Halacha Yomit: Hilchot Seuda

**Birkat Hamotzi:**

**Halacha:** One who eats less than a *kazayit* (1 oz.) of regular bread, is required to say Birkat Hamotzi before eating, but no Beracha Aharona is said afterwards. Furthermore, one is not required to do Netilat Yadayim for such an amount.

**What constitutes “Regular Bread”?:**
Any of the 5 main grains - wheat, barley, oats, spelt, and rye – which are ground into flour, kneaded with water, & then baked constitute regular bread.

**Bakery Products:**
Introduction: There are certain foods that are made of the five grains, but not considered to be “regular bread” (*Pat Gamur*). The Gemara refers to them as *Pat Haba’ah Becisnin*.

**What is Pat Haba’ah Becisnin?**
1) Plain dough that’s shaped into a pocket, and filled with either honey, sugar, nuts, almonds or spices.

2) Dough that’s kneaded with honey, oil, milk, or egg, and the flavor of what’s added is noticeable.
**Example:** egg halla

3) Plain dough that’s baked to be crispy and dry.
**Example:** crackers

**Halacha:** The blessing on all of these products is Mezonot beforehand & Al Hamihya afterwards.

**Reasoning:** These products are not considered to be the staple of the meal (like regular bread), rather they are dessert-like items.

**Bakery Products Part 2:**

**Halacha:**
1) If one eats 216 grams (approx. 7 oz.) of these products or more, they must first perform Netilat Yadayim, and bless Hamotzi followed by Birkat Hamazon.
**Example:** If one intends to eat 7 oz. of pretzels or cake, they are obligated to perform Netilat Yadayim, bless Hamotzi & recite Birkat Hamazon after eating.

**Reasoning:**
Eating such a large amount of these products indicates that they are the staple of the meal (and hence become like regular bread). The Hebrew term for this is “*koebea senda*”- setting it as one’s meal.

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2) If one originally intended to eat a small amount of cake and said Mezonot, but they ended up eating 7 oz. of cake, they would have to say Birkat Hamazon, even though they initially said Mezonot on the cake.

**Donuts:**

**Halacha:** The above law only applies to dough which was baked in the oven. If however the dough was cooked or fried one says Mezonot regardless of how much they eat.

**Example:** One who eats a half dozen donuts still says Mezonot & Al Hamihya because the batter for the donuts is fried. The same applies to zingol or zalabya (for the Egyptians on the list)

**Reasoning:** If the dough isn’t baked it’s very unlike bread. Hence, it cannot be considered to be the ‘staple of the meal’.