

# Shofar How and Why?

The Torah mentions the word “Teruah” 3 times in connection with the sounding of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah. The Torah also teaches us that each Teruah is introduced and followed by an even-sounding note called Tekiah. Essentially, we are supposed to hear Tekiah – Teruah – Tekiah 3 times.

So why do we blow many more sounds? (30 in all)  
Because we are not sure what the true “sound” of the Teruah prescribed by the Torah actually is.

One opinion is that it is the sound of 3 moaning sounds. A second opinion is that it is the sound of sobbing (9 little cries). A third opinion is that it is a moaning sound that turns into sobbing.

We sound all three types of Teruah to get all opinions covered.

## **Who is crying and why?**

The shofar represents the cry of the deepest part of our soul that loves G-D and all it wants to do is to connect to G-D. With this love and dedication we crown G-D as our king through the Shofar. **This awakens G-D's unconditional love to us and through the shofar all blessings are bestowed on us, his dear children.**



## How to blow the shofar:

There are 3 different sounds (and one combination sound) we blow, imitating different types of cries.

1. Tekiah is a long even sound.
2. Shevarim is 3 medium length "moaning" sounds, with each "moan" at least 3 "sobs" long and shorter than 9 "sobs" long. If one of the "moans" is equal to 9 "sobs" then that sequence must be repeated again.
3. Teruah is at least 9 short sobbing sounds.
4. Shevarim/Teruah is 3 "moaning" sounds followed by 9 "sobbing" sounds. We do not inhale in between the moaning and the sobbing, denoting moaning that turned into sobbing. In a sense, Shevarim/Teruah can be considered its' own sound.

We blow 3 sets of sounds:

### Sequence 1

Tekiah – Shevarim/Teruah – Tekiah

Aside from the combination Shevarim/Teruah where there is no inhaling between the sounds, you must inhale between the "3" different sounds. If you make a mistake do the sequence over.

Tekiah of this sequence should be sounded as long as a Shevarim/Teruah sound.

Repeat this sequence 3 times.

### Sequence 2

Tekiah – Shevarim – Tekiah

You must inhale between the 3 different sounds.

Tekiah of this sequence should be sounded as long as a Shevarim sound.

Repeat this sequence 3 times.

### Sequence 3

Tekiah – Teruah – Tekiah

You must inhale between the 3 different sounds.

Tekiah of this sequence should be sounded as long as a Teruah sound. The final Tekiah should be sounded a bit longer than the rest.

Repeat this sequence 3 times.

**You have now fulfilled the mitzvah of shofar perfectly!**

**You have opened the channels for G-D's love and blessings!!**

**Shana Tova!!**