

Dreidel Rules + Make Your Own

The common rules · the four letters · a paper dreidel to fold · ages 5–12 / K–6

סביבון

THE FOUR LETTERS

Hebrew reads right to left, so start with Nun on the right.

Shin Put one piece in.  sham — there 	Hey Take half the pot.  hayah — happened 	Gimel Take the whole pot.  gadol — great 	Nun Nothing happens.  nes — miracle 
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Together the letters stand for Nes gadol hayah sham:
“A great miracle happened there.”

נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם

In Israel, the fourth letter is פ Pey, for פֹּה po, “here.” My Jewish Learning says to play Pey just like Shin: put one piece in.

HOW TO PLAY: THE COMMON RULES

1. Give every player the same number of game pieces, such as pennies or pieces of chocolate.
2. Everyone puts one piece in the middle. That pile is the pot.
3. Take turns spinning. The letter facing up tells you what to do (see the four letters above).
4. When the pot is empty, everyone puts in one more piece.
5. If you cannot put in a piece when you need to, you are out. The game ends when one player has every piece.

Odd number in the pot when you spin Hey? Choose before you play: Chabad.org says leave the extra piece in the pot; My Jewish Learning says take half plus one.

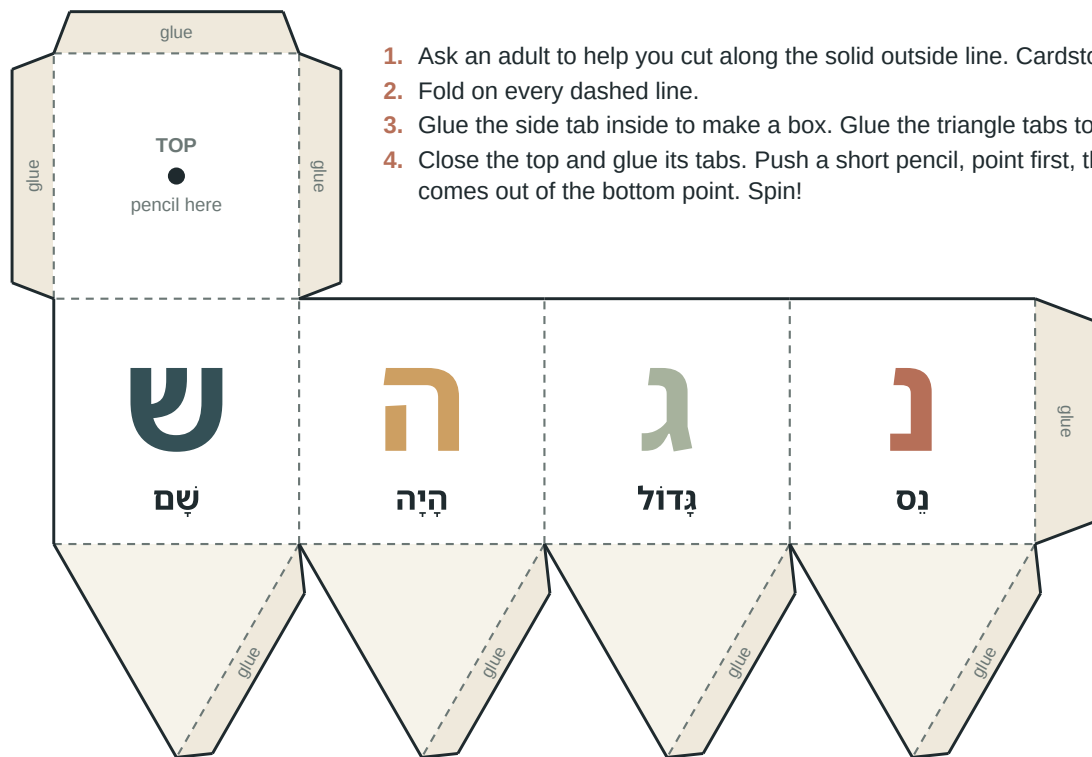
Sources for these rules:

Chabad.org, How to Play Dreidel: https://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/article_cdo/aid/597253/jewish/How-to-Play-Dreidel.htm

My Jewish Learning, How to Play Dreidel: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/how-to-play-dreidel/>

MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER DREIDEL

Solid line = cut. Dashed line = fold. Shaded tab = glue.



1. Ask an adult to help you cut along the solid outside line. Cardstock makes a sturdier dreidel.
2. Fold on every dashed line.
3. Glue the side tab inside to make a box. Glue the triangle tabs to close the point.
4. Close the top and glue its tabs. Push a short pencil, point first, through the dot until the tip comes out of the bottom point. Spin!

More Hanukkah Hebrew: 8 Nights of Hebrew, eight words in eight activities (24 pages, \$8.98)

hebrewhomeschoolhub.com/packs/eight-nights-hebrew/