

How to keep your Pinkas

1. **One book, in order.** Write as you learn, page after page: your own ideas and what you hear. Never tear out a page; cross out with one line.
2. **Open every entry with one line:** date · makom · source (your own, or שמעת'י מ' and the name). Never blur what you heard with what is yours.
3. **Write the makom in the outer margin** as well, so you can find the entry by turning pages.
4. **Use the marks you already use** (next page). Keep entries short: one he'ara on a daf is enough. Close each entry with העול'ה: the conclusion in one line.
5. **Note what a sevara rests on:** the Gemara or Rishon. If you have none yet, write ע"צ.
6. **Thread.** When you continue or connect, write → p. at the old entry and ← p. at the new one. Later additions go in the margin as ה'גה"ה, with the date.
7. **Index by makom** at the back: give each masechta, sefer or chelek you learn its own index page, and write the daf, siman or pasuk with the page.
8. **Review every Rosh Chodesh.** Read back, copy each open ע"צ to the review page, and mark it: still open · settled · set aside. When the volume is full, carry what is still open into the next one.
9. **Log what an entry becomes:** a chabura, a shiur, a clean copy, shown to your rebbe or teacher.

Makom: where you are learning (Berachos 12a · Parshas Noach · Orach Chaim 1). **Sevara:** a line of reasoning. **He'ara:** one observation.

The marks

קשה / ק"ל	a question
וי"ל	an answer
נ"ל / ולכאורה	my own reasoning (ולכאורה: tentative)
צ"ע	left open: goes to the review page
וצ"ב	needs explaining
שמעתי מ- / בשם	heard from: write the name
עיי לעיל / לקמן	see page: write → p. or ← p.
הגה"ה	added later: in the margin, dated
העולה	the conclusion, in one line: closes the entry

THE SHAPE OF AN ENTRY

[date] · [makom] · [own / מ- / שמעתי מ-]	[makom]
קשה ... ויש לומר ... ונ"ל ... (מקור: ...)	הגה"ה [date] ...
... וצ"ע. עיי לקמן ← עמ' ____	
העולה: ____	