

Laws of Brachos – Review Sheet #8:

The Mezonos Meal:

1. The bracha on **Bread**, which is made from baked dough, even if you have a very small quantity, will always be Hamotzee.
2. The bracha on **Ma'aseh Kedaira**, made from cooked grains (like spaghetti and oatmeal), will always be Mezonos. Even eating a full meal of these foods (oodles of noodles) would not warrant a Hamotzee; their bracha is always Mezonot.
3. The bracha on **Pas Haba B'Kisnin** -- e.g. cake and crackers will depend. When eaten as a **snack**, the bracha on cake (or any Pas Haba B'Kisnin) is Mezonos, since it is not actually bread. **However**, when eaten as **meal** (i.e. in place of bread), that cake attains the status of bread and its bracha is Hamotzee. (You would also need to wash *Netilas Yadayim* before eating this cake, and say the full Grace After Meals.)
4. A snack becomes a meal when you eat an amount called **Kiday Seudah** -- lit: "the amount of a meal." This is judged according to the **amount of bread** that people normally eat in a meal. If you would eat this corresponding **amount of cake/crackers**, then the bracha on the cake/crackers is Hamotzee. When eating less than this amount of cake/crackers, it retains the status of Pas Haba B'Kisnin, i.e. a snack, and the bracha is Mezonos.
5. When determining this volume, you must take into account whether the cake/crackers is being eaten **together with other foods**, or if it is being eaten alone
6. If you are eating Pas Haba B'Kisnin **together** with other foods (for example, crackers with tuna fish), then if you eat crackers equivalent to the amount of bread that you would normally eat along with tuna fish in a meal, the crackers are being "eaten in place of bread," and the bracha on the crackers is Hamotzee.
7. If you are eating Pas Haba B'Kisnin **alone**, then Hamotzee is appropriate only if you eat a quantity equivalent to the amount of bread you'd eat alone as a filling meal. This is a larger quantity of cake/crackers than the first case. For example, a normal bread meal is **three slices of bread** (the volume of 4 eggs); so if you eat that equivalent amount of *Pas Haba B'Kisnin*, you'd say Hamotzee.
8. If the Pas Haba B'Kisnin alone "fills you up" like a meal, then Hamotzee is appropriate even if you are only eating the amount that one would normally eat along with other foods.
9. **Therefore, if you are at an elaborate kiddush where you plan on eating cake, crackers, gefilte fish, chopped liver, egg salad and cholent, etc.; if you plan to fill up on these foods, you should first wash Netilas Yadayim and say Hamotzee on some cake or crackers.**
10. Generally, a Pas Haba B'Kisnin eaten as dessert -- e.g. cake -- is covered by the original Hamotzee. However, if the food fulfills **all three** characteristics of *Pat Haba B'Kisnin* -- i.e. it is sweet dough, **and** filled, **and** thin/crispy -- then you **do** say Mezonos when eating this for dessert. Examples of this are: wafers, cherry pie whose crust is very thin and flaky, and blintzes made of a very thin dough wrapping.
11. Since rice is not considered as important as the other five grains, the bracha on rice -- and even "rice bread" -- is **always** Mezonos.
12. Since **Matza** is generally eaten **in place of bread**, it has the status of bread, which requires Hamotzee. However, the bracha on "Matza crackers," when **not** eaten in place of bread, is Mezonos.
13. The bracha on pizza is determined based on your specific intention. If you are eating pizza as a meal, say Hamotzee; as a snack, say Mezonos.
14. If you say Mezonos on Pas Haba B'Kisnin with the intention of having a snack, and then, after eating a little, you decide to eat a lot more, where the total amount you'll be consuming is

*Kiday Seudah* and would have required Hamotzee. What should you do now? If the amount to yet be consumed is enough to **independently** require Hamotzee, then you should say Hamotzee on the remainder, and wash *Netilat Yadayim*. If the remaining food would **not** require Hamotzee, then Hamotzee is not said. (Although even in this case, the after-bracha is the full Grace After Meals, since you ended up eating the volume of a meal.)