

The Dreidel Game



The dreidel is a four-sided top with the Hebrew letters **nun**, **gimmel**, **hey** and **shin** on it, one letter to a side. Each Hebrew letter indicates one word of the saying “a great miracle happened there” – “**Nes Gadol Hayah Sham.**”

To start the game, begin with a bunch of **gelt** (often 10–15 pieces of chocolate coins in gold foil). At the beginning of each round, every participant puts one piece into the center “pot.” In addition, every time the pot is empty and sometimes if it has one game piece left, every player adds one in.

The Dreidel Game

Each player spins the dreidel once during their turn. Depending on which side is facing up when it stops spinning, they give or take game pieces from the pot:

- If נ (nun) is facing up, the player does nothing
- If ג (gimel) is facing up, the player gets everything in the pot
- If ה (hay) is facing up, the player gets half of the pieces in the pot
- If ש (shin) is facing up, the player adds a game piece to the pot

If the player is out of gelt they are either out of the game or they may ask for a loan from another player. The player with the most gelt in the end wins!