



Jewish Literacy Programme

Year 5 ~ Week 24

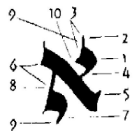
This week's סדרה:

English Translations	Chumash Words / Phrases
to you (masc. sing.) / they bowed down to You	אֵלֶיךָ \ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אֵלֶיךָ
to him / He spoke to him from the mountain	אֵלָיו \ וַיְדַבֵּר אֵלָיו מִן הָהָר
to her / Avraham called to her	אֵלֶיהָ \ וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָהָם אֵלֶיהָ
to you (masc. pl.) / He gave a blessing to you	אֵלֵיכֶם \ וַיִּתֵּן בְּרָכָה אֵלֵיכֶם
to them (masc.) / He came to them in the night	אֵלֵיהֶם \ וַיָּבֹא אֵלֵיהֶם בַּלַּיְלָה
from me / the man stood far from me	מִמֶּנִּי \ וַיַּעֲמֹד הָאִישׁ רָחוֹק מִמֶּנִּי

Explanation	סופרות	G.K. Words
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A סופר is a man who has studied all the many laws of writing holy texts: Sifrei Torah, Tefillin, Mezuzot and Megilat Esther. He has to know many laws for every letter of the א-ב in order to write them according to the הלכה. **Not only must he be knowledgeable, he must also be a ירא שמים - a person who fears Heaven.** This is because there are many ways in which Tefillin can be made פסול (unfit) and still appear to be Kosher.

סופר



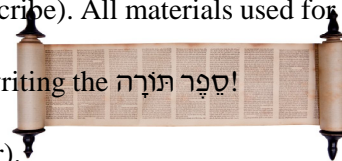
For example, the פְּרָשִׁיּוֹת in תְּפִלִּין must be written in the order in which they appear in the Torah. Even the letters must be written in the correct order. Therefore, if the סופר noticed a mistake in a letter he wrote earlier in the parchment he may not go back and correct it. The whole parchment is now פסול. A dishonest סופר might be tempted to correct the earlier mistake. If he did so and then sold this parchment the buyer would be wasting his money and also saying wasted berachot every time he put on his Tefillin.

The Sefer Torah - a Torah Scroll, contains the חומשה חוקמי תורה, hand-written on קלף - parchment (animal skin). It is the holiest of all books of Tanach.

ספר תורה

A Sefer Torah is kept in the Aron Kodesh in the Shul, and portions are read from it publicly on Mondays and Thursdays, Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh, Yom Tov, Chol Hamo'ed, Fast Days, Chanukah and only in the presence of a minyan (at least ten Jewish males above the age of thirteen). On these different days we call up different numbers of men, from three on regular Mondays and Thursdays to seven on Shabbat. Being called up is called an 'עליה' 'aliyah' - 'going up.'

- **A Sefer Torah must be written by a סופר** (a specially trained scribe). All materials used for the Sefer Torah must be Kosher.
 - **There are over 4000 laws a סופר must know** before he starts writing the ספר תורה!
 - **There are 304,805 letters in a Sefer Torah.**
- If only one letter is missing the whole Torah is פסול (not Kosher).



(Adapted from:
<http://www.torah.org/sefer Torah.htm>)

Producing תְּפִלִּין involves a number of skilled craftsmen who are experts in different areas of הלכה (Torah law). **A pair of Tefillin consists of two units, the שֵׁל ראש ("for the head") and the שֵׁל יד ("for the hand").** The שֵׁל יד has one compartment containing one scroll of parchment with four פְּרָשִׁיּוֹת written on it. The שֵׁל ראש has four separate compartments (all made out of one piece of leather). It contains four separate פְּרָשִׁיּוֹת, one in each compartment.



A Mezuzah consists of the two parashiot of שמע and שמע ויהי אם שמע written on one piece of parchment. The same laws that apply to the writing of Tefillin also apply to the writing of a Mezuzah. The Mezuzah is rolled up, usually placed in a decorative case, and fixed on most doors in the house. It is placed 2/3 of the way up, at the bottom of the top third of the doorway, with its top leaning towards the doorway. The Sefardi minhag is to place it straight, vertically.

מזוזה



