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*.

REASON To have nine men replying *amen* to each blessing.

NOTE A 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 *amida* , 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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