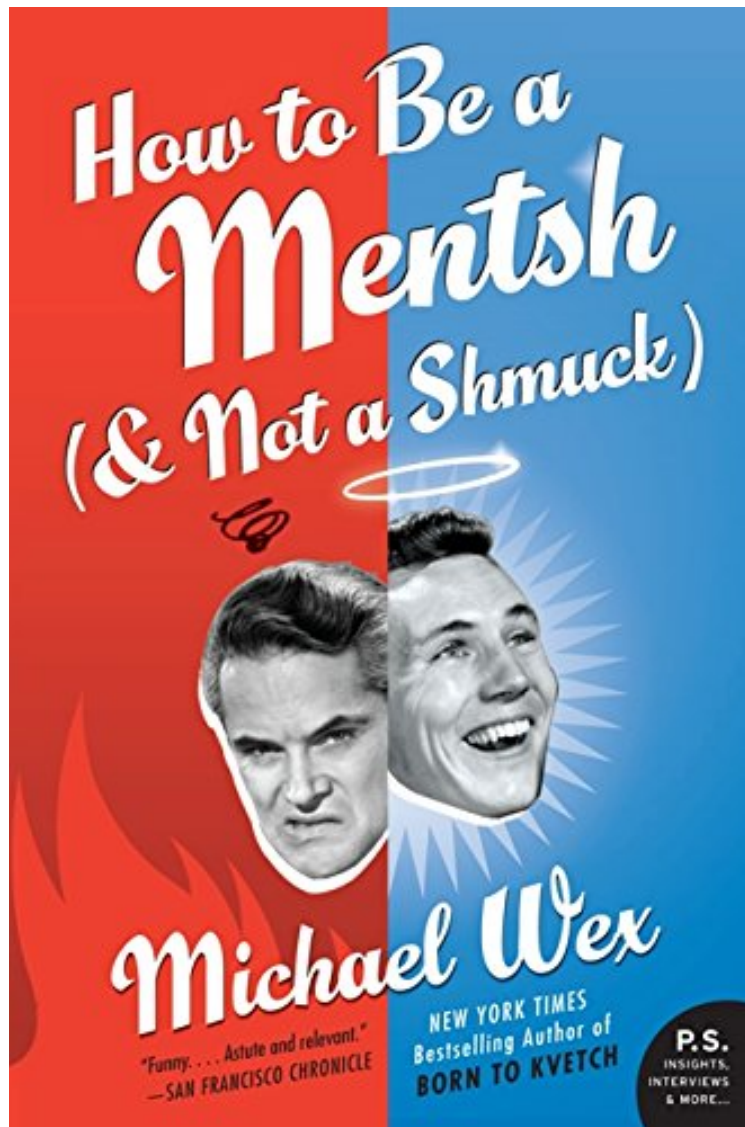


[Ebook pdf] How to Be a Mentsh (and Not a Shmuck)

## How to Be a Mentsh (and Not a Shmuck)

Michael Wex

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**Michael Wex : How to Be a Mentsh (and Not a Shmuck)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Be a Mentsh (and Not a Shmuck):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lessons for life By Ed in California Superb! the Groundhog Day movie analogy is appropriate. This book helps us realize how many opportunities we have to help others in everyday circumstances and thereby also help ourselves. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Would star better, but it's not complete! By Rod McHugh The book is missing nearly a hundred pages in the middle! Besides that, I love the book..., but now I'll never be a mentsh! Free the missing pages! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

You'll want to share this book  
By Joseph Spiegel  
This is one of the most influential books I've read in many years. I've already sent copies to friends and family and it is always a source of discussion when we're together.

Sure to resonate with Jewish and Gentile readers alike, *How to Be a Mentsh (and Not a Shmuck)* is a wise and witty self-help manual for pursuing happiness while still acting with integrity, honor, and compassion. Michael Wex, New York Times bestselling author of *Born to Kvetch* and *Just Say Nu*, draws on sources that range from the Talmud and Yiddish proverbs to contemporary music and movies in this insightful guide that explores not only human nature and psychology but our duties to ourselves and one another.

From Publishers Weekly  
Starred . Yes, the Yiddish words "shmuck" and (to a lesser extent) "mentsh" have entered the popular English lexicon, but few people in the general population have a more than cursory understanding of their meanings. Novelist, professor and performer Wex (*Born to Kvetch*) has an intimate knowledge of the Yiddish language and Jewish culture, and here explains both terms in the context of Jewish and non-Jewish life. Though its title might suggest a satirical self-help, Wex is a committed Yiddish revivalist, and this lesson in language and culture is rooted in a shocking degree of scholarship; happily, it's also blessed with humor, grace and a well-developed sense of contemporary pop culture (references range from Genesis to *Groundhog Day*). The end result is a consistent pleasure: entertaining, educational and only minimally pedantic, with more than a few thought-provoking suggestions for achieving mentsh-hood (or at least avoiding shmuck-itude). "Funny...astute and relevant." (*San Francisco Chronicle*) "...blessed with humor, grace and a well-developed sense of contemporary pop culture (references range from Genesis to *Groundhog Day*) ... a consistent pleasure: entertaining, educational...with more than a few thought-provoking suggestions for achieving mentsh-hood (or at least avoiding shmuck-itude)." (*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)) "The Sneaky Chef of contemporary Jewish culture...Wex writes books that look and read like snacks, but he hides scholarly vegetables between the covers...Wex has achieved on the bookshelf what Hillel advised that we all do in life: In a place where there are no mentshn, try to be a mentsh." (*Forward*) "Just superb....The book is funny, too, and is certainly the finest explanation of the religious significance of *The Apartment* and *Groundhog Day*. Talmud, Torah, Jack Lemmon, Bill Murray--need I say more?" (Mark Oppenheimer, author of *Thirteen and a Day: The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Across America*) "[A]n often humorous and frequently provocative guide to being a good person, a mentsh....This book reflects extensive learning, serious thought, a sense of the absurd and the unfair, as well as an impish willingness to play the mazik (scamp)." (*Jewish Book World*) "[S]uperb...brilliant...[O]ne of the leading lights in the Yiddish revival, Michael Wex distills the age-old principles that have been the nucleus of Jewish survival...into some relevant lessons, delightful anecdotes, and real-world applications for not just Judaism but all faiths." (*Sacramento Book*)  
From the Back Cover  
There are people out there, millions of them, who act as if they still believe everything their mothers told them in the first six months of their life—that they're the nicest, most beautiful, and most promising and intelligent bags of flesh ever to walk the earth. We call these people shmucks. In *How to Be a Mentsh (and Not a Shmuck)*, bestselling author Michael Wex offers a wise and witty guide to being a good human being, regardless of your religion or beliefs. Referencing pop culture, current events, and Jewish tradition with equal ease, Wex explores the strategies developed by an oppressed people to pursue happiness with their dignity—and sense of humor—intact.