Mishnah · מִשְׁנָה

Masechta Sukkah

Sukkah 1:1 · A sukkah higher than twenty amos

סוכה פרק א משנה א

Covers Mishnah Sukkah 1:1 with Bartenura and Gemara Sukkah 2a–2b (Rabba, Rabbi Zeira, Rava, the baraisa of Queen Heleni). Hebrew text: Sefaria (Torat Emet). The long Bartenura on making the third wall (lavud, tzuras hapesach) is summarised in one line.

prefix **root / main word** **suffix**

Write the meaning under each word (use the word bank), then the whole phrase. Check with the model translation.

סֻכָּה	שֶׁהִיא	גְּבוֹהָה	לְמַעְלָה
…	…	…	…

מֵעֶשְׂרִים	אַמָּה	פְּסוּלָה
…	…	…

Word bank: a sukkah · above · amos · high · pasul · that is · twenty

Write the whole phrase in English…

רַבִּי	יְהוּדָה	מַכְשִׁיר
…	…	…

Word bank: Rabbi · Yehuda · says it is kosher

Write the whole phrase in English…

וְשֶׁאֵינָהּ	גְּבוֹהָה	עֲשָׂרָה	טְפָחִים
…	…	…	…

Word bank: and one that is not · high · tefachim · ten

Write the whole phrase in English…

וְשֶׁאֵין	לָהּ	שְׁלֹשָׁה	דְּפָנוֹת
…	…	…	…

Word bank: and one that does not have | it | three | walls

Write the whole phrase in English…

וְשֶׁחַמָּתָהּ | מִצִּלָּתָהּ | מִרְבֶּה | פְּסוּלָה

… | … | … | …

Word bank: and whose sun | is more | pasul | than its shade

Write the whole phrase in English…

סֻכָּה | יְשָׁנָה | בֵּית | שַׁמַּאי

… | … | … | …

פּוֹסְלִין | וּבֵית | הִלֵּל | מִכְּשֶׁירִין

… | … | … | …

Word bank: Beis | Hillel | Shammai | a sukkah | and Beis | old | say it is kosher | say it is pasul

Write the whole phrase in English…

וְאֵיזוֹ | הִיא | סֻכָּה | יְשָׁנָה

… | … | … | …

כָּל | שֶׁעָשָׂאָהּ | קֹדֶם | לָחָג

… | … | … | …

שִׁלְשִׁים | יוֹם

… | …

Word bank: a sukkah | and which | any | before | days | is | old | that he made | the chag | thirty

Write the whole phrase in English…

אֲבָל | אִם | עֲשָׂאָהּ | לְשֵׁם

… | … | … | …

חָג | אֲפִלּוּ | מִתְּחִלַּת | הַשָּׁנָה

… … … …

כְּשֵׁרָה

…

Word bank: but · even · for the sake of · from the beginning of · he made it · if · kosher · the chag · the year

Write the whole phrase in English…

Pictures with Bartenura and Gemara



Too tall to notice the sechach

לְמַעְלָה מֵעֶשְׂרִים אַמָּה

Mishnah 1:1 · Sukkah 2a

A sukkah higher than twenty amos (about 10 metres!) is pasul.

Gemara (Rabba) The pasuk says “so that your generations will know that I made Bnei Yisrael live in sukkos” (Vayikra 23:43). Up to twenty amos a person knows he is sitting in a sukkah. Higher than twenty amos he does not know, because his eye does not reach (catch sight of) the sechach.

Gemara Why does the Mishnah just say “pasul” and not tell us how to fix it? Because a sukkah is a mitzvah from the Torah, so the Mishnah teaches that it is pasul.



A temporary home — dirah arai

דִּירַת עֲרַאי

Bartenura · Sukkah 2a

Bartenura A sukkah must be a דִּירַת עֲרַאי, a temporary home: “You shall make the chag of Sukkos for seven days” — the Torah said, make a sukkah that lasts for seven days. Higher than twenty amos, a person does not build a temporary home, only a permanent one (דִּירַת קֶבַע).

Gemara (Rava) “In sukkos you shall live for seven days” (Vayikra 23:42). The Torah said: for all seven days, go out of your permanent home and live in a temporary home.

Bartenura Rabbi Yehuda holds that a sukkah may be a permanent home, so he says it is kosher. But the halacha is NOT like Rabbi Yehuda.



Not too low, not too high, three walls

עֲשָׂרָה טְפָחִים · שְׁלֹשָׁה דְּפָנוֹת

Mishnah 1:1 · Bartenura

A sukkah lower than ten tefachim (handbreadths), or with fewer than three walls, is also pasul.

Bartenura Lower than ten tefachim is a דִּירָה סְרוּחָה — a squashed, horrible home, and nobody lives in a home like that.

Bartenura Three walls: the word בַּסֻּכֹּת is written three times in the Torah. One is for the sechach, which leaves three for three walls. A halacha from Moshe at Sinai teaches that the third wall can be just a tefach (and a bit).

Bartenura A sukkah must be at least seven tefachim by seven tefachim, big enough for a person’s head, most of his body, and his table.



More shade than sun

חַמָּתָהּ מְרֻבָּה מִצִּלָּתָהּ

Mishnah 1:1 · Bartenura · Sukkah 2a

If the sechach lets in more sun than shade, the sukkah is pasul.

Bartenura If the sun and shade are equal, it is kosher — as long as they are equal down on the floor of the sukkah. Up at the sechach the shade is always more, because the sunny patches on the floor do not look the same size as the gaps above — as people say, “a zuz above, an istira below.”

Gemara (Rabbi Zeira) “And a sukkah will be for shade by day from the heat” (Yeshayahu 4:6). Up to twenty amos, a person sits in the shade of the sukkah (the sechach). Higher than that, he sits in the shade of the walls.



Queen Heleni’s sukkah in Lod

הֵילֶנִי הַמַּלְכָּה בְּלוֹד

Baraisa · Sukkah 2b

Gemara Rabbi Yehuda said: Once Queen Heleni in Lod had a sukkah higher than twenty amos, and the Zekeinim (elders) went in and out and said nothing to her!

Gemara The Chachamim answered: Is that a proof? She was a woman, and women do not have to sit in a sukkah. Rabbi Yehuda answered: But she had seven sons! And also, everything she did was only according to the Chachamim.



An old sukkah

סֻכָּה יְשָׁנָה

Mishnah 1:1 · Bartenura

A sukkah made more than thirty days before the chag, not specially for the chag, is an “old sukkah.” Beis Shammai say it is pasul; Beis Hillel say it is kosher. If it was made for the chag, even at the start of the year, everyone agrees it is kosher.

Bartenura Beis Shammai want a sukkah made for the sake of the mitzvah. In the thirty days before a chag people learn its halachos, so a sukkah built then is surely for the chag. Before that, we do not know.

Bartenura Beis Hillel do not require the sukkah to be made for the sake of the chag.

Gemara corner · פִּנַּת הַגְּמָרָא

More from the Gemara on Sukkah 2a–2b. Each Amora gave a reason why a sukkah above 20 amos is pasul. Here is how Abaye challenged them.

Abaye asks Rabbi Zeira: the mountains!

דְּלַ עַשְׁתְּרוֹת קַרְנַיִם — אֵיכָא צֵל סוּכָּה

Sukkah 2a

Rabbi Zeira said that above 20 amos you sit in the shade of the walls, not the sechach. Abaye asked: what if someone builds a sukkah between the mountains of Ashteros Karnayim, where the mountains make the shade? Is it pasul too? Rabbi Zeira answered: take the mountains away and there is still shade from the sukkah. But in a sukkah above 20 amos, take the walls away and there is no shade from the sukkah.

Abaye asks Rava: iron walls!

דִּירַת עֲרָאי

Sukkah 2a

Rava said a sukkah must be a temporary home. Abaye asked: what if someone makes the walls of iron and puts sechach on them — that is a strong, permanent home, so should it be pasul? Rava answered: up to 20 amos, even if you build it like a permanent home it is kosher. Above 20 amos, even if you build it like a temporary home it is pasul.

Why not use the other pesukim?

Sukkah 2a–2b

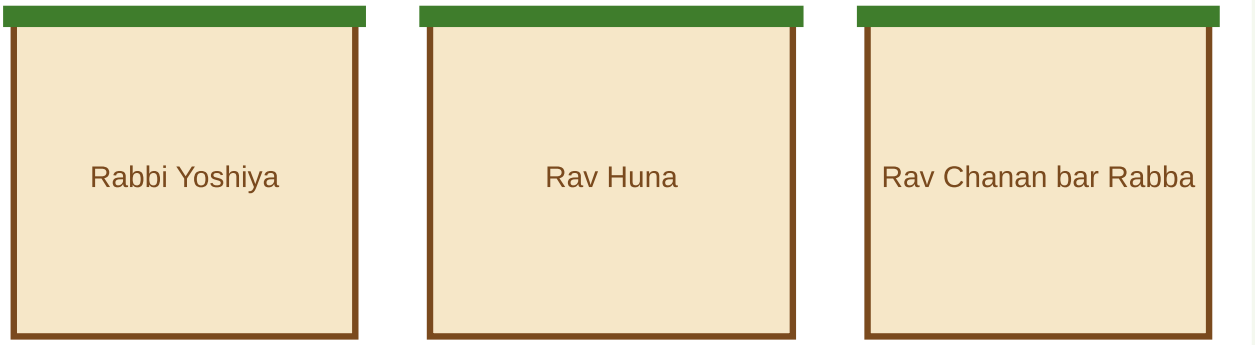
Rabbi Zeira and Rava did not learn from Rabba’s pasuk (“so that your generations will know”), because it is about knowing that Hashem took us out of Mitzrayim. Rabba and Rava did not learn from Rabbi Zeira’s pasuk, because it

is about the days of Moshiach.

Rav's three opinions

Sukkah 2b

When do the Chachamim agree a sukkah above 20 amos is kosher?



Three statements were said in the name of Rav about when even the Chachamim agree that a sukkah above 20 amos is kosher. Rabbi Yoshiya: when the walls reach right up to the sechach (this fits Rabba — your eye follows the walls up to the sechach). Rav Huna: when it is bigger than four by four amos (this fits Rabbi Zeira — a big sukkah gets shade from its sechach). Rav Chanan bar Rabba: when it is bigger than just enough for a person's head, most of his body and his table.

Even one of Heleni's sons

כָּל מַעֲשֶׂיהָ לֹא עָשְׂתָה אֶלָּא עַל פִּי חֲכָמִים

Sukkah 2b

The Chachamim said Heleni's sons might have been young. The Gemara answers: with seven sons, at least one would have been old enough not to need his mother, and so he had to sit in the sukkah. So the proof is still strong, and everything she did was according to the Chachamim.

Gemara corner questions

1. How did Rabbi Zeira answer about the mountains of Ashteros Karnayim?

- ○ Take the mountains away and there is still sukkah shade
- ○ Mountains make a sukkah pasul
- ○ The sukkah must be on a mountain

2. According to Rava, a sukkah up to 20 amos with iron walls is…

- ○ pasul
- ○ kosher
- ○ only kosher for Rabbi Yehuda

3. Who said a tall sukkah is kosher if it is bigger than 4 × 4 amos?

- ○ Rabbi Yoshiya
- ○ Rav Huna

- ○ Rav Chanan bar Rabba

1 · Fill in the blanks

Word bank: twenty | ten | three | shade | temporary | eye | Lod | thirty

1. A sukkah higher than _____ amos is pasul.
2. A sukkah lower than _____ tefachim is pasul.
3. A sukkah needs at least _____ walls.
4. If the sun is more than the _____, the sukkah is pasul.
5. Bartenura: a sukkah must be a _____ home (dirah arai).
6. Rabba: higher than twenty amos, the _____ does not see the sechach.
7. Queen Heleni had a tall sukkah in the city of _____.
8. An old sukkah was made _____ days or more before the chag.

2 · Questions

1. Who says a sukkah higher than twenty amos is kosher?

- ○ Beis Shammai
- ○ Rabbi Yehuda
- ○ Rabbi Zeira
- ○ The Chachamim

2. Is the halacha like Rabbi Yehuda?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

3. According to Bartenura, why is a sukkah lower than ten tefachim pasul?

- ○ It is too hot
- ○ It is a squashed home nobody lives in
- ○ It has no walls
- ○ It is too old

4. According to Rabbi Zeira, in a very tall sukkah you sit in the shade of…

- ○ the sechach
- ○ the walls
- ○ a tree
- ○ the clouds

5. The Chachamim said Heleni's sukkah is no proof because…

- ○ she was a woman, and women do not have to sit in a sukkah

- ○ it was in Lod
- ○ it was too small
- ○ it was built in the summer

6. Who says an old sukkah is kosher?

- ○ Beis Shammai
- ○ Beis Hillel
- ○ Rabbi Yehuda
- ○ Nobody

7. A sukkah built at the start of the year FOR the chag is…

- ○ pasul according to everyone
- ○ kosher according to everyone
- ○ kosher only for Beis Hillel

3 · Match the word to its meaning

פְּסוּלָה	— choose —
כְּשֵׁרָה	— choose —
טְפָחִים	— choose —
דְּפָנוֹת	— choose —
סֻכָּה	— choose —
דִּירַת עְרַאי	— choose —
אַמָּה	— choose —
צֵל	— choose —

4 · Who said it?

“A sukkah higher than 20 amos is kosher.”	— choose —
“Higher than 20 amos, your eye does not see the sechach.”	— choose —
“Higher than 20 amos, you sit in the shade of the walls.”	— choose —
“Leave your permanent home and live in a temporary home.”	— choose —
“An old sukkah is pasul.”	— choose —
“An old sukkah is kosher.”	— choose —

5 · Put the Mishnah in order

Use ▲ ▼ to move the lines.

1. An old sukkah: Beis Shammai and Beis Hillel argue.
2. A sukkah higher than twenty amos is pasul.
3. Which is an old sukkah? One made thirty days before the chag.
4. Rabbi Yehuda says it is kosher.
5. If made for the chag, even from the start of the year, it is kosher.
6. Lower than ten tefachim, fewer than three walls, or more sun than shade is pasul.

6 · Word search

Click the first letter and then the last letter of each word.

SUKKAH SECHACH AMOS SHADE WALLS HELENI LOD KOSHER PASUL TEFACHIM

P	K	I	F	E	S	P	C	F	R	T	Y
A	U	T	P	N	H	M	A	G	H	E	H
S	O	P	F	Y	A	A	H	M	K	T	I
U	S	W	B	Y	D	K	T	M	O	E	K
L	U	A	C	R	E	T	F	A	S	F	D
P	K	L	S	E	C	H	A	C	H	A	O
O	K	L	T	E	S	D	A	B	E	C	A
L	A	S	S	S	C	K	B	F	R	H	K
B	H	H	E	F	R	C	D	A	N	I	B
I	C	K	I	A	R	K	P	G	U	M	P
N	F	H	B	T	A	M	O	S	B	B	D
G	A	L	O	D	N	H	E	L	E	N	I

Who's who

רַבִּי יְהוּדָה

Rabbi Yehuda

- Says a sukkah higher than 20 amos is kosher.
- Brought the proof of Queen Heleni's sukkah.
- The halacha is not like him here.

בֵּית שַׁמַּאי וּבֵית הִלֵּל

Beis Shammai & Beis Hillel

- Argue about an old sukkah.
- Beis Shammai: pasul. Beis Hillel: kosher.
- Made for the chag? Kosher for everyone.

Think about it

The sukkah should be low enough that you can see the sechach and remember that Hashem looks after us. What can you do this week to remember that Hashem is looking after you?

Your work is saved on this device only.