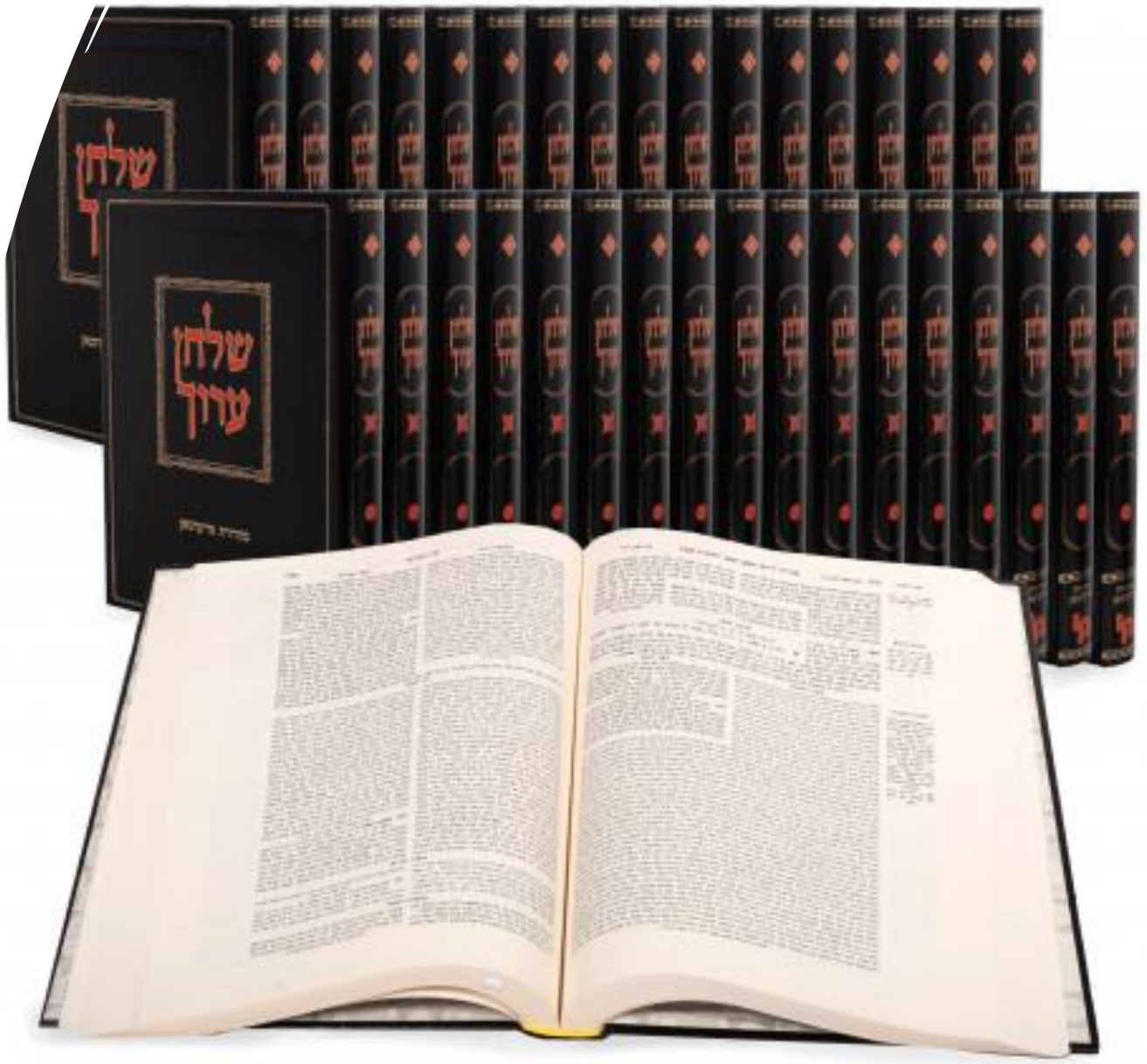
THE SHOFAR

Terms and Technique

Learing Goals

- Making a Shofar
- Picking a Shofar
- Blowing a Shofar
- Who's Obligated?
- Meaning
- Everything a Baal Tokea Must Know

Sources



Shulchan Aruch

- Orach Chaim
  - 585 - 591
- Yoreh Deah
- Even HaEzer
- Choshen Mishpat

Practice!

Different Horns for Shofar

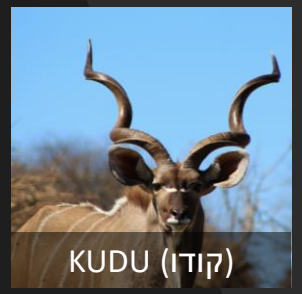
NO COWS

אין קטיגור
נעשה סניגור

Horns a Shofar Can be Made From

Oryx (ראם)

Ibex (יעל)


KUDU (קודו)

Ram (איל)

Ibex (יעל)

Kudu (קודו)

Oryx (ראם)

Ram (איל)

There are even more…

[Just ask Rabbi Slifkin…]() ([article here]())

וישׂא אברהם את עיניו וירא והנה
איל אחר נאחז בסבך בקרניו וילך
אברהם ויקח את האיל ויעלהו
לעלה תחת בנו: (בראשית כב, יג)

Not too small…

But take it easy

How It’s Made

Process

1. Bone removal
2. Heating
3. Straightening
4. Tip removal
5. Hole bore
6. Smoothening
7. Cleaning

Simply Put

A Little Longer

Don’t forget sourcing

Decorations

Some of The Major Shofar Manufacturers Today

Ribak-Bar Sheshet

- http://www.shofarot.com/
- Competition turned partnership

R’ David Nintzinsky

- Crazy Story
- Blowing technique
- Practice!
- 50:50
- Shadchan

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6x46iN3aWiI

http://davidshofar.co.il/

Shimon Keinan's Retirement Job

- His story
- Kol Shofar

Become a Professional Baal Tokea!

Shofar Workshop with
Rabbi Levi Yitzchok Meisner
Founder and Director of Shofar HaMeshupar
R' Meisner will be giving lessons and tips to small groups.

718.81

Sign up for one of 3 1-hour sessions at 9:15 a.m., 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m

Friday, September 2 • Rubin Shul

Bring your own shofar or buy/borrow one from yeshiva
High quality shofarot will be available for purchase from R' Me

Yeshiva University
UNDERGRADUATE TORAH STUDIES

Shofar HaMeshuper, R' Levi Yitzchok Meisner

Some Shots from 2022

How to Choose a Shofar

Picking *Your* Shofar

- It's a shidduch
- No marriage without dating
- Need a hechsher
- Direction and curvature

yuConnects

In recent years... Many local souvenir shops, notes Ribak, carry the Chinese-made brands, though often shoppers are not aware that these shofars are not kosher for use in synagogues, as they are not certified by the Chief Rabbinate.

Shofars that contain cracks, even if they are filled – as are many of these "fakes," he points out – are not considered kosher.

https://forward.com/news/205943/where-do-shofars-come-from/

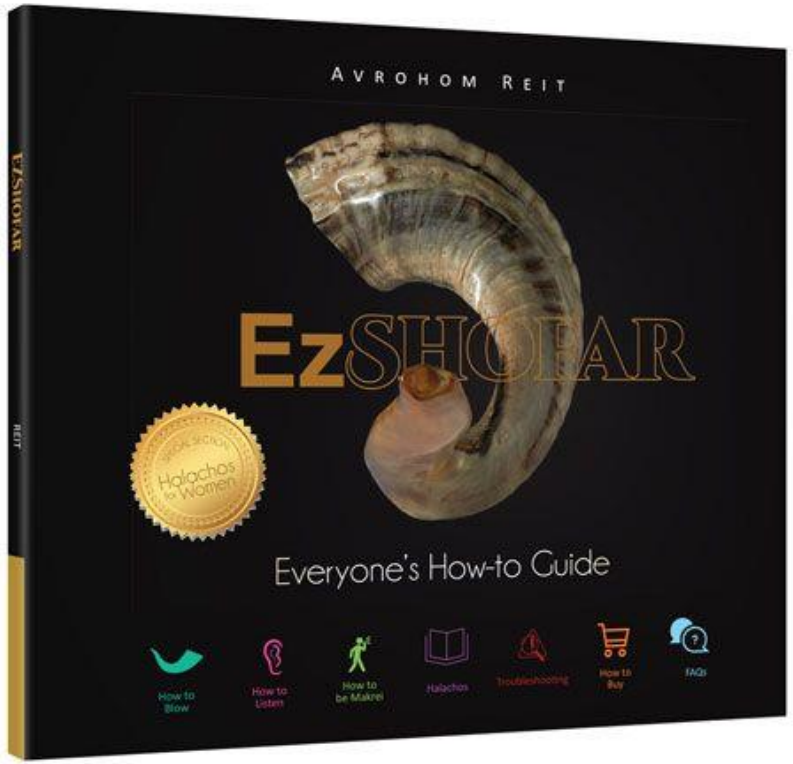
Forward

Things to Pay Attention To

- Curvature – comfortable in *your* hands and doesn't bother your line of vision
- Mouthpiece matches your lips
- Long, straight channel is easiest to blow
- Shape determines pitch
- $$$ is irrelevant
- Try them all out, find the one you can blow effortlessly

How to Blow

Learn From an Expert



Quickstarter Technique

Posture

Breath

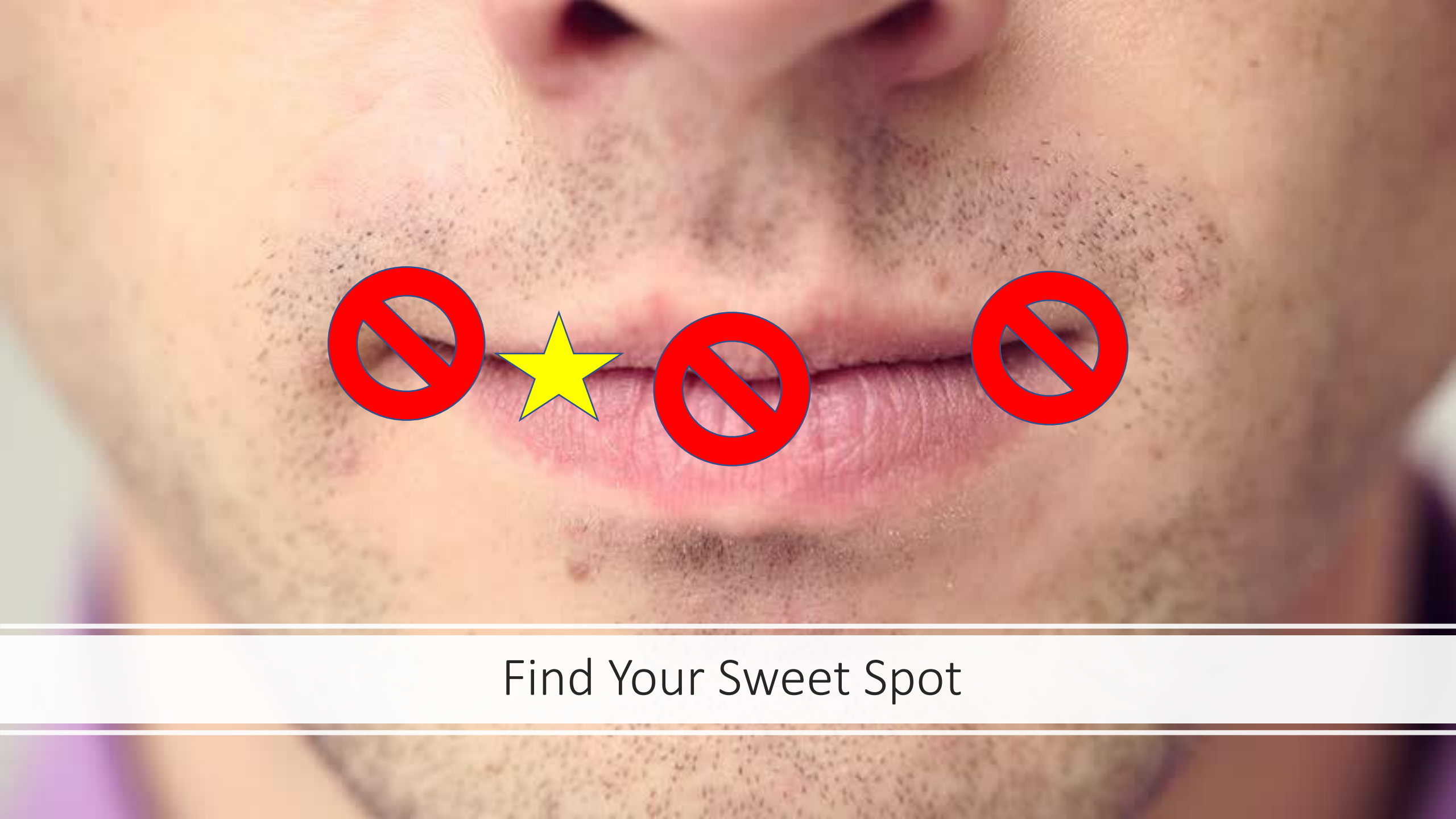
Blow

Posture

1. Stand straight
2. Relax
3. Chin up and down
4. Head level
5. Deep, slow breaths
6. Shofar in
7. Blow

Shofar Position

- Right
- Lips
- Embouchure



Find Your Sweet Spot

Tekiah! – The Sounds of the Shofar

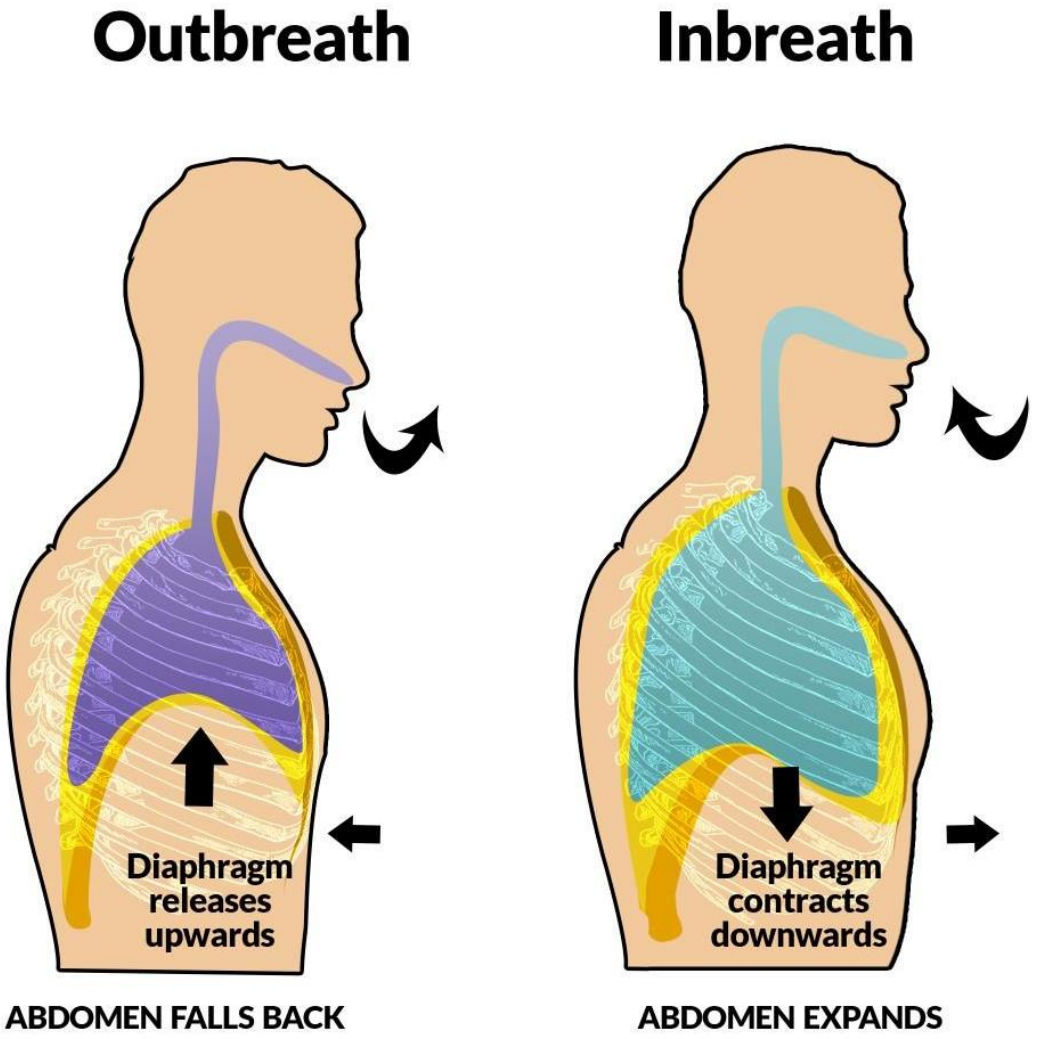
Tekiah

Shevarim

Teruah

Diaphragmic Breathing

- Diaphragm, not lungs
- Use less energy
- Blow longer, more slowly



Get Ready, Get Set, Blow!

Take It Easy!

- Don’t blow hard!
- Puffed cheek or needing to use fingers means you’re trying too hard.

Practice!

Tips from the Pros

“Tekiah!”
The Sounds of the Shofar

Tekiah

Shevarim

Teruah

What is a Teruah?

Different types of Shevarim and Teruah

- Shevarim
  - Rashi
  - Sepharadi jackhammer
  - Teimani and Yekke sigh-cough
  - Too-ooh vs. Ooh-too vs. etc.
- Teruah
  - Tongue forward-back vs. up-down
  - Teimani lip wobble
  - Yekke Teruah (warbeled)
  - Syrian Lililili

Order of the Sounds

1. תשר"ת *Tashrat*

תקיעה שברים תרועה תקיעה

2. תש"ת *Tashat*

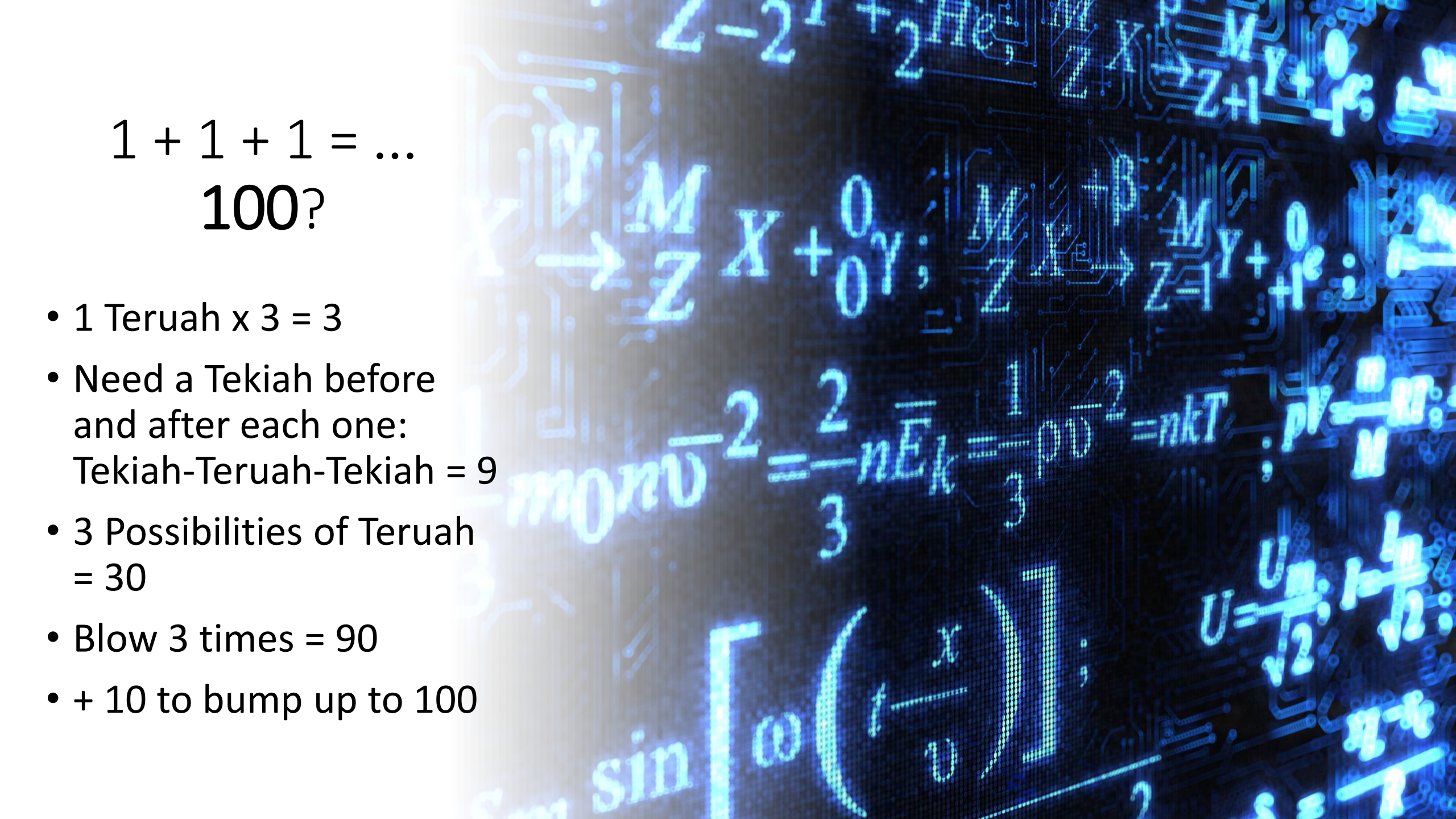
תקיעה שברים תקיעה

3. תר"ת *Tarat*

תקיעה תרועה תקיעה

1 + 1 + 1 = …
100?

- 1 Teruah x 3 = 3
- Need a Tekiah before and after each one: Tekiah-Teruah-Tekiah = 9
- 3 Possibilities of Teruah = 30
- Blow 3 times = 90
- + 10 to bump up to 100



What that looks like

תר״ת תר״ת תר״ת
תר״ת תר״ת תר״ת
תר״ת תר״ת תר״ת

תשר״ת תשר״ת תשר״ת
תשר״ת תשר״ת תשר״ת
תשר״ת תשר״ת תשר״ת

Elul/Last Ten
תשר״ת תש״ת תר״ת

תש״ת תש״ת תש״ת
תש״ת תש״ת תש״ת
תש״ת תש״ת תש״ת

When is it blown in shul?

- Beracha
- Tekiot de**Meyushav** before Mussaf (30 straight)
- Tekiot de**Meumad** during Mussaf (10 at a time)
- Ashkenazim vs. Sepharadim during the silent Amidah or after Mussaf (30 more)
- After Mussaf (10 more)
- Ending on a High Note (#100 or #101)

NO
Talking

Shul Tips

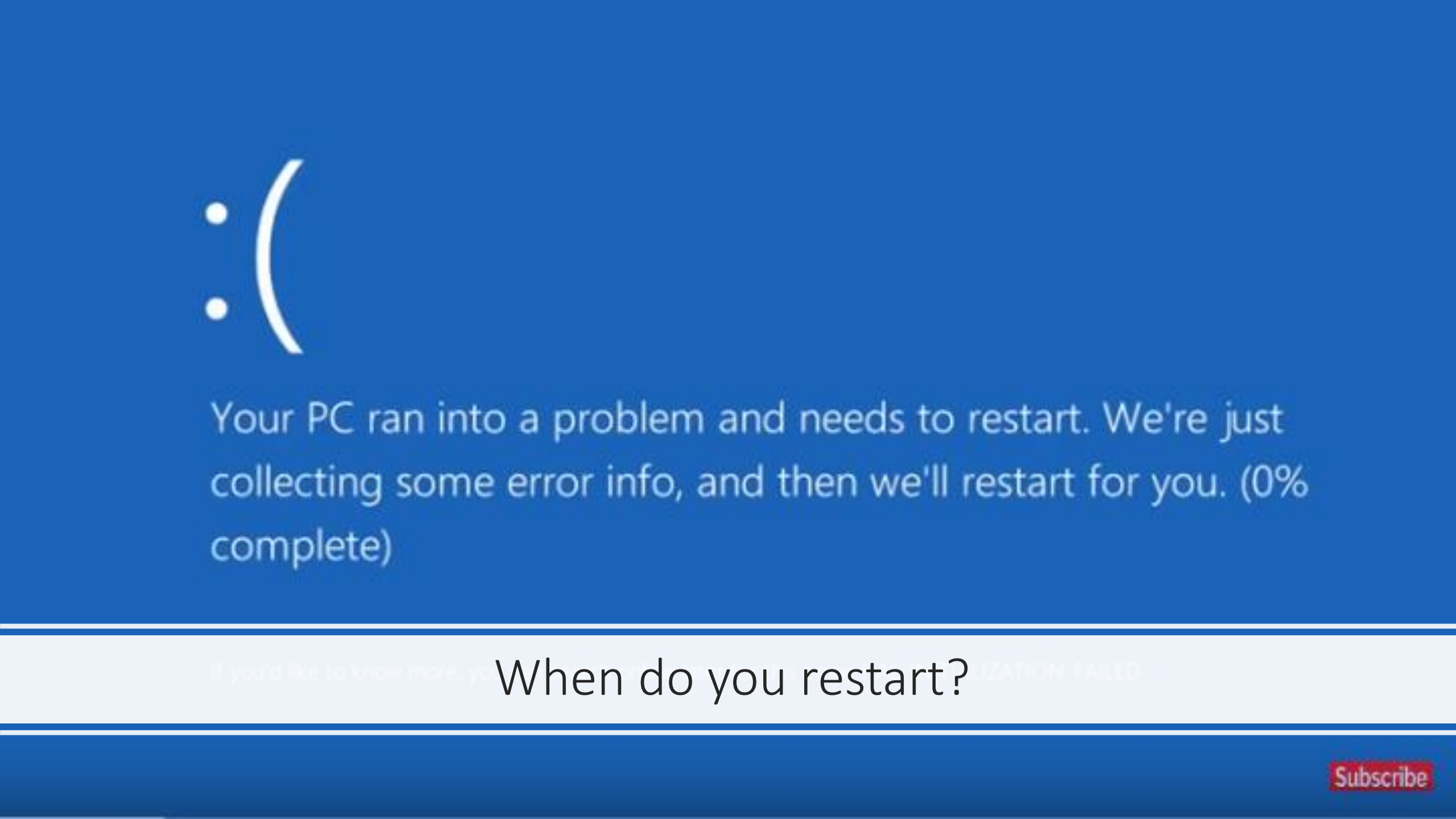
- Practice in shul to minimize anxiety
- Make sure tallit doesn’t slip
- Eating
- Stretch
- No crowding
- Pre tekiot speech

Mussaf Structure

- “Al Seder HaBerachot”
- Malchiot
- Zichronot
- Shofarot

- For the Shul vs. Individuals

Mistakes Happen



When do you restart?

Remedial Shofar Blowing (from EZ Shofar)

- If you attempted to blow the correct sound, came out wrong: For example, you wanted a tekia and blew a tekia sound, but it was too short. Or you wanted a shevarim but blew only two parts of the shevarim instead of three. In such cases, you need to repeat only the botched sound.
- If you blew the wrong sound: For example, you blew a shevarim when you should have blown a terua. In this case, even the original tekia is disqualified and you must restart the set. (§590:8)

The rest is complicated, but for your reference…

תשר"ת			
If he blew two parts of the *shevarim* and began the *terua*	and realized the mistake before completing [three sounds of] the *terua*,		he does not need to restart, but can complete the *shevarim* (one more blast) within the original breath
	and realized after he completed the *terua*	and did not pause for breath	he can complete the missing *shevarim* and does not forfeit the original *tekia*
		if he paused for a breath	he must re-blow the *shevarim-terua*, but does not forfeit the original *tekia*
		According to a stringent opinion the *shevarim-terua* (but not *tekia*) must be repeated whether or not he paused for a breath	

If the *terua* was blown prior to the *shevarim*	the original *tekia* is forfeit (according to a lenient opinion, the *tekia* is not forfeit)

If a second set of *shevarim* was blown after the *terua*	he must begin over, starting from the *tekia*

תש"ת		
If part way through a *shevarim* he switched to a *terua* or completed the *shevarim* and then switched to *terua* or blew a *terua* prior to the *shevarim*	whether or not he completed the *shevarim*	the original *tekia* is forfeited

If after completing one set of *shevarim* he blew an entire second set or part of a set	and paused for a breath between the two *shevarims*	the original *tekia* is forfeited
	he did not pause for a breath in between	the mitzva has been fulfilled

תר"ת		
If the *tekia-terua-tekia* were blown in one breath		the obligation fulfilled

If two consecutive *teruos* were blown	in one breath	the obligation is fulfilled
If there was a pause in a *terua* after three mini-blasts but before nine and the *terua* was continued	in separate breaths	the obligation is not fulfilled and the original *tekia* is forfeit

If the terua was followed by an unintentional *tekia*	and he paused between the *tekia* and *terua*	the original *tekia* is forfeit

If he paused after completing the *terua* and blew a *shevarim* or paused in middle of a *terua* and switched to *shevarim* or he blew a *shevarim* before the *terua*	even if the *shevarim* were not completed	the original *tekia* is forfeit

The Makri

- Outsource procedural management so tokea can focus
- Referee –
  - Timing, breathing or no breathing, etc.
  - make sure everything is kosher, decide when to repeat
- Remind everyone to have kavana
- Inform crowd in event of a redo
- Wait during noise from outside, blowing in nearby shul
- Outsource kavanna also

What's the Point of All This

- Do a Mitzvah DeOraita
- Elul: WAKE UP!
- Rosh Hashanah: Rav Saadia Gaon

Who has to hear the Shofar?

What about the ladies?

Responsibility!