

# Halachos of no talking during davening

# שתיקה בתפילה

<p><b>Between ברכות השחר and ברוך שאמר</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is <b>no specific prohibition</b> against talking.</li> <li>However, <b>ideally</b>, there should be <b>no talking in shul from the beginning to the end of prayer.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>During נשיאת כפים (ברכת כהנים)</b></p>	<p>It is <b>forbidden to talk</b> or even to learn Torah or recite <i>Tehilim</i>,<sup>13</sup> as complete attention must be paid to the Kohanim.<sup>14</sup></p>
<p><b>During פסוקי דזמרה (ברוך שאמר)</b></p>	<p>Unless there is an emergency, it is <b>forbidden to talk</b> as it would constitute an interruption between the blessing of <i>Baruch She'amar</i> and the blessing of <i>Yishtabach</i>.<sup>1</sup></p>	<p><b>Between חזרת הש"ץ and תחנון</b></p>	<p>It is <b>inappropriate to talk</b>, since there should be no interruption between <i>Shemoneh Esrei</i> and <i>Tachanun</i>.<sup>15</sup> According to the <i>Zohar HaKadosh</i> and the <i>Arizal</i>, one is <b>forbidden to talk</b>.<sup>16</sup></p>
<p><b>Between ישתבח and ברכו</b></p>	<p>It is <b>forbidden to talk</b>, but permitted only for a pressing mitzvah need only.<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>Between and קריאת התורה (the Reading of the Torah)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is <b>no specific prohibition against talking.</b></li> <li>However, ideally, there should be <b>no talking in shul</b> from the beginning to the end of prayer.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Between and ברכו יוצר אור (Shacharis) or המעריב ערבים (Maariv)</b></p>	<p>It is <b>forbidden to talk</b>.<sup>3</sup></p>	<p><b>During קריאת התורה</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is <b>strictly forbidden</b> to engage in idle talk or even to utter words of Torah during <i>Krias HaTorah</i>.<sup>17</sup> One who speaks at that time is called "a sinner whose sin is too great to be forgiven."<sup>18</sup></li> <li>Some authorities <b>prohibit talking</b> as soon as the Torah scroll is unrolled.<sup>19</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>During ברכת קריאת שמע and שמע</b></p>	<p>It is <b>forbidden to talk</b>. It could be considered an interruption in the middle of a blessing, which may invalidate the blessing.<sup>4</sup></p>	<p><b>Between Aliyos of קריאת התורה</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some authorities <b>prohibit talking</b> totally.<sup>20</sup></li> <li>Others <b>permit discussing</b> words of Torah only.<sup>21</sup></li> <li>Others are even more lenient and also <b>allow the type of talk that is permitted in shul</b>.<sup>22</sup></li> <li><i>Pri Chadash</i><sup>23</sup> <b>permits conversing</b> "bein gavra l'gavra," between <i>aliyos</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Between גאל ישראל and שמנה עשרה</b></p>	<p>It is strictly <b>forbidden to talk</b>, since it would interrupt the crucial connection between <i>geulah</i> and <i>tefillah</i>.<sup>5</sup></p>	<p><b>During הפטורה and Its Blessings</b></p>	<p>It is <b>forbidden to talk</b>, as one must pay undivided attention.<sup>24</sup></p>
<p><b>During שמנה עשרה</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is strictly <b>forbidden to talk</b>, as it constitutes an interruption in <i>tefillah</i>.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>If one <b>spoke inadvertently</b> during one of the blessings of <i>Shemoneh Esrei</i>, he must <b>repeat the blessing</b>.<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Between קריאת התורה and End of Tefillah</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is <b>no specific prohibition</b> against talking.</li> <li>However, <b>ideally</b>, there should be <b>no talking in shul from the beginning to the end of prayer.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>After שמנה עשרה (Before חזרת הש"ץ)</b></p>	<p>It is <b>forbidden to talk</b> if it will disturb the concentration of others who are still praying.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, since a person saying <i>Shemoneh Esrei</i> with a minyan should not raise his voice in prayer to avoid disturbing others, certainly one can derive that he should not do so in casual conversation.<sup>9</sup></p>	<p><b>During הלל</b></p>	<p>It is <b>forbidden to talk</b>. Doing so could be considered an interruption of <i>Hallel</i>.<sup>25</sup></p>
<p><b>During חזרת הש"ץ</b></p>	<p>It is <b>forbidden to talk</b><sup>10</sup> or study even Torah during the repetition of <i>Shemoneh Esrei</i>.<sup>11</sup></p>	<p><b>Talking during קדיש</b></p>	<p>Talking is strictly <b>forbidden to talk</b>, as one must pay full attention so that he can answer <i>Amen</i>, etc. properly.<sup>26</sup></p>

1 Siman 51, Se'if 4, Mishnah Berurah, Se'if Katan 6 and 7. 2 Ibid., Siman 54, Se'if Katan. 6. 3 Ibid., Se'if Katan 13; ibid., Siman 236, Se'if Katan 1. 4 Siman 66, Se'if 1; beginning of ibid., Mishnah Berurah. 5 Siman 66, Se'if 8 and 9. 6 Siman 104, Se'if 1. 7 Mishnah Berurah, Siman 104, Se'if Katan 25. 8 Siman 123, Mishnah Berurah, Se'if Katan 12. 9 Siman 101, Se'if 2; and Mishnah Berurah, ibid., Se'if Katan 6 and 10. 10 Siman 124, Se'if 4. 11 Mishnah Berurah, ibid., Se'if Katan 17. 12 Mishnah Berurah, Siman 56, Se'if Katan 1; Siman 125, Se'if 2. 13 Yosef Ometz, Os 807. 14 Siman 128, Se'if 26, Be'er Heitev, Se'if Katan 46; Mishnah Berurah, Se'if Katan 102. 15 Mishnah Berurah 51, Se'if Katan 9; Siman 131, Se'if 1 and Aruch HaShulchan, ibid., Se'if 3. 16 Kaf HaChaim, ibid., Se'if Katan 4. 17 Siman 146, Se'if 2 and Mishnah Berurah, ibid., Se'if Katan 4 and 5. 18 Beur Halachah 146, Se'if 2, s.v. v'hanachon, who severely criticizes such people. 19 Mishnah Berurah 146, Se'if Katan 4. However, see Aruch HaShulchan 146, Se'if 3, who disagrees. 20 Siman 146, Se'if 2; Mishnah Berurah, Se'if Katan 6 quoting Eliyahu Rabbah; Kitzur Shulchan Aruch, Siman 23, Se'if 8. 21 Bach, as understood by Mishnah Berurah, Siman 146, Se'if Katan 6 and many poskim. 22 Be'er Hattiv, ibid., Se'if Katan 3, Machatzis ha-Shekel, ibid., Se'if Katan 3, Aruch HaShulchan, ibid., Se'if 3 and Shulchan ha-Tahor, ibid., Se'if 1, maintain that the Bach permits even idle talk between aliyos. 23 Se'if Katan 2. 24 Siman 146, Se'if 3; ibid., Mishnah Berurah, Se'if Katan 16; Siman 284, Se'if 3. 25 Siman 422, Se'if 4 and Beur Halachah, s.v. aval; Siman 488, Se'if 1 and Siman 644, Se'if 1. 26 Mishnah Berurah, Siman 56, Se'if Katan 1. 27 Mishnah Berurah, Siman 56, Se'if Katan 1; ibid., Siman 268, Se'if Katan 26. 28 Siman 411. 29 Cited in Mishnah Berurah, Siman 56, Se'if Katan 1.

*Let us find peace and tranquility while we stand before Hashem in prayer!*