

The ten words that open every blessing

Almost every blessing in this book begins with the same six words, and most of the blessings over a commandment add the same four. Read them until they are automatic. From then on, every blessing is only a few new words long.

<p>5</p> <p>מֶלֶךְ</p> <p><i>melech</i> King</p>	<p>4</p> <p>אֱלֹהֵינוּ</p> <p><i>eloheinu</i> our God</p>	<p>3</p> <p>יְהוָה</p> <p><i>adonai</i> the Lord (read: Adonai)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>אַתָּה</p> <p><i>ata</i> You</p>	<p>1</p> <p>בָּרוּךְ</p> <p><i>baruch</i> blessed</p>
<p>10</p> <p>וְצִוָּנוּ</p> <p><i>vetsivanu</i> and commanded us</p>	<p>9</p> <p>בְּמִצְוֹתָיו</p> <p><i>bemitsvotav</i> with His commandments</p>	<p>8</p> <p>קִדְּשָׁנוּ</p> <p><i>kideshanu</i> made us holy</p>	<p>7</p> <p>אֲשֶׁר</p> <p><i>asher</i> who</p>	<p>6</p> <p>הָעוֹלָם</p> <p><i>haolam</i> of the universe</p>

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ

Baruch ata Adonai eloheinu melech haolam, asher kideshanu bemitsvotav vetsivanu

Good to know. A blessing that thanks God for something (wine, bread, spices) stops after the first six words and says what it is for: "who creates the fruit of the vine". A blessing before doing a commandment (candles, washing hands) continues with "who made us holy with His commandments and commanded us to...".

Twenty-five words you will meet again and again

These words appear across the texts in this book, some of them dozens of times. Read each one out loud. You do not need to memorize them now; they will come back on every page.

לֶחֶם

lechem
bread

בְּרָכָה

beracha
blessing

קֹדֶשׁ

kodesh
holiness, holy

שָׁלוֹם

shalom
peace

שַׁבָּת

shabbat
Shabbat, the Sabbath

לַיְלָה

layla
night

יוֹם

yom
day

אוֹר

or
light

נֵר

ner
candle, lamp

יַיִן

yayin
wine

בַּיִת

bayit
house, home

אֶרֶץ

erets
earth, land

שָׁמַיִם

shamayim
heavens, sky

בֹּקֶר

boker
morning

עֶרֶב

erev
evening

יִשְׂרָאֵל

yisra'el
Israel

עַם

am
people, nation

עוֹלָם

olam
world, universe;
eternity

מֶלֶךְ

melech
king

שֻׁלְחָן

shulchan
table

אָמֵן

amen
amen

רַחֲמִים

rachamim
mercy, compassion

חֶסֶד

chesed
kindness

מִצְוָה

mitsva
commandment

תּוֹרָה

tora
Torah

Lighting the candles

הדלקת נרות

Friday, about twenty minutes before sunset. Two candles (or more) are lit, the eyes are covered, and the blessing is said. With it, Shabbat begins in the home.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו

וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת:

Lighting the candles • line by line

Read the Hebrew first. The sound of each word is underneath in English letters, and the meaning under that.

*Baruch ata Adonai eloheinu
melech haolam,*

Blessed are You, Lord our
God, King of the universe,

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם,

1

*Asher kideshanu bemitsvotav
who made us holy with His commandments*

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו

2

*Vetsivanu lehadlik ner shel
Shabbat
and commanded us to light the
Shabbat candle.*

וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת:

3

Lighting the candles • words and practice

Key words

שַׁבָּת

shabbat
Shabbat

שֶׁל

shel
of

נֵר

ner
candle

לְהַדְלִיק

lehadlik
to light

Good to know. This is the shortest blessing in the book and the best place to start. Its first ten words open almost every blessing you will read.

Match

1	נֵר	_____
2	לְהַדְלִיק	_____
3	שַׁבָּת	_____
4	שֶׁל	_____

a	to light
b	of
c	candle
d	Shabbat

Read without help

1 בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

2 אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו

3 וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת:

I read this text ☐ slowly ☐ at speaking speed ☐ without looking at the transliteration

Lighting the candles • without vowels

Many prayer books, and almost every wall poster and bencher, print the familiar texts without vowel marks. Here is the text the way you will see it there. Read out loud; you know every word already.

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם,

אשר קדשנו במצותיו

וצונו להדליק נר של שבת:

Shabbat Blessings Reading Workbook

Free sample: 6 of 85 pages

The full book, with free audio of every word:

alephbetstudio.pages.dev/b3

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