In order for a תענית to have an effect, it must be accepted from the previous day. If not, it is not considered a תענית (excepting a אונית צבור which does not need a קבלה).

The תענית should at accepted by מנחה of the previous day, either by שומע תפילה or by יהיו לרצון before he takes three steps back. The יהיו לרצון should be by יהיו לרצון. Although the should preferably be made הרהור בלב, בפה is sufficient.

Although a עלות השחר (with the exception of with the exception of מום מום מום אלות מחר), once a person goes to sleep, it is considered as if he started the תענית thus forbidding him to eat if he arises in the middle of the night. If a תנאי was made, then he may eat if he arises early (it is advisable to always make a תנאי says that if a תנאי was not made, while eating is forbidden, drinking is מותר.

A person who has a very disturbing dream should make a תענית חלום. This is so even on שבת. However, he should fast again for having fasted on שבת.