

Hebrew School: The Podcast!

It Could Always Be Worse: A Wacky Animal Story (Ages 7-10)

Directions: Use the words in the word bank to fill in the blanks and complete the story. Use each word only once.

heads	noisy	chickens	worse	clucking	laying eggs	eyeglasses
quiet	peaceful	flapping	barn	baa-ing	sheep	goats
rabbi	crazy	grandparents	house			

A long time ago, there was a family that lived happily in a small, quiet house in Poland. One day they learned that their _____ were coming to live with them. The child was very excited about this, and so were the parents. But the parents worried because their _____ was very small. They knew that when the grandparents arrived, the house would become crowded and much noisier. The farmer went to ask the *rabbi* what to do. The rabbi said, "Let them come."

So, the grandparents moved in. They had a lot of furniture, which went in the living room where they sleep, and in some other rooms too. It was crowded and _____ in the house so the farmer went back to the rabbi: "I did what you said, Rabbi. Now the grandparents are here. And it is really crowded in the house."

The rabbi thought for moment. Then he asked, "Do you have chickens?"

"Of course, I have _____," said the farmer.

"Bring them into the house," said the rabbi.

The farmer was confused, but he knew the rabbi was very wise. So, he went home, and brought all the chickens to live inside the house with the family. But it was no less crowded and noisy. In fact, it is worse, with the _____ and pecking, and _____ of wings. The farmer went back to the rabbi. "I did what you said, Rabbi. Now with the grandparents and the chickens, it is really crowded in the house."

The rabbi thought for moment. Then he asked, "Do you have any goats?"

"Of course, I have _____," said the farmer.

"Bring them into the house," said the rabbi.

The farmer was confused, but he knew the rabbi was very wise. He brought all the goats from the barn to live inside the house. It was no less crowded and noisy. In fact, it was much worse, with the chickens clucking and flapping their wings and the goats _____ and butting their _____ against the walls and one another. The next day, the farmer went back to the rabbi. "I did what you said, rabbi. Now the grandparents have no place to sleep because the chickens have taken their bed. The goats are sticking their heads into everything and making a lot of noise."

The rabbi thought. He looked very puzzled. Then he said, "Aha! You must have some sheep."

"Of course, I have _____," said the farmer.

“Bring them into the house,” said the rabbi.

The farmer knew the rabbi was very wise, so he brought the sheep inside. It was no less crowded and noisy. In fact, it is much, much _____. The chickens are clucking and flapping their wings, the goats were baa-ing and butting their heads. The sheep were baa-ing, too, and one sat on the farmer’s _____ and broke them. The house was loud and _____ and it was starting to smell like a _____. Completely confused, the farmer went back to the rabbi. “Rabbi,” he said, “I have followed your advice. I have done everything you said. Now the grandparents have no place to sleep because the chickens are _____ in their bed. The goats are baa-ing and butting their heads, and the sheep are breaking things. The house smells like a barn!”

The rabbi frowned. He closed his eyes and thought for a long time. Finally, he said, “This is what you do. Take the sheep back to the barn. Take the goats back to the barn. Take the chickens back to their coop.” The farmer ran home and did exactly as the rabbi had told him. As he took the animals out of the house, his child and wife and grandparents began to tidy up the rooms. By the time the last chicken was settled in her coop, the house looked quite nice, and it was _____. All the family agreed their home was the most spacious, _____, and comfortable home anywhere.



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