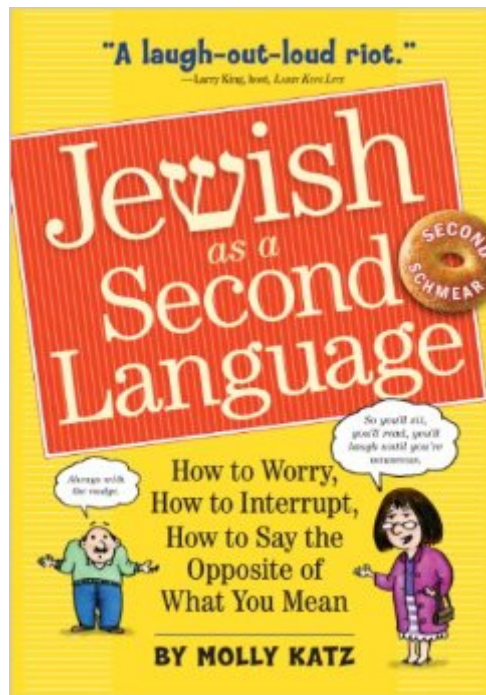


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# Jewish As A Second Language: How To Worry, How To Interrupt, How To Say The Opposite Of What You Mean



## Synopsis

Now bigger, better, and with more guilt: a completely revised, updated, and expanded second edition (would it hurt to have a little more?) of *Jewish as a Second Language*, the hilarious field guide to Jewish language and culture. Written to help her Gentile husband and others like him who fall for believing a Jewish mother-in-law when she says, "Don't bother driving me, I'll take a cab," *Jewish as a Second Language* shows how to be one of the family—how to worry, how to interrupt, how to change your hotel room. It's not Yiddish. Though non-Jews can endear themselves by learning how to mis-use words like *schmendrick* and *schmatta*—providing both laughs and confirmation of Jewish superiority—this Jewish language is about the complex twists and somersaults of everyday speech, of unexpected nuances, hidden meanings, and swampy thickets of behavior, of wins, losses, and draws in competitions you never knew you entered. It's about the most common OAQs (obsessive anal questions): "This mole looks okay, doesn't it?" "Can Saltines go bad?" "They'll de-ice the wings before takeoff, right?" The Four Basic Shrugs. Acronyms never to use again: NASCAR, STD, and MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, the potentially deadly skin virus that's spread by contact, and also by talking about it casually). The things non-Jews do for fun and what Jews do: Contra dance/Contradict, Read the comics/Read the obituaries, Get your boobs done/Get your taxes done. Stuff never found in a Jewish home (trout flies, a lineoleum knife, a Lay-Z-Boy, a rottweiler) or mouth (Miracle Whip, marshmallow fluff, Bud). So you'll sit, you'll read, you'll laugh until you're nauseous. It's a nice book.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (60 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Former stand-up comic Molly Katz, inspired by her marriage to a goy, has written a book for

Gentiles who marry Jews. Katz expects - even demands - that you will yiddify your worldview, body language, eating habits, gastro-intestinal issues, child-rearing ideas, etc. when you join a Jewish family. Tidbits like "all Jews worry about everything all the time" and "you can have a Jewish wedding without a chuppa but not without a Viennese Table," while slight exaggerations, ring true. Having myself grown up Jewish I recall countless hours spent obsessing over medical problems, Chinese food, money, curtains, schools, etc. A bit more emphasis on Yiddish would have been a plus but the tips Katz gives on word usage and phraseology alone are worth the price of the book (eg, "How long are you married" for "how long have you been married"). Molly Katz is a *letz* (wit) who gently and affectionately pokes fun at our sometimes overwhelming, always delicious culture, mind-body axis, and worldview.

My God, I can't believe how few reviews are here for this jewel of a book. Too much praise, there isn't. Such a nice book and, *feh!*, how should we understand so few people who would take a minute to write a thank-you note? Is this too much I am asking? Really, how much is it to ask? In only about an hour I finished it. Is that so long to spend? So sit down and thank Molly for this gift. Your mother didn't teach you? Maybe by now you even forgot the name of your rabbi? And Hebrew school I don't even mention! Though it gets a little repetitious in some respects, this consistently witty book rings true in virtually every sentence. (I used to supervise instruction of Israeli Hebrew and I have a Jewish son-in-law, so pay attention to what I'm telling. Half-heartedly joking, I am. Seriously joking, I'm not.) Buy this book. Today wouldn't be too soon *If God willing*. You're already on , don't say you're not. So how far away could be the buying button for this book? Am I right? You know I'm right. So do it and feel good about it.

I see myself -- and half my relatives in this upclose and personal look at ourselves. If you liked this, you also love a great little package I found called, "A LITTLE JOY, A LITTLE OY" The book and the calendars are not only funny and filled with Yinglishisms, manner-Yidims, but also serious and poignant moments. Randy from Brooklyn

My boyfriend is Jewish and I'm his *shiksa*. :) You can't take this book too seriously, because while it is rather true on most accounts, it's also satirical in other ways. He found it to be rather entertaining, and so did I! It is informative too, especially for your everyday Yiddish and terminology in Jewish culture. Small enough to fit in your purse and read at your leisure!

A great look at Jewish people; like looking in a mirror for me. I began reading this book the day it arrived and could not put it down!! I found myself in nearly every line. This is well written and really leaves the reader with a smile. I found it so refreshing I ordered a copy for a friend. I now plan to order the first book for both myself and my friend. If you want a good laugh and a GREAT read, purchase this book! I am so glad I did! Fast service, top quality item, outstanding price!

Super fast service - good, make that great quality book. These books are fun and funny, quick reads and make great gifts. I began reading the book the day it arrived in anticipation it was as funny, fun and good as the 2nd book this author wrote, IT WAS NOT A DISAPPOINTMENT! Great prices from vendor, will order again anytime.

This is the 6th book of this that I have purchased as gifts. I bought the first one several years ago and recently bought this updated version. Every time I read this book with friends and/or family, whether Jewish or not, we laugh! It does help if someone is NOT Jewish, to at least be an 'east-coaster' or someone who has been brought up around lots of Jews. There are so many truly hysterical parts to this wonderful book! It is timeless humor. Trust me, don't just buy one as you will most likely give it away like I did!

Excellent updated version of the original. Still funny as ever. Did omit, I think, some of the material from the first book that should have been retained. (I lent out, and never got back, my copy of the first edition, so I can't compare, but I seem to remember something about "lovelynotes" in the first that I haven't found in the second.) Still, definitely worth buying and reading. So you'll buy... you'll read... you'll laugh till your nauseous! LOL

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