



GLOSSARY OF COMMON HEBREW & YIDDISH WORDS

Baal Tekia (bal teh-ki-ah) - The Shofar blower.

Blintz – A Jewish crepe filled with cheese or fruit.

Bubbe (bub-eh or bub-ee) – A grandmother.

Bubbe Missa (bub-eh mice-a) - A grandmother's story, a fairytale or lie.

Bris (briss) - A circumcision ceremony.

Chag Sameach (chag sam-A- ach) - Wishing you a Happy Holiday

Challah (chah-lah) - A sweet egg bread traditionally served on Shabbat.

Chanukah (cha-new-kah) – Holiday in December when Menorah is lit.

Chutzpah (chutz-pah) – Nerve, gall, determination, daring.

Daven (dah-ven) - The act of praying.

Gadol (ga-dole) – Big, great.

Gelt – Money in Yiddish. Traditional gift is Chanukah gelt.

Hassidic - An orthodox religious movement originating with Rabbi Israel the Baal Shem Tov (Master of the Good Name) in the eighteenth century Russia.

Havdalah (hav-dal-ah) – A short service that marks the end of Shabbat and Holidays.

Katan – Little.

Keppe (kep-ee) –Yiddish for a person's head, see Rosh.



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Kinderlach (kin-der-laach) - Yiddish for children. *see yeladim.*

Kippah (key-pah) – Head covering, see yarmulke.

Kol HaKavod (kole ha- kavode) - Congratulations!

Kugel (koog-al) - Yiddish for casserole.

Kvell (k-vel) – To beam with pride.

Kvetch (k'vetch) - To complain.

L'chaim (le ch-eye-eem) – Jewish toast, To Life!

L'hit Raot (Le Heet Ra Oat) - See you later.

Latke (laat-ka) –A Chanukah dish, deep fried potato pancakes.

Lox – Smoked salmon, a delicacy.

Mayim (my-eem) - Water.

Mazel Tov (maz-ell tov) – Congratulations!

Mensch (men-ch) - A good and upright person.

Menorah (men-o-rah) - A 7 or 8 stem candelabra, the 8 candle menorah is lit on Chanukah.

Meshugana (mesh-ug-ana) - Crazy.

Mitzvah (mitz-vah) – A good deed, one of the 613 commandments in the Torah.

Morah (moe-rah) – A female teacher.

Moreh (moe-reh) – A male teacher.



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Nare – Candle, flame.

Nayce (nay-ss) – Miracle.

Oneg (oh-neg) - A celebratory meal or snack.

Oy – A common sigh

Pesach (pay-ss-ach) - Jewish holiday of Passover celebrates the exodus from Egypt.

Purim (pur-im) - An early Spring Holiday when children dress in costumes.

Rosh (row-sh) – Head, see keppe.

Rosh Hashanah (row-sh ha-sha-nah) - Head of the year, the Jewish New Year.

Ruggalech (rug-a-lech, rug-a-lah) – A sweet dessert pastry filled with fruit or chocolate

Shalom (shah-lome) - Peace, hello, goodbye.

Shabbat (shAh-baat) - Day of rest that runs from Friday at sundown until sundown Saturday. also Shabbas.

Shavuot (shah-voo-oat) - Holiday celebrating the giving of the Torah.

Shayna Punim (shay-nah pu-nim) – A pretty face, term of endearment for a child.

Shmutz (sh-mutz) - A piece of dirt or garbage.

Shevarim (sh-va-reem) - 3 short tekia blasts from the Shofar.

Shavuot (sha-voo-ot) – Holiday that celebrates the giving of the Torah, 50 days after Pesach.

Shemini Atzeret (sh-meany atz-eret) – Holiday, 8th day of Sukkot.



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Shvitz – To sweat.

Simchat Torah (sim-chat toe-rah) – Holiday when Torah reading cycle ends and begins.

Soof Ganeot (soof gan-ee-oat) – Jelly donuts, a Chanukah treat.

Tekia (teh-ki-ah) - Steady blast sound from a Shofar.

Tikkun Olam (tea-coon oh-laam) – Repairing the world.

Tisha b'Av – Holiday commemorates the destruction of the 2 Holy Temples, a fast day.

Todah Raba (toe-da ra-ba) - Thank you very much.

Tu-B'Shevat (too bish-vaat) – Holiday, the New Year of the trees.

Torah (toe-rah) - The 5 books of Moses written by hand and wrapped around two salves with handles.

Truah (true-ah) – A staccato or wavering blast of the Shofar.

Tzedakah (tze-daak-ah) - Righteousness, charity.

Yarmulke (yam-a-kah) – Head covering, see Kippah.

Yeled – Hebrew for a male child.

Yelda - Hebrew for a female child.

Yeladim – Hebrew for children, see *kinderlach*.

Yom Kippur (yom key-poor) - Holiday, fast day and holiest day of the year, Day of Atonement.

Zaydie (zay-dee) – Grandfather.



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Zion - Mountain, site of Holy Temple in Jerusalem.