

A witness who comes to testify must be interrogated by the court to ensure that he is telling the truth. He is asked seven questions (חקירות): Which seven year period (of the forty nine year יובל cycle) did the event occur? Which year specifically (of the seven year שמיטה cycle)? Which month? What day of the month? What day of the week? What hour of the day? Which place?

He is also asked בדיקות. For example, at the murder you witnessed, what was the murderer wearing. If either of the עדים says he does not know the answer to a חקירה, the עדות is פסול. However, if one of the עדים replies he does not know to a בדיקה, the עדות is not פסול. Of course, if the עדים contradict each other, even by בדיקות, their עדות is פסול.

There should be a meal eaten at the fourth hour of the day (the מגן אברהם says this is counted from when a person wakes up). A תלמיד חכם can delay his meal if he is busy learning, however, it should not be delayed past the sixth hour of the day.

If the testimony of the עדים are off by an hour, their עדות is still good, as it is normal to be off by an hour. However, if one עד said the event happened before נץ החמה and the other עד said the event happened during נץ, their עדות is פסול as one can clearly tell just by looking outside if it is before or after נץ.

