SHEMA: WHAT TO SAY

Men and Shema in Shacharit

Men must say shema in shacharit and the blessings before and after.

Women and Shema in Shacharit

Women are not required to say the full *shema* or the blessings before it. Even if women do not say the whole *shema*, it is proper for them to say the first line of the *shema* and *baruch shem kevod malchuto l'olam va'ed*.

NOTE If women say entire shema, even though they are not required to do so, it is a mitzva.

Amen before Shema

Some say the pre-*shema* blessing in *shacharit* or *ma'ariv* with the leader. Best is to finish the blessing before the leader does and then reply *amen* when he finishes saying the blessing.

Baruch Hu before Shema

Don't say <u>baruch hu u'varuch shemo</u> in response to a prayer leader saying the two pre-shema blessings.

Starting Shema before Prayer Leader Says

If you are late to *shacharit* or *ma'ariv minyan* and start the *shema* before the prayer leader has finished saying "*emet*" at the end of the *shema*, do not say *El melech ne'eman*.

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