

word (p.o.s.)	definition	Notes
euphemism	a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing	the final solution = extermination of Jews concentration camps = death camps shower rooms = gas chambers; death by poison special treatment = extermination
ghetto	part of a city in which members of a minority group live, especially because of social, legal, or economic issues	Warsaw Ghetto - Largest ghetto in Poland covering 100 square blocks where approximately 500,000 Jews were contained from 1939 until May 1943
kaddish	prayer for the dead (Jewish faith)	Mourners' Kaddish - prayer recited at funerals and memorials; "saying Kaddish" refers to the rituals of mourning. Mourners say Kaddish to show that despite the loss they still praise God
kapo	A prisoner within the camp who is elevated to a position to oversee work duties in that camp.	Many <i>kapos</i> are remembered negatively as they were generally chosen for their brutality toward other prisoners and were used to enforce labor. <i>Kapos</i> , by working against fellow prisoners, gained favor with the SS guards, and sometimes, less work and more privileges.
genocide	systematic killing of a racial or ethnic group	massacre, extermination <i>genos</i> = race, tribe + <i>cide</i> = killing
antisemitism	the intense dislike for and prejudice against Jewish people	racism
synagogue	Jewish house of worship	
rabbi	spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation	priest, teacher, synagogue; also spelled & pronounced as ' rebbe '
Torah	can be viewed as the Hebrew Bible; contains commandments and context of Jewish laws and traditions	'the law', Pentateuch, Talmud
Shabbat	Jewish Sabbath	begins at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday
Rosh Hashanah	The Jewish New Year	begins the High Holy Days and a time of reflection and soul searching
Yom Kippur	Day of Atonement	a time for repentance and fasting
beadle	assistant or minor official in a synagogue	that helps out with reports, ceremonies, teaching, etc; sometimes spelled as ' bedel '
pogrom	organized persecution of an ethnic group	genocide, butchery, annihilation (in Russian <i>pogrom</i> means destruction, devastation)
crematorium	ovens built in concentration camps to burn and dispose of the large number of murdered bodies	

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Judaism	major world religion; one of the oldest known monotheistic religions; the Torah is its foundational text	Children of Israel, Israelites, Hebrews
Orthodox Jew	Jew who practices strict observance of Mosaic law; maintains that the Torah and Jewish law are divine in origin, eternal and unalterable, and that they should be strictly followed	orthodox = conservative, traditional, conformist, devout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>orthos</i> = correct • <i>doxa</i> = belief
Mosaic Law	ancient laws and rules of religious observance relating to Judaism; laws that God gave to the Israelites through Moses	mosaic = from Moses
Yiddish	language originally from Jews in Eastern and Central Europe	from the German word - <i>jüdisch</i> - which means "Jewish"
Aryan	Term used by the Nazis to describe northern European physical characteristics as racially "superior".	Blonde hair and blue eyes were considered desirable, Aryan characteristics.
concentration camp	place in which Jews were imprisoned by the Nazis; located in Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe.	There were three different kinds of camps: transit, labor and extermination. Many prisoners in concentration camps died within months of arriving from violence or starvation.
Gestapo	the secret state police in Nazi Germany	intimidating official procedures
Nazism	form of socialism featuring racism and expansionism and obedience to a strong leader	National Socialist Workers' party led by Adolf Hitler
mezuzah	parchment scroll inscribed with bible verse, placed in tube & affixed to door of home	
Nuremberg Laws	anti-Jewish laws enacted in 1935; included denial of German citizenship to those of Jewish heritage and segregation of them from German society	also established "degrees of Jewishness" based on family lines
Josef Mengele	SS physician; conducted barbaric medical experiments on & tortured prisoners at Auschwitz	the Angel of Death