FORE-BLESSINGS (BRACHA RISHONA): PRIORITIES

Fore-Blessings (Bracha Rishona): Priorities

You must say the blessing which was designed to be said on each type of food. *B'diavad*, a lower level blessing will still cover the food.

From lowest to highest level, here are the food fore-blessings:

- <u>She'hakol</u>,
- Borei pri ha'adama,
- Borei pri ha'eitz (on common fruits),
- <u>Borei pri ha'eitz</u> (on the <u>Five Special Fruits</u>)
- NOTE You will only say *borei pri ha'eitz* ONCE to include both common fruits and also special fruits that you will eat at one sitting,
 - Borei minei mezonot,
 - Borei pri ha'gafen, and
 - Ha'motzi lechem min ha'aretz.

Fore-Blessings (Bracha Rishona): Which Level To Say

In general, say the highest-level fore-blessing (bracha rishona) on a food.

NOTE As some foods get processed by cooking or by other means, they qualify for a higher-level blessing.

EXAMPLES

- Raw, rolled oats only merit the fore-blessing of *she'hakol*. But once the oats are cooked, the blessing of *borei minei mezonot* applies.
 - NOTE Raw oats could get the fore-blessing *borei pri ha'adama*, since they grow directly in the earth. But because oats are not normally considered edible when raw, they get demoted to *she'hakol*.
- A raw grape or raisin gets the blessing of *borei pri ha'eitz*. But once made into wine or grape juice, it merits *borei pri ha'gafen*.

© Copyright 2025 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com