

Review Sheet #17:

Honor for Brachos:

1. You should avoid saying a bracha while involved in another activity.
2. Once you have begun saying a bracha, do not become distracted in the middle. Stay focused on the bracha from beginning to end.
3. If you are walking around, it is best to stop and focus before reciting the bracha. In descending order of preference, you should: 1) sit down while saying the bracha 2) stand in one place 3) say the bracha while walking
4. Before saying a bracha, you should already know what specific bracha you are going to say.
5. If you end a brocha incorrectly, you have basically **three seconds** to correct it - i.e. to say the proper suffix. For example if by mistake, you said a "borei peri ha'eitz" on a glass of water, you should quickly correct the ending and say "she'hakol nih'yeh bid'varo."
6. Before beginning to say a bracha, you should know which particular **piece** of food you are going to eat.
7. Before saying the bracha, you should already have the item in your hand. At the very least, the food must be in front of you (or immediately accessible) when the bracha is made. If not, the bracha is invalid and must be repeated.
8. When saying a bracha, the food should be held in your **right hand**, which is considered the "more important" hand. (There are different opinions as what a left handed person should do.) When saying Hamotzee, all 10 fingers should be holding the bread.
9. Upon saying the bracha, you should immediately swallow some of the food without any interruption. This includes refraining from answering "amen" to someone else's bracha, or to any other communal prayer. If even one word is spoken between the bracha and the eating, then the bracha is invalidated and must be repeated.
10. One should preferably not pause more than three seconds between the bracha and the eating.
11. A bracha should be recited loud enough that you are able to **hear the words** you are saying. If you cannot hear yourself, the bracha is still valid providing it was actually enunciated.
12. If a bracha is only mouthed or recited mentally, it is **not valid**.
13. Although it is sufficient to recite a bracha in a whisper (as long as you can hear yourself), it is better to say it aloud, as this is extremely helpful in focusing one's concentration.
14. It is imperative that each word be pronounced properly. If key words of a bracha are missing, it is invalid. When words are mumbled, slurred or mispronounced, it is the same as leaving them out.
15. When saying any bracha, one's mouth should be "filled **only** with praise of God" -- i.e. it should be completely empty of anything else.