

Shema obligations

Ref: *Sefer Ahavah, Hilchot Kriat Shema, Chapters 1 and 2*

TO READ *SHEMA* TWICE A DAY¹

There are **three** sections to the *shema*.

1) *Shema* – the imperative to accept Hashem’s sovereignty, and contains the fundamental principles of Unity of Hashem, the commandment to Love Hashem and Study of Torah.

2) *Vehayah* – the imperative to fulfil all the other *mitzvot*.

3) *Tzitzit* – Also reminds us of the exodus from Egypt.

Recited 2 × / day

- Night – From appearance of 3 stars until midnight (but can still recite until dawn).
- Day – Just before sunrise until end of **third hour** of day.

There are blessings before and after *shema*.

- Day 2 blessings before and 1 after.
- Night 2 blessings before and 2 after.

Shema is therefore a fundamental and all-encompassing prayer.

	Fulfils obligation	Additional notes
Recites first verse of <i>shema</i> without proper intention	×	
Recites while walking, lying down or travelling	✓	Should stop for first verse
Gestures while reciting	✓	But not proper
Does not pronounce letters and word properly	✓	But should make effort to be particular with pronunciation
Recites in another language	✓	
Reads <i>shema</i> out of order	✓	This refers to the verses within each paragraph. If, however he recited the paragraphs out of order, he has fulfilled his obligation
Greets people while reading <i>shema</i>		Can only greet people he needs to honour or fear. And it depends if he is between sections or in the middle of a section