



מִסְכַּת אָבוֹת פֶּרֶק הַ מִשְׁנָה ז': "שִׁבְעָה דְבָרִים בַּחֲכָם"

DARCHEI AVOT >> BETWEEN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS • בֵּין לֹמֵד וּמְלִמֵּד << דְּרָכֵי אָבוֹת >>

שִׁבְעָה דְבָרִים ... בַּחֲכָם:
 אִינוּ מְדַבֵּר בְּפָנֵי מִי שֶׁהוּא גָדוֹל מִמֶּנּוּ בַחֲכָמָה וּבִמְנוּן,
 וְאִינוּ נִכְנָס לְתוֹךְ דְּבַרֵי חֲבֵרוֹ,
 וְאִינוּ נִבְהַל לְהַשִּׁיב,
 שׂוֹאֵל כְּעֵינָן וּמְשִׁיב כְּהִלְכָה,
 וְאוֹמֵר עַל רֵאשׁוֹן רֵאשׁוֹן וְעַל אַחֲרוֹן אַחֲרוֹן,
 וְעַל מָה שֶׁלֹּא שָׁמַע, אוֹמֵר לֹא שָׁמַעְתִּי,
 וּמוֹדָה עַל הָאֱמֶת...

מִסְכַּת אָבוֹת פֶּרֶק הַ מִשְׁנָה ז'

There are seven things ... in a wise man:
 A wise man does not speak before one
 who is greater than he in wisdom,
 And does not break into his fellow's speech;
 And is not hasty to answer;
 He asks what is relevant,
 and he answers to the point;
 And he speaks of the first [point] first,
 and of the last [point] last;
 And concerning that which he has not heard,
 he says: I have not heard;
 And he acknowledges the truth...

Use the QR code to watch the video

UnitEd Herzog College

The Mishna:

המשנה:

Avot, Chapter 5, Mishna 7:

There are seven things ... in a wise man:
 A wise man does not speak before one
 who is greater than he in wisdom,
 And does not break into his fellow's speech;
 And is not hasty to answer;
 He asks what is relevant, and he answers to the point;
 And he speaks of the first [point] first,
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 And concerning that which he has not heard,
 he says: I have not heard;
 And he acknowledges the truth.

אבות ה,ז

שִׁבְעָה דְבָרִים ... בַּחֲכָם:
 אִינוּ מְדַבֵּר בְּפָנֵי מִי שֶׁהוּא גָדוֹל מִמֶּנּוּ
 בַחֲכָמָה וּבִמְנוּן,
 וְאִינוּ נִכְנָס לְתוֹךְ דְּבַרֵי חֲבֵרוֹ,
 וְאִינוּ נִבְהַל לְהַשִּׁיב,
 שׂוֹאֵל כְּעֵינָן וּמְשִׁיב כְּהִלְכָה,
 וְאוֹמֵר עַל רֵאשׁוֹן רֵאשׁוֹן וְעַל אַחֲרוֹן אַחֲרוֹן,
 וְעַל מָה שֶׁלֹּא שָׁמַע, אוֹמֵר לֹא שָׁמַעְתִּי,
 וּמוֹדָה עַל הָאֱמֶת...

A short explanation on the Mishna:

There are seven characteristics that a wise man has:

A wise man does not speak before one who is greater than he in wisdom –

he lets people who know more than him, or who are older than him, speak first.

And does not break into his fellow's speech – he lets his friend finish

speaking and only then comments.

And is not hasty to answer – he does not rush to answer any questions or

reject what someone else has said. He first thinks of his answers.

He asks what is relevant, and he answers to the point – he asks questions

about the topic of the discussion and answers what he knows about.

And he speaks of the first [point] first, and of the last [point] last –

when asked several questions, he answers in order.

And concerning that which he has not heard, he says: I have not heard –

if he has not received the answer from his teachers, but is giving his opinion –

he says so.

And he acknowledges the truth – if someone questions his answer and he

knows that he is wrong, he will admit it.

This is how a wise person behaves – politely and honestly.

(Also based on Rabbi Even-Israel Steinsaltz's commentary on Pirkei Avot, p. 294, courtesy of the Steinsaltz Center).



Level 1

- **Memorizing** the Mishna with hand movements.

(Click or scan the barcode)



● **Group activity:**

- ❖ The teacher divides the class into seven groups.
- ❖ The activity is like the Jigsaw (found on United's site). You will learn a short idea and then share it with the whole class.

For more details on the Jigsaw and other active learning options, click:

<https://unitedjed.org/practice-page-debate>

- ❖ Each group receives one saying that characterizes the wise man (the teacher will give each group a saying from those at the end of the activity descriptions).
 1. The group will memorize the Hebrew saying.
 2. The group will learn the meaning of the saying. Why is it so important for a wise man to behave this way?
 3. The group prepares a short play for the class about the wise man's behavior (the group can also show the opposite behavior and emphasize that this is not the way a wise man behaves).
 4. The teacher can record the students' "play" and later show all plays together.
- ❖ After the students have finished learning their saying and working in groups, the teacher will call the groups to the front of the classroom, in order of the sayings in the Mishna.
- ❖ Each group will memorize and explain its saying, and can show its play.

The other students in the class summarize the information in a table on their worksheets.



Group 1:

“A wise man does not speak before one who is greater than he in wisdom”

Explanation: When students are having a discussion and several people want to talk at the same time: A wise man does not speak before one who is greater than he in wisdom.



Group 2:

“And does not break into his fellow's speech”

Explanation: the wise man lets his friend finish what they are saying, and only then comments.





Group 3:

“And is not hasty to answer”

Explanation: the wise man does not rush to answer a question or reject something that someone else has said.



Group 4:

“He asks what is relevant, and he answers to the point”

Explanation: the wise man asks questions about the topic being discussed and when he answers, only says things that he knows are true and verified.



Group 5:

“And he speaks of the first [point] first, and of the last [point] last”

Explanation: when a wise man answers several questions, he answers them in the order he was asked.



Group 6:

“And concerning that which he has not heard, he says: I have not heard”

Explanation: if the wise man has been asked a question that he does not know the answer to, but he has a suggestion, he must say that he did not hear the answer from others, but it is his own opinion.



Group 7:

“And he acknowledges the truth”

Explanation: if someone questions the wise man's answer, and he knows that he was wrong, he must admit it. He must not insist that he is right.





Level 2

- *Personal Assignment*

Read the 7 characteristics that we learned and mark: how difficult or easy is it to behave this way?
(the activity is on the worksheet for the students)



Level 3

Choose one characteristic of the wise man that you feel you can improve in and try to think about it every time that you are talking to a friend or teacher!

(This activity is on the worksheet for the students)

