Three Main Categories of Blessings

There are three main categories of blessings:

1. Enjoyment (*birchot nehenin*), such as on foods and scents.
2. Praise and Thanks to God (*shevach v'hoda'a*), such as when saying *she'hecheyanu*, on seeing mountains and the sea, or when good happens to us.
3. Commandments/*Mitzvot* (*birchot mitzva*), such as reading the *Torah*, using the *lulav*, or lighting *Shabbat* candles.

© Copyright 2026 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com