

Shabbos Learning Project

Keeping It Better Together

Week 2: Erasing (ANSWERS)

SLP is on break this week (December 31) and back next week (January 7).

1. Shabbos Chanukah Rosh Chodesh calls for some extra celebration. You've arranged for a special dessert surprise for the family. You open the window slowly as a sharp, cold draft enters the room. "OK! It's time!" you yell outside. All of a sudden there is a crash up above. It's a bird! It's a plane! No - it's flying Joe Northerner coming through the skylight! Joe lands on the dining room table with fancy designer bags in hand. "Hi Joe! Where have you been? We've already been through 5 questions without you!" Yes, it's that tough, critical and snobby, yet beloved and endearing character from SLP quizzes past coming through the skylight to spread Chanukah cheer. "Well, I've been waiting for the weather to turn NORMAL. Once I saw that it dipped below 20, I decided I could leave my air-conditioned home and venture outside for a visit. I brought some REAL donuts from New York!" He pulls out some gooey, calorie-laden, elitist donuts from Snobby Sufganiyot in Brookreeneck!" Uh oh. As you take out the donuts from the super fancy box, you see that each of them is properly stamped with an "I ❤️ NY" symbol written in jelly on the top. Can they be eaten?
- CAN they be eaten, you ask!? They MUST be eaten! It's Chanukah after all.
 - Nope. Snobby Sufganiyot needs to learn some SLP. Those Brookreeneckers may be fancy but we can "outfrum" them any day.
 - You can only eat them whole - like the whole thing in one shot. I'm sure Joe can show you how. He is mighty tough.
 - They can be bit into, but not cut. Which is fine. What kinda self-respecting Chanukah Jew eats Sufganiyot with a fork and knife anyway?

Most popular answer D (100% - Great job everyone!) . CORRECT ANSWER: D.

Not surprisingly, Joe takes the cake - this was the most popular question of the week!

2. Someone convinced you to go with answer #3 above. It's all fun and games until it's time to clean your teeth from all that expensive ordeal. You open your cabinet to find that your old mouthwash is finished and you have to open a new one. It seems that Listerine also listens to SLP podcasts and they decided to challenge us by printing their company name on every spot of the plastic seal on the cap. How can it be opened?
- You'll just have to do without it. Might as well have another donut!
 - Turn the bottle over and cut a hole on the other end. Keep some towels handy.
 - Since it's a wrapper and not a book, you can just open it normally.
 - Try to cut around the letters.

Most popular answer D (83%) . CORRECT ANSWER: D

Letters cannot be cut intentionally. But if it is possible to go around them and you try your hardest, an inadvertent tear is not a transgression.

3. OK - finally! Now it's time to get some Shabbos *shluff*. You are so tired, but cannot fall asleep! Every few seconds there there is a flash of light that fills the room. What's going on? Another flash. You follow the flash to your closet. It's your super ugly Chanukah sweater with flashing candles! The blue, white and yellow sweater with "Happy Hanukkah" in strange block letters and clashing designs all around is zipped up on your permanently attached hanger. They say the Maccabees wore these sweaters to repulse and blind their fashion-obsessed Green adversaries in the course of war. But now this sweater is threatening your Shabbos sleep. You move to unzip it

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and put it somewhere hidden (where it belongs anyway) but then you realize that doing so will split the words in half! What can be done?

- a. Break out the dreidel and donuts. It's going to be a looooong night! Who made you buy that thing, anyway?
- b. If you're wearing the sweater, it is permitted to unzip it. So someone will have to squirm their way into the sweater while it's still on the hanger. This I gotta see!
- c. It's OK to unzip and discard. Some might even say it's a mitzvah to do so. Especially the "discard" part.
- d. If you have somewhere else to sleep, you should go there. Otherwise, do as above in choice c. Especially the "discard" part.

Most popular answer A & D tied (44%) . CORRECT ANSWER: C

We learned last week that the prohibition is forming or breaking letters but not words. Words may be broken and formed with existing letters as long as they aren't firmly attached to a background (like snapping pieces of "travel Scrabble" into a frame).

4. After washing, you uncover the challos to find a rather unusual gift. Apparently your guest went through all the trouble of baking a challah in the shape of a dreidel! Everyone is smiling at the cute idea. It's so well done, with the letters carved into the sides so perfectly. You hesitate, unsure of what to do. A hum of "dreidel, dreidel, dreidel" fills the airwaves, pressuring you to cut the challah dreidel. After all, it's dry and ready. Oh dreidel, can I play?

- a. Since the letters are carved and not drawn, you can cut the letters, but not the rest. Happy carving!
- b. It's permitted to cut as usual.
- c. Cut the other challah and read the SLP questions this week to help figure it out!
- d. The song says a dreidel is to be made out of clay. Are other materials even acceptable?

Most popular answer B (77.8%) . CORRECT ANSWER: B

Since the "writing" is all part of the same mold, it is permitted to cut

5. You are being asked to lead bentching. Gulp. Longest bentching of the year. You've been practicing and practicing, but maybe it's not enough. Off-season is just not the same. You try to decline the honor. "...I'm not sure I have the stamina," you admit. Your host is a little puzzled. "For all the attention, it's only an extra 20 seconds, I'm sure you could do it!" Deep breath. Here goes.... It's going well! On the holiday of thanks you are actually enjoying the extra opportunity to thank Hashem! But as you try to turn the page, something happens. The pages are stuck! Congealed custard donut cream seems to have sealed your fate. Do you know "*Al Hanissim*" by heart? What can you do?

- a. Quick - switch your bentcher with the person next to you while they are looking away. They're supposed to be looking inside anyway. Serves them right!
- b. You can't open the page because it will remove the delicious custard from the lettering, which is considered erasing.
- c. Lead everyone in song, and then you can sing along with them - brilliant!
- d. Go ahead and open the page. It's a food item, so there is no erasing problem.

Most popular answer D (72.2%) . CORRECT ANSWER: B