

HALACHOS HATZRICHOS

PACKET #19



GENERAL & SPECIFIC BRACHOS

The *brachos* we say on food can be general or specific. *Shehakol* is the most general *bracha*, it doesn't speak about any specific kind of food. *Ho'adamah* is a very general *bracha* for everything that grows. *Ho'eitz* is more specific, for only something that grows on a tree. *Mezonos* is also more specific, because it only is for foods from grain. *Hamotzi* is even more specific, for only bread made from grain. *Hagafen* is very specific, only for wine or grape juice.

The *halacha* is that *bedieved*, if we said a more general *bracha*, it can include a food that really has a more specific *bracha*.

For example, if someone said *Ho'adamah* on an apple, *bedieved* their *bracha* is counted and they don't make another *bracha*. Or if someone said *Shehakol* on a cookie, *bedieved* their *bracha* is also counted.

See Seder Birchos Hanehenin Perek Alef

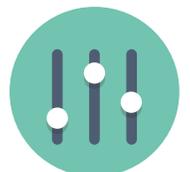


BIRCHOS HANEHENIN

When we are going to eat foods that have different *brachos*, the order we say the *bracha* in counts!

Some *brachos* are more important, and we say them first. We also try to say more specific *brachos* first.

But we only need to think about the food we are planning on eating. Even if we have a food that has a more important *bracha* in front of us, we only make a *bracha* on it if we wanted to eat it.



BIRCHOS HANEHENIN

It's a *Mitzvah Min Hamuvchar* (a *mitzvah* done in the best way) not just to say the right *brachos* on foods, but to say them in the right order!

We look at the food that we have in front of us, and say the *brachos* on each kind based on the order of *brachos*.

(Of course we only say all of these *brachos* in order if we are planning on eating them! We don't have to go look for an extra food to eat just because that *bracha* comes earlier in the list. It is just that the *brachos* we DO say should be in the right order.)

If there is a good reason why not to, we don't have to follow this order.

For example, we are allowed to eat in the normal order of the meal. Even if we have dessert in front of us, we can first make a *bracha* on the main course, even if the *bracha* on dessert comes earlier in the list of *brachos*. So if you have meat and potatoes for supper, and cake for dessert, you don't have to make the *Mezonos* on the cake before making the *bracha* on the meat and potatoes!

Health reasons are also a good reason why not to follow the order of *brachos*. If someone needs a drink so that he will be able to swallow, he can first make a *Shehakol* and take a drink, before going on to make the rest of the *brachos* on the list in order.

See Piskei Teshuvos siman 211, se'if Alef; Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch siman 249, Kuntres Acharon Daled



THE ORDER OF BRACHOS

When we have many foods in front of us to eat, what do we make a *bracha* on first?

Even if we know which *brachos* to say on each food, it is a *Mitzvah Min Hamuvchar* (a *mitzvah* done in the best way) to say the *brachos* in the right order, and on certain foods with that *bracha*!

First, we need to know the right order that the *brachos* on food are said in. We will say the *brachos* that come earlier in the list, first.

Here is the general order of *brachos*:

- 1) *Mezonos*
- 2) *Hagafen*
- 3) *Ha'eitz*
- 4) *Ho'adamah*
- 5) *Shehakol*

(There is a *siman* in Hebrew to remember this order: **Maga Aish**, “touch fire” — **M**ezonos, **G**afen, **E**itz, **A**damah, **S**Hehakol.)

For example, if we have foods that are *Shehakol*, *Hagafen*, and *Ha'adamah*, we will first say *Hagafen*, then *Ha'adamah*, and then *Shehakol*.

Then, we will need to look at all of the foods with the same *bracha*, and figure out which of them we should say the *bracha* on, which will include the other foods with the same *bracha*.

See *Seder Birchos Hanehenin perek Yud*



HA'EITZ AND HA'ADAMAH

In the order of *brachos*, we make a *bracha* on *Mezonos* foods before making a *bracha* on *Shehakol* foods.

Even if we like the *Shehakol* food best, we first make the other *brachos* in the right order.

But with *Ha'eitz* and *Ha'adamah*, the rule is a little different! It is usually better to make *Ha'eitz* before *Ha'adamah*, but if you like one food better (*choviv*), you make a *bracha* on it first. For example, if you have an apple and a banana, and you like bananas more, you make the *Ha'adamah* on the banana before making *Ha'eitz* on the apple.

See Seder Birchos Hanehenin perek Yud

