

Shabbos Learning Project

Keeping It Better Together

Week 5: Shabbos Speech and Sights

ANSWERS!

1. The clock is ticking. Mincha is approaching. Time to get dressed and go. You run to your closet to put on Shabbos clothes. But there are no Shabbos clothes to be found. You push the hangers this way and that, but to no avail. Someone forgot to get the dry cleaning. Oh no. You try your best to find something suitable for Shabbos. Maybe if you wear your billboard bar mitzvah hat (see SLP quiz 4) nobody will notice your fuzzy pajamas. They're black, after all! But more importantly, how can you signal to the dry-cleaning picker upper that they should try to remember next week?
- You can't mention picking up dry cleaning on Shabbos! I think the fuzzy pajamas will do the trick.
 - Maybe if you take little slips of paper and staple them all over your clothing, that will give a great hint. (Or maybe it will be confusing because it will look like your pajamas just came back from the cleaners).
 - There is no problem saying gently "Can you please pick up the dry cleaning next week."
 - Preface your request with the Yiddish phrase "*Nisht oif Shabbos geredt.*" This super magical phrase makes everything OK!

Most popular answer A (84%) . CORRECT ANSWER: C.

Although it may be implied, this statement does not contain any reference to doing actions that are not permitted on Shabbos. If the statement was "Can you drive to pay up the dry cleaning" - that would be prohibited.

2. You have a little extra reading time this Friday night. After all, you're already in your fuzzy black pajamas. Finally you have time to read the frum magazine! Looking for a nice, uplifting Torah article, you open the magazine. You look for the table of contents but can't seem to find it. How many school dinners and Pesach programs could there possibly be? You flip through the pages. And then some more pages. And then some more pages. Your fingers are getting tired with all the flipping. You're haven't sufficiently trained for this exercise. As you doze off in exhaustion into a sweet Shabbos slumber, you wonder: Is this magazine even permissible on Shabbos?
- If it's more articles than ads, it's OK. You need to build up more finger muscle to find out.
 - It is permissible as a sleep-aid.
 - If the ads are all for good causes, it's OK.
 - You can read it, but should really skip the advertisements.

Most popular answer D (92.3%) . CORRECT ANSWER: D.

Note that if the ads are for Mitzva causes, it would be permitted to read them, as well.

3. You decide that you have to get over your fear of facing your organized neighbor. So you invite her to come over on Shabbos afternoon to spend some quality time together. As you tidy the house, also known as shove-everything-you-can-into-the-broom-closet, you realize that it's not quite enough organization. After all, it is only 18 weeks until Shavuot. She will definitely ask you about which cheesecake you are making for Shalosh Seudos on the second day (who doesn't know that the second day of Shavuot this year is Shabbos?). She's coming in 5 minutes. You run to your cookbook collection and are about to take out *Kabbalas Ol Cheescakes Volume 4* when you realize that maybe you shouldn't take out a cookbook on Shabbos?
- It is permitted.

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- b. Correct! You should stay away from cookbooks on Shabbos. Maybe get around the conversation by asking her Purim theme for next year.
- c. Since you are really using the cookbook as a conversation piece, it's OK.
- d. If the cookbook is just pictures and captions, it's OK.

Most popular answer A (46.2 %) . CORRECT ANSWER: A.

4. She's here! As you sit down for some tea, she pulls out a paper from her pocket. "What's that?" you asked politely even though you don't want to hear the answer. "It's my full menu for both days of Shavuot! Do you want to see it?" "Sure!" you reply with a degree of insincerity. Just then, you remembered that you have a way out. You remember that one is not supposed to read menus on Shabbos! You turn to your highly organized and composed neighbor and politely explain that for Halachic reasons, you'd rather just discuss Kabbalas Ol Cheesecake instead. Are you correct?
- a. Yes! Reading menus is not permitted.
 - b. Since it's not your menu, you are allowed to read it.
 - c. You can read it, but only out loud and in pig-latin. Oodgay! inkingthay!
 - d. You can read the menu as part of your mitzva of Hachnasas Orchim.

Most popular answer B (84.6%) . CORRECT ANSWER: B.

5. You walk into Shalosh Seudos. There is a seat open next to Joe Northerner! Yes! "Excuse me, Joi, is someone sitting here?" Joe shakes his head and replies, a little confused: "Nobody is sitting here, but who are you accusing?" Classic miscommunication. "Oh... 'Excuse me' - it's kinda hard to explain. It's a southern thing. Anyway, did you hear about the great deal I got on new Delta direct flights to Eretz Yisroel. Now we don't have to stop off in NY!" Joe rolls his eyes. "Silly southerner. Just go on to Shmiels Deals, sign up for 6 credit cards, get the points and legally report them as an educational tax credit. Then roll over your tax refund into treasury bonds and then cash them out in Peruvian Airline miles which can be transferred to the Israel Air Alliance and credited to my brother-in-law's uncle's travel agency who will book you on a Turkish flight with just one stop in Tehran and one in Kyiv - it's all free and so simple...for certain people!" Sorry you said anything, you wonder: Was I wrong to start this conversation?
- a. No. Flying to Israel is a Mitzva. And so is avoiding NY, according to some Poskim. And so is flying Delta, according to local Halachic authorities.
 - b. Yes. We are not to speak about flying on Shabbos.
 - c. Since you didn't mention the act of flying, but you simply told the tale of your purchase, it's fine. Joi, on the other hand...
 - d. Since it's past sundown, you are allowed to begin weekday speech.

Most popular answer C (53.8%) . CORRECT ANSWER: C.

This was this week's most popular question. Good ol' Joe always wins!