

# Phrases

Contributed by [Jewish Language Project](#)

Source: Jewish Language Project Passover Supplement

## Passover seder:

Judeo-Greek in Ioannina, Greece: *chova* (duty)

Judeo-Arabic in Mossul, Iraq: *fassaḥ* (verb- conduct the seder)

Yiddish in Lvov/Lemberg, Ukraine: *praven/uprichtn dem sayder, saydern* (verb- conduct the seder)

## (The evening of) searching for and getting rid of chametz:

Yiddish in Bialystok, Poland: *di nacht tsi chumets batlen* (the night to void chametz); *boydek chumets zaan* (search for chametz [to be])

Haketía in Tetuan, Morocco: *dechamezzar* (de-chametz - infinitive verb)

Ladino in Salonica, Greece: *des·hamesar* (de-chametz), *badkamiento* (search [badkar]-ing), *día de kal hamirá* (day of kal chamira - formula renouncing possession of chametz)

Judeo-Arabic in Bengazi, Libya: *lilet qto' el-ḥamiṣ* (night of stopping the chametz)

Judeo-Arabic in Ksar Es-Souk, Morocco: *bdikt ḥamiṣ* (searching for chametz – also used by women as a curse, meaning 'may [the person being cursed] become extinct')

## Kosher for Passover food and utensils:

Western Yiddish in Amrichshausen, Germany: *yontefdig*

Yiddish in Warsaw, Poland: *paysechdik*

Judeo-Georgian in Tbilisi, Georgia: *kasheria pesaxistvin*

Jewish Malayalam in Chennamangalam, India: *pesaholle sadhangle*

Judeo-Arabic in Sana'a, Yemen: *altavaqa almufatra* (kashered room for preparing/storing Passover grains)

## Matzah:

Jews in most communities use variants of מצה, but here are some additional names for Passover unleavened bread:

Judeo-Tat/Juhuri in Derbent, Dagestan: *qoqol*

Judeo-Provençal in Comtat Venaissin, France: *coudolo*

Ladino in Salonika, Greece: *sensenyá*

Judeo-Arabic in Baghdad, Iraq: *jərduqayi*

Judeo-Arabic in Cairo, Egypt: *faṭīr*

Judeo-Arabic in Ḥugariyyah, Yemen: *mašummōr*

### Proverbs:

Jewish Neo-Aramaic in Zakho, Iraq: *'ez moshe, qazele mnoshe* (Holiday of Moses, He provides Himself [God helps needy people celebrate Passover])

Yiddish in Vilna, Lithuania: *Matses un vayn muz zayn, shmalts un eyer – nit zeyer* (matzah and wine are a must, chicken fat and eggs – not so much)

### Wordplay:

In Judeo-Italian, *shelok* can mean "to vomit," based on *sheloch chamatcha* (pour out your wrath) from the seder.

In Ladino the high costs of the holiday are summarized by interpreting *Pésah* as an acronym for *Parás sin hazbón* – Money [expenditures] without [keeping an] account.

Some Jews in Arabic-speaking lands avoid eating chickpeas on Passover, even though they eat other kitniyot. One explanation is that *hummus* (chickpea) and *hametz* (leavened products forbidden on Passover) sound very similar in Arabic.