

## Order of the Seder

**Kadesh : (קדש)** The Seder is opened by reciting Kiddush and drinking the first of the four cups of wine.

**Orchatz : (ורחץ)** Orchatz is the ceremony of ritually washing hands without reciting the bracha “al netilat yadayim” before beginning the rest of the Seder.

**Karpas : (כרפס)** After washing hands, a bit of karpas is taken (leafy green herbs or even potatoes) and dipped into salt water, with the bracha “Boreh pree ha’adama.” This represents the growth of springtime (greens) but counterbalanced with the tears of slavery (salt water).

**Yachatz : (יחץ)** During yachatz the middle of the three matzot is taken and split in half. The bigger half is set aside to be used as the afikomen at the end of the seder.

**Maggid : (מגיד)** Magid is typically the longest section of the Seder. It includes the youngest child present asking the Four Questions, followed by the discussion about the Four Sons, the Ten Plagues, and the song Dayenu, along with many other topics focused on in the Hagaddah, like stories from the Torah and Talmud. Families often customize their seder and expand on different aspects of the storytelling with commentary, activities for children, and more (\*see our quick educational activities for Pesach below for some examples.) Magid ends with drinking the second cup of wine.

**Rachtzah : (רחצה)** Rachtzah is the section of ritually washing hands with the recitation of the bracha “al netilat yadayim” in preparation for eating matzah.

**Motzei Matzah ( מוציא מצה ) :** The top two matzahs are eaten after reciting the bracha “ha’Motzei lechem min ha’aretz” along with a second bracha about the mitzvah of eating matzah.

**Maror : (מרור)** During Maror, a piece of bitter herbs is dipped in charoset and eaten. The bitter herbs used vary by custom (horseradish root and romaine lettuce are commonly used) and represent the bitterness of slavery. Charoset (a sweet mix which commonly includes apples, red wine, sugar/honey, and nuts, though recipes differ by tradition and cultural custom) symbolizes both mortar of slavery and the redemption.

**Korech : (כורך)** During Korech, a “sandwich” is eaten by putting maror and some charoset (varies by custom) between two pieces of matzah. This sandwich dates back from Talmudic times, when Hillel would combine meat from the Korban Pesach (sacrificial lamb offering), matzah and marror.

## Order of the Seder (continued)

**Shulchan Orech** :(**שולחן עורך**) Shulchan Orech is the section of the Seder in which the main meal is eaten.

**Tzafun** :(**צפון**) Tzafun is the section in which the afikomen– the bit of matzah that was set aside earlier- is eaten. It is customarily the last food eaten on the Seder night.

**Barech** :(**ברך**) During Barech, Birkat Hamazon, Grace After Meals, is recited followed by drinking the third cup of wine.

**Hallel** :(**הלל**) Hallel is the point in the Seder when psalms praising God are sung followed by drinking the fourth cup of wine.

**Nirtzah** :(**נרצה**) Nirtzah is the section in which it is declared “Next year in Jerusalem!” and according to different traditions, various piyutim are sung (a famous one being “Chad Gadya”).