

GLOSSARY OF JEWISH TERMS

Adam HaReshon – (Hebrew) literally means, “the first man” and refers to Adam the mate of Eve who lived in the Garden of Eden.

Agudot – (Hebrew) literally means “chained women” and refers to Jewish wives whose Jewish husbands refuse to give them a divorce.

Agunah – (Hebrew) literally means, “chained woman” and refers to a Jewish wife whose Jewish husband refuses to give her a divorce.

Ahavat Israel – (Hebrew) literally means, “love of Israel” and refers to the commandment of every Jew or Jewess to love every other Jew or Jewess.

Ashkenazi – (Hebrew) The Jewish People who live in Central and Eastern Europe.

Avarah – (Hebrew) literally means, “to cross over” and refers to a transgression against the Jewish Bible.

Avarot – (Hebrew) literally means, “to cross over” and refers to transgressions against the Jewish Bible

Ba'al Teshuva – (Hebrew) literally means “master of repentance” and refers to a secular male Jew who returns to the Jewish way of life.

Ba'alet Teshuva – (Hebrew) literally means “master of repentance” and refers to a secular female Jewess who returns to the Jewish way of life.

Ba'al Teshuveem – (Hebrew) literally means, “master of repentance” and refers to secular male Jews who return to the Jewish way of life.

Ba'alet Teshuvot – (Hebrew) literally means, “master of repentance” and refers to a secular female Jewesses who return to the Jewish way of life.

Bachar – (Hebrew) literally means, “chosen one” and refers to a Jewish male who studies the Jewish Bible.

Baruch Hashem – (Hebrew) literally means, “blessed be the name” and means, “blessed be the Jewish God”.

Bayit HaMikdash – (Hebrew) literally means, “houses of holiness” and refers to the two Jewish Holy Temples of God that once stood in the Holy City of Jerusalem in the Jewish State of Israel.

Beit Din – (Hebrew) literally means, “house of judgment” and refers to the Jewish court.

Bench Licht – (Yiddish) Lighting of the Sabbath candles.

Betachon – (Hebrew) Trust in God.

Betula – (Hebrew) A Jewish female virgin.

Betulot – (Hebrew) Jewish female virgins.

Bracha – (Hebrew) Blessing.

Brachot – (Hebrew) Blessings.

Chabbad – (Hebrew) is an acronym for “*Chochmah*, *Binah*, and *Da'at*” which respectively mean wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, and refer to the branch of Chassidic Orthodox Jewry that emphasizes practicing the aspects of Judaism that utilize these intellectual faculties.

Chag – (Hebrew) Jewish holiday.

Chageem – (Hebrew) Jewish holidays.

Challah – (Hebrew) Shabbot bread.

Chanuka – (Hebrew) literally means, “to educate” and refers to the historical celebration of triumph of the Jewish People over the Syrian Greeks who tried to eradicate the Jewish religion.

Chassidism – (Hebrew) originates from the root word *Chesed* which means, “kindness” and refers to the branch of Orthodox Jewry that emphasizes practicing the aspects of Judaism that have to do with performing random acts of kindness.

Chatan- (Hebrew) A Jewish groom.

Chatanah – (Hebrew) Jewish wedding.

Chilul Hashem – (Hebrew) Desecration of God’s name.

Choke – (Hebrew) An unexplainable phenomenon that only God comprehends, understands, and knows.

Cholent – (Yiddish) A stew with various types of meat and beans and vegetables in it that is served during the Shabbot day meal.

Chometz – (Hebrew) Leavened bread and leavened bread products.

Chumash – (Hebrew) Five Books of Moses.

Cohen – (Hebrew) A Jewish priest.

Cohaneem – (Hebrew) Jewish priests.

Cohen Gadol – (Hebrew) literally means, “grand priest” and refers to the chief of the Jewish priests.

Derech – (Hebrew) literally means “path” and refers to a certain way of observing Orthodox Jewish religion.

Derecheem – (Hebrew) literally means “paths” and refers to particular ways of observing Orthodox Jewish religion.

Devar – (Hebrew) means “to tell”.

Dion – (Hebrew) Judge of Jewish Law.

Emunah – (Hebrew) Faith in God.

Erev Shabbot – (Hebrew) The evening of the Jewish Sabbath.

Frum – (Yiddish) A Jewish person who observes Orthodox Judaism.

Frumkeit – (Yiddish) The observance of Orthodox Judaism.

Fry – (Yiddish) A Jewish person who does not observe Orthodox Judaism.

Gabbi – (Hebrew) An assistant.

Gadol HaDor – (Hebrew) A great Jewish leader of the generation.

Gamacht – (Yiddish) A Jewish charity store containing used or discarded items offered to the poor for free.

Gashmiut – (Hebrew) literally means, “physicality” and refers to individuals who are concerned about materialistic things.

Ger Tzadekeem – (Hebrew) Righteous male Gentiles who convert to the Jewish way of life.

Gerot Tzadekot – (Hebrew) Righteous female Gentiles who convert to the Jewish way of life.

Get – (Hebrew) A Jewish legal document of divorce.

Golut – (Hebrew) Exile.

Goyem – (Hebrew) Gentiles or non-Jews.

Goyisha – (Yiddish) – Gentile or non-Jew.

Goyishkeit – (Yiddish) commitment to living a secular way of life.

Goyisha Velt – (Yiddish) Non-Jewish or secular world.

Halacha – (Hebrew) Jewish law.

Halachot – (Hebrew) Jewish laws.

Hashem – (Hebrew) literally means, “the name” and refers to the God of the Jewish People.

Havdala – (Hebrew) literally means, “to separate” and refers to the wine ritual that marks the separation between the holy Shabbot from the regular weekdays.

Hebrew – The Jewish language.

Hechsher – (Hebrew) A kosher stamp of approval.

Hefker – (Hebrew) No one owns it.

Kabalah – (Hebrew) literally means, “to receive” and refers to the study of Jewish mysticism.

Kallah – (Hebrew) A Jewish bride.

Kashruth – (Hebrew) Jewish dietary laws.

Kehuna – (Hebrew) Jewish priesthood.

Ketubah – (Hebrew) literally means, “written document” and refers to a Jewish marriage contract.

Klal – (Hebrew) The Jewish community.

Korbanot – (Hebrew) literally means, “to draw near” and refers to sacrifices made to the Jewish God in the Holy Jewish Temple.

Kolel – (Hebrew) Jewish Bible learning center for married Orthodox Jewish men.

Koret – (Hebrew) literally means, “cut off” and refers to being excommunicated from Judaism.

Kosher – (Hebrew) literally means “qualified for use” and refers to being permissible to eat.

L’Chotz L’Eretz – (Hebrew) literally means “the land outside of the holy land of Israel” and refers to any country other than the state of Israel.

Loshan Hora – (Hebrew) literally means “evil tongue” and refers to slander.

Lubavitch – (Yiddish) refers to the *Chabbad Chassidic* movement of Orthodox Jewry.

Lubavitcher Rebbe Shlita – (Yiddish) refers to the Jewish leader of the *Chabad Chassidic* movement of Orthodox Jewry.

Ma'aser – (Hebrew) literally means, “one tenth” and refers to giving one tenth of one’s earnings to charity.

Madraigot – (Hebrew) literally means “levels”.

Mashpiah – (Hebrew) Advisor.

Matan Torah – (Hebrew) literally means, “The giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai” and refers to the giving of the written Jewish laws, which reside in the five books of Moses, the first five books of the Jewish Bible.

Matza – (Hebrew) Unleavened bread.

Melava Malka – (Hebrew) literally means, “escort of the *Shabbot* queen” and refers to the meal that one eats after the Jewish Sabbath is over.

Mench – (Yiddish) A decent person with good character.

Menchin (Yiddish) Decent people with good character.

M'Karved – (Hebrew) literally means, “to bring close” and refers to a secular Jewish or non-Jewish person who is recruited into the Jewish religion.

Michilla – (Hebrew) A Jew or Jewess asking forgiveness from a fellow Jew or Jewess that a Jew or Jewess has harmed or hurt.

Michshol – (Hebrew) literally means, “a stumbling block” and refers to knowingly giving people bad advice.

Mifarsheem – (Hebrew) Commentators on the Jewish Bible.

Mikvah – (Hebrew) A Jewish ritual bath.

Minhog – (Hebrew) Jewish custom.

Minyan – (Hebrew) An assembly of a minimum of ten men who congregate together in order to conduct public prayer.

Mitapellet – (Hebrew) Live in housemaid.

Mitzva – (Hebrew) Jewish commandment.

Mitzvot – (Hebrew) Jewish commandments.

Morah – (Hebrew) Female Jewish Bible teacher.

Moreh – (Hebrew) Male Jewish Bible teacher.

Morot – (Hebrew) Jewish Bible teachers.

Moshav – (Hebrew) Jewish settlement of farmers in Israel.

Moshiach – (Hebrew) The future Jewish savior of the Jewish People.

Motzei Shabbot – (Hebrew) literally means, “going out of the Sabbath” and refers to the end of the Jewish Sabbath.

Olam Haba – (Hebrew) literally means, “the world to come” and refers to a heavenly afterlife.

Omar – (Hebrew) means “to say”.

Ozeret – (Hebrew) literally means “helper” and refers to a housemaid.

Parnosa – (Hebrew) Livelihood.

Pesach – (Hebrew) literally means, “to pass over” and refers to the celebration of the exodus of the Jewish People from Egypt.

Peyot – (Hebrew) Sideburns that Orthodox male Jews wear for religious reasons.

Purim – (Hebrew) literally means, “casting of lots” and refers to the celebration over the Jewish queen named Esther who saved the Jewish nation from being exterminated by the Persian Empire.

Rabbanu Shel Olam – (Hebrew) literally means, “The Rabbi of the World” and refers to the God of the Jewish People.

Rabbi – (Hebrew) A male Jew ordained as a Jewish Bible teacher.

Rabbinical – (Hebrew) pertaining to Rabbis.

Rasha – (Hebrew) A wicked person.

Rav – (Hebrew) A Jewish leader of an Orthodox Jewish community.

Ravs – (Hebrew) Jewish leaders of Orthodox Jewish communities.

Rebbs – (Yiddish) Jewish leaders of Orthodox Jewry.

Rebbetzim – (Yiddish) A Rabbi’s wife.

Richiluls – (Hebrew) literally means “evil report” and refers to libel.

Rosh Hashana – (Hebrew) literally means, “the head of the year” and refers to the Jewish New Year.

Rosh Yeshiva – (Hebrew) literally means, “head of the institution” and refers to the Principal of a Jewish Bible learning institution.

Rosh Yeshivot – (Hebrew) literally means, “heads of institutions” and refers to Principals of one or more Jewish Bible learning institutions.

Ruach Hakodesh – (Hebrew) The holy Spirit of God.

Ruchniut – (Hebrew) literally means, “spirituality” and refers to individuals who are concerned about spiritual matters.

Sephardi – (Hebrew) The Jewish People who live in the Mediterranean and Middle East regions.

Sh’merat Ha’Loshan – (Hebrew) literally means, “guard your tongue” and refers to not speaking, listening to or believing in libel or slander.

Shabbat – (Hebrew) The Jewish rest day.

Shabbatot – (Hebrew) The Jewish rest days.

Shadchen – (Hebrew) Jewish matchmaker.

Shadcheneem – (Hebrew) Jewish matchmakers.

Shalach Manot – (Hebrew) Messenger of gifts.

Shaliach – (Hebrew) Messenger of God.

Shavuoth – (Hebrew) literally means “seven weeks” and refers to the seven weeks from the exodus of the Jewish People out of Egypt to the giving of the *Torah* to the Jewish People on Mt. Sinai.

Shechita – (Hebrew) Jewish ritual slaughter of meat.

Shiddach – (Hebrew) A Jewish match otherwise known as a blind date for a single female and a single male to meet for the purpose of getting married.

Shidduchem – (Hebrew) Jewish matchmaking.

Shtettel – (Yiddish) Jewish ghetto.

Shul – (Yiddish) House of God worship and Jewish Bible study.

Siddur – (Hebrew) literally means “order” and refers to a Jewish prayer book.

Simcha – (Hebrew) literally means, “happy” and refers to a Jewish celebration.

Simchat Torah – (Hebrew) literally means, “rejoicing over the *Torah*” and refers to the celebration of the 8th day of *Sukkot*.

Sinot Chineem – (Hebrew) Baseless hatred.

Sniut – (Hebrew) means being modest in one’s attire and conduct.

Strimmel – (Yiddish) A Russian fur hat that Eastern European male Jews wear.

Sukkot – (Hebrew) literally means, “the festival of booths” and commemorates the days that the Jewish People wandered in the desert of Sinai for forty years.

Talmuda – (Hebrew) A female student.

Talmud Chocham – (Hebrew) A Torah Scholar.

Tamei – (Hebrew) Defiled.

Tefillin – (Hebrew) literally means, “prayer aids” and refers to Phylacteries.

Teshuva – (Hebrew) literally means, “to answer, to return, and to repent” and refers to a Jewish person who stops sinning.

Tikkun – (Hebrew) Rectification.

Torah – (Hebrew) The first five books of the Jewish Bible that contain the Jewish Laws.

Torah Shiur – (Hebrew) Jewish Bible study class.

Traf – (Hebrew) Non-kosher food.

Tzadaka – (Hebrew) literally means, “righteousness” and refers to giving charity.

Tzadeek – (Hebrew) A righteous male Jew.

Tzadeket – (Hebrew) A righteous female Jewess.

Tzaria’ – (Hebrew) A spiritual melody that appears on the skin, clothing, or house of a Jew or Jewess who has committed slander and/or libel against a fellow Jew or Jewess.

Yechud – (Hebrew) A derivative of the word *Yechad*, which literally means “one”, and refers to a Jewish leader having a one on one meeting with a member of the Jewish community.

Yiddishketi – (Yiddish) commitment to living a Jewish way of life.

Yiddisha Kup – (Yiddish) The Jewish mind.

Yom Kippur – (Hebrew) The Day of Atonement for the Jewish People.

Yom Tov – (Hebrew) literally means, “good day” and refers to a Jewish holiday.

Yomeem Toveem – (Hebrew) literally means, “good days” and refers to Jewish holidays.

Yonah – (Hebrew) Jonah.

Zohar – (Hebrew) Book of Jewish mysticism.