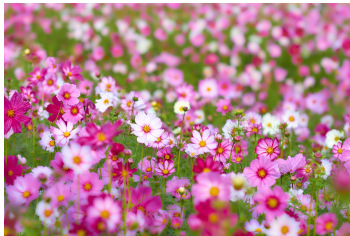


Two Forms of Pei

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- 1 - the open one to  
speak,
- 2- the closed  
to keep  
quiet





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## **Preface**

There are only 834 open Pei's in the whole Chumash, but there are 3,976 closed Pei's. Most of the other letters are in the thousands. The open Pei has the smallest amount.

This leads to an amazing lesson regarding how much speaking we should do, versus how much keeping quiet! Most of the time we should keep quiet and listen.

But how can we gauge ourselves to know when to speak and when to listen? →

## 1. Rashi explains...

...with Hillel's teaching in Brochos 63a,

- "When others are not teaching you should do so,
- When others are willing and capable, you should refrain."

This matches Hillel's teaching in Avos 2:6,

"If there are no others, **you do your best.**"

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This gives us a new perspective on the best position to keep our mouth →

"Closed."

On one hand we learn,

"This nation I created for Me, they should relate My praises," Yeshaya 43:21. But we also learn in Tehilim 65 →

"To You, silence is praise."

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## 2. When to Speak

In Avos 5:9 we learn seven guidelines for proper speech →

- 1- don't speak before one who is greater than you,
- 2- don't interrupt others,
- 3- don't rush to respond,
- 4- speak on the topic,
- 5- speak in an organized, systematic fashion,
- 6- if you did not hear a certain point, admit it,
- 7- admit to the truth.

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The long, open Pei is only at the end of a word. This symbolizes, 'wait until others finish what they want to say before you say yours.'

3. Eight Verses

In Tehilim 119 we have eight verses that begin with the letter 'Pei.'

1- "How marvelous are Your laws, I love and cherish them."

The word 'Peleh,' a marvelous wonder, causes us to open our mouths and say WOW!

2- "The opening of Your words should illuminate..."

'Pesach' - refers to opening, as one who opens their mouth to speak. Our words can change people's lives by making them feel special and empowered.

3- "I opened my mouth and swallowed because I greatly desire Your Mitzvos."

We have three times the letter Pei in the first three words of this verse to show how to open up wide.

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In our daily prayers, we ask Hashem twice to **please open our hearts to Your Torah.**

#### 4. Open in Wonder

- 'Peleh' - an amazing wonder,
- 'Nofail' - to fall. Sometimes we are knocked off balance from amazement.
- 'Phil' - an elephant. It is so large and extraordinary, our mouths open wide.
- 'Tefila' - prayer. What an amazing mouth opening opportunity to speak with our mouths to the Master of all.

We actually begin our Shmone Esrei with this verse from Tehilim 51 →

“Hashem please open our lips and enable my mouth to relate Your praises”!

[We have two Pei's in this verse.]



## **5. Verse 4**

**4-** “Turn to me and favor me,  
as is deserving to those who love  
Your name.”

This is the secret. Hashem  
reciprocates to those who love His  
name. What does His name  
mean?

He is the Infinite Master of all.

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5- “Please guide my feet with
Your words...”

6- “Please save me... and help
me keep Your Mitzvos.”

7- “Please shine Your face on
Your servants and teach me Your
laws.”

8- “My eyes will cry with
streams of tears for what they
missed out of Your Torah...”

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## 6. **“You open Your hands”**

The Talmud, Brochos 4b says this verse is the most significant one of Ashrei to guarantee that we merit the World to Come. The biggest message we need to learn is how much Hashem loves us to always satiate us by providing us with our desires.

But why do we add the first part that, “He opens His hand.” What does that add to the message?

This can be explained with the story of the Shul where the famous candyman would let each child put his hand into a container to take a handful of candies. But this new child seemed too shy to put in his hand. So the candyman tells the father, “You take for your son!”

Then the father asks his son later, “Why didn’t you take by yourself? The son responds, “Because your hand is much larger than mine!”

## **7. Related Terms**

- Pri - a fruit
- Porach - to fly free
- Perach - a flower blossom
- Pru - be fruitful
- Perek - a chapter, part of a whole Mesechta
- Prat - a detail, part of a whole unit
- Parsha - a section of Chumash
- Porua - hair growing long out of the ordinary range.
- Paroh - a wicked individual; also stands for 'Peh Ra'/the evil mouth
- 'Peter Rechem' - opening of the womb
- Potur - one who is exempt
- Panim - the face, part of the whole
- P'air - beauty, part of the package

## 8. The Soft Sound

In Shmos 21:19, we learn one is obligated to pay the medical bill for a healing if he caused the injury. Here the 'Pei' is with a dot in the center which stands for a harder sound.

This refers to using medical physicians to help produce the cure. This usually comes with some pain and more effort.

In contrast, when Hashem heals directly we say, "Please heal me Hashem, Refoaini," with a soft sound.

Rabeinu Bechayai explains that Hashem uses a more gentle form of healing.

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9. Eighty is Power

Eighty is the age of strength in Avos 5:25, Hashem chooses Moshe when he is eighty to become the greatest leader in history.

Hashem also says about Moshe these unique words →

“Mouth to mouth I speak to him,” Bamidbar 12:8.

Mouth in Hebrew is ‘Peh,’ which is the symbol of eighty.

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When Moshe Rabeinu was challenged by Korach, he gets swallowed up by the mouth of the earth for starting up with the Jewish leader who is considered as the mouth of Hashem, so to speak.

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10. The Best Medicine...

...is silence.

There was a Sage who spent his whole life studying this lesson→

“All my life I grew up among Sages and I did not find anything better for the body than silence.”

Why does the Mishna spend so much time spelling out all of these words?

One of the great lessons here is that silence will help a person throughout one's life at every stage of his career!

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**“Silence is the best medicine,”**

Megila 18a.

[Laughter may be the second best].



## Also Available

**Teis** - Letter of goodness

**Yud** - The tenth letter

**Chaf** - Stands for crowns...

**Lamed** - The letter to learn, live & achieve

**Mem** - Two forms of Mem

**Nun** - Two forms of Nun

**Samech** - For support to the needy

**Ayin** - To see the needs of the poor...

