated” after eating food if you no longer have an appetite.

### If Doubt Whether You Said Blessings on Torah Study

If you are not certain that you have said any of the morning blessings on studying Torah (from la'asok b'divrei Torah to notein haTorah), you should not say them later. But when you say “ahava raba” before the morning shema, you may intend it to cover such blessings; then after the amida, you should say some Torah verses (psukim).

## BLESSINGS: SAYING FOR SOMEONE ELSE

### Blessings: For Someone Else: Mitzva/Birchot Mitzva

You may say any blessing on a mitzva—such as kiddush, hallel, Torah—for another person, even if you have already fulfilled the mitzva for yourself, as long as that other person is required to do that mitzva.

#### EXAMPLE

Girls (12 years old and more) and women must fulfill all of the positive commandments of Shabbat including kiddush. So even after they have already said kiddush for themselves, they may say kiddush for other Jews, including adult men.

**EXCEPTION** You may not say birkat ha'mazon for someone else.

### Blessings: For Someone Else: Pleasure/Birchot Nehenin and Praise-Thanks/Shevach V'Hoda'a

You may say these blessings for someone else only if you also need to say the blessing for yourself:

- Blessings for Enjoyment (“birchot nehenin”—such as for food or drink), and
- Blessings of Praise and Thanks (shevach v'hoda'a--such as on rainbows or seeing large mountains)

## BLESSINGS: ANSWERING AMEN

### Blessings: Answering Amen: What To Hear

When someone is saying a blessing on your behalf, you may say amen as long as you have heard at least:

- The first six words of the blessing; and

- At least a few words of substance in the middle of the blessing; and
- The complete final line.

**EXAMPLE** For the *al ha'michya* blessing, you must hear:

- The first six words,
- *Al ha'michya*, and
- The final blessing line.

## BLESSINGS: CORRECTING A MISTAKEN BLESSING

### Correcting a Mistaken Blessing

If you make a mistake when saying any blessing or in any prayer, you may correct it within 2.5 seconds by simply saying the correct blessing.

**NOTE** If you did not correct the blessing within 2.5 seconds, see next *halacha*:

### Retracting a Blessing after Third or Fourth Word

If you start an incorrect blessing:

- If you have said the third word (God's name), say *lamdeini chukecha*.
- If you have already said the third syllable of the fourth word (*elohei...*), say *Yisrael avinu mei'olam v'ad olam*.
- If you said more than the third syllable of the fourth word, say *Baruch shem kevod malchuto l'olam va'ed*.

## BLESSINGS: HOW MANY TO SAY

### 100 Blessings on Weekdays

Try to say 100 blessings a day. This is easy on weekdays since *Ashkenazim* say about 89 blessings just in the prayer services.

**NOTE** Saying 100 blessings each day is a *halacha* drabanan.

### 100 Blessings on Shabbat and Jewish Festivals

On *Shabbat* and some *Jewish festivals*, you might want to fulfill some of the quota for making 100 blessings by:

- Eating extra fruit or other foods,
- Hearing and saying *amen* to the blessings over the:
  - *Torah* reading,
  - Reader's repetition of the *anida* for *shacharit* and *musaf*, and
  - *Haftara* by the *maftir*.