

# WHEN TO PAUSE OR JOIN MINYAN

## When To Pause or Join Minyan: Regular Shacharit

### Shema

When the minyan reaches the shema in shacharit:

- If you are between bar'chu and end of amida, simply:
  - Cover your eyes like everyone else, but don't say the shema line.
- If you are anywhere else:
  - Pause and, with everyone else, say the first two lines of the shema (Shema, Yisrael... and Baruch shem...), and then
  - Resume where you were.

**REASON** You may not interrupt your prayer between bar'chu and end of amida.

### Amida

**SITUATION** You are saying your amida in a minyan and it is close to the end of the fourth hour of the day.

**WHAT TO DO** Do not pause, even if the leader says kaddish or kedusha, if doing so will delay you past the fourth hour.

## When To Pause or Join Minyan: Shabbat/Jewish Festival Shacharit

If the leader gets to kedusha on Shabbat or Jewish festival morning and you are saying the amida, you must:

- Pause until the leader has finished the blessing after kedusha (ha'el—or ha'melech—ha'kadosh), and then
- Resume your amida.

During birkat cohanim, you must:

- Pause in your amida until the end of birkat cohanim.

**EXCEPTION** Do not pause, even if the leader says kaddish or kedusha, if doing so will delay you past the fourth hour.

## When To Pause or Join Minyan: Mincha

During mincha, don't pause at all (such as for kedusha or kaddish) if, by pausing, you will not finish saying your amida before sunset.

## When To Pause or Join Minyan: Ma'ariv

If the ma'ariv minyan says shema, you must join them for the first two sentences (“Shema, Yisrael...” and “Baruch shem...”), unless you are saying the amida.

## When To Pause or Join Minyan: General Prayer Services

Here is when to pause or join the minyan during general prayer services:

- Ashrei

You do not need to interrupt your prayers to join the minyan for ashrei.

- Torah Reading

If you are saying the amida, pause only during the actual Torah reading, not during the blessings.

- Kaddish

During kaddish, you must pause in your amida until the prayer leader finishes the line of da'amiran b'alma....

- Alenu

If the minyan says alenu and you are at a part of the prayer service at which you are permitted to interrupt, you may join them.

**NOTE** It is a proper practice to say alenu with the congregation, even if you have already finished that prayer service.

**REASON** If you don't, it seems as if you are not accepting ol malchut shamayim.