

Witness Forgets Contents of *Shtar*

Ref: *Sefer Shoftim, Hilchot Edut, Chapter 8*

If a witness to a promissory note comes to testify regarding his signature in court but cannot remember the contents of the document, his testimony is invalid. This is not so with judges who are verifying signatures. Their job is just to make sure that signatures are valid.

	Acceptable witness	Explanation
Witness recognises his signature but forgets content of <i>shtar</i>	x	Because a witness may only be testifying that one person owes another money, not that this is his handwriting.
Someone reminds the witness about content of <i>shtar</i>	✓	
Plaintiff reminds witness about content of <i>shtar</i>	x	It will appear to the other litigant as a false testimony
Plaintiff who is a Torah Scholar, reminds witness	✓	

However, if there are witnesses who can validate the signatures on the *shtar*, the judges don't ask the first witnesses whether they remember the matter or not, because even if they don't, the *shtar* is verified. The fact they say they don't remember could be because they wish to retract their evidence!