WITH WHOM TO PRAY: MINYAN: AMEN

MINYAN: AMEN: WHEN TO SAY

Wait for Amen until after Completion of Blessing

Don't say amen to reply to the prayer leader's blessing until he has completely finished the blessing.

Don't Answer Amen within 2.5 Seconds

Don't answer *amen* if you finish a prayer or blessing within 2.5 seconds after the prayer leader (cantor) finishes the same prayer or blessing as you are saying. However, in these three cases, you may say *amen*, even if you finish exactly together with the leader:

- End of yishtabach;
- End of *Hallel*;
- Ma'ariv's shomer amo yisrael la'ad.

MINYAN: AMEN: WHEN TO INTERRUPT YOUR PRAYER

Interrupting Your Prayer To Say Amen

You may say *amen* to a prayer leader's blessing even if you are at a different part of the prayer service, but only at a part that you are permitted to interrupt.

Interrupting Your Blessing To Say Amen

You may not interrupt saying your own blessing in order to say amen to someone else's.

Interrupting Your Amida To Say Amen

When saying the *amida* yourself, do not say *amen* or any other replies to the prayer leader's repetition. If he says *kedusha* or *kaddish*:

- Pause in your own *amida* and listen without answering or saying anything.
- Once the leader has finished kedusha or kaddish, resume your private amida.

EXCEPTION If you finish the final blessing of the *amida* ("...*Ha'mevareich et amo yisrael ba'shalom*") as the leader starts to say the *kedusha*, and you want to respond along with the congregation:

- Quickly say the line, "Yihiyu l'ratzon,"
- Reply to the entire *kedusha* (*kadosh*, *amen*, and any other words that are said by the congregation) as if you had finished the *amida*.
- Once the leader has said the final blessing of kedusha, say "elohai netzur...."

MINYAN: AMEN: WHEN YOU CANNOT HEAR BLESSING

Saying Amen When You Cannot Hear the Blessing

Answer *amen* even if you cannot hear the leader saying blessings or prayers, as long as you know when he is finished each blessing.

MINYAN: AMEN: MISPRONOUNCED BLESSING

Saying Amen to Mispronunciation

Do not answer *amen* if the prayer leader is not saying blessings or prayers correctly, such as mispronouncing words, mumbling, slurring words, etc.

MINYAN: AMEN: WHEN 10 MEN INCLUDES PRAYER LEADER

Prayer Leader of 10 Men Should Wait

A prayer service leader for a group of only 10 men including himself should (but is not required to) wait until all 10 men have finished the private *amida* before he begins the reader's repetition.

- Shabbat
- Jewish Festivals
- Rosh Chodesh musaf.
- REASONTo have nine men replying amen to each blessing.NOTEA minimum of six men must be finished before the reader begins the repetition. If delaying the
repetition at mincha will cause the repetition to be finished after sunset, consult a rabbi.
- NOTE If all nine other men will not (or may not) say *amen*, the leader should intend that his public *amida* be a "free-will offering" (*nedava*); otherwise, his public *amida* may be a *bracha l'vatala*. He may not intend to offer a "free-will offering" on days or services that this sacrifice was not offered in the *Temple* in Jerusalem:
 - Shabbat
 - Jewish Festivals
 - Rosh Chodesh musaf.

Amida with Minyan but with less than Nine Men Answering

On *Shabbat*, even if there will not be at least nine men answering *amen* to the reader's repetition of the *anida*, the reader should say the repetition anyway, without intending that his repetition be counted as a *nedava* (which can only be offered on weekdays). If less than six men will be answering, the leader must wait before doing the repetition.

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