

Kosher (Kashrut) From Wikipedia

Kashrut or *kashruth*, *kashrus* (Hebrew: כַּשְׂרוּת, *kašrūt*) or "keeping **kosher**" (Hebrew: כָּשֵׁר, *kāšēr*) is the name of the Jewish dietary laws. Food in accord with *halakha* (Jewish law) is termed **kosher** in English, from the Hebrew term *kashér*, meaning "**fit**" (in this context, fit for consumption by Jews according to traditional Jewish law). Jews may not eat non-kosher food, but there are no restrictions for non-dietary use, for example, injection of insulin of porcine origin. The Islamic equivalent for Muslims is Halal food, which overlaps considerably with kosher, but is not identical. Food not in accord with Jewish law is termed *treif*, *trafe* (Yiddish: טרייף from טרפה *ṭrēpāh*, "torn"); the Hebrew term refers to animals (from a kosher species such as cattle or sheep) which had been either incorrectly slaughtered or mortally wounded by wild beasts and therefore were not fit for human consumption. Among *Sephardim*, it typically only refers to meat that is not kosher. Sometimes, non-kosher food in general may be dismissed with the colloquial term *chazir-treif*, which literally means "as unfit as pork", the pig having become perhaps the most notable symbol of the non-kosher animal.

Many of the basic laws of *kashrut* are in the Torah's Book of Leviticus, with their details set down in the oral law (the Mishnah and the Talmud) and codified by the *Shulchan Aruch* and later rabbinical authorities. Many varied reasons have been offered for these laws, ranging from philosophical and ritualistic, to practical and hygienic. The word *kosher* has been borrowed by many languages, including English. **In its strictest meaning it means "fit", but as in Yiddish it also generally means legitimate, acceptable, permissible, genuine or authentic in a broader sense.**

Lev 11:1-8

11:1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 2 "Say to the Israelites: 'Of all the animals that live on land, these are the ones you may eat: 3 You may eat any animal that has a split hoof completely divided and that chews the cud. 4 "'There are some that only chew the cud or only have a split hoof, but you must not eat them. The camel, though it chews the cud, does not have a split hoof; it is ceremonially unclean for you. 5 The coney, though it chews the cud, does not have a split hoof; it is unclean for you. 6 The rabbit, though it chews the cud, does not have a split hoof; it is unclean for you. 7 And the pig, though it has a split hoof completely divided, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. 8 You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.