SHEHECHEYANU

INTRODUCTION TO SHEHECHEYANU

Introduction to SheHecheyanu: When Obligatory

Say *she'hecheyanu* for:

- Acquisitions,
- *Jewish festivals*, and
- New fruits.

NOTE You MUST say *she'hecheyanu* on *Jewish festivals;* saying *she'hecheyanu* on acquisitions is subjective and is only required if you enjoy the possession and it is new (for you) and valuable.

HaTov V'HaMeitiv or SheHecheyanu

Say *ha'tov v'ha'meitiv* instead of *she'hecheyanu* when two or more people benefit from or enjoy something.

EXAMPLES

- If your wife or husband will enjoy and use the new item too.
- When wine is already on the table and a second bottle of wine that is as good as, or better than, the first bottle is brought to the table (and more than one person will drink that second bottle of wine).

NOTE When two or more people are eating a new fruit that is in season, each person says the blessings *al pri ha'eitz* and then *she'hechaynu* (and not *ha'tov v'hameitiv*).

SHEHECHEYANU: ACQUISITIONS

SHEHECHEYANU: ACQUISITIONS: WHICH ITEMS

On What To Say SheHecheyanu

Say *she'hecheyanu* on any item that you acquire through any of the following means, as long as the item gives you pleasure:

- Gifts.
- Purchases you made.
- Used items that you acquire.

NOTE If the item would be desirable or a luxury to other people, but it is not to you, or if it only has value to you as a useful item, do not say *she'hecheyanu*.

NOTE From Richard Aiken --I said s*he'hecheyanu* on my scuba diving equipment and on my paragliders, the first time I used them.)

Items on Which Women Say SheHecheyanu

Women say *she'hecheyanu* on:

- Engagement rings but not on wedding rings.
- Valuable candlesticks.

Items on Which Men Say SheHecheyanu

Men say s*he'hecheyanu* on a new *talit*. Do not say s*he'hecheyanu* on *tefilin*.

SheHecheyanu and Attire

The only items of attire that get a *she'hecheyanu* blessing are those that are worn for enjoyment or importance. These are both subjective: If you don't enjoy new clothes, don't say *she'hecheyanu* over them.

NOTE *She'hecheyanu* is not said on shoes.

SheHecheyanu: House or Apartment

Say *she'hecheyanu* on a house, condominium, apartment, or other accommodation that you buy. Don't say *she'hecheyanu* on a house or apartment that you are renting.

NOTE If you are married (or living there with any other family members), say *ha'tov v'ha'meitiv* instead of *she'hecheyanu*.

SHEHECHEYANU: ACQUISITIONS: WHEN TO BLESS

SheHecheyanu: Acquisitions: When You May Say

You may say *she'hecheyanu* as long as you still feel the exhilaration of having or using the new item (ideally, say the blessing when you purchase the item or receive it as a gift.).

SheHecheyanu: Acquisitions: When To Bless over New Home

If you buy a house, condominium, apartment, or other accommodation, say *she'hecheyanu*:

- When you buy it, if it is ready to move in when you buy it (if you will live there by yourself).
- When you move in, if it is not ready to move in when you buy it (if you will live there by yourself).

NOTE If you are married, say *ha'tov v'ha'meitiv* instead of *she'hecheyanu*.

SHEHECHEYANU: JEWISH FESTIVALS

SheHecheyanu at Candle-Lighting for Jewish Festivals

Say *she'hecheyanu* when lighting candles for:

- Both days of *Rosh Hashana*,
- *Yom Kippur*,
- First day (if in *Eretz Yisrael*) or first two days of *Sukkot*,
- *Shmini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah*,
- First day (if in *Eretz Yisrael*) or both days of *Shavuot*, and
- First day (if in *Eretz Yisrael*) or first two days of *Passover*.

NOTE *She'hecheyanu* is not said on the last day (if in *Eretz Yisrael*) or last two days of *Passover*.

SHEHECHEYANU: NEW FRUITS

SHEHECHEYANU: NEW FRUITS: ORDER OF BLESSINGS

Borei Pri Ha'Eitz or SheHecheyanu First

Steps for saying *she'hecheyanu* on a new fruit:

- Say *borei pri ha'eitz* first, then
- Say *she'hecheyanu*, then
- (Cut and) Eat it.

SHEHECHEYANU: NEW FRUITS: WHEN TO BLESS

SHEHECHEYANU: NEW FRUITS: WHEN FIRST IN SEASON

SheHecheyanu: New Fruits: When Is First in Season

Say *she'hecheyanu* when eating a fresh (not dried or frozen) fruit for the first time it appears in the market that season (this does not follow *Rosh Hashana* or any of the other Jewish "years").

NOTE If a fruit is available year round, never say *she'hecheyanu* over it.

SHEHECHEYANU: NEW FRUITS: WHEN TRAVELLING

SheHecheyanu: New Fruits: Visiting Place Where Fruit Is Available Year Round

SITUATION

- You live in an area in which a fresh fruit is not available all year.
- You visit a place in which that fruit IS available all year.

WHAT TO DO You do not say *she'hecheyanu* when eating this fruit the new place.

SheHecheyanu: New Fruits: Visiting Place Where Fruit Is Not Available Year Round

SITUATION

- You visit a country in which a fresh fruit is not available there year round.
- You have not eaten this fruit that year (either since the fruit season began there or within the past 12 months).

WHAT TO DO You may say *she'hecheyanu*.

SHEHECHEYANU: NEW FRUITS: IMPORT/EXPORT

SheHecheyanu: New Fruits: Import/Export

SITUATION

A fruit is available year-round in one place.
That fruit is taken to a place where it is not available.

WHAT TO DO

You may say *she'hecheyanu* on the fruit in that second place.

SHEHECHEYANU: NEW FRUITS: WHICH TYPES

Varieties of Fruit for SheHecheyanu

If one type of fruit has many varieties--such as navel oranges, Valencia oranges, kumquats, grapefruit, and other citrus fruits-- say *she'hecheyanu* on each type if the:

- Trees have different leaves, OR
- Taste differs from one another (taste must be noticeable to an average person).

NOTE Since many fruits are often available year round, it may not be possible to ever say *she'hecheyanu* on those fruits.

SHEHECHEYANU: NEW FRUITS: ON WHICH FORMS TO BLESS

SheHecheyanu: Cooked Fruit

Say *she'hecheyanu* on cooked fruit in season if that fruit is not normally available all year. If the fruit is commonly available canned, you may not say *she'hecheyanu* on it at any time.

SheHecheyanu: Dried Fruit

Do not say *she'hecheyanu* on dried fruit.

NOTE *She'hecheyanu* may be said on carob while it is still chewy.

SheHecheyanu: Imported Fruit

Do not say *she'hecheyanu* again if:

- You already said *she'hecheyanu* on that type of fruit once during that year,
- The fruit then stops being available, but
- Later in the year it becomes available again as an import from another country.

SheHecheyanu: New Fruit with Juice

SITUATION

- You drink the juice of a fruit that you have not eaten for one year.
- Later, you will eat the actual fruit,

WHAT TO DO Say *she'hecheyanu* on the fruit (if you would normally be required to do so).

NOTE Having drunk the juice does not affect the status of the fruit's being new and in season.

NOTE You do not ever say *she'hecheyanu* on fruit juice!

SHEHECHEYANU: NEW FRUITS: TWO OR MORE

SheHecheyanu for Two or More Fruits

If you eat two new fruits at same sitting, say *she'hecheyanu* only once.

SHEHECHEYANU: NEW FRUITS: MIGHT NOT LIKE

SheHecheyanu for New Fruit You Might Not Like

SITUATION

You have a fruit on which you would like to say *she'hecheyanu*, but you might not like it.

WHAT TO DO

To avoid saying a pointless blessing (*bracha l'vatala*), you may:

- Say the blessing *borei pri ha'eitz* on a different fruit.
- Eat from the fruit you just blessed over.
- Taste the new fruit. If you like it—and before you have eaten all of the new fruit—
- Swallow the small piece you tasted (if you do not like it, you do not need to swallow it).
- Say *she'hecheyanu*.
- Finish eating the new fruit.

NOTE When saying she'hecheyanu on a new fruit, there is no preference for on which fruit to say borei pri ha'eitz--you may say it on the new fruit or on any other fruit.

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