

RÖYTE POMERANTSEN

JEWISH FOLK HUMOR GATHERED AND EDITED

BY

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INTRODUCTION BY HARRY GOLDEN

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: vii

PREFACE: xvii

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE: xxv

THE TALES: 3

GLOSSARY: 185

INDEX TO THE TALES: 207

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GLOSSARY

Sources are indicated by the following symbols: gp. = German-Polish, h. = Hebrew, hg. = Hebrew-German, it. = Italian, lat. = Latin, p. = Polish, r. = Russian.

- abi*, p. if only
- achrayes*, h. responsibility
- achssanye*, h. hotel, inn
- achûts*, h. besides
- achve*, h. brotherly affection
- âderabe*, h. on the contrary, please, with pleasure
- ad hayöym hazê*, h. to this very day
- adir*, h. mighty, powerful, great
- afile*, h. even, though; *afile nit*, not even
- afkemeine*, see *nafkemeine*
- agev*, h. by the way
- agode*, h. tale
- akègn*, against, opposite
- akorsht*, just now
- âldes* ("all that's"), everything
- alef*, h. first letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- aliye*, h. ascent, ascent to the pulpit to participate when the Scroll of the Torah is read
- al kol ponim*, h. at any rate, by all means
- almen*, h. widower
- almone*, h. widow
- âltshinkes*, everything, all; see "Schweizer Archiv für Volkskunde," 21, p. 71, line 6 from the bottom
- amèr*, eventually
- amorets*, pl. *amoratsim*, h. ignorant, rude, illiterate person
- âmpern*, to argue, to quarrel
- amtsoe*, h. invention, idea
- ani-maymin*, h. ("I believe") credo; originally the Thirteen Articles of Faith, as formulated by Maimonides
- anoe*, h. see *anoye*
- anore*, see *aynore*
- anoye*, h. pleasure
- antik*, rarity, excellent
- âpiköyres* ("Epicurean"), h. free-thinker
- âpipyur*, h. Pope
- arbetorer*, workman
- arbl*, sleeve
- ariberklaybn zach*, to drop in (for a short visit)
- arn*, to concern oneself
- arûm*, around, about
- ashires*, h. riches, wealth
- ashirim*, h. pl. of *öyshe*, rich man
- assâch*, h. much, many
- assern*, to forbid (in the ritual sense)
- assife*, h. meeting
- askome*, see *hasskome*
- ato beato*, h. ("you and you") on familiar terms
- atsûnd*, now
- aussklaybn*, to choose
- aüssköylenen*, to lick, to beat
- aüsslozn zach*, to result, to turn out
- aussmeken*, to erase
- ausstsvogn*, to wash one's hair
- avâde*, h. surely, certainly, the more so
- aveyre*, h. sin
- avle*, h. wrong
- âynbinder*, bookbinder
- âynchazern*, h. to study, to learn by rote
- aynore*, h. evil eye, *kein aynore*,

"knock on wood"

az, when, that, as
azes, h. impudence
azh, p. even
azöy, so, thus

badchn, h. buffoon, jester (at weddings)
bahavnt, skilled in, well-versed (from German *behauen*, old German *behouwen*, parallel form to modern German *beschlagen*, well-versed)
bakoshe, h. request, petition
balabetshn, to talk nonsense, to mumble, to babble
balabos, pl. *balabatim*, h. householder, head of a family, respectable Jew
bal-achssanye, h. innkeeper
balagole, h. driver, waggoner, teamster
bal-avëyrenik, h. sinner
bal-meloche, h. working-man, mechanic
bal-nes, h. miracle-worker
balones, h. idea, fancy
bal-tefile, h. occasional reader of prayers
bal-tsdoke, h. benefactor, philanthropist
b'lutik, bloody
bankes, r. cupping glasses
barabanshtshik, r. drummer
bàreme, r. sheaf
barg, mountain; *vi a barg*, large as a mountain
bàrmenon, h. dead body
harne, pear
bassmalke, h. princess
bas yechide, h. only daughter
batlen, h. incompetent person, idler
baydl, tent, cottage, covered wagon

baytn, to change
b'chayim, h. alive
b'chen, h. therefore, so
b'deye, h. with a mind to, with the intention of
b'eynay ro-issi, h. I saw it with my own eyes
begeg, h. garment
beheyme, h. animal, beast, fool
ben yochid, h. only son
benken, to long for
bèkenesh, longing
benmelech, h. prince
ben töyre, h. student of the Law, scholar
bentshen (Italian *benedicare*, "to bless"), to say grace after meals
bessmedresh, see *beys medresh*
bessprovolotshne, r. wireless
beydim, attic
beys hamikdosh, h. the Holy Temple
beys medresh, h. academy, synagogue
beyssöylom, h. cemetery
beyzern zach, to be angry
b'farhessye, h. publicly
b'feyresh, h. expressly
b'gemàtriye, h. (Greek "grammatia") according to the numerical value of the letters determined by their position in the alphabet, e.g., the word "ben" is *b'gemàtriye* 52, because *n* = 50 and *b* = 2.
b'godim, see *begeg*
bichläl, h. in general, altogether
bideèved, h. post factum, after the fact
bifrät, h. in particular, especially
bikur chöylim, h. sick visit
bilcher, more deserving, preferable
bime, h. pulpit
bimzumonim, h. in cash
bisskl, until

oisskup, p. Bishop; *archibiskup*, Archbishop
biz'chüs, h. because of the merit of
bizoyen, h. shame, disgrace
b'koved, h. honorable
b'li kets, h. unending, endlessly
blintse, rp. stuffed omelet
blishtshen, p. to shine
blote, p. mud, dirt; *es iz blote*, that's nothing, that's worthless
blotig, dirty, muddy
b'nemones, h. my word of honor
bobe, p. grandmother
bocher, h. young man, bachelor
boruch hashèm, h. thank God
borves, barefoot
böym pl. *böymer*, tree
böym, olive-oil
breg, p. shore, bank
breyre, h. choice, free choice
bris, h. covenant, circumcision ceremony
broche, h. benediction, blessing
bromëyzer, Jew's harp
bronfn, whiskey, brandy
b'shainperlach, evident, obvious
b'shas, h. when, while, *b'shas maysse*, meanwhile
b'sholem, h. peacefully, in peace
b'shum öyfen, h. *b'shum öyfen ve'inyen*, under no circumstances absolutely not
bssure, h. (good) news
b'teve, h. naturally, by nature
bulbes, p. potatoes
bulke, p. bread roll
bulves, see *bulbes*
bunt, r. rebellion
bur, h. ignorant
burlantn, p. amber
burtshen, r. to grumble, to mutter
bushe, h. shame, disgrace
büzemkèshene, gp. breastpocket

chachatlulen, to laugh aloud
chachomim, see *chochem*
chadoshim, see *chöydesch*
chale, h. fine white bread, Sabbath bread
chàleshen, h. to faint
chalokim, see *cheylik*
chaloshes, h. weakness, nausea, faintness
chalöymes, see *cholem*
chamer, h. ass, blockhead
chanife, h. flattery
chànuke, h. Feast of the Maccabees
chap, p. snatch; *a chap*, with a start, quickly
chapn, p. to catch, to snatch; *zach chapn*, to remember suddenly; *chapnit*, take it easy
charif (uboki), h. acute, brilliant scholar
charifes, h. acumen, sagacity
charpe, h. disgrace
chassanim, h. pl. of *chossn*
chàssene, h. wedding; *chassene hobn*, to marry; *chassene machn*, to marry off
chas v'sholem, h. God forbid!
chate, p. peasant cottage
chaver, h. comrade, colleague
chàverte, h. girl friend, woman comrade
chaye, h. animal
chazn, h. cantor, see *bal-tefile*
chazer (pl. *chazerim*), h. pig
cheshbn, pl., *cheshböynes*, h. account, bill
chessorn, h. defect
chevre, h. company, society, association
chevre-kadishe, h. burial society
cheyder, h. elementary Hebrew school
cheylev, h. fat, suet
cheylik, h. part, portion

cheyshek, h. pleasure, joy
chibur, h. composition, book
chilul, h. profanation; *chilul ha-köydes*, sacrilege; *chilul hashèm*, blasphemy
chiyune, h. living, line of business, livelihood
chlipen, p. to sob, to whimper
chniken, r. to sob, to whimper
chochem pl., *chachomim*, h. smart, wise man
chochme, h. wisdom, joke
cholem, pl., *chalöymes*, h. dream, imagination; *ale chalöymes*, an imprecation
cholile, h. God forbid!
chorev, h. laid waste, destroyed
chossn, h. bridegroom; *chossn-kale*, bridal pair
chosser deye, h. crazy, insane, nit-wit
choshev, h. esteemed, well-respected
chossid, h. pious man, Hasid
chotsef, h. arrogant man
chotshbe, p. at least, though
chotshe, p. at least, though
chöydes, pl., *chadoshim*, h. month
chöyle messuken, h. a dangerously ill person
chöyshech, h. darkness, dark
chöyshed zayn, h. to suspect
chöyv, h. debt
chöyzik, h. mockery, fun; *chöyzik mach'n*, to ridicule, to make fun of
chrophen, p. to snore
chrutz, h. proclamation
chssidim, h. pl. of *chossid*
chumesh, h. Pentateuch, Five Books of Moses
chupe, h. bridal canopy, marriage ceremony
churbn (-*habaysis*), h. destruction

of the Holy Temple, havoc
chutspe, h. arrogance, brazenness
chvalye, p. wave
chvat, p. daring person, brave and clever young man
dafke, h. absolutely; for spite
daressn, to weary, to make tired
darfn, to need, to want
darhalt, to bear, to endure
därinke, lean, thin
darmonen, to remind, to exhort
därshenen, h. to preach, to lecture
darvegn, to have the impudence
darzèn, to see
dävenen, h. to pray (perhaps from Hebrew "daf," leaf, page, with double infinitive suffix: "to turn the page in the prayer book." Possibly, however, from Middle Low German "daven, doven," to be noisy, the chirping of birds; cf. Schiller-Luebben, *Mittelniederdeutsches Wörterbuch*, Bremen 1875).
davke, see *dafke*
dayen pl. *dayónim*, h. judge (under the authority of the Jewish law), associate of a Rabbi
dayge, h. care, worry
daygen, h. to care, to worry
démolsst, at that time
derech erets, h. good manners, politeness
derech hateve, h. natural way, course of nature
derech hayoshor, h. the righteous way
derlozn, to admit, to permit
dervayzn, to prove, to show
deye, h. opinion; *a breyte deye hobn*, to do all the talking
d'hayne, h. for example, such as
dibek (*dibukim*), h. wandering evil spirit of which a person is

supposed to be possessed
diburim, h. words, talk
din, h. law, rule
dingen, to bargain, hire
dintöyre, h. a legal suit that is tried before a rabbinic court
dire, h. apartment, house
doktöyrim, pl. of *dokter*, doctor
dor, h. see *döyr*
doszelbe (read *dos-zelbe*), the self-same
dovor acher, h. ("another thing"), another explanation; also, euphemistically, pig
döyfe, h. pulse
döyr, h. generation
dreydl, teetotum, spinning top
drochim, pl. of *derech*, h. ways, manners
droshe, h. sermon, lecture; *droshe-geshenk*, present given in place of a sermon to be delivered by bridegroom on his wedding day
durchvertlen zach, to have an argument
duren, r. to distort, confuse
düshenyu ("little soul"), p. sweet-heart
echer, higher, louder
echern, to outbid, to overcharge
echt, real, genuine, pure
efsher, h. perhaps, maybe
ek, corner, tail
eksslach, small oxen
elo, h. but
emes, h. truth; *in der emessn*, truly, really
eppes, something, any
erev, h. the eve of a holiday
erets Yisroel ("Land of Israel"), h. Palestine
ergets, somewhere
ergetsig, somewhere
evyöyn, h. poor man, needy man
eytse, h. advice

eyver, h. limb
eyder, before, ere
eydim, son-in-law
eyer, ear
eyssik, h. business affair, matter, concern
eyernechtn, day before yesterday
faràn, existing
farbàltn, to hide
farbetn, to invite
farblondzhen, p. to lose one's way
farbrakiren, to declare unfit, to reject
fardayget, gh. distressed, worried, full of care, anxiety
farhàn, *farhànen*, see *faràn*
farhèrn, to examine
farkatshen, r. to fold
farklert, absorbed
farlaten, p. to patch
farmishpetn, h. to sentence
farnacht, in the evening
farssamen, h. to poison
farshmayet, busy, confused
farstrachiren, r. to insure
fartach, apron
fartaytshn, to translate
farvogl, homeless, far from a Jewish community
farzamen, to miss
fatsheyle, it. cloth
faynt hobn, to hate, dislike
feld, field, cemetery
feldmesstn, the measuring of graves with a string which is later used as a candlewick in the synagogue service
feter, uncle
filn, to fill; to feel, to perceive
fonfevate, talking through the nose
foni (also *fonye*), r. soldier
fort, nevertheless, all the same
frassk, p. box on the cheek

fraynd, friend, relative
fule, a, much, plenty
futer, fur

gabay (pl. *gaboim*), h. treasurer, trustee, fiscal head of a synagogue
gadkes, p. undershorts
galach, h. priest, minister
gan eyden, h. paradise
ganev (pl. *ganovim*), h. thief
gang, course, conduct
ganvenen, h. to steal
gathes, see *gadkes*
gazlen (pl. *gazlonim*), h. robber
gdöylim, pl. of *godl*
gdud, h. regiment, army
gedenken, to remember, to think of something
gedirn, to last
gemore, h. Gemara, Talmud
genem, h. hell
genitsevet, r. altered, turned (as a coat)
geöynish, h. like a genius
ger, h. proselyte to Judaism
get, h. divorce
getn, h. to divorce
ge'ule, h. redemption (of the Jews from the dispersion)
geven, been, was
gezeml, crowd, gathering, collection
gezèn, seen
giber, h. here
gich, quick
giluy aroyes, incest
Ginshprik, Koenigsberg
glat, without a special purpose;
glat azöy, just so
glaych, just, even, good
glaychvertl, joke, anecdote
gmilas chessed, h. charitable loan (without interest)
gmurim, pl. of *gomur*

godl, h. great, big, important
goen, h. Gaon (honorable title), a genius; *goen öylom*, world-famed genius
goles, h. Galut, exile, banishment
gomur, h. complete
göy, h. gentile, ignorant Jew, free-thinking Jew
göym, prayer of thanks after escaping from danger
göyrl, h. lot
göysses, h. dying, in agony, death-struggle
göyver zayn, h. to win, to overcome
graylach, most certainly, with pleasure
griblen, to bore into, to brood, to rack one's brains
gring, light (weight), easy
grushe, h. divorced woman
guf, h. body
gufe, h. oneself, itself, alone
gumiläzye (vulgar), gymnasium, high school
guter-bruder, friend
guzme, h. exaggeration
gvir, h. rich man
gvirshaft, h. riches
gvul, h. boundary, boundaries, realm
gvure, h. strength, heroic exploit
gzeyre, h. unfavorable decree

háfley voféle, h. miracle upon miracle
hakern, to search eagerly for something
hakofe, h. procession in the synagogue in which the Scrolls of the Torah are carried around the pulpit at the Feast of the Rejoicing of the Law
halvoe, h. loan
hamtsoe, h. invention, idea

har, master, owner
hàrgenen, h. to murder, to kill
harts, heart, shirt front
hashpoe, h. influence
hasskome, h. approval, testimonial, expert opinion
havtoche, h. promise
hayln, to hurry
haynt, today
hayntig, *hayntveltig*, modern, this-worldly
hecher, see *echer*
hechern, see *echern*
hentshkes, gloves
hern zach, to smell bad
hets, joke
heytsöe, h. expense
hezik, h. loss
hipech, h. contrary
hits, heat, fever
hobn, to have, to give birth
hodeven, to feed, to bring up
holt, dear
horb, p. hunch
höych, high, loud
höyker, hump
höykerdik, hunchbacked
hultay, debauchee, person of loose morals

i . . . i, r. both . . . and
iberik, superfluous, left over
iberiplen, to skip, to let through
iberton, to change (dress)
iberyor, leap year
iker, h. principle
ikevâte, r. stammerer
iluy, h. genius, gifted person
imits, somebody
impet ("impetus"), hurry, haste
imyenye, r. estate
im yirtse hashèm, h. if it please God
indik, r. turkey
in kas, h. angry, annoyed
inyen, h. matter, subject

ir habiro, h. capital city
itlacher, everybody
itster, now

izmennik, r. traitor
kabtsn, h. pauper, beggar
kachabe, h. actually, exactly
kadesh, h. (kaddish) prayer for the dead, recited by the sons of the deceased
kadoches, h. fever, malaria; *er hot kadoches*, he has nothing
kalamutne, p. uncomfortable, gloomy
kale, h. financee, bride
kam, hardly
kamo shonim, h. (for) how many years
kamtsn, h. miser
kant, county
käpelush, p. hat
kapen, p. to drip, to trickle, to drop
käpetshke, p. a drop, a little
kapiuske, see *käpetshke*
kapores, h. atonement; *töyg af kapores*, good for nothing
kapote, r. coat
kapöyr, upside down, on end
karbn, r. rouble
karète, r. coach, carriage
karik, back
kashe, h. difficult question
kas, h. anger
katoves, jest, fun
katshke, p. duck
kayklen, to roll
käylachdik, round, globular
k'dey, h. in order that
k'döyme, h. similarly, and so on
k'dushe, h. holiness
kehile, h. congregation
kelev, h. dog
kentig, noticeable, apparently
kerbl, rouble
kèshene, p. pocket

kesst, food, board
keyver, h. grave; *keyver Yisroel*, a Jewish grave
keyver ovöys, h. visit to the graves of relatives prior to the Days of Awe
keyle, h. vessel, tool
keyn, towards
keyt, chain
kibud av, h. the honoring of one's father (according to the Commandment)
kidesh, h. benediction at the commencement of the Sabbath and holidays
kile, rp. rupture, hernia
kimen, to come (Polish-Jewish pronunciation of *kumen*)
kin, see *keyn*
kind un keyt, young and old
kishef, h. magic; *kishef-macher*, magician
kissey hamelucho, h. throne
kit, r. whale
kitayets, r. Chinese
kitser, h. brevity; *a kitser*, in short
kladke, r. footbridge
klal, h. community, public; principle; *klal Yisroel*, the community of Israel, the Jews as a whole
klamke, p. door latch
klaus, a small house of worship
klaute, hr. bitch; shrew
klaybn, to gather, to pick
klekn, to suffice, to be sufficient
kletke, r. cage
kley-köydesch ("holy vessels"), h. officers of the congregation
kley-zayin, h. weapons
klezmer (pl. *klezmorim*), musician
klipe, h. demon, shrew
klöymer, h. so to speak
klöyssster, church
knel, lesson

kneln, to teach
kokuruts, r. Indian corn
kol, h. voice
kolböynik, hr. a rascally know-it-all
kolböynitse, h. feminine of *kolböynik*
kol miney, h. all kinds
kol nidrey, h. solemn prayer chanted on the eve of the Day of Atonement
kolzmàn, h. as long as
kontshen, r. to finish
korbn (pl. *korbanes*), h. sacrifice
korev, h. relative
köyrim faln, to kneel (during the service of New Year and the Day of Atonement)
koshek, p. basket
koshen, r. to mow
kotinke, r. kitten
kotük, r. chicken coop
koved, h. honor
köyach, h. strength
köyches, h. pl. of *köyach*
köydem kol, h. first of all
köyhanim, pl. of *köyhen*
köyhen, h. priest, of Aaronite descent
koyl, sphere, ball, bullet
köylen, *köylenen*, to slaughter
köyles, h. lamentations, pl. of *kol*
köymenkerer, chimney sweep
köymen, chimney
köyne, h. buyer, customer
koze, r. scythe
krassavitse, r. beautiful woman
kretshme, p. inn, tavern
krom, store
krópeve, p. stinging nettle
kröynele ("my little crown"), sweetheart
kröyvim, pl. of *korev*
kugl, pudding eaten on the Sabbath

kulye, p. crutch
kunelemel, naive, clumsy, awkward
kupe, r. heap
kvorim, pl. of *keyver*
k'yad hamelech, h. in royal abundance, plentiful

lamdn, h. learned man, talmudic scholar
lape, r. paw, claw
lasske, p. kindness
layehudim ("the Jews had . . ."), h. merry, joyful; (see Esther 8:16: "The Jews had light and gladness, and joy and honor")
laylach, sheet
l'chayim ("for life"), h. a toast
l'chatchile, h. at first, at the beginning
l'cheure, h. it seems, apparently
l'chol hapoches, h. at least
lebn, alongside
lempert, leopard
lets, h. joker, jester, mocker
letsones, h. mockery, derision
levaye, h. funeral procession
levone, h. moon
leyb, lion
leydig, empty
lèydigeyer, loafer
lèyenen, to read, reading of the Torah; originally *aleynen* (German: *allein*), to read without the teacher's assistance
leykenen, to deny
leyvi, h. Levite
leyzn, to take in (money)
l'fi erech, h. about, at an estimate
l'haudl, h. if such a comparison were possible
lichtarnye, p. lamp
litvah, Lithuanian Jew
livyossn, h. leviathan
l'koved, h. in honor of

l'moshl, h. for example
lodn, shutter
lohut, h. greedy
lokern, to lurk, to watch
lokshn, r. noodles
lomdim, h. pl. of *lamdn*
lomir, let's
lonke, p. meadow
loshn, h. language; *loshn köydesch*, Holy Tongue, Hebrew
löyt, according to
l'viim, pl. of *levi*
l'zeycher, h. in memory of

maabid ats möy lodaas, h. one who commits suicide
macher, an agent with access to the authorities who for a fee procures favors for his Jewish clients
machmas, h. because of
machnissorchim, h. hospitable
ma doch, if even, since even; when
mageyfe, h. plague, epidemic
magid, h. itinerant preacher, orator
make, h. plague, wound, boil; *er hot a make*, he has nothing at all
makriv zayn, h. to sacrifice
malach, h. angel; *malach hadöyme*, angel of the death; *malach hamoves*, angel of death
malbush, h. garment
maln, h. to circumcise
malke, h. queen (of chess, of cards)
manesh, h. actually, really, literally
mamzer, h. bastard; superlatively clever
man, Polish-Jewish pronunciation of *mayn*, my
mark, market; *mark-idene*, market woman
marshàs, h. shrew

massern, h. to betray, to be an informer
mashke, h. beverage, liquor
mashmoes, h. probably
mashpia zayn, h. to influence
masskim, h. consenting, agreeing
masslines, r. olives
matbeye, h. coin
matern, to toil, to labour
matnye, p. large amount of money
matone, h. gift
mato umato ("lower and lower"), poorer and poorer
matriach zayn, h. to take pains, to take trouble
matsev, h. situation, condition
matseyve, h. tombstone, monument
matsliach zayn, h. to be lucky, to succeed
maudl zayn, h. to separate, to distinguish
maychl (pl. *maycholim*), h. food, delicacy, pleasure
maydim, h. expert
maymer, h. saying, article
maynes, h. see *taynes vmaynes*
mayriv, h. evening prayer
maysse, h. event, story, reason, matter
mazl, h. luck
m'chabed zayn, h. to honor
m'chadesh zayn ("to renew"), to bless (the New Moon)
m'chalel zayn, h. to desecrate
m'chashef, h. magician
m'chaye, h. delightful
m'chile, h. forgiveness
me, one
mechaber, h. author
mechutn pl. *mechutonim*, h. in-law, parents of bride and groom
medine, h. country, province
megn, to have permission, may

mehume, h. disturbance, tumult, alarm
mekach, h. price
melamedke, wife of a *m'lamed*
meloche, h. work, trade, workmanship
mern, carrots
mes, (pl. *mesim*), h. dead, corpse
m'uberes, h. pregnant
meylach, h. king
meyle, h. well . . ., what is there to do about it, as to . . .
m'gazem zayn, h. to exaggerate
m'halach, h. distance
mide, h. habit, manner; measure
mideye (contraction of *mi yodea*), h. who knows? God knows how
mies, h. ugly; *mies un moes*, shame and disgrace
miesskayt, ugly person
mikve, h. pool, ritual bath
milchome, h. war
mile, h. circumcision
mile milyassen, multitude, countless people
miman hashèm, h. for God's sake
mimeyle, h. self-explanatory
mimoneshach, h. one of the two
minasstàm, see *misstome*
minche, h. afternoon prayer
minheg pl. *minhogim*, h. custom, usage
min, *mini*, h. kinds, species
minyén, h. quorum of ten worshippers; small house of worship
mirtsishem, h. God willing
miss'cher, h. business
misse, h. death; *onton a misse*, to commit suicide
mishebèyrach, h. prayer for health; cursing *à la Russe*
mishnayes, h. the Books of the Mishnah
mishne, h. Mishnah, passage of the Mishnah

mishpet, h. judgment
mishpetn, h. to judge, to sentence
mishpoche, h. family, relatives
misslès, h. twenty-four hours
missnaged, h. opponent of the Hassidim
misspalel zayn, h. to pray
misstome, h. probably
missvakeyach zayn, h. to debate, to argue
mite, h. bier
mitsve, h. commandment; a good deed
mizinke ("little finger"), r. youngest daughter
mizrach ("East"), the Eastern wall, front row in the synagogue, row of pews where the foremost members of the congregation sit
m'kaber zayn, h. to bury
m'kalel zayn, h. to curse
m'kane zayn, h. to envy, to be zealous
m'kayem zayn, h. to fulfil
m'köyach, h. because of
m'lamed, h. teacher
m'lochim, pl. of *meylach*
m'luche, h. kingdom
m'mune, h. appointee, meant for
m'nadev zayn, h. to contribute (money)
m'natseach zayn, h. to be the winner, to defeat
m'nie, h. obstacle
m'nöyre, h. menorah, eight-branched candelabrum
modne ("modern"), r. odd, strange, queer
mole, h. full
moln, to paint, to imagine; *es ken gemolt zayn*, it is conceivable, imaginable
moly, r. moths
monen, to demand, to ask for
morde, rp. chin, snout

more shchöyre, h. melancholy (literally, as in Greek "black bile")
mosser, h. informer, spy
moshl, h. example, comparison
moshénik, r. scoundrel
Meshiach, h. Messiah
möyach, h. brains, head
möychl zayn, h. to renounce, to forgive
möycher, h. seller
möyd, unmarried woman
möyde zayn, h. to admit, to acknowledge
möydia zayn, h. to notify
möyre, h. fear
möyredik, h. fearful
möyshev zkeynim, h. home for the aged
m'rachem zayn, h. to have pity
m'ssader kdushin, h. officiator at marriage ceremonies
m'shaer zayn, h. to suppose, to imagine
m'shulach, h. messenger
m'shumed, h. baptized Jew, renegade, apostate
m'shores, h. servant, errand boy
m'ssukn, h. dangerous
m'tsie, h. find (in sense of bargain, rarity)
mushve vern, h. to agree, to come to terms
mussaf, h. additional morning prayer recited on the Sabbath and holidays
musser, h. morality, example, sermon of reproof
mutshen, r. to torment
m'vaker chöylim zayn, h. formal sick visit
m'vayesh zayn, h. to put to shame
m'vaze zayn, h. to despise
m'yashev zayn, h. to ponder
m'yuches, h. of good family

naches, h. pleasure
nadàn, nàdn, h. dowry
nafkemie, h. difference
nar (pl. *naronim*), fool
narvèysh, nervous
nebach, the poor one! (from Middle High German, *ne bi ùch*, not with you, i.e., may it not happen to you)
nedove, h. gift, alms
nefesh, h. soul, life
negen, h. to pester
nekome, h. revenge
nelem vern, h. to disappear
nemen, to take, to get, to marry
nes, h. miracle
nessie, h. journey, voyage
neyder, h. oath, vow
n'fashes, pl. of *nefesh*
n'gides, h. riches
n'gidim, h. pl. of *nogid*
nibito, p. apparently, as if
nichshel vern, h. to be tempted into
nifter, h. deceased, dead
nign (pl. *nigunim*), h. tune, melody
nishkoshe, hg. tolerably well, pretty well; never mind
nishtöymem, h. surprised, amazed
nishtel, playing card with less than nine spots
nissim, h. pl. of *nes*
nissim, venifloes, h. God's miracles, miracle upon miracle
nisspoel, h. surprised, speechless
nogid, h. rich man
novi, h. prophet
novine, r. novelty, rarity; *a mol a novine*, as an exception
novobranjets, r. recruit
nöyeg zayn, h. to behave, to act habitually
nöygeya b'koved zayn, h. to insult
nöykem zayn, h. to take revenge

nöyt, want, need
n'shome, h. soul
n'ssiye, see *nessie*
n'viim, pl. of *novi*
ober, but; oats
obtshepen, gp. to let go, to go away, to get rid of
ocher (vulgar), hind quarters, behind
odom horishn ("the first man"), h. Adam
of, h. poultry
okorsh't, at this moment (lat. *hac hora*)
olov hasholem, h. peace be upon him, of blessed memory
omed, h. pulpit
omen, h. Amen
onbayssn, to eat something, breakfast
ongebissn, see *onbayssen*
ongeshtöyssn, offended, sulky
ongevorn, squandered, spent, lost
oni v'evyöyn, h. poor and needy person
onov, h. modest
onshikern, h. to get drunk
ontsuhèrenesh, warning, hint
onzetsn, to fail, to suspend payment
opnemen, to become numb
oppraven, r. to prepare, arrange (as a feast)
orbate, r. hunchbacked
orchim, h. pl. of *öyrach*
oremàn, without means, pauper
oreven, to work hard
orn, h. ark, hearse; *orn köydesh*, the Holy Ark (where the Scrolls of the Torah are kept)
os (pl. *ösies*), h. letter of the alphabet
otadèr, this (man) here
otayener, that (man) there

otshered, r. sequence, succession
oves, h. fathers, patriarchs
ovinu, h. our father, our patriarch
öybershter, God
öycher Yissroel, h. heretic, apostate
öyer, ear
öyfelach, pl. of *of*; ("birdies") pet name for little children
öyfn, h. manner, way
öylom, h. world, crowd, public;
öylem haze, this world; *öylem habo*, world to come
öynesh, h. punishment
öyrach, h. guest
öyshe, h. riches, rich man
oyssies, h. letters

pachad, h. fear, terror
padloge, see *podloge*
pamèlach, p. slowly
pani, panye, p. lord, sir
papiros, r. cigarette
parch, p. scurf, scab
parnosse, h. livelihood, profession, trade
parshöyn, person, handsome man
pässkenen, h. to give a decision, to decide a question of the ritual law
passkudne, p. bad, unpleasant
passkudstue, p. feminine form of *passkudne*
patsh (pl. *petsh*), box on the ear
pauer, peasant, farmer; *pauerte*, feminine form of *pauer*
pavoli, pavolinkes, p. by and by; slowly
pene, it. pen
perednye, r. anteroom, lobby
peyes, h. earlocks
peygern, h. to die (of animals, disdainful)
peyre, h. fruit

peyrek, h. section, chapter, volume, sometimes in reference to *Sayings of the Fathers*
peyresh, h. commentary
peyssach, h. Passover
pidyöyn, h. gift for the Rebbe
pikuach nefesh ("saving of life"), h. an extreme case in which religious laws may be suspended
pimperl hagefen, excellent (*gefen*, h. vine; *pimperl*, name of a demon, as in pumpernickel)
pintelach ("little points"), dots, details
pitsimóninke, tiny
plemyenik, nephew
pleytse, p. shoulder
plutsim, suddenly
plyuchen, p. to pour, to stream
podlòge, p. floor
pofn (vulgar), to sleep
polk, r. regiment
polkownik, r. colonel
pomyeshtshik, r. landowner
ponim, h. face, appearance; *a ponim*, maybe, probably
porets (pl. *pritsim*), h. owner of an estate, rich Gentile
poröyches, h. curtain before the Holy Ark
por-folk, married couple
portugal (Palestinian), orange
poshe, h. sinner; *poshe Yissroel*, treacherous Jew, faithless Jew, renegade, heretic
poshet, h. simple
possik, h. Bible verse
posst, p. Lent
poter, h. free, free from obligation, exempt
poyezd, r. train, railroad
pöylish, Polish
poymene, r. children who in Czarist days were kidnapped by government agents and pressed into the army

pratse, p. toil
praves, r. rights
pravozhitelstvo, r. the right to establish residence
prikáz, r. order, command, decree
pristav, r. commissioner of police
prosst, p. simple, coarse
pssak, h. decision, punishment, portion
pshat, h. literal sense, meaning
pssukim, pl. of *possik*
pulap, p. ceiling
pupek, p. navel, chicken-stomach
pushke, p. box
pusst, p. hollow, empty; *pusst un passt*, idle; *pustopashnik*, loafer, idler
raböyssay, h. Gentlemen!
rachmim, h. mercy
rachmones, h. quality of mercy
ramay, h. cheater
ramen, to clear away, to straighten up
raptern, lat. with full force
rash, h. tumult, sensation
Rashi, name of a renowned commentator on the Bible and Talmud, as well as the title of his commentary
rasskopkes, r. excavations
râteven, p. to save, rescue
raye, h. proof, evidence
raynish, Galician (originally Rhinish) guildler
rayöyn, h. idea
reb, h. Mr.
Rebe, h. (from Rabbi) hasidic Rabbi, teacher, lord
Rèbetsn, h. (from Aramaic *rab'than*, our mistress) wife of the Rabbi
redele, dance
refue, h. remedy, recovery; *refue shleme*, cure

règele, little rain, a moment
remez, h. hint, allusion
rendl, gold coin
reshen, r. to decide
reshüs, h. power, jurisdiction
rètenesh, riddle
Riböynöy-shel-öylom, h. Master of the universe, God
richtn, to prepare; *zach richtn*, to prepare oneself, to expect
rirn, to move; *a rir ton*, to touch
roe, h. bad, an evil thing
roshashone, h. Jewish New Year (*Rosh ha-Shanah*)
rosh chöydes, h. feast of the New Moon
roshe, h. wicked, bad, evil person
roshishone, h. see *roshashone*
rotsn, h. will, desire
röyfe, h. doctor
röyshem, h. impression
rozinke, raisin
r'shoim, pl. of *roshe*
r'shus, h. power, authority, right
ruach, h. demon, evil spirit
ruk un hend, mere skin and bone
ruk, back
saar, h. gale, storm
sach, h. see *assach*
sakone, h. danger; *sakonedik*, dangerous
sakones nefoshes, h. mortal danger
sam, h. poison
samooborone, r. self-defense
saydn, unless
say vi say, be that as it may, anyhow, at any rate
s'char, h. reward, salary
s'chires, h. reward, salary
s'chöyre, h. merchandise, cloth, textile
sendzke, p. judge

seychl, h. intelligence, idea
seyder, h. order, Seder (Passover service)
seyfer, h. Scroll of the Torah, book (especially talmudic or rabbinical)
sforim, pl. of *seyfer*
sgule, h. medicine, talisman
sha, shat, hush! be still!
shachris, h. morning prayer
shadchn, h. marriage-broker
shafe, p. closet
shalashudes, h. the third Sabbath meal
shames (pl. *shamosim*), h. sexton, caretaker of a synagogue
shayich, h. appertaining, making no difference
shayches, h. connection, state of affairs
shayle, h. ritual question
sh'chöynim, h. pl. of *shochn*
shed, (pl. *shedim*), h. devil, spectre
shem, h. name, reputation
sheni lmelech, h. successor to the crown
sherer, barber
sheygets, h. gentile boy, any wild boy
sheyn, beautiful
sh'fichas domim, h. bloodshed, wrong-doing
shidach, h. match, marriage
shiker, drunkard
shiksse, h. gentile girl or woman
shkole, p. school
shkure, p. skin
shmadn, h. to baptize
shma Yisroel ("Hear, O Israel"), h. Jewish credo
shmate, p. rag
shmayssn, to whip, to lash
shmeychlen, to smile
shmontses, trifles, folly

shmues, h. chat
shmuessn, h. to chat
shnips, tie
sho, h. hour
shochn, h. neighbor
shocknte, h. neighbor (feminine)
shoklen, to shake, to rock
sholem gebn, to welcome by shaking hands
shöychet, h. slaughterer
shöyfet, h. judge
shöyn, already, finished
shöyr habor, h. mythological bull of Paradise, whose flesh is a delicacy
shöyte, h. fool
shpakuln, spectacles
shparn zach, to dispute, to contend
shpendlach, chips of wood
shpoglnay, brand-new
shpreyen, to blow
shtéchaufkes, stinging nettle
shteyger, suppose; way of life
shtifn, to play, to roam about
shtopn, to stuff, to feed poultry; prohibited by the Jewish law as a cruelty to animals
shtot, pew; city
shtoydriyohu (vulgar), tall
shtraf, *shtrof*, r. fine, punishment
shtrayml, fur hat, worn by East-European Jews
shtuke, rp. trick
shtúkeven, to patch
shtus, h. foolishness, nonsense
shul, synagogue
shure, h. line, row
shutef, h. partner, associate
shütffessdik, hg. in partnership
shver, father-in-law
shvessterkind, cousin
shviger, mother-in-law
shvue, h. oath

shvues, h. Feast of Weeks, Pentacost
sibe, h. cause, reason, accident
sichssuch, h. quarrel
sider, h. prayer book
simche, h. joy, celebration
simen (pl. *simonim*), h. sign
skotsl kumt, a caustic greeting used in reference to women
sliche, h. penitential prayer
sliches, penitential prayers recited in the morning
smates, p. rags
smétane, p. cream
smiche, h. authorization, rabbi's license
smoktshen, to suck
sochrim, h. pl. of *söycher*
sod, h. secret
sof, h. end; *sof kol sof*, eventually
sofek, h. doubt
sossn, h. joy
sotn, h. Satan
söycher, h. merchant
söyfer, h. scribe, one who writes the Scrolls of the Law
söyne, h. enemy
söyne Yissroel, h. anti-Semite
spodek, p. cap; saucer
sreyfe, h. fire
stam, h. simply, without (stated) reason, not explicitly stated
stayen, p. to be sufficient
s'taytsh, how is that? what do you mean? how is this possible?
stolyar, p. carpenter
strazhnik, p. police officer
sud, r. court of justice
sude, h. feast, meal

tachles, h. purpose, practical goal
tachrichim, h. shroud
take, r. really
talmid, h. student; *talmid chom*, Jewish scholar

talmudtöyre, h. Talmud Torah, elementary school
tam, h. taste, sense, reason
tamavate, hr. naive, simple minded, feeble-minded
tanebar, sonny
tap, *gebn a*, to touch
tararàm, tumult, noise
tarfes, h. forbidden food
tate, father; *tate-mame*, parents
taymim, pl. of *tam*
tayne, h. plea, claim, controversy; *taynes umaynes*, claims, pleas
taynen, h. to make objections
taytsh, a ("German") meaning
tayul, devil
tayvolim, pl. of *tayul*
teg, pl. of *tog*; *essn teg*, *Yeshiva-bochers* would arrange to be fed by various householders on a daily basis
tel, h. heap; *vern a tel*, to be ruined
terets, h. excuse, subterfuge, reply to a difficult question
teve, h. habit, nature
teykef, h. immediately
tfile, h. prayer
tfilin, h. phylacteries
t fisse, h. prison
tifle, h. church
tik'n, h. atonement, correction
penance
tilim, h. Psalms
tipesh, h. fool, dolt
tirutsim, h. pl. of *terets*
tishebov, h. Fast of the Ninth of Av (in commemoration of the destruction of the Holy Temple)
titun, p. tobacco
tnay, h. condition
tnoim, h. pl. of *tnay*, legal conditions enumerated in the marriage contract

toes, h. error; *a toes hobn*, to be mistaken
tog, day
tolk, r. sense, agreement, result, understanding
tomar, h. if, perhaps
tomid, h. always, ever
tones, h. fast day
torn, to be allowed
toter, Tartar, quack
töyre, h. Torah, Pentateuch
töyve, h. favor, service, advantage
töyulen, h. to dip
trachtn, to think, to consider
trefn, to guess, to hit upon
trer, tear
treyf, forbidden food
treyfnayk, hp. one who eats *treyf*
treysslen, r. to shake, to shudder
trochetàzhne, r. three-storey
trogn, to carry, to bear
trube, r. tube
tsad, h. side; party
tsadik, h. pious, hasidic Rabbi (see *Rebe*)
tsanken, to grow dim, to fade
tsap, he-goat
tsar, h. trouble, misery, sorrow
tsatske, p. ornament, toy
tsavoe, h. bequest, will
tsdodim, pl. of *tsad*
tsdoke, h. charity, alms
tsener ("a tenner", five copeks (ten Russian groshen)
tserkve, r. church
tseylem, cross, crucifix
tseylimen, h. to make the sign of the cross
tshekàve, p. curious
tshepen, p. to touch, to plague, to bother
tshet, r. military salute
tshinovnik, r. official

tsholnt, Sabbath dish cooked over fire lit before the Sabbath begins, to conform to the Sabbath ban on fire, (*shalet*, *calidus*, Old French *chauld*, meaning hot)
t'shuve, h. answer, response, penitence
tshvekes, pl. of *tshvok*
tshvok, p. nail
tsi, p. if, or; *tsi . . . tsi*, whether . . . or
tsi, breath, gasp, draught
tsibele, p. onion
tsiklen zach, the cantor's ecstatic repetition of a musical phrase
tsimes, vegetable stew
tsitskes, p. udder, teats
tsore, h. trouble, misery
tsure, h. face
tsurinen, melted away, vanished
tsutreysselt, shaken up
tsutrogn, beside oneself
tsutumlt, confused
tsverchweg, crossroad
tu, p. so, well
turme, r. jail
tuts, dozen
tuve, h. produce, grain
úfchapn zach, to wake
úfkumen, to rise, to prosper
úftuachts, trick, prank
ultay, see *hultay*
ume, h. nation; *umöys hoöylom*, nations of the world, Gentiles
úmetig, sad
umishne, p. on purpose
umzisst, in vain, for nothing
úntergánvenen, to steal from time to time
únterlöyfn, to run to
usspyeyen, r. to be in time, to have enough time for
utshashtok, r. police station
utshenik, r. student, highschooler
uv'chéyn, h. and therefore

varone, r. raven
vayhi hayöym, h. one day, it came to pass
vayivrach, h. first word of Gen. 31:21: "And he (Jacob) fled"; *machen vayivrach* or *machen vayivrach Yanköyv*, to flee, to escape
väylinke, a little while
vemes, whose
vetshere, p. supper
veynen, to cry
veytog, pains, suffering
viduy, h. deathbed confession
vifl, as much as
vifil, how much
vikuach, h. discussion, disputation
vokzal, r. railway station (from English "Vauxhall")
volvl, cheap
vórem, because of; worm; *yeder vórem hat zayn dórem*, ("every worm has its intestines"), there's a reason for everything
voron, r. raven
vossara, what a, what . . .
vöyl, well, good
vöynen, to dwell, to live
vozhe, *vos-zhe*, why, what then, what for
yachssn, h. man of distinguished lineage, highly connected person, privileged character
yam, h. sea, ocean; *yam suf*, Red Sea
yärshenen, h. to inherit
yauch, soup; *gilderne yauch*, a special nuptial dish
y'due, h. generally known
yerid, h. fair
yeshen, p. fall
yeshive, h. talmudical academy, Yeshivah; *yeshive-bocher*, Yeshivah student
yeshuvmik, h. farmer

yetsias mitsrayim, h. Exodus from Egypt
yiches, h. pedigree
yisser, h. remnants
yishuv, h. colonization, settlement
yissurim, h. sufferings, pains; *hob keyn yissurim nit*, don't worry
y'lóle, h. crying, wailing, moaning
yomim nöyroim, h. Days of Awe, New Year and Day of Atonement
yomtöyvim, pl. of *yontev*
yontev, h. holiday
yontevdig, festive
yossem, h. orphan
youn, Russian, soldier; *ale y'vo-nim hobn eyn ponim*, all soldiers look alike
yöym hadin, h. day of judgment, Day of Atonement
yöysher, h. justice, fairness, integrity
y'rey elöyhim, h. God-fearing
y'rey shomayim, h. God-fearing
y'rid, see *yerid*
y'rushe, h. inheritance
y'ssurim, see *yissurim*
yungátsh, street-urchin, scamp
y'vonim, h. pl. of *youn*

zakon, r. law
záleven, p. to give reluctantly, to miss
zamen zach, to saunter, to return late, to stay behind
z'chus, h. merit, praise, good work
zelner, soldier
zeneft, mustard
zeycher l'churn, h. memorial of the destruction of the Temple
zeyde, grandfather
zeyger, watch, clock
zhapen, to snap
zhe, r. then, now, well
zhid, rp. Jew
zhulik, p. good-for-nothing

zidlen, to scold
zifts, sigh
zikorn, h. memory, remembrance
zilzul, h. abuse

zman, h. time, period, *semes* or *zokn*, h. old man
zöyche zayn, h. to merit, to deserve