

Hanukah Questions & Answers

What do I need for Hanukah?

- *At least one *Hanukiyah*/Menorah to hold the Hanukah candles, some families light one *hanukiyah* per person.
- *44 candles or vials of oil
- *Matches or something to light the Shamash
- *Text of the blessings and Hanukah songs
- *Dreidles and Hanukah gelt
- *Foods cooked in oil, most commonly latkes or *sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts)

When does Hanukah begin?

On the 25th of Kislev, this generally falls in late November or in December.

When do you light the candles?

After dark

Where do you light the candles?

Traditionally in a window that can be seen from the street so that passers by will see them

How do you do the lighting?

Candles are placed in the *hanukiyah* from right to left and lit from left to right so that we are always lighting the newest candle first

What is the order of events when lighting?

First we light the *shamash*

Then we recite the *brachot*/blessings

Then we light the candles using the *shamash*, lighting the newest candle first

Then we sing/recite *Haneirot Hallalu*, followed by *Maoz Tzur* and then other Hanukah songs

What are the candle lighting brachot?

1. Hadlakat Neiroth – *Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam Asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu L'hadlik ner shel Hanukah.*
2. She'asah Nisim - *Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam She'asah nisim la'avoteinu Bayamim ha'hem bazman hazeh.*
3. (On the first night only) Sheheheyenu - *Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam Shehehiyanu v'kiymanu v'higiyanu lazman hazeh.*

What makes a *hanukiyah* kosher?

The eight lights of Hanukah must all be on one plane and the shamash must be different.

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