

Laws of Brachos (Blessings) – Review Sheet #2

If you forgot to say a Brocha:

1. If you are eating and realize that you forgot to say a bracha, you must say a bracha on the remaining food. Even the food that is already in your mouth may **not** be swallowed before a bracha is said. So here is what you do:
2. If the food will still be **edible** after being removed from your mouth, then remove it and say the bracha. This applies to things like a hard candy, or even "chewable" food that was not yet chewed.
3. However, if the food would have to be discarded if removed from your mouth (e.g. a chewed-up piece of apple or meat), then you should push the food to **one side of your mouth** and say the bracha. Although the bracha will not be made with a completely empty mouth, this method is preferable to avoid wasting food.
4. If you are unable to push the food to one side of your mouth, as in the case of liquids, then you should spit it out. Although we don't want to waste food, in this case there is no alternative. Swallowing the drink would transgress the prohibition of eating without a bracha, which is considered worse than wasting food.
5. Once the food has been swallowed, you may no longer say a bracha on that food. According to most opinions, a bracha said **after** you are finished eating would be a blessing said in vain, a *bracha levatala*.
6. Even if there is no more of the original food available, you can find another food that requires the same bracha as the food you just ate. The bracha on the new food will be retroactively effective on the food you previously ate as well.

Giving Food to Someone Who Will Not Say a Brocha:

7. Since it is prohibited for any Jew to eat without saying a bracha, you may not serve food to someone who does not say brachos. By doing so, you would be causing him to transgress the command "not to put a stumbling block before the blind."
8. But given as there is a general obligation to welcome guests with food and drink, what should you do on the occasion you have to host non-observant guests?
9. One approach is to pleasantly suggest that the guest says a bracha on the food. This presents a nice opportunity to teach others how to say a bracha, and they are often happy to oblige.
10. A "lighter" version of this is to simply propose that the guest listen to your bracha, and answer "Amen."
11. If your guest would feel uncomfortable with either of these approaches, then:
 - Recite your own bracha out loud, and have the guest in mind as well.
 - Put the food in front of the guest, rather than hand it to him directly, thus minimizing your degree of causing a "stumbling block."

