# 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aron HaKodesh</strong></td>
<td>Torah ark (in synagogue)</td>
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<td><strong>Arukah</strong></td>
<td>Healing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ashkenazi</strong></td>
<td>Jews of Eastern and Central European Jewish origin.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ashkenazim</strong> (pl.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Askan (S), askon (A)</strong></td>
<td>Lay helper or ‘doer’ who often assume the role of a culture-broker in medical contexts.</td>
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<td><strong>Askanim, askonim</strong> (pl.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bet Din (S), Beis Din (A)</strong></td>
<td>House of Law, Jewish court of law</td>
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<td><strong>Brit milah (S), Bris milah (A)</strong></td>
<td>Circumcision of male Jewish infants on the eighth day</td>
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<td><strong>Chabad Lubavitch</strong></td>
<td>Hassidish group</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chesed</strong></td>
<td>Kindness, usually an act of kindness.</td>
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<td><strong>Chumrah</strong></td>
<td>Stringency, usually in how religious law is practiced.</td>
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<td><strong>Chumrot (pl.)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Frum</strong></td>
<td>Pious (Yiddish)</td>
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<td><strong>Gehah</strong></td>
<td>To distance illness</td>
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<td><strong>Gemara</strong></td>
<td>Rabbinic discussions that comprise part of the Talmud</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Goy</strong></td>
<td>‘Nation,’ used to (often pejoratively) describe a non-Jew, according to halachic definition.</td>
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<td><strong>Goyim</strong> (pl.)</td>
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<td><strong>Halachah (S), halochoh (A)</strong></td>
<td>Codex of rabbinical law. Halachot, halochos (pl.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Halachic, halachically (adj.)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Haredi</strong></td>
<td>Literally God fearing. Protect religious practices and values by limiting engagement with external non-Haredi world, including</td>
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</table>
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

Hashkaṭah (S), hashkofoh (A) Worldview or outlook. Hashkafoṭ (S), hashkofos (A) (pl.). Hashkaṭic, hashkofoic (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.)

Mizrahi Eastern, Jews of Middle Eastern origin. Mizrahim (pl.)

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

Pesah (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  (Shiksa: 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’