



Dirshu
דף היומי
בהלכה

Daf HaYomi B'Halacha

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Today's

LIMUD

Hilchos Tefillin 36 (page 126)

מאות מ עד אות ס

Today's

TOPICS

The Components of the *Mem*

Slanting the *Nun* Towards the Right

How to Write the Word *Pen*

The components of the *mem*

The basic components of the *mem* are a *chaf* connected to a *vav*. The lower right corner of the *chaf* is squared, and the bottom of the *vav* slants a little to the left. The line connecting the *chaf* and *vav* should be thin, so as to preserve the character of each letter. Likewise, care must be taken to prevent the bottoms of the *chaf* and *vav* from touching.

(משנת סופרים אות מ; ביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 1, 2 ו-4)



Slanting the *nun* towards the right

The bottom of the *nun* should be wider than the top in order to prevent it from being read as a *chaf* or *beis*. The bottom should not be so wide that it will prevent another letter from being written next to the *nun*. To prevent the wider base from jutting out too far out to the left, some Rishonim recommend slanting the line that extends from the roof to the right. This is the custom to follow. Even according to this custom, the base should protrude a little to the right to prevent it from looking like a different letter.

(משנת סופרים אות נ; ביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 3)



How to write the word *pen*

The final *nun* looks like an elongated *zayin*. This raises an interesting issue when it appears after a *fay*. The *fay*, as we will soon learn, is an oversized letter that extends below the line. If a final *nun* follows a *fay*, it might seem like a *zayin* (and a word like *pen* - *pay nun* - might be read as *paz* - *pay zayin*). In this case, the final *nun* should be drawn a little longer. If it was not drawn longer, some *poskim* consider it to have the wrong shape and disqualify it. Other *poskim* hold that a properly formed letter cannot be disqualified because of an adjacent letter. A third opinion requires, *l'chatchila*, that the *nun* be lengthened.

(משנת סופרים אות נ'; ביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 1)

Yesterday's HIGHLIGHTS

- The upper and lower right hand corners of the *chaf* should be rounded. It is *pasul* if either one is squared. There is a *machlokes* as to whether a *chaf* written like this >, without a right side, is kosher.
- The length of longer letters that appear at the end of words (*chaf*, *nun*, *tzadi* and *fay*) should be twice their width. It should appear as though the bottom of the regular letter opened and extended downward.
- The *lamed* is formed from a *chaf* and *vav*; the lower right side is a *chaf*, and attached to the upper left corner of the *chaf* is a *vav*. A second opinion, based on the Zohar, views the letter as an inverted *tes*, in which case the bottom should be shortened just like the cap on the right side of the *tes*. The custom follows this opinion.

Tomorrow's TOPICS

- The *beis* inside the *fay*
- Switching between *Beis Yosef ksav* and *velish*
- The inverted *tzadi*

לקבלת המייל בלשון קודש, נא ליצור קשר עם דרשו: dirshu@dirshu.co.il

Important Note: The halachic summaries are to assist you with your learning.
Before implementing halacha in practice, please refer directly to the Mishna Brura and Mussaf Dirshu.

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