



Kol Ishah

1. It is halachically forbidden for a man to hear the voice of an unrelated woman.

This is referred to as *kol b'ishah ervah*.

(Shulchan Aruch OC 75:3; EH 21:1)

The Parameters of the Prohibition

2. The prohibition for a man to hear a woman's voice applies when the voice is **enticing**, such as when she's singing. The *poskim* thus concur that the voice a woman uses in ordinary conversation is not included in this prohibition. (Still, one must remember not to speak excessively with her, as explained in previous emails.)

(Beis Yosef and Rema OC 75:2; Mishnah Berurah *ibid.*; Beis Shmuel EH 21:4)

3. In the event that a man will derive pleasure and/or have *hirhurim* (inappropriate thoughts) from hearing a woman speak, he may not listen to her voice even in a situation where it is generally permitted (e.g., ordinary conversation).

(Mishnah Berurah 75:18)