

# ROSH HASHANA: SHOFAR

## Rosh Hashana: How Many Shofar Blasts To Hear

Men are required to hear at least 60 shofar blasts on Rosh Hashana (*l'chatchila*) in order to fulfill the commandment of hearing shofar: 30 before the musaf amida and 30 afterward. But they fulfill their requirement (*b'di'avad*) if they have heard at least 30 on each day of Rosh Hashana.

Women only need to hear 30 shofar blasts on each day of Rosh Hashana.

**NOTE** Although 100 shofar blasts are blown each day of Rosh Hashana, hearing all 100 is a non-binding custom. You do not need to hear the first blasts or any other particular set, but you must hear blasts that include:

- 3 tashrat (teki'a-shevarim-teru'a-teki'a) +
- 3 tashat (teki'a-shevarim-teki'a) +
- 3 tarat (teki'a-teru'a-teki'a).

## Interruptions after Shofar Blessing

Once the blessings have been said before (and for) blowing the shofar on Rosh HaShana, no one in the congregation may speak or do any action (hefsek) that will interrupt the entire process of blessings and the series of blowing the shofar. Any speaking that is not related to the shofar blowing or to the prayer service is forbidden.

## Woman Blowing Shofar

A woman who knows how, may blow the shofar for herself and for other women but not for men.

**REASON** This is because women, who are not required by the Torah to hear shofar but who have universally accepted that custom, may not fulfill the obligation for men, who are required by the Torah to hear the shofar.

## Practicing Shofar on Rosh Hashana

You may practice blowing a shofar on Rosh Hashana (unless it coincides with Shabbat!).