

Months of the Hebrew Year and their Holidays

Tishri	30 days
1-2	Rosh Hashanah Lev. 23: 23-25
3	Fast of Gedaliah II Kings 25: 22-25
10	Yom Kippur Lev. 23: 33-36
15-22	Sukkot Lev. 23: 33-36
22	Shmini Atzeret
23	Simhat Torah
Heshvan	29/30 days
Kislev	29/30 days
25-29(30)	Hanukkah Apocrypha - Maccabees
Tevet	29 days
1-2(3)	end of Hanukkah
10	Asarah B'Tevet Zach. 7:5; 8:19
Shevat	30 days
15	Tu Bishevat Rabbinic
Adar	30 days (leap year Adar II: 29)
13	Ta-anit Ester Book of Esther
14	Purim Book of Esther
15	Shushan Purim
Nisan	30 days
15-23	Pesah Ex. 12; Lev. 23: 4-8; Deut. 16: 1-8
27	Yom Hashoah Modern
Iyar	29 days
4	Yom Hazikaron Modern
5	Yom Ha-atzma-ut Modern
18	Lag B'Omer Rabbinic
28	Yom Yerushalyim Modern
Sivan	30 days
6-7	Shavot Ex. 19-20; Lev. 23: 15-21; Deut. 16: 9-12
Tammuz	29 days
17	Sh'va Asar B'Tammuz Zach. 7:5; 8:19
Av	30 days
9	Tisha B'av Jer. 52
Elul	29 days



Vocabulary of Jewish Life

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Unit I • Life Cycle Events: Birth

1. *Shalom Zakhar* Welcoming a son. Ceremony held on Friday night before *brit milah*.
2. *Brit Milah* Ritual circumcision. Symbol of God's covenant with Abraham and the Jewish people.
3. *Sandek* One who holds the baby during the *brit milah*.
4. *Mohel* Ritual circumciser.
5. *Simhat Bat* Naming celebration for girl.
6. *Seudat mitzvah* Festive meal which accompanies the observance of a *mitzvah*.
7. *Pidyon haben* Redemption of the first born son. Ceremony obtains for a child only when all of the following apply:
 - a. First born child
 - b. No prior abortions or miscarriages
 - c. Male
 - d. Neither parent of a *kohen* or *levi* family.
8. *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Coming of age for religious responsibility. Custom of major party, "bar" *mitzvah*, relatively recent.

Unit II • Life Cycle Events: Marriage

1. *Sefirah* Between *Pesach* and *Shavuot*, the *Omer* is counted. Weddings are not held on a portion of those days.
2. Three weeks Time period between the 17th of *Tammuz* and the 9th of *Av*. Weddings are not held during this time period.
3. *Halitzah* Levirate marriage.
4. *Tna-im* Terms of dowry and marriage.
5. *Aufrufin* Pre-marriage *aliyah* taken before wedding day.
6. *Ketubah* Jewish marriage contract.
7. *Erusin* Engagement portion of marriage ceremony.
8. *Nisu-in* Wedding portion of marriage ceremony.
9. *Huppah* Marriage canopy.
10. *Shevah brakhot* Seven marriage blessings said at the wedding ceremony and at the festive meal afterwards.
11. *Edim* Witnesses
12. *Get* Jewish divorce decree.

Unit III • Life Cycle Events: Death

1. *Aninut* Time period between death and funeral.
2. *Avel* Mourner
3. *Hevra Kadisha* "Holy Society." Group of people who prepare body for burial through ritual washing.
4. *Kri-ah* Tearing of garment as sign of mourning.
5. *K'vod hamet* Respect for the dead.
6. *Tahrihim* Burial shrouds.

6. *Laktes* Potato pancakes; traditional *Hanukkah* meal.
7. *Sufganiot* Jelly doughnuts; traditional *Hanukkah* meal.
8. *Dreidel* Top; used in children's games at *Hanukkah*.
9. *Asara B'Tevet* 10th of *Tevet*. Minor fast day noting start of Babylonian siege of Jerusalem, 587 B.C.E.
10. *Tu B'shevat* Fifteenth of *Shevat*; "new year" for trees.
11. *Purim* Lots; holiday celebrating the victory of Mordecai and Esther over Haman.
12. *Ta-anit Ester* Fast day preceding *Purim*.
13. *Megillat Ester* *Megillah* read on *Purim*.
14. *Mishloah manot* Gifts of food (2 kinds) sent to friends on *Purim*.
15. *Matanot Le'evyonim* .. Gifts of *tzedakah* given to poor on *Purim*.
16. *Seudat Purim* Special meal of celebration at *Purim's* end.
17. *Omer* Sheaf offering brought to Temple on 16 *Nisan*; name for period between the second day of *Pesach* and *Shavuot*.
18. *Yom Hashoa* Holocaust Commemoration day. 27 *Nisan*.
19. *Yom Hazikaron* Israel Memorial Day. 3 *Iyar*.
20. *Yom Ha-atzmaut* Israel Independence Day. 4 *Iyar*.
21. *Lag B'omer* 33rd day of *omer*. Minor festival day. 18 *Iyar*
22. *Yom Yerushalyim* Reunification of Jerusalem, 1967. 28 *Iyar*.
23. *Shevah Asar B'Tammuz* 17th of *Tammuz*; Minor fast day noting Babylonians entering Jerusalem, 587 B.C.E.
24. *Tisha B'av* 9th of *Av*. Day of mourning for Jewish tragedies, including: loss of two Temples, expulsion from Spain 1492.
25. *Eikha* Lamentations. *Megillah* read on *Tisha B'av*.
26. *Kinot* Dirges of mourning read on *Tisha B'av*.

The 39 major categories of creative activity (work) prohibited on Shabbat:

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Sowing | 16. Spinning | 29. Curing |
| 2. Ploughing | 17. Weaving | 30. Scraping |
| 3. Reaping | 18. Making two loops | 31. Cutting up |
| 4. Binding sheaves | 19. Weaving two threads | 32. Writing two letters |
| 5. Threshing | 20. Separating two threads | 33. Erasing two letters in order to write |
| 6. Winnowing | 21. Tying a knot | 34. Building |
| 7. Cleansing crops | 22. Loosening a knot | 35. Pulling down |
| 8. Grinding | 23. Sewing two stitches | 36. Putting out a fire |
| 9. Sifting | 24. Tearing in order to sew | 37. Lighting a fire |
| 10. Kneading | 25. Hunting | 38. Striking the final hammer blow |
| 11. Baking | 26. Slaughtering | 39. Carrying from one domain to another |
| 12. Shearing wool | 27. Flaying | |
| 13. Washing wool | 28. Salting | |
| 14. Beating wool | | |
| 15. Dyeing wool | | |

10. *Geshem* Prayer for rain; said on *Shmini Atzeret* at *Musaf*
11. *Kohelet* Ecclesiastes; *megillah* read on *Sukkot*
12. *Shmini Atzeret* Eighth day of assembly; last day of *Sukkot* but, liturgically, a separate holiday.
13. *Simhat Torah* Rejoicing in the Torah; holiday marking completion and beginning of Torah reading cycle.
14. *Hakkafot* Circuits around sanctuary with Torah Scrolls.

Unit X • Holiday Vocabulary - Passover

1. *Seder* Special meal of retelling the Exodus from Egypt.
2. *Bedikat Hametz* Search for *hametz*, held night before first *seder*.
3. *Bitul Hametz* Formula renouncing any *hametz* we may have inadvertently missed in our cleaning. Said morning of the first *seder*.
4. *Be'ur Hametz* Destruction of *hametz*, morning of first *seder*, by 11:00.
5. *Siyyum Bekhorim* Ceremony of celebration of completing Rabbinic section of study.
6. *Hametz* Fermented; wheat, oats, rye, barley or spelt after they come in contact with water for 18 minutes after harvest. Also dishes and utensils which have been in contact with *hametz* foods during the year.
7. *Mekhirat Hametz* ... Symbolic selling of *hametz* to a non-Jew.
8. *Ma'ot Hittim* Funds collected before *Pesach* to provide money for *matzah* and other Passover essentials for the poor.
9. *Hagadah* Book used at *seder* to retell the story.

Unit XI • Holiday Vocabulary - Shavuot

1. *Shavuot* Pentecost; feast of weeks. 50 days after second day of *Pesach*.
2. *Bikkurim* First fruits, brought to Temple on *Shavuot*.
3. *Ruth* *Megillah* read on *Shavuot*.
4. *Tikkun Lel Shavuot* All night study session to recall giving of Ten Commandments.

Unit XII • Holiday Vocabulary - Minor Holidays

1. *Hanukkah* "Dedication," holiday celebrating the victory of the Maccabees against the Assyrian-Greeks.
2. *Hasmoneans* Dynasty of kings set up by Judah the Maccabee.
3. *Menorah* 7 branch candelabra used in Temple.
4. *Hanukkiyah* 9 branch candelabra used for *Hanukkah* celebration.
5. *Al Hanissim* Prayer of thanksgiving added to *amidah* on *Hanukkah* and *Purim*.

7. *Sh'mirah* Watching the body.
8. *Levayah* Funeral service.
9. *Hesped* Eulogy
10. *Kaddish yatom* Prayer of praise of God, said by mourners.
11. *Shivah* First seven days of mourning.
12. *Sh'loshim* First 30 days of mourning.
13. *Kevurah* Interment
14. *Hesed shel emet* "True lovingkindness;" helping with interment.
15. *Seudat havra-ah* Meal of condolence.
16. *Thiyat hametim* Resurrection of the dead.
17. *Nihum avelim* *Mitzvah* of comforting mourners.
18. *Yahrzeit* Anniversary of date of death.
19. *Yizkor* Memorial service added to services on: *Yom Kippur*, *Shmini Atzeret*, *Pesach* and *Shavuot*.
20. *Hiyyuv* A religious obligation.

Unit IV • Shabbat

1. *Muktzeh* Items not touched on Shabbat either because they might lead to a violation of Shabbat or because it was not prepared before Shabbat for use on Shabbat.
2. *Melakha* Creative work.
3. *Kiddush* Sanctification of the day, usually said using wine.
4. *Menuha* Rest.
5. *Zemirot* Special table songs for Shabbat.
6. *Kabbalat Shabbat* ... service of welcome for Shabbat.
7. *Se-udah Shlishit* Third meal on Shabbat
8. *Havdalah* Service of separation to mark end of Shabbat.
9. *Motza-i Shabbat* Leaving of Shabbat (Saturday night)

Unit V • Worship A.

1. *Tefilah* Prayer
2. *Bet midrash* House of Study.
3. *Bet k'nesset* House of Assembly.
4. *Bet tefillah* House of Prayer.
5. *Nosah* Melodic themes of prayer
6. *Kippah* Head covering
7. *Tallit* Prayer shawl
8. *Tzitzit* Knots required in corners of four-corner garments.
9. *Tefillin* Phylacteries
10. *Aron hakodesh* Holy ark, resting place of Torah scrolls.
11. *Bimah* Platform at front of sanctuary.
12. *Shaliah tzibbur* Congregation's representative in prayer. (Cantor)

Unit VI • Worship B.

1. *Kavannah* Devotional intent in worship
2. *Kevah* Fixed prayers
3. *Minyan* Quorum of 10 adults required for public worship.
4. *Siddur* Prayer book (except High Holy days)
5. *Mahzor* Prayer book for High Holy days.
6. *Ma-ariv* Evening service.
7. *Shaharit* Morning service.
8. *Musaf* Additional service. Said on Shabbat, *Rosh Hodesh* and major holidays.
9. *Mincha* Afternoon service.
10. *P'sukei d'zimra* Introductory morning service.
11. *Brakha* Blessing; basic unit of Jewish prayer.
12. *Amidah* Private prayers, "The Prayer," recited while standing.
13. *Kedusha* Prayer of sanctification in *amidah*.
14. *Kaddish* Prayer of praise; concludes service sections
15. *Korbanot* Sacrifices / section of prayers which reviews sacrifices which were offered.
16. *Hallel* Psalms of praise added to service on selected holidays.
17. *Yom Tov* Festival day - work prohibited.
18. *Hol Hamo-ed* Intermediate festival days.

Unit VII • Text and Commentary

1. *Torah* Five books of Moses. Hebrew root means "to guide" or "to teach."
2. *Tanakh* Mnemonic for the Bible: **T**orah; **N**eviim (Prophets); **K**etuvim (Writings)
3. *Pentateuch* Five books of Moses
4. *Decalogue* Ten commandments
5. *Asseret Hadibrot* Ten commandments
6. *Talmud Torah* Mitzvah of study
7. *Midrash* Rabbinic Commentary, based on Biblical text
8. *Mishnah* Legal text, compiled around 200, by Judah the Prince
9. *Gemara* Commentary on *Mishnah*.
10. *Talmud* Combination of 8 & 9
11. *Mitzvah* Commandment; one of 613; **not a good deed**
12. *Aggadah* Legend
13. *Halakha* Law
14. *Brit* Covenant
15. *Sefer Torah* Torah Scroll
16. *Kiddush HaShem* ... Sanctifying God.
17. *Hillul HaShem* Desecrating God.

Unit VIII • Holiday Vocabulary - High Holy Days

1. *Yamim Nora-im* Days of Awe
2. *Selihot* Prayers asking Divine forgiveness.
3. *Yom Hadin* Day of Judgment; a name for *Rosh Hashanna*
4. *Yom Hazikaron* Day of Remembering; a name for *Rosh Hashanna*
5. *Yom Teruah* Day of *Shofar* Sound; a name for *Rosh Hashanna*
6. *Avinu Malkeinu* "Our Father, our King," list of brief supplications, all begin with that phrase.
7. *Shevarim* *Shofar* sound: three notes
8. *Tekiah* *Shofar* sound: one blast
9. *Teruah* *Shofar* sound: wavering sound of nine staccato notes
10. *Akedah* "Binding," Biblical account of near-sacrifice of Isaac
11. *Malkhuyot* "Kingship verses," one of three special additional sections added to *Rosh Hashanna Musaf amidah*.
12. *Shofarot* "Shofar verses," one of three special additional sections added to *Rosh Hashanna Musaf amidah*.
13. *Zikhronot* "Remembrance verses," one of three special additional sections added to *Rosh Hashanna Musaf amidah*.
14. *Middat Hadin* God's attribute of Divine justice.
15. *Middat harahamim* God's attribute of Divine mercy.
16. *Piyyut* Religious poem.
17. *Vidui* confession, included in every *Yom Kippur amidah*.
18. *Al Het* Series of confessions, alphabetically arranged, said on *Yom Kippur*.
19. *Kol Nidre* Formula for absolution of vows, said immediately before *Yom Kippur* begins.
20. *Avodah* *Yom Kippur* service of the High Priest in Temple.
21. *Neilah* Final service on *Yom Kippur*.

Unit IX • Holiday Vocabulary - Sukkot / Shmini Atzeret/ Simhat Torah

1. *Sukkah* Booth erected for *Sukkot*.
2. *Sekhakh* Roofing material for *sukkah*.
3. *Arbah minim* Four plant species used during *Sukkot* services.
4. *Lulav* Palm; also name given for *arbah minim*.
5. *Hadas* Myrtle; twigs (3) used in "lulav."
6. *Arava* Willow; twigs (2) used in "lulav."
7. *Etrog* Citron
8. *Hoshana* "Save, I pray," prayer added each morning during *Sukkot*. Extra verses are added on the last day of *Sukkot*, *Hoshanna Rabbah*.
9. *Hoshana Rabba* Last day of *hol hamo-ed Sukkot*; last chance for repentance.