How many Sects denominations of Judaism

How many sects of **Hasidic** Judaism are there?

There are perhaps a dozen major Hasidic movements today, the largest of which (with perhaps 100,000 followers) is the Lubavitch group headquartered in Brooklyn, NY. Other groups include the Bobov, Bostoner, Belzer, Gerer, Satmar, Vizhnitz, Breslov, Puppa, Bianer, Munkacz, and Rimnitz.

**How many denominations are there in Judaism?**

There are so many varieties of Jewish practice and belief that it is impossible to determine how many denominations of Judaism there are. However, there are three main denominations in Judaism: Orthodox Judaism, Reform Judaism, and Conservative Judaism, as well as other smaller denominations including Reconstructionist Judaism.

**Sadducees**

By the 2nd century BCE, a sect called the [**Sadducees**](https://study.com/academy/lesson/sadducees-overview-history-facts.html) existed, whose name derived from Zadok, the high priest during the Golden Age of Israel when King Solomon reigned. The beliefs of the Sadducees were fairly unique: they believed in free will instead of divine fate and did not believe in an afterlife or angels. The Sadducees believed in the absolute divine authority of the written Torah. Still, they were a non-Rabbinic branch of Judaism who believed that the Oral Torah and Rabbinic interpretation did not hold any divine authority.

Hasidic Judaism’s [Chabad-Lubavitch sect](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/chabad-today/),

[**Yeshivish**](http://forward.com/schmooze/198955/why-i-use-yeshivish/)

Sometimes also known as Litvish, these haredi Jews are heirs of the mitnagdim (literally “opponents”) who rejected the the rise of Hasidic Judaism in Europe. These Jews traditionally emphasized the intellectual aspects of Jewish life, particularly rigorous Talmud study for men. Yeshivish derives from the word yeshiva, or religious seminary.

[**Open Orthodox**](http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/191907/defining-open-orthodoxy)

The newest subset of Orthodoxy, Open Orthodox was founded in the 1990s by the New York Rabbi Avi Weiss. Its adherents, who consider the movement a reaction to a perceived shift to the right among the Modern Orthodox, generally support expanded roles for women in spiritual leadership and more openness to non-Orthodox Jews. Major Institutions: Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, Yeshivat Maharat

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[**Reconstructionist Judaism**](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/reconstructionist-judaism-the-fourth-denomination/)

Following the thinking of its founder, [Mordecai Kaplan](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/mordecai-kaplan-founder-of-reconstructionist-judaism/), was the first to accept [openly gay students](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/judaism-and-the-lgbtq-community-an-overview/).

[**Jewish Renewal**](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jewish-renewal/)

Jewish Renewal combines the ecstatic prayer of Hasidic Judaism with a contemporary ethos of gender egalitarianism, environmental consciousness, progressive politics and appreciation of religious diversity. Its spiritual father was the late [Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi](http://www.jta.org/2014/07/06/life-religion/zalman-schachter-shalomi-brought-old-world-gravitas-to-new-age-judaism), who was born into a Hasidic family in Europe but dabbled freely in the 1960s counterculture. Its principal organization is [Aleph: The Alliance for Jewish Renewal](https://aleph.org/), which also runs an ordination program.

[**Humanistic Judaism**](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/judaism-with-no-god/)

Founded in 1963 by Rabbi Sherwin Wine, this movement offers a “nontheistic” Judaism that is not based on divine revelation. Humanistic Jews celebrate Jewish culture, history and holidays without reference to God and emphasize a rationalist, human-centered ethics.

REFORM:

The largest affiliation of American Jews, some 35 percent of Jews identify as Reform. The movement emphasizes the primacy of the Jewish ethical tradition over the obligations of Jewish law. The movement has traditionally sought to adapt Jewish tradition to modern sensibilities and sees itself as politically progressive and social-justice oriented while emphasizing personal choice in matters of ritual observance. **Major institutions:** Union for Reform Judaism, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institution of Religion, Religious Action Center, Central Conference of American Rabbis.

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