

A Gabbai's guide:

There are two gabbai'im or gabbai'iyot who stand at the Torah reading table. They have two main jobs:

1. Make sure the reader doesn't make any meaning-changing mistakes.
2. In many/most congregations, they also call up the aliyot (though in our congregation, the rabbi/Torah reader usually does this).

Our Temple tradition is that we usually give the first aliyah to a Kohen/Kohenet and the second to a Levi/Leviyah. Sometimes we give folks from those tribal groups an aliyah in which their tribe is mentioned. Sometimes (and always on Bagel and Bible Shabbatot), we dispense with these distinctions.

There is a version of the formal call for the aliyot on pages 394-5 in our siddur. The first paragraph there is only used for the first aliyah.

Here's a fuller summary of the Hebrew calls:

To call them up formally in Hebrew, you'll need to know the grammar of these three words, which mean "let ... arise"

ya'amod is for one male

ta'amod is for one female

ya'amdu is for more than one person

The first aliyah is called with an extended paragraph, traditionally:

v'ya'azor v'yagen v'yoshia l'hol hahosim bo v'nomar amen

hakol havu godel lelohenu ut'nu havod latorah

[if a kohen/kohenet is being called:

kohen/et k'ray, ya'amod/ta'amod/ya'amdu

ya'amod/ta'amod/ya'amdu [person's name] *ben (m)/bat (f)* [person's parents, appending "hakohen" for the father]

[if no kohen/et is being called:

ya'amod/ta'amod/ya'amdu [formal hebrew name] *rishon (m)/rishonah (f)*

baruh shenatan torah l'amo yisra'el bikdushato

v'atem hadvekim b'adonai elohehem hayim kulhem hayom]

The rest of the aliyot are called more simply (the name of the aliyah is given below first in the masculine):

ya'amod/ta'amod/ya'amdu [formal Hebrew name]

2. *sheni/shenit (or sh'niyah)*

3. *sh'lishi/sh'lishit*

4. *r'vi'i/r'vi'it*

5. *hamishi/hamishit*

6. *shishi/shishit*

7. *sh'vi'i/sh'vi'it*

maftir/maftirah

after maftir/ah, the Gabbai calls up the person who will lift the scroll and the person who will scroll it closed and dress it: Because of a quirk in ancient Hebrew grammar, they are traditionally called in the singular with the gender of the lifter:

ya'amod/ta'amod hamagbiah/hamagbihah v'hagolel/v'hagolelet

3. The Gabbai might also recite the prayer for healing (our tradition is to do this after the 5th aliyah on a normal Shabbat when we read 7) and *hatsi kaddish* (p. 405) before maftir/ah.

4 The gabba'im might also announce pages and verses occasionally. The triennial list that we use will be on the table where the Gabbai stands. We're reading the first third in 5774.