

Review Sheet #27 – Mistaken Brocha Achrona:

1. If a person says the wrong *bracha achrona*, is this considered a *bracha levatala* -- a bracha said in vain, in which case you will now have to say the correct *bracha achrona*; or perhaps, post facto, this "incorrect" *bracha achrona* is effective? The rules are complex, and there is no easily discernible pattern. Here are some examples:
2. You ate a few carrots, and then for a *bracha achrona* said *Al Ha'gefen*. This does not work, since carrots are in no way related to wine.
3. You ate an apple, and for a *bracha achrona* said *Al Ha'aitz*. Post facto, this works, since apples are certainly fruits, albeit not one of the five special fruits.
4. You ate a bowl of rice, and for a *bracha achrona* said *Al Ha'michya*. Post facto, this works, since rice is indeed related to mezonot foods in that the *bracha rishona* for rice is Mezonot.
5. You ate pretzels, and for your *bracha achrona* mistakenly said Birkat Hamazon. Post facto, this works, because pretzels are *Pat Haba B'Kisnin* -- a satiating mezonot food that would actually require Birkat Hamazon if you ate a large enough quantity (*shiyur keviyat seudah*).
6. You ate a large meal of fish, potatoes, salad, and ice cream for dessert. You are so stuffed to the gills that instead of a simple *Borei Nefashot*, you mistakenly said the entire Birkat Hamazon. In this case, this is no good and you will still have to say *Borei Nefashot*.
7. You ate a sandwich and then said *Al Ha'michya*. Post facto, this works, as the Three-Faceted Blessing is thematically related to Birkat Hamazon.
8. Refer to the chart below outlining which mistaken brachot are effective "after the fact":

MISTAKENLY SAID SUPPOSED TO SAY	Birkat Hamazon	Al Ha'michya	Al Ha'gefen	Al Ha'aitz	Borei Nefashot
Birkat Hamazon	N/A	Effective	Ineffective	Ineffective	Questionable
Al Ha'michya	Effective	N/A	Ineffective	Ineffective	Questionable
Al Ha'gefen	Effective	Effective	N/A	Effective	Questionable
Al Ha'aitz	Ineffective	Ineffective	Ineffective	N/A	Questionable
Borei Nefashot	Ineffective	Ineffective	Ineffective	Ineffective	N/A

1. In cases where the *bracha achrona* was ineffective, you will now have to say the correct *bracha achrona*. It is proper to show remorse for having said the original *bracha achrona* in vain (*bracha levatala*).

2. When faced with one of the "questionable" rulings, the best advice is to:
- Have someone else who is obligated in the same *bracha achrona* to have in mind to be *motzi* you.
 - Eat more food that requires a **different** *bracha rishona*, but the same *bracha achrona*. When you say the *bracha achrona*, have in mind to "cover" the original food as well.