

GLOSSARY

List of Frequently Used Hebrew and Yiddish Terms

Notes:

1. Singular followed by the plural (when relevant). Example: Ashkenazi, Ashkenazim.
2. When relevant (S) denotes the vernacular Sephardi and (A) Ashkenazi pronunciations. Example: Kashrut (S), Kashrus (A).

Aron HaKodesh Torah ark (in synagogue)

Arukah Healing

Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern and Central European Jewish origin.
Ashkenazim (pl.)

Askan (S), *askon* (A) Lay helper or 'doer' who often assume the role of a culture-broker in medical contexts. *Askanim*, *askonim* (pl.)

Bet Din (S), *Beis Din* (A) House of Law, Jewish court of law

Brit milah (S), *Bris milah* (A) Circumcision of male Jewish infants on the eighth day

Chabad Lubavitch Hassidish group

Chesed Kindness, usually an act of kindness.

Chumrah Stringency, usually in how religious law is practiced.
Chumrot (pl.)

Frum Pious (Yiddish)

Gehah To distance illness

Gemara Rabbinic discussions that comprise part of the *Talmud*

Goy 'Nation,' used to (often pejoratively) describe a non-Jew, according to *halachic* definition. *Goyim* (pl.)

Halachah (S), *halochoh* (A) Codex of rabbinical law. *Halachot*, *halochos* (pl.)

Halachic, *halachically* (adj.)

Haredi Literally God fearing. Protect religious practices and values by limiting engagement with external non-Haredi world, including

forms of education, knowledge and employment. Haredi Jews in the UK generally do not follow the religious authority of the Chief Rabbi. *Haredim* (pl.)

Hashem The name, synonym for God

Hashkafah (S), *hashkofoh* (A) Worldview or outlook. *Hashkafot* (S), *hashkofos* (A) (pl.). *Hashkafic*, *hashkofic* (adj.).

Hassidish Branch of Ashkenazi Haredim, consisting of diverse groups or dynasties that usually follow the philosophy and authority of a *rebbe* and are named after towns of origin in Central and Eastern Europe. *Hassidim* (pl.)

Hatzalah (S), *hatzolah* (A) Rescue or save, Haredi rapid response service

Hechsher A stamp or certificate of approval that denotes a product has been subjected to rabbinical supervision under the auspices of a particular *Bet Din* and is kosher. *Hechsherim* (pl.)

Heim, *heimish* This term does not translate well into English, but stems from the Yiddish word 'home'. It signifies a point of commonality in worldview and religious practice between Orthodox and Haredi Jews

Heimisher Circular that was freely distributed in Jewish Manchester (Yiddish derivative)

Ivrit Modern Hebrew

Kashrut (S), *kashrus* (A) Laws governing food and system of production and consumption that are acceptable or approved

Kosher Satisfying the requirements of *Kashrut*. Used generally as a term to describe something as acceptable or approved

Kollel Often likened to being a 'post-graduate' learning institute, a Haredi man attends *kollel* after *yeshiva* and marriage. *Kollelim* (pl.)

Labriut Hebrew expression 'to health'

Litvish Ashkenazi Jews originating from the historical region of Lithuania who follow non-Hassidish customs (*minhagim*). Jews of a Litvish origin constitute a dominant culture in the Haredi world

Meshuganah Yiddish, crazy

Minhag Custom in which religious law is practiced. *Minhagim* (pl.)

Mizrachi Eastern, Jews of Middle Eastern origin. *Mizrahim* (pl.)

Neturei Karta Haredi sub-group who oppose Zionism and the State of Israel

Pessah (S), *Pesach* (A) Passover, Jewish festival

Pikuach nefesh Dictate of *halachic* law, 'to save a life'

Posek Decider of *halachic* law in cases without a precedent or when previous rulings remain inconclusive. *Poskim* (pl.)

- Rabbi* Denotes a male religious authority/ties in Haredi Judaism.
- Rabbonim* (pl.)
- Rabbanite* (S), *Rebbetzin* (A) Wife of a rabbi
- Satmar* Hassidish group
- Sephardi* Jews originally of Spanish and Portuguese origin.
- Sephardim* (pl.)
- Shabbat* (S), *Shabbos* (A) Sabbath, twenty-five hour period of rest from Friday evening to Saturday evening. *Shabbatot* (pl.)
- Shalom bayit* (S), *Shalom bayis* (A) Peace in the home
- Sheigetz* non-Jewish male (*Shikska*: non-Jewish female). Highly derogatory Yiddish term originating from the Hebrew word 'sheketz' (meaning 'impure' or 'abominable' non-Jewish male)
- Shidduch* System of introducing males and females for courtship and brokering marriage (Yiddish). *Shidduchim* (pl.)
- Shtark* Strict or pious in religious observance (Yiddish)
- Shtetl* Yiddish term for a small town with a large Ashkenazi Jewish population, typically in Eastern or Central Europe
- Shomer* To guard
- Shomrim* Haredi security and neighbourhood watch group
- Shul* Yiddish term for synagogue
- Torah* (S), *Toyrah* (A) First five books of the Hebrew Bible
- Tzedakah* (S), *tzedokoh* (A) Social justice, but commonly interpreted as 'charity' in English
- Tzniut* (S), *tznius* (A) Modesty, in dress and comportment
- Yeshivah* Male religious educational institutions. Haredi men generally attend *yeshiva* until they marry, and then attend *kollel*.
- Yeshivot* (pl.)
- Zei Gezunt* Yiddish expression for 'be well'