

## What Is Hanukkah and Why Do We Celebrate It?

Source: <https://www.rd.com/article/hanukkah-facts/>

### What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah commemorates the victory in 164 B.C. of a group of Jewish people (the Maccabees) over the Syrian Greeks, who had been occupying the Land of Israel since before 167 B.C. Not only had the Greeks destroyed the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, but they also banned the practice of Judaism entirely. After a three-year fight, the Maccabees liberated the Temple—and won the Jewish people the right to practice their religion.

Scholars believe the first Hanukkah celebration was actually a belated celebration of Sukkot, a weeklong holiday that typically takes place in autumn. When the Maccabees prevailed over the Syrian Greeks, they wanted to celebrate important holidays they'd missed during the Maccabean Revolt. Despite the fact that it was early winter, they celebrated Sukkot as they rededicated the temple. (Sukkot was never again celebrated in the winter; it went back to being a fall holiday.)

The rededication of the temple involved turning on the lights, so to speak. Since electricity was a long, long, long way from being invented, people relied on oil lamps. At the time of the rededication, oil was in short supply, and there was just enough in the temple to provide light for a single day. But miraculously, the oil continued to burn for the entire time the Jewish people were celebrating Sukkot, a total of eight days, including the dedication. That's why Hanukkah has always been celebrated for eight nights.

The Jewish people continued to celebrate the temple rededication annually, but it would take another 250 years before Hanukkah came to be known as the Festival of Lights, a term coined by the ancient Jewish historian Flavius Josephus. Some historians believe Josephus was referring not to a lighting of lamps but to enlightenment—as in a newly acquired freedom to worship. Either way, the notion stuck. In fact, many people associate Hanukkah more with the miracle of the oil than with the rededication of the temple.

### When does Hanukkah start?

In 2021, Hanukkah begins at sundown on November 28 and finishes at sundown on December 6. If you're wondering why Hanukkah falls on a different date every year, it actually doesn't, according to the Hebrew calendar. The rededication took place on the 25th day of the month of Kislev in 164 B.C. Every year since then, the start of Hanukkah has been on 25 Kislev. But the Hebrew calendar is lunar, meaning it follows the moon, whereas most of the rest of the world uses a solar-based calendar, which follows the sun. Because the lunar and solar calendars don't line up precisely, Hanukkah can fall any time from late November to late December.

### How is Hanukkah celebrated?

Hanukkah is celebrated by playing dreidel, singing celebratory songs, exchanging gifts, making delicious Hanukkah recipes that remind us of the oil that burned for eight days at the temple in Jerusalem (jelly doughnuts called sufganiyot, potato latkes), and lighting candles while chanting specified blessings.

The traditional Jewish menorah has seven branches for seven candles and is considered a symbol of the Jewish religion. That's what the Jews used in the first Hanukkah celebration at the temple in Jerusalem. The menorah we now use on Hanukkah is called a hanukkiah and has nine candles—one representing the original vial of oil and eight representing the days the oil burned. It wasn't part of Jewish practice until at least some time after Josephus first wrote about the Festival of Lights.

The hanukkiah is generally lit after sunset, but depending on your branch within the Jewish faith, you may wait until nightfall. On the first night, one candle is placed in the spot furthest to the right, and it's lit by the

(Continued on next page)



### December 2022 Calendar

Universal Human Rights Month  
Month of Giving

- 1 – World AIDS Day
- 2 – Special Education Day (International)
- 3 – International Day of People with Disabilities
- 7 – National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance (US)
- 10 – Human Rights Day (International)
- 12 – Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe (Catholicism)
- 16 – World COPD Day
- 18-26 – Hanukkah (Judaism)
- 25 – Christmas Day (Western Christianity)
- 26 – Kwanzaa (International)
- 28 – Holy Innocents Day (Christianity)
- 31 – New Years Eve (International)

(Continued from previous page)

shammash (the ninth candle), which is then placed in its designated place. Every night after that, a new candle is placed in its designated place. Every night after that, a new candle is placed to the left of the previous candle from the night before, but the shamash lights them all, from left to right.

Playing with dreidels, or spinning tops, is a Hanukkah tradition for all ages. The custom dates back to the Greek-Syrian rule over the Holy Land. Since learning the Torah at the time was outlawed, Jewish kids would pretend to play with a dreidel when they were really studying

Although packaged gifts are more popular today than they were in the past, gelt, or money, is the traditional gift of Hanukkah. Some people say that because of the rise in popularity of Christmas gifts, more Jewish people opt for gifts too.



## 7 Tips on Note Taking for Medical Interpreters

Source: <https://interpretertrain.com/7-tips-on-note-taking-for-medical-interpreters/>

One of the most stressful parts of being an interpreter is the thought that mid-interpretation you might forget part of the dialogue that was spoken, or how to say a word. As a medical interpreter this can seem even more intimidating because a patient’s health is on the line.

To combat this stress many medical interpreters will choose to take notes while they interpret. While there is no right or wrong way to do this, there are some useful tips on note taking for medical interpreters that will help you get down the important details and remember dialogue easily.

Generally, note-taking is a tool best used while providing consecutive medical interpreting, as there is enough time in-between each party speaking to write information down. While you can take notes during simultaneous interpretation, it does take a bit more practice.

That being said, here are seven tips on note taking for medical interpreters to help you take effective notes during your assignments!

Many of these tips are based on suggestions made by Jean-Francois Rozan, and more can be learned about them in his book “Note-taking in Consecutive Interpreting.”

### 7 Tips on Effective Note Taking for Interpreters

#### 1. Use the “Subject, Verb, Object” method

The Subject, Verb, Object (or SVO) variant is part of a method of note-taking first introduced by Jean-Francois Rozan in his 7 principles. It is performed exactly as it sounds.

On a piece of paper you write down the subject, verb, and object of each sentence you are listening to in descending order, diagonally to the right. Each new sentence or topic is separated on a page by a horizontal line.

Writing the main parts of the sentence, and in a way that shows their hierarchical relationship to each other, will help you better remember what was said.

#### 2. Use the “Stacking” method

Building on top of his SVO model (and his vertical note-taking method as described in the second paragraph above), Rozan also suggested a stacking method. The stacking method takes out the need to write down linking words by visually representing them. For example noting down “the diagnosis on file” would look similar to:

Diagnosis  
-----  
File

#### 3. Use mnemonics

The main goal of a mnemonic is to help you remember things. There are a variety of different mnemonics you can use while taking notes – choose the ones that work best for you! Two common examples are:

Acronyms like FACE – used to remember the keyboard notes lying in-between the lines (F, A, C, E)

Model Mneumonics – where you write keywords in a visual manner, representative of their meaning

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

4. Use keywords, not full sentences, and abbreviations

Trying to write out full sentences as they are being said is a good way to not actively listen and miss the meaning behind what you're writing down. Instead, write key words and phrases as you hear them to help jog your memory when you go to interpret.

If you need to write down a complete thought use abbreviations where possible. Rozen suggests you write the first and last letters not the first few letters when writing abbreviations. This helps eliminate confusion for abbreviations with multiple interpretations.

For example, "comp" could stand for computer, completely, complementary, computation etc.

Instead, if you write "comptr" you will not have any confusion about the meaning of your abbreviation.

5. Draw pictures and use symbols

Doodling has been proven to help with memory, so when in doubt feel free to exert your artistry, but you can also use symbols and doodles to signify different words and meaning. Part of Jean-Francois Rozan's lessons on interpreter note taking highlighted the benefits of using signs and symbols to replace words.

For example, he suggested you underline a word to represent that it was emphasized (replacing words like very, really a lot etc.), and double underline a word to indicate a stronger emphasis (replacing words like extremely, extraordinarily, drastically etc.).

You can even draw lines straight through words to indicate negation. Therefore, "Go" becomes "Go" signifying "no go" (you can also write "no" in front of words to indicate the same meaning).

Rozan also discussed how you can use symbols to indicate multiple words or expressions like:

"=" to indicate equals/the same as/corresponds to      "+" to indicate additional/new/increase      "-" to indicate without/minus /decrease



6. Write down the main vocabulary words (in order)

We mentioned this technique in our blog about memory training exercises for interpreters, and it is perfect for note taking for medical interpreters too!

Writing down the main keywords you hear in the order of when they were said, will give you a visual timeline of the dialogue, and points to connect smaller details to. It can even help you remember difficult vocabulary!

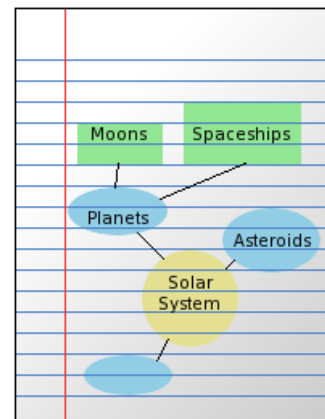
Check them off as you say them so you also have a physical action to guide you through the sentence, and to help prevent you from forgetting anything.

7. Group together main ideas and supporting ideas

Again using keywords from the conversation you are interpreting, write down the main theme of each topic being discussed as you hear it. Then write down the important keywords for the points supporting that theme around it, using arrows to connect ideas that follow one another according to the flow of the dialogue. You can use a similar visual as that used for "mind mapping".

**Practicing Your Note-Taking**

Now that you have a few ideas on effective note taking for medical interpreters, the next step is to practice them! Interpreter note taking skills don't come overnight, so the next time you go out to an assignment, make sure you bring a notebook along and try out each one to see what works best for you.



**Note from editor:** As a means of being HIPAA compliant, Interpreters must destroy any notes containing sensitive information immediately after finishing with encounter.