

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #1

## Saying Hello in Hebrew

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- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 2 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

#1

# HEBREW

1. A: שלום.

2. B: שלום.

3. A: מה שלומך?

4. B: בסדר, תודה.

# ENGLISH

1. A: Hello.
2. B: Hello.
3. A: How are you?
4. B: Fine, thanks.

# ROMANIZATION

1. A: Shalom.
2. B: Shalom.
3. A: Ma Shlom'ha?
4. B: Beseder, todah.

# VOWELLED

CONT'D OVER

1. A: שלום.

2. B: שלום.

3. A: מה שלומך?

4. B: בסדר, תודה.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
שלום	shalom	Hello, goodbye or peace	noun	
מה	mah	what	expression	none
בסדר	beseder	fine or in order	adverb	none
תודה	todah	thanks	noun	
שלומך	shlom'ha	your peace or your condition		male

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

מתי יהיה שלום? <i>Mata'i yi'yeh shalom?</i> When will there be peace?	שלום לכל הילדים! <i>Shalom le-kol ha-yeladim!</i> Hello to all the children!
מה אתה שותה? <i>Mah atah shoteh?</i> What are you drinking? (male listener)	מה אתה עושה? <i>Mah atah oseh?</i> What are you doing? (male listener)

<p>מה אתה רוצה לשתות?</p> <p><i>ma ata rotzeh li-shtot?</i></p> <p>What do you want to drink? (male listener)</p>	<p>אני בסדר</p> <p>I'm fine.</p>
<p>המבחן היה בסדר.</p> <p><i>Ha-miv'han hayah be-seder.</i></p> <p>The test was fine.</p>	<p>תודה על המתנה!</p> <p><i>Todah al ha-matanah!</i></p> <p>Thanks for the gift!</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### שלום

*Shalom* can mean both "hello" and "good-bye" as well as "peace," depending on the context. When you talk about *shalom* in general, you are usually referring to "peace." When you use it to greet someone or say "good-bye" or use it in the context of saying *shalom*, it means "hello" or "good-bye."

### מה

*Mah* is the question word "what," and we use it like the English usage. It comes at the beginning of the sentence.

### בסדר

Although it looks like this phrase is made up of one word, it is actually two words long. There are many conjunctions that we use as prefixes in Hebrew. The *be-* on the beginning of *beseder* is exactly that, a conjunction attached to the word. In this case, *be-* means "in" and *seder* means "order." The phrase means "in order," but we can use it as "okay" or "fine" as well.

### שלומך

*Shlom'cha* means "your peace" in the masculine singular form. Refer to the grammar point for more information on this word.

### תודה

*Todah* means "thank you" or simply "thanks."

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking "How are you?" in Hebrew.

מה שלומך?

*Mah shom'cha?*

"How are you?"

This phrase is the most basic and formal way to ask someone how they are, but you don't need to use it only in formal situations. You can use this phrase with your family, friends, or colleagues.

### Using This Phrase for All Genders and Numbers

Hebrew often divides people into four main groups in dialogue: masculine singular, feminine singular, masculine plural, and feminine plural. In meaning "peace," followed by a , -שלום or "what" followed by מה this phrase, you have possessive ending. You are literally saying "What's your peace?" or "what's your condition?" What you are really saying is "How are you?" You put the appropriate ending on the last word according to who you are talking to. Here is the breakdown

"Your" Suffix	Suffix in Hebrew	Transliteration
Masculine singular	ךָ-	-cha
Feminine singular	ךְ-	-ech
Masculine plural	כם-	-chem
Feminine plural	כן-	-chen

You will see these endings repeated in other words and phrases as you learn more Hebrew. The feminine plural is seldom used in Israel anymore. Most often, Israelis opt to use the masculine plural for any group of people, whether male or female. The reason for this is that using the feminine plural is a very specific case where you have only women. If there is one man present, you must use the masculine plural.

Here are some examples with these second person possessive endings using the word for "uncle," דוד.

### For Example:

Gender	Hebrew	Transliteration	"English"
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Masculine	דוֹדְךָ	<i>Dod'kha</i>	"your (singular) uncle"
Feminine	דוֹדְךָ	<i>Dodekh</i>	"your (singular) uncle"
Masculine	דוֹדְכֶם	<i>Dod'khem</i>	"your (plural) uncle"
Feminine	דוֹדְכֶן	<i>Dod'khen</i>	"your (plural) uncle"

And now let's look at the breakdown with the example from our dialogue. In the dialogue, we heard "How are you?" in the masculine singular, because the speaker was speaking to a man. You need to change the ending of *shlom*- depending on who you are talking to. Here is the list of possibilities in the second person "you."

Gender	Hebrew	Transliteration	"English"
Masculine	מה שלומך?	<i>Mah shlom'kha?</i>	"How are you?" (singular)
Feminine	מה שלומך?	<i>Mah shlomekh?</i>	"How are you?" (singular)
Masculine	מה שלומכם?	<i>Mah shlom'chem?</i>	"How are you?" (plural)
Feminine	מה שלומכן?	<i>Mah shlom'chen?</i>	"How are you?" (plural)

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### What to Expect on the Job in Israel

The work culture in Israel is different from other cultures you may be familiar with. Work is relationship oriented in Israel, which means that having a warm, open, and friendly workplace is more important than efficiency or strict deadlines. Since the workplace is such an open place, friendships in the workplace are common. Unlike other countries where work and personal life are separate, in Israel the two often overlap. Colleagues will meet together

during their work breaks and talk about their personal lives. Work relationships frequently extend to life outside of the workplace as well, with colleagues meeting for dinner or drinks after work. Discussions about your personal life in the workplace may be uncomfortable for some, but for Israelis it's normal. Conversations may even extend to how much rent you pay or how much debt you owe to the bank. This open and blunt atmosphere may be new for you, but if you take the time to get to know your co-workers, they will appreciate it.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #2

## Introducing Yourself in Hebrew

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# 2



# HEBREW

1. A: שלום, קוראים לי טל.

2. B: שלום, אני יעל.

3. A: נעים מאוד.

4. B: נעים מאוד גם לי.

# ENGLISH

1. A: Hello, I'm called Tal.

2. B: Hello, I'm Yael.

3. A: Nice to meet you!

4. B: Nice to meet you too!

# ROMANIZATION

1. A: Shalom, kor'im li Tal.

2. B: Shalom, ani Ya'el.

3. A: Na'im me'od.

4. B: Na'im me'od gam li.

# VOWELLED

CONT'D OVER

1. A: שלום, קוראים לי טל.

2. B: שלום, אני יעל.

3. A: נעים מאוד.

4. B: נעים מאוד גם לי.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
לקרא/קרא	li-kro/kara	to call/called	verb	
לי	li	to me, for me	preposition + pronoun	
אני	ani	I	pronoun	none
נעים	na'im	nice, pleasant (masc.)	adjective	masculine
מאוד	me'od	very	adverb	none
גם	gam	also	preposition	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

קוראים לו דויד. <i>Kor'im lo David.</i> His name is David	תני לי את התיק שלך. <i>T'ni li et ha-tik shelakh.</i> Give me your bag. (feminine)
אני מאמריקה. <i>Ani me'america.</i> I am from America.	אני ישן. <i>ani yashen.</i> I'm sleeping (male speaker)

<p>היה נעים.  <i>Hayah nayim.</i>          It was pleasant.</p>	<p>אני אוהב אותך.  <i>ani ohev otakh.</i>          I love you (male speaker to female listener)</p>
<p>גם אני אוהב קפה!  <i>Gam ani ohev kafeh!</i>          I also love coffee!</p>	<p>היום מאוד חם.  <i>ha-yom cham me'od.</i>          Today is very hot.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### לקרָא

*Li-kro* means "to call." We can use it "to call out" for someone or "to call" someone by his or her name. You can also "call" someone a name, a nasty name, or a pet name.

### לִי

*Li* means "to me" or "for me." This word is the combination of a prefix and a suffix. The prefix -/ (ל-) means "to" or "for" and the suffix -i (-י) means "me."

### נָעים

*Na'im* means "nice" or "pleasant." You can use this word to describe anything from the weather to someone that you meet.

### מְאֹד

*Me'od* means "very." It often comes after the word that it modifies.

### גַּם

*Gam* means "also," and we use it like both the English "also" and "too."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Introducing Yourself in Hebrew.**

קוראים לי...  
 קוראים לי...

*Kor'im li...*

## "I'm called..."

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This phrase is the most common way to introduce yourself in Hebrew. You use this phrase the first time you meet someone or if someone forgets your name and you need to remind him or her what it is.

We use this exact phrase for both masculine and feminine speakers without a change in the verb. The reason it doesn't change with the gender of the speaker is because this is a special "impersonal" sentence that doesn't require a subject. When sentences do not have a subject in Hebrew, we state the verb in the masculine plural form. Although the meaning of this phrase is "I'm called...", the literal translation is "(they) call to me..." In Hebrew, when you want to talk about something that people do in general or always, you use the masculine plural form of the verb, and you drop the subject "they." The English equivalent of this phrase would be "one calls me..." or the passive phrase "I am called..." Korim is followed by *li* or "to me" and then your name.

### Example from the Dialogue

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- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1.   | קוראים לי טל.<br>קוראים לי טל. |
| <i>Kor'im li Tal.</i><br>"I'm called Tal." |                                |

### Sample Sentences

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- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1.  | קוראים לי רותם.<br>קוראים לי רותם. |
| <i>Kor'im li Rotem.</i><br>"I'm called Rotem."      |                                    |
| 2.  | קוראים לי מותק.<br>קוראים לי מותק. |
| <i>Kor'im li motek.</i><br>"I'm called sweetheart." |                                    |

### Other Examples of How to Use Impersonal Sentences

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Let's go further with this concept of impersonal sentences with some examples. Remember that when you use this sentence structure, you are talking about something that people do in general.

1. קונים הרבה חמוס בישראל.  
קוֹנִים הַרְבֵּה חוּמוֹס בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל.  
*Konim har'beh humus be-yis'ra'el.*
2. ("People" or "they") buy a lot of hummus in Israel.  
חייבים ללכת לבית ספר.  
חַיִּיבִים לִלְכֹּת לְבֵית סֵפֶר.  
*Chayavim la-lekhet le-be'it sefer.*  
"(One) must go to school."
3. יודעים לדבר באנגלית.  
יֹדְעִים לְדַבֵּר בְּאִנְגְּלִית.  
*Yod'im le-daber be-anglit.*
4. "(They) know to speak in English."

## Another Way to Introduce Yourself

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אני.../אני... (Ani...), meaning "I"

Another way to introduce yourself is to use the phrase "I am..." We used this phrase in the second line of the dialogue. This phrase is very easy in Hebrew. You begin with the word for "I," *ani*, and you follow it with your name. You may notice that there is no word here for "am." In Hebrew, the verb "to be" is not present in sentences in the present tense; it is implied. So when you say "I" in Hebrew, the "am" is implied.

## Example from the Dialogue

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1. אני יעל.  
אֲנִי יַעֲלִי.  
*Ani Ya'el.*  
"I'm Ya'el."

## Sample Sentences

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1.

אני דנה.

אֲנִי דָנָה.

*Ani Dana.*

"I'm Dana."

2.

אני יוסף.

אֲנִי יוֹסֵף.

*Ani Yosef.*

"I'm Joseph."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### What Cacti and Israelis Have in Common

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Israelis are very open and friendly people in general. However, they do have their rougher side, which is why Israelis are often compared to a "prickly pear," or *sabra*. The term *sabra* has come to describe someone who was born and raised in Israel. The sabra plant is a cactus that is common in Israel with thick skin and a soft, sweet inside. It has come to be an appropriate description of native Israelis who are definitely tough on the outside but much softer on the inside. When you are out on the streets in Israel, it may seem like Israelis are irritable and loud. They definitely stand up for themselves and are not afraid to go after exactly what they want. But when you get to know Israelis on a personal level, they are very open, friendly, and even sweet.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #3

## Showing Appreciation in Hebrew

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# 3

# HEBREW

1. A: ברוך הבא, כנס בבקשה.
2. B: תודה! הנה מתנה קטנה ממני. בבקשה.
3. A: תודה רבה!
4. B: בבקשה.

# ENGLISH

1. A: Welcome, come in please.
2. B: Thank you! Here is a small gift from me. Please.
3. A: Many thanks!
4. B: You're welcome.

# ROMANIZATION

1. A: Barukh ha-ba, kanes be-vakashah.
2. B: Todah! Hineh matanah k'tanah mimeni. Be-vakashah.
3. A: Todah rabah!
4. B: Be-vakashah.

# VOWELLED

CONT'D OVER



1. A: ברוך הבא, כנס בבקשה.

2. B: תודה! הנה מתנה קטנה ממני. בבקשה.

3. A: תודה רבה!

4. B: בבקשה.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
הנה	hineh	here	adverb	
מתנה	matanah	present	noun	feminine
קטנה	k'tanah	small	adjective	feminine
ממני	mimeni	from me	preposition + pronoun	
רבה	rabah	many	adjective	feminine
ברוך	baruch	blessed	adjective	masculine
הבא	ha-ba	the arriver	verbal noun	masculine
בבקשה	be-vakashah	you're welcome	adverb	
בבקשה	bevakasha	please	noun	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

הנה המידע מהפגישה. <i>Hineh ha-me'ida me-ha-p'gishah.</i> Here is the information from the meeting.	הנה התיק שלך. (feminine) <i>Hineh ha-tik shelakh.</i> Here is your bag. (feminine)
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<p>זו מתנה נפלאה. <i>Zo matanah nifla'ah.</i></p> <p>This is a wonderful gift.</p>	<p>תודה על המתנה! <i>Todah al ha-matanah!</i></p> <p>Thanks for the gift!</p>
<p>היא חתולה קטנה. <i>Hi hatulah k'tanah.</i></p> <p>She's a small cat.</p>	<p>זה משהו קטן ממני. <i>Zeh mashehu katan mimeni.</i></p> <p>It's something small from me.</p>
<p>תודה רבה שבאתם. <i>Todah rabah she-batem.</i></p> <p>Many thanks that you came.</p>	<p>ברוך הבא לבית שלנו. <i>Barukh ha-ba la-bayit shelanu.</i></p> <p>Welcome to our house.</p>
<p>ברוך הבא לבית שלנו. <i>Barukh ha-ba la-bayit shelanu.</i></p> <p>Welcome to our house.</p>	<p>בבקשה. <i>be-vakasha.</i></p> <p>You're welcome.</p>
<p>אפשר לחזור על השם שלך בבקשה? <i>Efshar lachazor al ha-shem shelakh be-vakeshah?</i></p> <p>Can you repeat your name, please? (feminine)</p>	<p>גלידה אחת בבקשה. <i>glidah achat be-vakashah.</i></p> <p>One ice cream, please.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ברוך

*Barukh* means "blessed" and we use it as part of the traditional blessing used to greet people and say "welcome."

### הבא

*Ha-ba* means "the arriver" or "the one that comes." This word is the second part of the traditional welcome blessing.

### בבקשה

*Be-vakashah* is the word for both "please" and "you're welcome." You can also use it when offering something to someone, as in "be my guest." It is made up of a prepositional prefix, *be-*, which means "at," "in," or "with," and *vakeshah*. *Vakeshah* means "request," so together they would literally be translated as "with request."

## קטנה

*K'tanah* is the adjective for "small." This is the feminine singular form. Here are all four forms of this word.

Singular			Plural		
Masculine	קטן	קטן <i>Katan</i>	קטנים	קטנים <i>K'tanim</i>	
Feminine	קטנה	קטנה <i>K'tanah</i>	קטנות	קטנות <i>K'tanot</i>	

## רבה

*Rabah* means "many" or "much," and it is the feminine form of the adjective. Here is a table of all four forms of this adjective:

Singular			Plural		
Masculine	רב	רב <i>rav</i>	רבים	רבים <i>rabim</i>	
Feminine	רבה	רבה <i>rabah</i>	רבות	רבות <i>rabot</i>	

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Showing Appreciation in Hebrew.

תודה רבה.

תודה רבה.

*Todah rabah.*  
"Many thanks."

You will hear and use this phrase a lot in Hebrew. It means "many thanks." In this phrase, you have a noun, *todah*, and an adjective, *rabah*. In Hebrew, there must be agreement between a noun and an adjective in a sentence. Nouns come in four different types: masculine, feminine, masculine plural, and feminine plural. Therefore, adjectives also come in four forms. In order to make sure that your noun and adjective agree, you must first find out which

of the four types of noun your noun is. In the case of the phrase *todah rabah*, the noun is feminine. This means that the adjective, *rabah*, must also be feminine. Here is our chart for this adjective again:

Singular			Plural		
Masculine	רב	רַב <i>rav</i>	רבים	רַבִּים <i>rabim</i>	
Feminine	רבה	רַבָּה <i>rabah</i>	רבות	רַבּוֹת <i>rabot</i>	

Here are examples of the adjective רב with four different types of nouns:

a. Masculine singular:

כאב רב

כְּאֵב רַב

*Ke'ev rav*

"much pain"

b. Feminine singular:

אהבה רבה

אַהֲבָה רַבָּה

*Ahavah rabah*

"much love"

c. Masculine plural:

כלבים רבים

כְּלָבִים רַבִּים

*K'lavim rabim*

"many dogs"

d. Feminine plural:

*Yeladot rabot*

"many girls"

You may have noticed that the adjective placement comes after the noun. This is different from English where the adjective comes before the noun.

### בבקשה בבקשה ("Be-vakashah) "Please"/"You're Welcome)

The response to *todah rabah* is *be-vakashah*. This means both "please" and "you're welcome." It can also mean "be my guest" when you are offering someone something. Here are examples of three ways to use *be-vakashah*:

#### For Example:

1.

אפשר לשבת בבקשה?  
אפשר לשבת בבקשה?

*Efshar la-shevet be-vakashah.*

"Is it possible to sit, please?"

2.

אין בעיה, בבקשה.  
אין בעיה, בבקשה.

*Ein be'ayah, be-vakashah.*

"No problem, you're welcome."

3.

הנה בבקשה.  
הנה בבקשה.

*Hineh, be-vakashah.*

"Here, be my guest."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### A Gift for the Host

When you are invited over to someone's house to visit, it is customary to bring a small gift

along. Traditionally, this is sweets, wine, or flowers. In Israel, you must be careful when your host keeps kosher that you are bringing something that is appropriately kosher for them. The safest gift in this case is flowers. You will see people standing on the side of the road on Fridays selling flowers just for this purpose. If you forget to buy something beforehand, you can always stop on your way.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #4

## Being Sorry in Hebrew

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# 4

# HEBREW

1. A: אווווה! אהההה... סליחה!

2. B: מה?

3. A: כף הרגל שלי...

4. B: אוה... סליחה!

# ENGLISH

1. A: Ouch! Ummm...excuse me!

2. B: What?

3. A: My foot...

4. B: Oh... I'm sorry!

# ROMANIZATION

1. A: Ow! Ehhh... sliḥah!

2. B: Mah?

3. A: Kaf Ha-regel sheli...

4. B: Oh... sliḥah!

# VOWELLED

CONT'D OVER



1. A: אווווה! אהההה... סליחה!

2. B: מה?

3. A: כף הרגל שלי...

4. B: אה... סליחה!

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
שלי	sheli	my, mine	preposition + pronoun	none
סליחה	sliḥah	I'm sorry. (informal)/ Excuse me.	noun	feminine
ה-	Ha-	the	definite article	none
כף רגל	kaf regel	foot	noun	feminine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

זה שלי <i>zeh sheli</i> It's mine.	איפה התיק שלי? <i>Eifo ha-tik sheli?</i> Where is my bag?
סליחה, מה השעה? <i>slichah, ma ha-sha'a?</i> Excuse me, what's the time?	סליחה, אני מאחר. <i>slichah ani me'acher.</i> I'm sorry, I'm late.

<p>סליחה על האיחור.</p> <p><i>slichā al ha-ichur.</i></p> <p>Excuse me/sorry for being late.</p>	<p>הכלב רץ.</p> <p><i>Ha-kelev ratz.</i></p> <p>The dog is running.</p>
<p>כואבת לי כף הרגל.</p> <p><i>Kolevet li kaf ha-regel.</i></p> <p>My foot hurts.</p>	<p>לכף הרגל יש חמש אצבעות</p> <p><i>le-caf ha-regel yesh chamesh etsbaot</i></p> <p>A foot has five toes.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### סליחה

*Sliḥah* means both "excuse me" and "sorry" in Hebrew.

### ה-

*Ha* is the definite article "the" in Hebrew. We use it as a prefix, adding it to the beginning of a word. We also use it with adjectives that modify a noun.

### כף רגל

*Kaf regel* is "foot" in Hebrew.

### שלי

*Sheli* means "my." It is made up of two parts: של (*shel*) and י (*i*). *Shel* means "of," and *i* means "me." The literal translation is "of me."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Apologizing and Showing Possession in Hebrew.**

סליחה.

סליחה.

***Sliḥah.***

**"Sorry."/"Excuse me."**

The word סליחה covers two different English words in our dialogue: both "excuse me" and "sorry." The literal meaning of the word

is "forgiveness." It's a very simple word because it doesn't change form according to *סליחה* who is talking or whom you are talking to. It is always *sliḥah*. Both in our sample sentences and in our dialogue for this lesson, we provided examples of both ways we use this word

## Showing Possession: שלי שלי (Sheli) "My"/"Mine"

In Hebrew, there are two ways in which to show possession. The way we presented it in our dialogue is the simplest way to show possession, which is in a possessive phrase. You use the word *shel*, or "of," and add the suffix according to the pronoun. You can also use the word *shel* with a name after it, like *shel David*. This phrase follows the noun in the sentence. Here is a chart of all the possible options:

Pronoun	Singular		Romanization
"my"/ "mine"	שלי	שְׁלִי	<i>sheli</i>
"your"/ "yours" (masculine)	שלך	שְׁלֶךָ	<i>shel'kha</i>
"your" /"yours" (femi nine)	שלך	שְׁלֶךָ	<i>shelakh</i>
"his"	שלו	שְׁלוֹ	<i>shelo</i>
"hers"	שלה	שְׁלָהּ	<i>shelah</i>
Pronoun	Plural		Romanization
"ours"	שלנו	שְׁלָנוּ	<i>shelanu</i>
"your"/ "yours" (masculine)	שלכם	שְׁלָכֶם	<i>shelakhem</i>
"your"/ "yours" (feminine)	שלכן	שְׁלַכְן	<i>shelakhen</i>
"their"/ "theirs" (masculine)	שלם	שְׁלָהֶם	<i>shelahem</i>
"their"/ "theirs" (feminine)	שלן	שְׁלָהֶן	<i>shelahen</i>

## For Example:

- |    |  |                               |
|----|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. | <i>ha-bayit sheli</i><br>"my house"                          | הבית שלי<br>הַבֵּית שְׁלִי    |
| 2. | <i>ha-bayit shel'kha</i><br>"your (masculine) house"         | הבית שלך<br>הַבֵּית שְׁלָךְ   |
| 3. | <i>ha-bayit shelakh</i><br>"your (feminine) house"           | הבית שלך<br>הַבֵּית שְׁלָךְ   |
| 4. | <i>ha-bayit shelo</i><br>"his house"                         | הבית שלו<br>הַבֵּית שְׁלוֹ    |
| 5. | <i>ha-bayit shelah</i><br>"her house"                        | הבית שלה<br>הַבֵּית שְׁלָהּ   |
| 6. | <i>ha-bayit shelanu</i><br>"our house"                       | הבית שלנו<br>הַבֵּית שְׁלָנוּ |
| 7. | <i>ha-bayit shelakhem</i><br>"your (masculine plural) house" | הבית שלכם<br>הַבֵּית שְׁלָכֶם |

8.

הבית שלכן  
הבֵּית שֶׁלְכֶן

*ha-bayit shelakhen*

"your (feminine plural) house"

9.

הבית שלהם  
הבֵּית שֶׁלָהֶם

*ha-bayit shelahem*

"their (masculine) house"

10.

הבית שלהן  
הבֵּית שֶׁלָהֶן

*ha-bayit shelahen*

"their (feminine) house"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Directness and Honesty in Israel

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One thing you never have to worry about in Israel is figuratively stepping on someone's toes. Israelis are very direct. If they have a problem with something that you are doing, they will tell you about it. They will also just walk up to a stranger to give them advice about something they are doing or how they are dressed. This is especially true when you have children. Israelis love to tell you how you should dress your children if they aren't dressed the way that they think they should be. You see this directness also in their speech. There isn't a game of politeness in Hebrew. Most often Israelis will forgo polite expressions in favor of more direct and clear phrases without flowery words.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #5

## Can You Take my Order in Hebrew?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 7 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# 5

# HEBREW

1. A: ערב טוב.

2. B: שלום, אפשר לקבל תפריט?

3. A: ודאי

4. B: סליחה, אפשר כוס מים, בבקשה?

5. A: מיד.

6. B: סליחה, אפשר להזמין?

7. A: כן.

# ENGLISH

1. A: Good evening.
2. B: Hello, is it possible to get a menu?
3. A: Certainly.
4. B: Excuse me, can I have a glass of water?
5. A: Right away.
6. B: Excuse me, is it possible to order?
7. A: Yes.

# ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Erev Tov.
2. B: Shalom, ef'shar lekabel tafrit?
3. A: Vada'i
4. B: Sliḥah' ef'shar kos mayim, be-vakashah?
5. A: Mi-yad.
6. B: Sliḥah, ef'shar lehaz'min?
7. A: Ken.

## VOWELLED

.1 A:

עָרֵב טוֹב.

.2 B:

שָׁלוֹם, אֶפְשָׁר לְקַבֵּל תַּפְרִית?

.3 A:

וָדָאִי

.4 B:

סְלִיחָה, אֶפְשָׁר כּוֹס מַיִם, בְּבִקְשָׁה?

.5 A:

מִיָּד.

.6 B:

סְלִיחָה, אֶפְשָׁר לְהַזְמִין?

.7 A:

כֵּן.

## VOCABULARY



Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
ערב	erev	evening	noun	masculine
טוב	tov	good	adjective	masculine
מים	mayim	water	noun	masculine
להזמין/הזמין	Le-haz'min/ hiz'min	to order	verb	
מיד	miyad	right away	adverb	
אפשר	ef'shar	possible, is it possible	adverb	
קיבל	kibel	to receive	verb	
תפריט	tafrit	menu	noun	masculine
ודאי	Vada'i	certainly	adverb	
כוס	kos	glass	noun	feminine
כן	ken	yes	expression	none

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>אני אוהב לטייל בערב.</p> <p><i>Ani ohev letayel ba-erev.</i></p> <p>I love to walk in the evenings.</p>	<p>לאן נלך הערב?</p> <p>Where should we go this evening?</p>
<p>הוא איש טוב.</p> <p><i>Hu ish tov.</i></p> <p>He's a good man.</p>	<p>האם הדיסק טוב?</p> <p><i>ha-im ha-disc tov?</i></p> <p>Is the CD good?</p>
<p>יש מים חמים באמבטיה.</p> <p><i>Yesh mayim hamim ba-ambati'a.</i></p> <p>There is hot water in the bathtub.</p>	<p>חשוב לשתות הרבה מים.</p> <p><i>Hashuv lishtot harbe maim.</i></p> <p>It's important to drink a lot of water.</p>



<b>Feminine</b>						
<b>e</b>	טובה	טובה	<i>tohav</i>	טובות	טובות	<i>Tov</i>

We can also use the word *tov* to mean "okay," and we only use the masculine, singular form for this.

## אפשר

*Efshar* means "possible," and we can use it in a few different ways. Many times, people use it as a polite way to ask for something. We can also use it to state a possibility. Here examples of these two uses.

### For Example:

#### 1. Polite question:

אפשר לקבל כוס מים?

אפשר לקבל כוס מים?

*Efshar le-kabel kos mayim?*

"Is it possible to get a glass of water?"

#### 2. Stating a possibility:

אפשר ללכת לים.

אפשר ללכת לים.

*Efshar la-lechet la-yam.*

"It's possible to go to the sea."

## לקבל

*Le-kabel* is the infinitive form of "to receive" or "to get."

## ודאי

*Vada'i* means "certainly" or "sure."

## מיד

*Mi-yad* means "right away" or "immediately."

להזמין

*Le-haz'min* is the infinitive form of "to order" or "to invite."

כן

*Ken* means "yes." We can also use it to emphasize a point.

**For Example:**

1. אני כן רוצה להבין אותך

אני כן רוצה להבין אותך

*Ani ken rotzeh le-havin ot'cha.*

"I do want to understand you."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking for Something Politely in Hebrew.**

אפשר לקבל תפריט

אפשר לקבל תפריט

*Ef'shar le-kabel tafrit?*

"Is it possible to get a menu?"

When asking for something in Hebrew, the polite way to ask for it is to use the word אפשר plus an infinitive. You would use this form in restaurants, businesses, or at the home of someone you don't know well.

**For Example:**

1.

אפשר לעבור לשולחן אחר

אפשר לעבור לשולחן אחר

*Ef'shar la-avor le-shul'chan acher?*

"Is it possible to move to another table?"

As we demonstrated in the dialogue, it is also possible to use this without an infinitive verb, if you want to ask for a specific item.

## For Example:

1.

אפשר כוס מים?

אֶפְשָׁר כּוֹס מַיִם

*Efshar kos mayim?*

"Is it possible (to get) a glass of water?"

2.

אפשר מלח?

אֶפְשָׁר מֶלַח

*Efshar melach?*

"Is it possible (to get) some salt?"

In all these sentences, there is no word for the verb "to be," even though we translated it with it. This is because in Hebrew the verb "to be" is implied in the present tense. Don't worry if at first it feels like you are missing a word: you aren't. It is perfectly natural to feel like you are lacking something until you get used to the feel of the language.

## Expressing the Affirmative: כן, ודאי, and מיד

In the dialogue, we used three words to express an affirmative answer: *vada'i*, *miyad*, and *ken*. The most basic of all of these words is כן, meaning "yes." If the situation calls for a more positive answer, you can use ודאי or "certainly." If there is an urgency in the situation and you want to express your willingness to do something quickly, you can use the word מיד or "immediately."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### What's That Clucking Sound?

One thing that you will notice when you go to Israel is that Israelis will often use a cluck of their tongues, like a "tsk," to answer "no." You can also use the Hebrew word לא (*lo*), but we use the "tsk" almost as much. This is especially true in situations that don't require any explanation with the "no."

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #6

## Catching up With an Old Friend in Israel

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 2 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 6

## HEBREW

1. DAVID: הי, פטר?

2. PETER: דוויד, כבר עבר הרבה זמן!

3. DAVID: נכון, הרבה זמן לא התראינו!

## ENGLISH

1. DAVID: Hey, Peter?

2. PETER: David, it's been a while!

3. DAVID: True, long time no see!

## ROMANIZATION

1. DAVID: Hey, Peter?

2. PETER: David, k'var avar harbeh z'man!

3. DAVID: Nakhon, harbeh z'man lo hit'ra'enu.

## VOWELLED

1. DAVID: הי, פֶּטֶר?

2. PETER: דְּווִיד, כְּבָר עָבַר הַרְבֵּה זְמַן!

CONT'D OVER

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
להתראות/ התראה	Le-hitra'ot/ hit'ra'ah	see one another	verb	
כבר	K'var	already, yet	adverb	
לעבור/עבר	La-avor/avar	to pass, to move	verb	
הרבה	Har'beh	many, much	adverb	
זמן	zman	time	noun	masculine
נכון	nakhon	correct, true	adjective	masculine
לא	lo	not, no	adverb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>מתי נתראה?</p> <p><i>Mata'i nitra'eh?</i></p> <p>When will we see each other?</p>	<p>אני כבר רואה אותה.</p> <p><i>Ani k'var ro'eh otah.</i></p> <p>I already see her.</p>
<p>הוא עובר את הגשר.</p> <p><i>Hu over et ha-gesher.</i></p> <p>He's passing the bridge.</p>	<p>יש לי הרבה בגדים.</p> <p><i>Yesh li harbeh b'gadim.</i></p> <p>I have many clothes.</p>
<p>כמה זמן יש לך?</p> <p><i>kama zman yesh lecha?</i></p> <p>How much time do you have?</p>	<p>נכון שאתה מהנדס?</p> <p><i>Nakhon she-atah mehandes?</i></p> <p>Is it true that you are an engineer?</p>



<p>אני לא רוצה לשתות.</p> <p><i>Ani lo rotzeh lish'tot.</i></p> <p>I don't want to drink.</p>	<p>אני לא ישראלית.</p> <p><i>Ani lo yisra'elit.</i></p> <p>I'm not Israeli. (feminine)</p>
<p>אני לא ישראלי.</p> <p><i>Ani lo yisra'eli.</i></p> <p>I'm not Israeli. (masculine)</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### לְעָבוֹר

*La-avor* is the infinitive form of "to pass" or "to move." We used the masculine singular form in our dialogue in the past tense, which is עָבַר (*avar*) or "has passed" in English.

### הַרְבֵּה

*Harbeh* means "many" or "much." As opposed to the adjective רַב (*rav*), which comes from the same root, this word comes before the noun it describes.

### זְמַן

*Z'man* means "time." We use it to describe "time" as a concept of hours, days, months, or years but not the time of day. When talking about the time of day, you would use the word for "hour," שָׁעָה.

### נָכוֹן

*Nachon* means "correct" or "true." We also use it when talking about whether something is true or false: נָכוֹן אוֹ לֹא נָכוֹן. This is "true" or "not true" in Hebrew.

### לֹא

*Lo* means both "no" and "not" in Hebrew. We use it when answering a yes or no question. We also use it to negate a sentence, while we would use the word "not" in English.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Catching Up with an Old Friend in Hebrew.**

*K'var avar harbeh z'man.*

"It's been a while."

Although we translated this phrase as "it's been a while," this is the figurative translation. The literal translation is "much time has passed already." The word order in this sentence is a little out of the ordinary, with כבר, meaning "already" beginning the sentence and the subject, זמן, meaning "time," ending the sentence. The full sentence, translated word for word, would be "already passed much time."

### For Example:

1.

הרבה זמן לא התראנו.

הרבה זמן לא התראנו.

*Harbeh z'man lo hit'ra'enu.*

"Long time no see."

In Hebrew, there is no common saying like "long time, no see." This sentence actually means "We haven't seen each other for a long time." The structure of this sentence is also a bit different from what we have seen in our lessons thus far.

First of all, the verb used in this sentence, להתראות, is a reflexive verb, meaning "to see one another." In Hebrew, there are seven different בנינים, meaning "buildings," or forms of verbs. Reflexive verbs are in one of these "buildings." You will recognize this group of verbs by the ה-ה, meaning "hit," at the beginning of the verb.

Second of all, the verb is in the past tense, which means that the subject related to the verb is seen as a suffix attached to the verb stem. This is the -נו at the end of התראנו, which is the suffix used for the pronoun "we." Because the subject is attached to the verb as a suffix, you don't need to add the pronoun in the place of the subject.

The word order is a little different from the English in this sentence as well. The direct translation in the Hebrew word order would be "much time didn't we see each other." The reason that the word order is so different from English is because the way that the words are built in Hebrew determines the relationship of the words, not the word order. Therefore, word order in Hebrew is much more flexible. For this reason, it is important to listen to native speakers speak to get a better idea of how sentences are structured and sound natural. The flexibility in the word order in Hebrew, allows the speaker to easily stress a certain word or idea by putting it at the beginning of the sentence. In the case of our dialogue, the idea that it

has been a long time since the speakers have seen each other is emphasized and can easily lead the sentence since there isn't a strict rule for word order.

The last thing that should be pointed out about this sentence is the use of לא (/lo). Here, we used /lo to negate the sentence "we didn't see each other for a long time." In English, this would be expressed as "did not," but in Hebrew you only need /lo להתראנו ס' הרבה זמן לא.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Why You Should Leave Early for the Israeli Airport

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Ben Gurion Airport, outside of Tel Aviv, is considered by many to be one of the most secure airports in the world. It is considered to be the best airport in the Middle East and second best in the world for its size and the number of passengers it handles each year. The airport continues to be secure for several reasons. First of all, to get into the airport, you must pass through a security gate where armed guards look into your car and ask simple questions about where you are going. Once you are parked and ready to enter the building, you must pass another armed guard to get into the building. If you look suspicious to him, he will ask you to stop and go through a metal detector or possibly scan your bags on the spot. Once you are inside, you must go through several levels of security checks to get to your flight. First, you are interviewed, which can take one minute or as much as an hour if they believe you could be a threat, and then your checked bags are scanned unless you are considered very low risk. You then go through an additional security check yet once again before going through passport control. There are uniformed and undercover security officers all throughout the airport who are there to protect you as well. If they are suspicious of you, they may strike up a conversation with you to see what you are up to. There are also hidden cameras that scan the airport inside and outside at all times.

When you are flying to Ben Gurion airport, you will probably be put through additional security checks at your gate. Although these checks are thorough, they are many times not as thorough as the security checks for people flying out of Israel.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #7

## Can you tell me what this is in Hebrew?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 2 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

#7

# HEBREW

1. DAVID: פטר, זאת אישתי שרה.
2. PETER: שרה? שלום, אני פטר.
3. SARAH: שלום פטר, אתה חבר וקולגה של דוויד, נכון? נעים מאוד!
4. PETER: כן, נעים להכיר סוף-סוף.

# ENGLISH

1. DAVID: Peter, this is my wife, Sarah.
2. PETER: Sarah? Hello, I'm Peter.
3. SARAH: Hello, Peter, you are a friend and colleague of David, right? Nice to meet you.
4. PETER: Yes, nice to finally meet you.

# ROMANIZATION

1. DAVID: Peter, zot ish'ti Sarah.
2. PETER: Sarah? Shalom, ani Peter.
3. SARAH: Shalom Peter, atah haver ve-kolegah shel David, na'hon? Na'im me'od!
4. PETER: Ken, na'im le-hakir sof-sof.

# VOWELLED

CONT'D OVER

1. DAVID: פֶּטֶר, זֹאת אִשְׁתִּי שָׂרָה.
2. PETER: שָׂרָה? שְׁלוֹם, אֲנִי פֶּטֶר.
3. SARAH: שְׁלוֹם פֶּטֶר, אַתָּה חֵבֵר וְקוֹלָגָה שֶׁל דָּוִיד, נָכוֹן? נָעִים מְאֹד!
4. PETER: כֵּן, נָעִים לְהַכִּיר סוֹף-סוֹף.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
סוף-סוף	sof-sof	finally	adverb	
להכיר	le-hakir	know, acquaint	verb	
זאת	zot	this, that, it	pronoun	feminine
אִשְׁתִּי	Ish'ti	my wife	noun + possessive pronoun	feminine
של	shel	of (shows possession)	preposition	none
אני	ani	I	pronoun	none
אתה	atah	you (masculine)	pronoun	masculine
חבר	chaver	friend	noun	masculine
ו	ve/u/va	and	conjunction	
קולגה	kolegah	colleague	noun	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>סוף סוף למדנו לאהוב אחד את השני. <i>Sof-sof lamad'nu le-ehov ehad et ha-sheni.</i></p> <p>We finally learned to love one another.</p>	<p>סוף סוף סיימתי בית ספר. <i>Sof-sof siyam'ti be'it sefer.</i></p> <p>I finally finished school (graduated).</p>
<p>סוף-סוף עברתי את המבחן! <i>Sof-sof avar'ti et ha-miv'han.</i></p> <p>I finally passed the exam.</p>	<p>אני מכיר אותה. <i>Ani makir otah.</i></p> <p>I know her.</p>
<p>זאת החברה שלי. <i>Zot ha-haverah sheli.</i></p> <p>This is my girlfriend.</p>	<p>אישתי אוהבת שוקולד. <i>Ish'ti ohevet shokolad.</i></p> <p>My wife loves chocolate.</p>
<p>היא חברה של טל. <i>Hi haverah shel Tal.</i></p> <p>She's Tal's girlfriend.</p>	<p>אני מאמריקה. <i>Ani me'america.</i></p> <p>I am from America.</p>
<p>אני ישן. <i>ani yashen.</i></p> <p>I'm sleeping (male speaker)</p>	<p>אני אוהב אותך. <i>ani ohev otakh.</i></p> <p>I love you (male speaker to female listener)</p>
<p>אתה רץ הרבה? <i>Atah ratz har'beh?</i></p> <p>You run a lot?</p>	<p>אני אוהב אותך. <i>ani ohev otakh.</i></p> <p>I love you (male speaker to female listener)</p>
<p>אני והחברים שלי. <i>ani ve-hachaverim sheli.</i></p> <p>Me and my friends.</p>	<p>החבר הספרדי שלי בישל אוכל ספרדי. <i>ha-chaver ha-sfaradi sheli bishel ochel sfaradi.</i></p> <p>My Spanish friend cooked Spanish food.</p>
<p>אני עובד ולומד. <i>Ani oved ve-lomed.</i></p> <p>I work and study.</p>	<p>אני והחברים שלי. <i>ani ve-hachaverim sheli.</i></p> <p>Me and my friends.</p>

<p>הוא קולגה של אבא שלי. <i>Hu kolegah shel aba sheli.</i></p> <p>He's a colleague of my father's.</p>	<p>מנהל החברה עזב עם קולגה. <i>menahel ha-chevra azav im kollega</i></p> <p>The company executive left with a colleague.</p>
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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### זאת

*Zot* means "this" or "that." We can also use the word to mean "it" in Hebrew. זאת is the feminine form, and זה is the masculine form. Sometimes we use זו for the feminine as well.

### אישתי

This word is made up of two parts, אישה (*ishah*), which means "woman" or "wife" and י (*i*), the suffix for "my." Since *ishah* ends in -ה or -ah, we replace it with a -ת before the -י to help the pronunciation.

### חבר

*Chaver* is the word for "friend," but it also means "boyfriend" when a woman uses it. The feminine form of this word is חברה (*Chaverah*), and it means "friend" when used by a woman and "girlfriend" when used by a man.

### ו-

*Ve-* means "and." *Ve-* is another word that only appears as a prefix. It appears between the two words it connects, as in English, and it is attached as a prefix to the last word. *Ve-* is a conjunction that changes sound according to the word it is attached to and the letters that that word starts with. Most often, we pronounce it as *ve-*, but there are certain instances where it appears as *u-*.

### קולגה

*Kolegah* is Hebrew for "colleague," and it is the same in both the masculine and in the feminine.

### של

*Shel* means "of." We also use it to show possession, just like we can use it in that way in



English, although not as often. In English, you can say "the son of my mother"; likewise, we use it in Hebrew but on a much wider scale. In Hebrew, you would use this concept to show possession in most cases. Our example of this in our dialogue is when Sarah says "you are a friend and colleague of David," אתה חבר וקולגה של דויד.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Identify Something in Hebrew.

אתה חבר וקולגה של דויד.

אַתָּה חֵבֵר וְקוֹלֵגָה שֶׁל דָּוִיד.

*Atah chaver ve-kolegah shel David.*

"You are David's friend and colleague."

Identifying something in Hebrew is very easy. Since there is no verb "to be" in the present tense in Hebrew, all you need is the subject and the identity of the subject.

Let's see some examples of this.

#### For Example:

1.

זֶה תפוז.

זֶה תִּפּוּז.

*Zeh tapuz.*

"This is an orange."

2.

זֹאת תמונה.

זֹאת תִּמּוּנָה.

*Zot t'monah.*

"That is a picture."

3.

אני סטודנט.

אֲנִי סְטוּדֵנֶט.

*Ani student.*

"I am a student."

4.

אתה מהיר.

אַתָּה מְהִיר.

*Atah mahir.*

"You (masculine) are fast."

5.

את יפה.

אַתְּ יָפָה.

*At yafah.*

"You (feminine) are beautiful."

6.

הוא אבא.

הוא אָבָא.

*Hu abba.*

"He is a father."

7.

היא אמא.

הִיא אִמָּא.

*Hi ima.*

"She is a mother."

Another aspect of this concept is that there is no indefinite article in Hebrew. So when you would say "a" or "an" in English, you wouldn't have anything in Hebrew. The "a" is implied if there is no definite article.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### No-Holds-Barred Conversations in Israel

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When meeting new people in Israel, there is no need to be sensitive about what topic you can and can't cover. Feel free to ask about their thoughts on religion or even politics. Israelis will be happy to share with you what they believe or what their political views are. When you get a group of Israelis together, there will often be heated political discussions about what is going on in the country or in the world. There aren't topics that are off limits in Israel like there are in other countries. So, you can take this time to learn a bit about how Israelis think and feel about the world around them.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #8

## Here is a Traditional Israeli Gift for You

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- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 2 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# 8

## HEBREW

1. SARAH: פטר, זאת מזכרת ישראלית בשבילך.

2. PETER: אני מודה לך מאוד.

3. SARAH: על לא דבר!

## ENGLISH

1. SARAH: Peter, this is an Israeli souvenir for you.

2. PETER: I thank you very much.

3. SARAH: Not at all!

## ROMANIZATION

1. SARAH: Peter, zot maz'keret yis'relit bish'vil'kha.

2. PETER: Ani modeh lach me'od.

3. SARAH: Al lo davar!

## VOWELLED

1. SARAH: פֶּטֶר, זֹאת מִזְכָּרֶת יִשְׂרָאֵלִית בִּשְׁבִּילְךָ.

2. PETER: אֲנִי מוֹדֶה לָּךְ מְאֹד.

CONT'D OVER

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
מזכרת	Maz'keret	souvenir	noun	feminine
ישראלית	Yis'relit	Israeli (feminine)	adjective	feminine
בשבילך	Bish'vil'kha	for you, for	preposition	masculine
להודות/הודה	Le-hodot/hodah	thank/thanked	verb	
על	al	on	preposition	
דבר	davar	thing	noun	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>אני צריכה מזכרת מפרז. <i>Ani tz'rikhah maz'keret mi-pariz.</i></p> <p>I need a souvenir from Paris. (feminine)</p>	<p>היא אישה ישראלית. <i>Hi ishah yis'reelit.</i></p> <p>She's an Israeli woman.</p>
<p>אני לא ישראלית. <i>Ani lo yis'ra'elit.</i></p> <p>I'm not Israeli. (feminine)</p>	<p>זה מכתב בשבילך. <i>Zeh mikh'tav bish'vil'kha.</i></p> <p>This is a letter for you. (masculine)</p>
<p>אני צריך להודות להם. <i>Ani tzarikh le-hodot la-hem.</i></p> <p>I need to thank them. (masculine)</p>	<p>היא יושבת על הספה. <i>Hi yoshevet al ha-sapah.</i></p> <p>She is sitting on the sofa.</p>
<p>הוא עולה על האבן. <i>Hu oleh al ha-even.</i></p> <p>He's going up on the rock.</p>	<p>איפה הדברים שלך? <i>Eifo ha-d'varim shel'kha?</i></p> <p>Where are your things?</p>

Zeh davar tov.

It's a good thing.

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

## מזכרת

*Maz'keret* is a "souvenir." It comes from the root זכר, which means "remember."

## ישראלית

*Yis'relit* is the feminine adjective for "Israeli." Here are the four versions of it:

Singular			Plural		
Masculine	ישראלי	יִשְׂרָאֵלִי	<i>yis're'eli</i>	ישראלים	יִשְׂרָאֵלִיִּם
					<i>yis're'eli'i m</i>
Feminine	ישראלית	יִשְׂרָאֵלִית	<i>yis're'elit</i>	ישראליות	יִשְׂרָאֵלִיּוֹת
					<i>yis're'eliy ot</i>

These adjectives are the same as the noun meaning "Israeli," with one exception being the masculine plural, where there is one extra *yod* added as the second letter from the end.

## בשבילך

*Bish'vil'kha* means "for you," and it is made up of two parts: בשביל (*bish'vil*) means "for," and -ך (*kha*) is the suffix for "you" (masculine). Here are the other possibilities:

Singular			Plural		
"for me"	בשבילי	בְּשִׁבִּילִי	<i>bish'vili</i>	"for us"	בשבילנו
					בְּשִׁבִּילֵנוּ
					<i>bish'vile nu</i>
"for you" (masculine)	בשבילך	בְּשִׁבִּילְךָ	<i>bish'vil'kha</i>	"for you" (masculine)	בשבילכם
					בְּשִׁבִּילְכֶם
					<i>bish'vil'khem</i>

"for you" (fe minine)	בשבילך	בְּשִׁבִּילְךָ	<i>bish'vile kh</i>	"for you" (fe minine)	בשבילכן	בְּשִׁבִּילְכֶן	<i>bish'vil'k hen</i>
"for him"	בשבילו	בְּשִׁבִּילוֹ	<i>bish'vilo</i>	"for them " (masc uline)	בשבילם	בְּשִׁבִּילָם	<i>bish'vila m</i>
"for her"	בשבילה	בְּשִׁבִּילָהּ	<i>bish'vila h</i>	"for them" (f eminine )	בשבילן	בְּשִׁבִּילָן	<i>bish'vila n</i>

You will see these pronoun endings over and over throughout Hebrew, so the sooner you get to know them, the easier it will be for you to understand Hebrew.

Notice that this conjunction is independent and stands alone as opposed to other conjunctions we have learned that are used as prefixes.

You can also use בשביל with the name of a person like in the following sentence.

### For Example:

1.

זאת מתנה בשביל דנה.

זאת מתנה בְּשִׁבִּיל דָּנָה.

*Zot matanah bish'vil Dana.*

"This is a present for Dana."

### להודות

*Le-hodot* is the infinitive form of the verb "to thank." It comes from the same root as תודה (*todah*), meaning "thanks." *Le-hodot* is an irregular verb because some of the letters change when it is conjugated. In our conversation, Peter said אני מודה לך, which obviously does not contain the same letters as the infinitive. The ה- has been dropped, a מ- has been added, and the ו- has been changed to ה-.

Most irregular verbs in Hebrew have derived from the fact that there are stronger and weaker letters. These weaker letters sometimes disappear or are changed into other letters so that the word becomes easier to pronounce. This is one of these verbs. The root is made up of two

weaker letters ם and ן, so the verb changes quite a bit as it is conjugated. At this point, we will just concentrate on the infinitive and the present tense. Don't worry about why the letters change at this point, just that the infinitive and the verbs in the present tense go together. להודות in the present tense:

Gender	Singular			Plural		
Masculine	מודה	מוֹדֶה	<i>modeh</i>	מודים	מוֹדִים	<i>modem</i>
Feminine	מודה	מוֹדֶה	<i>modah</i>	מודות	מוֹדוֹת	<i>modot</i>

על

Al means "on" and determines the position of something.

### For Example:

- החתול יושב על הספה.  
הַחֲתוּל יוֹשֵׁב עַל הַסֵּפֶה.  
*Ha-ḥatul yoshev al ha-sapah.*  
"The cat is sitting on the couch."

We can also use it like "about" in English:

- הוא מדבר על מזג האוויר.  
הוא מְדַבֵּר עַל מֶזְג הָאָוִיר.  
*Hu medaber al mezeg ha-avir.*  
"He is talking about the weather."

על לא דבר

In our conversation, we have translated this phrase as "not at all." The literal translation, when you break it down, is "on no thing," meaning "you really don't need to thank me for anything."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Show Appreciation in Hebrew.

אני מודה לך מאוד.  
אֲנִי מוֹדֶה לָךְ מְאֹד.

*Ani modeh lakh me'od.*



## "I thank you very much."

This sentence is an example of the polite or formal way to thank someone. We do not use it often because we don't often use formal speech in Hebrew, but you may want to use it when you are talking to someone who you don't know very well or someone who has gone out of their way to do something for you. In our previous lesson, we covered the more informal way to thank someone, תודה רבה. This will be the phrase that you will hear most often.

To thank someone more formally, you would use a full sentence, beginning with "אני" or "I". Next, you would use the verb "to thank," or להודות. As we stated in the vocabulary section, this verb is quite irregular, so we gave you a verb chart to follow in the present tense. If you are a male speaker, you would use מודה (modeh). If you are a female speaker, you would use מודה (modah). It is important to remember that verb conjugation in Hebrew agrees with subject in gender as well as number. That means that the verb that follows אני will be different for male and female speakers. This may be a little unusual if you have only spoken a language like English, where you do not conjugate the verb according to gender. Another thing to notice is that these two verb conjugations are spelled exactly the same when they appear without the vowels.

The next word in the sentence is לך. This is another word that changes according to gender. If you are talking to a woman, as Peter is, the word "to you" is lakh. If Peter were speaking to a man, the word "to you" would be לך (lekha). We went over this in lesson 2 with the word לי, meaning "to me." Here are all the possibilities for ל- and the pronouns suffixes.

Singular			Plural		
"to me"	לי	לי li	"to us"	לנו	לנו lanu
"to you" (masculine)	לך	לך lekha	"to you" (masculine)	לכם	לכם lakhem
"to you" (feminine)	לך	לך lakh	"to you" (feminine)	לכן	לכן lakhen

"to him"	לו	לו	lo	"to them" (masculine)	להם	לָהֶם	lahem
"to her"	לה	לָהּ	lah	"to them" (feminine)	להן	לָהֶן	lahen

If you were to use ל- with a name, it would be a prefix to the name, just like it is a prefix to other words. Here is an example.

### For Example:

1.

היא נתנה מתנה לפטר.

היא נתנה מתנה לפטר.

*Hi nat'nah matanah le-peter.*

"She gave a gift to Peter."

The last word in this sentence is a word that you have seen in our lessons before, מאוד. In this sentence, it means "very much."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Are You Ready to Haggle?

With so many visitors coming to Israel each year, there is a huge tourist and souvenir industry in Israel. The best places to pick up souvenirs are in Jerusalem in the Old City or at one of the many archeological sites throughout Israel. You can find things like wooden camels and rosaries for the many religious pilgrims who come to Israel each year. The two items that seem to be very popular are things carved out of olive wood and ceramic tiles and plates with ornate paintings on them. If you are visiting the tourist shops in the Old City in Jerusalem, be ready to barter for a good price.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #9

## Asking a Question in Hebrew

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- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 2 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 9

# HEBREW

1. :PETER זה... בשביל מזל טוב?

2. :DAVID זאת חמסה.

3. :SARAH כן, זה בשביל המזל.

4. :PETER חמסה.

# ENGLISH

1. PETER: Is this...for good luck?

2. DAVID: This is a hamsa.

3. SARAH: Yes, it is for luck.

4. PETER: Hamsa.

# ROMANIZATION

1. PETER: Zeh... bish'vil mazal tov?

2. DAVID: Zot ĥam'sah.

3. SARAH: Ken, zeh bish'vil ha-mazal.

4. PETER: ĥam'sah

# VOWELLED

CONT'D OVER

1. PETER: זה... בשביל מזל טוב?

2. DAVID: זאת חמסה.

3. SARAH: כן, זה בשביל המזל.

4. PETER: חמסה.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
זה	zeh	that, this, it	Pronoun	none
בשבילך	Bish'vil'kha	for you, for	preposition	masculine
מזל	mazal	luck		
טוב	tov	good	adjective	masculine
כן	ken	yes	expression	none

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

זה הכלב שלך? <i>Zeh ha-kelev shel'cha?</i> Is this your dog? (masculine)	זה מכתב בשבילך. <i>Zeh mikh'tav bish'vil'kha.</i> This is a letter for you. (masculine)
יש לי מזל רע. <i>Yesh li mazal ra.</i> I have bad luck.	הוא איש טוב. <i>Hu ish tov.</i> He's a good man.
האם הדיסק טוב? <i>ha-im ha-disc tov?</i> Is the CD good?	כן, זה מעולה. <i>ken ze meuleh.</i> Yes, it's great.

כן, אני ישראלי.

*ken ani yisraeli.*

Yes, I am Israeli.

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### מזל

*Mazal* means "luck" or "fortune." We also use it in the popular expression מזל טוב (*mazal tov*), which is the way to express congratulations to someone.

### טוב

*Tov* is the adjective for "good." Here are the four different versions of *tov*:

Gender	Singular	Plural			
Masculine	טוב	טוב	<i>Tov</i>	טובים	טובים <i>Tovim</i>
Feminine	טובה	טובה	<i>Tovah</i>	טובות	טובות <i>Tovot</i>

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Ask a Question in Hebrew.

זֶה בִּשְׁבִּיל מַזַּל טוֹב?  
זֶה בִּשְׁבִּיל מַזַּל טוֹב?

*Zeh bish'vil mazal tov?*  
"This is for good luck?"

There are several ways to ask a question in Hebrew. Unlike English, you can't change the word order of the sentence around to make it a question. The simplest way is the way that was demonstrated in the dialogue, which is to change the intonation in your voice.

The second way to make a sentence into a question is to add the word נָכוֹן (*nachon*), meaning "right," to the end of the sentence. Let's use our sample sentence from the dialogue to demonstrate this.

## For Example:

1.

זֶה בִּשְׁבִיל מַזָּל טוֹב, נָכוֹן?  
זֶה בִּשְׁבִיל מַזָּל טוֹב, נָכוֹן?

*Zeh bish'vil mazal tov, nakhon?*

"This is for good luck, right?"

The third way to change a sentence into a question is to add the word האם (*ha-im*) to the beginning of the sentence. *Ha-im* generally means "whether," but we can translate it as "is it." It's not that easy to translate into English because you would never say it that way in English, but in Hebrew it works. It is also a more formal way to ask a question, so you would only use it in a formal setting or in written Hebrew. Here is our sample sentence again with *ha-im*.

## For Example:

1.

הָאֵם זֶה בִּשְׁבִיל מַזָּל טוֹב?  
הָאֵם זֶה בִּשְׁבִיל מַזָּל טוֹב?

*Ha-im zeh bish'vil mazal tov?*

"Is this for good luck?"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### What the Hand Symbolizes in Israel

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A *hamsa* is a very popular item that you will see all over Israel. It is a hand, most often with two symmetrical thumbs, that symbolizes the hand of God. It is a sign of protection and is thought to bring good luck to the owner. It is thought to protect against the evil eye or someone who wishes bad luck on those who prosper. *Hamsas* can be worn as a bracelet or a necklace, or they can be hung on the wall. The word *hamsa* comes from the word for "five" in Arabic because there are five fingers on the hand. Some Jews believe that the five fingers are there to remind you to use your five senses to praise God. Originally, the *hamsa* came from Islamic culture, but it was later adopted by Jewish people in these Islamic countries and brought to Israel. The tradition is most popular with Mizrahi Jews, but it has lately been taken on by many Israelis from many different backgrounds.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #10

## Is This Your Israeli House?

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- 2 Romanization
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- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
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- 7 Cultural Insight

# 10



# HEBREW

1. PETER: זה הבית שלך, דוויד?

2. DAVID: כן, היכנס.

3. PETER: תודה.

4. DOG: הב-הב

5. PETER: וזה הכלב שלך, דוויד?

6. DAVID: כן, קוראים לו דובי.

7. DOG: הב-הב

# ENGLISH

1. PETER: Is this your house, David?

2. DAVID: Yes, come in.

3. PETER: Thanks.

4. DOG: Woof woof.

5. PETER: And this is your dog, David?

6. DAVID: Yes, he's called Dubi.

7. DOG: Woof woof.

# ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. PETER: Zeh ha-bayit shel'kha, David?
2. DAVID: Ken, hikanes.
3. PETER: Todah.
4. DOG: Hav-hav.
5. PETER: Ve-zeh ha-kelev shel'kha, David?
6. DAVID: Ken, kor'im lo Dubi.
7. DOG: Hav-hav.

## VOWELLED

1. PETER: זֶה הַבַּיִת שֶׁלְּךָ, דָּוִיד?
2. DAVID: כֵּן, הֵיכָנֶס.
3. PETER: תּוֹדָה.
4. DOG: הֵב-הֵב
5. PETER: וְזֶה הַכֶּלֶב שֶׁלְּךָ, דָּוִיד?
6. DAVID: כֵּן, קוֹרְאִים לוֹ דּוּבִי.
7. DOG: הֵב-הֵב

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
בית	bayit	house	noun	masculine
שלך	shel'cha	your, yours (masculine)	pronoun	masculine
להיכנס/נכנס	Le-hikanes/ nikh'nas	enter/entered	verb	
הב-הב	hav-hav	woof woof		
כלב	kelev	dog	noun	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>איפה הבית שלך?</p> <p><i>Eifo ha-bayit shelcha?</i></p> <p>Where is your house? (masculine)</p>	<p>הבית האדום.</p> <p><i>ha-bayit ha-adom</i></p> <p>The red house.</p>
<p>אפשר לשתמש במחק שלך?</p> <p><i>efshar l-hishtamesh ba-machak shelcha?</i></p> <p>Can I use your eraser?</p>	<p>אתה יכול לאיית את השם שלך בבקשה?</p> <p><i>ata yachol le-ayet et ha=shem shelcha be-vakasha?</i></p> <p>Can you spell your name please?</p>
<p>אפשר להיכנס?</p> <p><i>Efshar le-hikanes?</i></p> <p>Is it possible to go in?</p>	<p>הכלב אומר הב-הב.</p> <p><i>Ha-kelev omer hav-hav.</i></p> <p>The dog says woof woof.</p>
<p>הכלב עם הפרווה הפרועה רץ אחרי הכדור.</p> <p><i>hakelev im haparva hapru'a ratz acharef hakadur</i></p> <p>The shaggy dog is running after a ball.</p>	<p>יש לילד כלב מחמד</p> <p><i>yesh la-yeled kelev machmad</i></p> <p>The boy has a pet dog.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

*Bayit* is a "house" or a "home" in Hebrew. It takes on the meaning of both these English words.

## להיכנס

*Le-hikanes* is the infinitive form of the verb "to come in" or "to enter." In the dialogue, David used the imperative (command) form of the verb for the masculine singular because he was talking to Peter. There are only three forms for each verb in the imperative tense:

"come in"	Singular			Plural		
	Masculine	היכנס	הִיכָנֵס	Hikanes	היכנסו	הִיכָנְסוּ Hikan'su
Feminine		היכנסי	הִיכָנְסִי	Hikan'si		

## הב-הב

*Hav-hav* is Hebrew for "woof-woof." As with many languages, most animal sounds are different from English.

## כלב

A *kelev* is a male dog in Hebrew. A female dog is a *kal'bah* (כלבה) and as it is in English, this can be used as a derogatory word.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Showing Possession in Hebrew.

#### זזה הבית שלך

*Zeh ha-bayit shel'kha?*  
 "This is your house?"

We introduced the concept of showing possession briefly in Lesson 4 of this series when we talked about the word שלי. Here again is the chart that we introduced in Lesson 4.

Pronoun	Singular	Romanization	
"my"/ "mine"	שלי	שְׁלִי	sheli

"your"/ "yours" (masculine)	שלך	שְׁלֶךָ	<i>shel'kha</i>
"your" /"yours" (femine)	שלך	שְׁלֶיךָ	<i>shelakh</i>
"his"	שלו	שֵׁלוֹ	<i>shelo</i>
"hers"	שלה	שֵׁלָהּ	<i>shelah</i>
<b>Pronoun</b>	<b>Plural</b>	<b><i>Romanization</i></b>	
"ours"	שלנו	שֵׁלָנוּ	<i>shelanu</i>
"your"/ "yours" (masculine)	שלכם	שֵׁלַכֶם	<i>shelakhem</i>
"your"/ "yours" (feminine)	שלכן	שֵׁלַכֶּן	<i>shelakhen</i>
"their"/ "theirs" (masculine)	שלהם	שֵׁלָהֶם	<i>shelahem</i>
"their"/ "theirs" (feminine)	שלהן	שֵׁלָהֶן	<i>shelahen</i>

As we stated in Lesson 4, this is form we use most often to show possession in speech but less often in Hebrew literature. To show possession, we use the word של to link the noun and the pronoun or the identity of the owner. של means "of" in Hebrew. The other way to show possession that we have not addressed yet is to add the possessive suffixes to the actual word. We only do this for certain words in spoken Hebrew and we will address it in later lessons.

One important aspect of showing possession using the word של, is that the possessed noun must have the definite article ה- in front of it because you are talking about a specific noun. Here is the example that we gave in Lesson 4:

**For Example:**

1.

הבית שלי

הבֵּית שְׁלִי

*Ha-bayit sheli*

"my house"

The ה- or "the" is present because there is only one house, "my house" or "the house of me" in direct translation. So make sure that you remember to include the ה- in the phrase or it will be incomplete. You can use this phrase without the ה- if not talking about a specific noun.

### For Example:

1.

התיק שלי

הֵתִיק שְׁלִי

*Ha-tik sheli*

"my bag"

2.

תיק שלי

תִּיק שְׁלִי

*Tik sheli*

"a bag of mine"

Another aspect to notice is the word order in Hebrew is different from English in these phrases of possession. In English, you would say "my house," but in Hebrew the "my" or, technically, "of me" comes after the possessed noun.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Are There More Cats Than Humans in Israel?

In Israel, there are many animals. People are struck by this the first time they visit. Unfortunately, the animals are not necessarily wild. Most of the native wild animals from Israel have been pushed out by human inhabitants, although there are great efforts being made to restore some of the native populations of animals back into the wild. The animal that most people are struck by is the cat! In Israel, there are stray cats everywhere. During the British Mandate, the British brought in cats to take care of the rodent problem, and the cats have been a part of Israeli life ever since. There is some effort taken to spay and neuter the cats but not enough to keep them completely under control. In some places, there are even

cat feeding stations to feed the stray cats leftovers from the neighborhood. Many people adopt the stray cats and feed them regularly or maybe even take them into their homes as pets. In any case, the stray cats are now residents and a part of Israeli culture.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #11

## What is this Delicious Israeli Dish?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 11



# HEBREW

1. (Timer goes off)

2. SARAH: בבקשה, תתכבדו!

3. PETER: יופי!

4. SARAH, DAVID AND PETER: בתיאבון.

5. PETER: מmmm... טעים. שרה, מה זה?

# ENGLISH

1. (Timer goes off)

2. SARAH: Be my guest, help yourselves!

3. PETER: Great!

4. SARAH, DAVID AND PETER: Bon Appetit!

5. PETER: Mmmm...delicious. Sarah, what is this?

# ROMANIZATION

1. SARAH: Be-vakeshah, tit'kab'du!

2. PETER: Yofi!

CONT'D OVER

3. SARAH, DAVID AND PETER: Be-te'avon.
4. PETER: Mmmmmm... ta'im. Sarah, mah zeh?

## VOWELLED

1. SARAH: בִּבְקָשָׁה, תִּתְכַבֵּדוּ!
2. PETER: יוֹפִי!
3. SARAH, DAVID AND PETER: בְּתֵאבּוֹן.
4. PETER: מִמְּמַמַּם... טַעִים. שָׂרָה, מָה זֶה?

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
להתכבד/התכבד	le-hit'kabed / hit'kabed	to help one's self	verb	
יוֹפִי	yofi	great	interjection	
בתאבון	Be-te'avon	Bon appetite, enjoy your food	interjection	
טַעִים	ta'im	delicious	adjective	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>איזה יופי!</p> <p><i>Eizeh yofi!</i></p> <p>How great!</p>	<p>אפשר להתכבד.</p> <p><i>Ef'shar le-hitkabad.</i></p> <p>It's possible to help yourselves.</p>
<p>אוכל אטלקי הוא טעים.</p> <p><i>ochel italki ho ta'im.</i></p> <p>Italian food is delicious.</p>	<p>האישה נהנת מפיצה טעימה.</p> <p><i>ha-isha nehenet mi-pitza te'imah.</i></p> <p>The woman is enjoying delicious pizza.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### להתכבד

*Le-hit'kabad* is the infinitive form of the verb "to help one's self." Literally, the verb means "to be honored," but we use it more often when inviting people to eat. Another translation of the verb could be "to be entertained (with food)."

### יופי

The word *yofi* means "great" and comes from same root as the word *yafeh* (יפה), which means "beautiful." We use it as an exclamatory word here in our dialogue, but we can also use it to describe the *יופי*, or the "beauty" of something.

### בתיאבון

*Be-te'avon* means the same as *bon appetit* in French, or we can simply translate it as "enjoy your food." When we break the phrase down into its two parts, the literal translation is "with (בְּ-) appetite (תיאבון)." For more information, see the cultural insight.

### טעים

*Ta'im* comes from the root for "taste," טעם, and means "tasty" or "delicious." Like all adjectives in Hebrew, it also has four versions:

Singular			Plural		
Maculine	טעים	טָעִים <i>Ta'im</i>	טעימים	טָעִימִים	<i>Te'imim</i>
Feminine	טעימה	טָעִימָה <i>Te'imah</i>	טעימות	טָעִימוֹת	<i>Te'imot</i>

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of this Lesson is Asking What Something is in Hebrew

מה זה?

מה זֶה?

*Mah zeh?*

"What is this?"

When asking what something is in Hebrew, you ask mah zeh? (מה זֶה?). Mah means "what" and zeh means "this" in this case. Remember that the present tense form of "to be" is always implied, so you are asking "what is this" when you say this phrase.

As we have learned in previous lessons, זה (zeh) refers to a noun that is masculine singular. Since you won't know what the gender is of the thing you are asking about, it is almost always appropriate to use זה for this question even when the object that you are asking about turns out to be feminine. It is not appropriate to use זה when there is more than one thing that you are asking about. In this case, you should use the plural masculine equivalent, which is אֵלֶּה (eleh). Here is the sentence in the plural:

1.

מה אלה?

מה אֵלֶּה?

*Mah eleh?*

What are these?

There is also a plural feminine form for this word, אֵלּוּ (elu), but you won't be using it for this question. The default in Hebrew is always the masculine form of a word when you don't know the gender of something. Here are all four together:

	Singular			Plural		
Masculine	זה	זֶה	<i>Zeh</i>	אלה	אֵלֶּה	<i>Eleh</i>
Feminine	זאת/זו	זֹאת/זוּ	<i>Zot/Zu</i>	אלו	אֵלּוּ	<i>Elu</i>

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Why Israelis Will (Politely) Interrupt Your Meal

Israelis have this habit of saying בְּתֵאָבֹן (*bon appetit*) whenever they see you eating. It's a custom that you expect to happen when you are at the table with friends and family beginning

your meal. It may not be something that you expect to happen all the time. If you are sitting and eating a sandwich on a bench somewhere, a stranger can walk by and send out a בְּתִאֲבוֹן just when you thought that you were all alone. Your friends and family will call out בְּתִאֲבוֹן if they see you munching on something in the kitchen. And even if you are at your desk having your ten o'clock snack, your fellow employees will call out בְּתִאֲבוֹן if they happen by at that moment. For Israelis this is normal; when they see someone eating, it's polite to say בְּתִאֲבוֹן. For those of us from other places in the world, it may be a very new experience to be interrupted so often when we are eating.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #12

## Can you Eat This Israeli Meatball?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 12

# HEBREW

1. PETER: מה זה?
2. SARAH: זאת קציצה.
3. PETER: קציצה?
4. DAVID: כן. זה בשר. אתה יכול לאכול בשר?
5. PETER: כן. מmmm... זה טעים!

# ENGLISH

1. PETER: What is this?
2. SARAH: This is a meatball.
3. PETER: Meatball?
4. DAVID: Yes, it's meat. Can you eat meat?
5. PETER: Yes. Mmm...it's delicious!

# ROMANIZATION

1. PETER: Mah zeh?
2. SARAH: Zot k'tzitzah.

CONT'D OVER

3. PETER: K'tzitzah?
4. DAVID: Ken. Zeh basar. Atah yakhol le-ekhol basar?
5. PETER: Ken. Mmmm... Zeh ta'im!

## VOWELLED

1. PETER: מה זה?
2. SARAH: זאת קציצה.
3. PETER: קציצה?
4. DAVID: כן. זה בשר. אתה יכול לאכול בשר?
5. PETER: כן. מmmm... זה טעים!

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
קציצה	K'tzitzah	meatball	noun	feminine
בשר	basar	meat	noun	masculine
אתה	atah	you (masculine)	pronoun	masculine
יכול	yachol	can (for male)	verb	masculine
יכול	yakhol	can, to be able to	modal verb	
לאכול	le-ekhol	to eat	verb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES



<p>אני אוהב קציצות.</p> <p><i>Ani ohev ktzitzot.</i></p> <p>I love meatballs.</p>	<p>הוא מכין בשר עם אורז.</p> <p><i>Hu mekhin basar im orez.</i></p> <p>He's preparing meat with rice.</p>
<p>אני אוהב בשר.</p> <p><i>ani ohev basar</i></p> <p>I love meat.</p>	<p>אתה רץ הרבה?</p> <p><i>Atah ratz har'beh?</i></p> <p>You run a lot?</p>
<p>אני אוהב אותך.</p> <p><i>ani ohev otakh.</i></p> <p>I love you (male speaker to female listener)</p>	<p>אתה יכול לאכול הכל?</p> <p><i>ata yachol le'echol ha-kol?</i></p> <p>Can you eat everything?</p>
<p>היא יכולה לנגן בגיטרה.</p> <p><i>Hi yekholah le-nagen ba-gitara.</i></p> <p>She can play the guitar.</p>	<p>אתה יכול לשחות?</p> <p><i>Atah yachol lis'hot?</i></p> <p>Can you swim?</p>
<p>לא אכלתי בבוקר.</p> <p><i>Lo akhal'ti ba-boker.</i></p> <p>I didn't eat in the morning.</p>	<p>הם אוכלים בשר לבן.</p> <p><i>Hem och'lim basar lavan.</i></p> <p>They eat white meat (pork).</p>
<p>אני אוהב לאכול ממתקים.</p> <p><i>ani ohev le-echol mamtakim.</i></p> <p>I like eating sweets.</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### קציצה

A *k'tzitzah* is a "meatball" in Hebrew. The plural for this word is קציצות (*k'tzitzot*).

### בשר

*Basar* means "meat." The plural is בשרים (*b'sarim*). This word most often refers to red meat, but it can mean all kinds of meat. In the biblical context, *basar* means "flesh."

### יכול

*Yachol* means "can" in Hebrew. There is no infinitive for this verb; here it is given in the masculine singular form in the present tense. It is an irregular verb, with the י- changing in the future tense. We will discuss this verb further in the grammar section.

לֵאכֹל

*Le-echol* is "to eat." This verb can also mean "consume" or "destroy."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking Whether Someone Can Do Something in Hebrew.**

אתה יכול לאכול בשר?

אתה יכול לאכול בשר?

*Atah yachol le-ekhol basar?*

"Can you eat meat?"

To ask whether someone can or is able to do something in Hebrew, you must use the word יכול (*yachol*). *Yachol* is an irregular verb, but we don't have to worry about that in the present tense. First of all, you need to know all the conjugations of יכול in the present tense with the pronoun "you" so that you can practice this with everyone. Here are all the possibilities:

Singular			Plural		
		<i>Atah</i>			<i>Atem</i>
Masculine	אתה יכול	אתה יכול	<i>Yachol</i>	אתם יכולים	<i>Yecholim</i>
		<i>At</i>			<i>Aten</i>
Feminine	את יכולה	את יכולה	<i>Yecholah</i>	אתן יכולות	<i>Yecholot</i>

After the first two words of the sentence, you will add the infinitive form of the verb you want to ask about. In the dialogue, that verb was לאכול, meaning "to eat." After the infinitive verb, you will add any other information that the sentence needs, like "meat" in the example sentence.

Let's put this phrase to use with some examples.

**For Example:**

1.

אתה יכול לבשל?

אתה יכול לבשל?

*Atah yakhol levashel?*

"Can you cook?"

2.

את יכולה לשיר?

את יכולה לשיר?

*At yekhola la-shir?*

"Can you sing?"

3.

אתם יכולים לבוא מחר?

אתם יכולים לבוא מחר?

*Atem yekholim la-vo maḥar?*

"Can you come tomorrow?"

4.

אתן יכולות לדבר בעברית?

אתן יכולות לדבר בעברית?

*Aten hekholot le-daber be-ivrit?*

"Can you speak in Hebrew?"

We used voice inflection to ask these questions, but you can also use *נכון?* at the end of the sentence or *האם* at the beginning, as we learned in our previous lesson about asking questions in Hebrew.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Where's the Beef?

Meat in Israel is sometimes a sensitive subject when it comes to *kashrut*. As most of the population is either Jewish or Muslim, pork is not sold at major supermarkets. All meat sold in these supermarkets must be butchered in a *kosher* way as well. Israelis eat a lot of poultry and beef and a little lamb as well. As it is in America and in some places in Europe, you can go to the meat section of the supermarket and find packaged, precut meat or ask the butcher for specific cuts. You can even ask the butcher to grind the meat into ground beef right in front of you if you want to see what goes into your ground beef. There are also independent butcher shops that you can visit when you want to find even more variety and other kinds of meat, like lamb. If you are visiting a restaurant, some good things to try out are grilled meat on skewers, *k'tzitzot*, or hummus with seasoned ground beef in it.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #13

## Asking Where Something is in Hebrew

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 2 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# # 13

## HEBREW

1. PETER: ?זה היה טעים מאוד. (קירקור קיבה) סליחה! איפה השירותים
2. DAVID: השירותים הם שם.
3. PETER: שמה? תודה. (רץ לשירותים)

## ENGLISH

1. PETER: That was very delicious. (stomach rumbling) Excuse me! Where is the bathroom?
2. DAVID: The bathroom is there.
3. PETER: Over there? Thanks. (runs to the bathroom)

## ROMANIZATION

1. PETER: Zeh hayah ta'im me'od. (kir'kur ke'ivah) s'liḥah! Eifo ha-shirutim?
2. DAVID: Ha-shirutim hem sham.
3. PETER: Shamah? Todah. (ratz la-shuritim)

## VOWELLED

1. PETER: ?זה היה טעים מאוד. (קירקור קיבה) סליחה! איפה השירותים?

CONT'D OVER

השירותים הם שם. :DAVID 2.

שמה? תודה. (רץ לשירותים) :PETER 3.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
שם	sham	there	adverb	
להיות/היה	Li'hiyot/hayah	To be/was	verb	
איפה	eifo	where	expression	general
שירותים	sherutim	bathroom	noun	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

שם הכי יפה. <i>Sham ha-chi yafeh.</i> There is the most beautiful.	הוא היה בשירותים. <i>Hu hayah ba-sherutim.</i> He was in the bathroom.
איפה הבנק? <i>Eifo ha-bank?</i> Where is the bank?	איפה הבית שלך? <i>Eifo ha-bayit shel'kha?</i> Where is your house? (male listener)
איפה הסופרמרקט? <i>eifo ha-super market?</i> Where is the supermarket?	השירותים בצד ימין. <i>Ha-sherutim be-tzad yemin.</i> The bathrooms are on the right side.
איפה השירותים? <i>eifo ha-sherutim?</i> Where is the bathroom?	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

*Li-hiyot* means "to be" in Hebrew. It is an irregular verb as it is in other languages. This verb does not appear in the present tense, but it is implied. It does have forms in both the past and the future. The form we used in the dialogue is היה in the third person, masculine, singular form in the past. We used it with the subjects הוא and זה.

## שירותים

We use *shirutim* for the word "bathroom" in Hebrew, but it actually means "services," and we can use it in many other circumstances as well to talk about different types of "services." We often use it to refer to government services or even the "service" at a restaurant.

## שם

*Sham* means "there."

## שמה

*Shamah* is *sham* with the addition of the -ה at the end. It means "over there." There is a group of words in Hebrew to which you can add a -ה to the end to indicate that you mean in that direction, and *sham* is one of them. It's like saying "toward there."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking Where Something is in Hebrew.**

איפה השירותים?

איפה השירותים?

*Eifo ha-shirutim?***"Where is the bathroom?"**

Asking where something is in Hebrew is pretty simple. All you need is your question word איפה and what you are looking for. Because this sentence is in the present, you don't need a verb; you just use these two words. Here are some more examples.

**For Example:**

1.

איפה הבנק?

איפה הבנק?

*Eifo ha-bank?***"Where is the bank?"**

2.

איפה שרה?

איפה שָׂרָה?

*Eifo Sarah?*

"Where is Sarah?"

3.

איפה העט?

איפה הָעֵט?

*Eifo ha-et?*

"Where is the pen?"

## "To Be" in the Past Tense

The verb "to be" in Hebrew is irregular as it is in other languages. In this lesson, we used the past tense form of the verb. There are more conjugations in the past tense in Hebrew than there are in the present tense, but the base for the verb, the verb stem, stays the same and you add different endings according to the subject. Here are the conjugations for להיות in the past tense:

Subject	Verb	Voweled	Romanization
אני	הייתי	הִיְיִתִּי	<i>hayiti</i>
אתה	הייתה	הִיְיִתָּה	<i>hayitah</i>
את	היית	הִיְיִתְּ	<i>hayit</i>
הוא/זה	היה	הָיָה	<i>hayah</i>
היא/זאת	היתה	הָיָתָה	<i>hay'tah</i>
אנחנו	היינו	הָיִינוּ	<i>hayinu</i>
אתם	הייתם	הָיִיתֶם	<i>heyitem</i>
אתן	הייתן	הָיִיתֶן	<i>heyiten</i>
הם/הן	היו	הָיוּ	<i>hayu</i>

Verbs in the past tense in Hebrew are set up so that you don't always need to use the subject:



it can be understood from the verb itself. If you want to stress the subject you can use it, but it's not necessary.

### For Example:

1.

*Zeh hayah me'od ta'im*  
"That was very delicious."

זֶה הָיָה מְאֹד טַעִים.

זֶה הָיָה מְאֹד טַעִים.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Bathrooms in Israel

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Bathrooms in Israel are similar to bathrooms in Europe. Houses are often equipped with a separate guest bathroom. These bathrooms are small with a sink and a toilet only. The family bathrooms usually have a shower and many times a bath as well. You'll find public pay toilets in many towns that attendants usually keep clean. Bathrooms in malls and restaurants are usually free. Peeing in public is fine for men and children and will not result in arrests or fines like in the United States, though it is not quite as acceptable as in Europe.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #14

## Apologizing for Something in Hebrew

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 14

# HEBREW

1. SARAH: פטר, תודה רבה!

2. PETER: על לא דבר! אוי! (זכוכית נשברת) אני מצטער!

3. SARAH: אתה בסדר?

4. PETER: אני בסדר...אני בסדר, אבל הכוס...

5. SARAH: זה בסדר.

6. PETER: אני מאוד מצטער.

# ENGLISH

1. SARAH: Peter, many thanks!
2. PETER: You're welcome. Oh! (glass breaks) I'm sorry!
3. SARAH: Are you okay?
4. PETER: I'm okay... I'm okay, but the glass...
5. SARAH: It's okay.
6. PETER: I'm really sorry.

# ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. SARAH: Peter, todah rabah!
2. PETER: Al lo davar! Oy! (z'khu'khit nish'beret) Ani mitz'ta'er!
3. SARAH: Atah beseder?
4. PETER: Ani beseder... ani beseder, aval ha-kos...
5. SARAH: Zeh beseder.
6. PETER: Ani me'od mitz'ta'er.

## VOWELLED

1. SARAH: פֶּטֶר, תּוֹדָה רַבָּה!
2. PETER: עַל לֹא דָבָר! אוֹי! (זְכוּכִית נִשְׁבֶּרֶת) אֲנִי מִצְטָעֵר!
3. SARAH: אַתָּה בֶּסֶדֶר?
4. PETER: אֲנִי בֶּסֶדֶר... אֲנִי בֶּסֶדֶר, אָבֵל הַכּוֹס...
5. SARAH: זֶה בֶּסֶדֶר.
6. PETER: אֲנִי מְאֹד מִצְטָעֵר.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
אבל	aval	but	conjunction	

על	al	on	preposition	
על לא דבר	Al lo davar	You're welcome		
להצטער/הצטער	Le-hitz'ta'er/ hitz'ta'er	to be sorry/was sorry		
אתה	atah	you (masculine)	pronoun	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>הוא מבשל בדרך כלל אבל לא היום. <i>Hu mevashel be-derekh k'lal aval lo ha-yom.</i></p> <p>He usually cooks, but not today.</p>	<p>אני הייתי שם, אבל לא ראיתי אותך. <i>Ani hayiti sham, aval lo ra'iti ot'kha.</i></p> <p>I was there, but I didn't see you.</p>
<p>היא יושבת על הספה. <i>Hi yoshevet al ha-sapah.</i></p> <p>She is sitting on the sofa.</p>	<p>הוא עולה על האבן. <i>Hu oleh al ha-even.</i></p> <p>He's going up on the rock.</p>
<p>אני מצטער שפגעת בך. <i>Ani mitz'tayer she-paga'gti be-cha.</i></p> <p>I'm sorry that I hurt you.</p>	<p>אתה רץ הרבה? <i>Atah ratz har'beh?</i></p> <p>You run a lot?</p>
<p>אני אוהב אותך. <i>ani ohev otakh.</i></p> <p>I love you (male speaker to female listener)</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### על לא דבר

*Al Lo Davar* is an expression that means "no problem," and we use it to say "you're welcome." The literal translation is "on no thing," meaning that there is really nothing that you need to thank the person for.

### להצטער/הצטער

*Le-hitz'ta'er* is "to be sorry." It comes from the root for the word for "sorrow," צער. We can also translate it as "to be regretful." This is a more meaningful way to say "I'm sorry" than סליחה, which we learned in earlier lessons.

אָבֿל

*Aval* is the conjunction "but," and we use it in the same way as in English. We use it to connect two opposing parts of a sentence.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Apologizing in Hebrew.

אני מצטער

אני מצטער

*Ani mitz'ta'er!*

"I'm sorry!"

When the situation calls for more than a simple סליחה, you can use the phrase אני מצטער. It comes from the root for "sorrow," צער.

In Hebrew, most words come from a three- to four-letter root. We then place this root into the different verb or noun groupings to take on different meanings. All the words that have the same three-letter root in them are related somehow. So, all the words that have the three-letter root צ.ע.ר. are all related somehow to "sorrow" or "grief."

In this case, this three-letter root has been put into the reflexive verb group. It is reflexive because being "sorry" or "regretful" is generally something that occurs between two people, and it is something that is an inner process as well.

This verb is an irregular verb because of the letters in the root. Usually, a reflexive verb has the letters ה-ת and then the root. When the first letter of the root is צ, the ת of the reflexive form changes to ט and switches place with the first letter of the root. This is the situation that we have with the verb להצטער and the reason why it looks a little different from other reflexive verbs we have learned up to this point.

Now that you know a little bit about the verb itself, let's look at the different forms that we use in the present tense to say you are sorry:

"English"	Hebrew	Voweled	Romanization
"I'm sorry" (masculine)	אני מצטער	אֲנִי מִצְטַעֵר	<i>Ani mitz'ta'er</i>

"I'm sorry" (feminine)	אני מצטערת	אני מצטערת	<i>Ani mitz'ta'eret</i>
"We're sorry"	אנחנו מצטערים	אנחנו מצטערים	<i>Anaḥ'nu mitz'ta'arim</i>

We usually use this phrase in situations when we really want to express that you are sorry in a meaningful way. We don't need to use it in cases like bumping into someone, but some people will use it in those times as well if they want to be more polite.

## Asking Whether Someone Is Okay

Asking someone whether he or she is okay or asking whether someone else is okay involves only two words, the subject or pronoun and בסדר.

### For Example:

1.

*Atah be-seder?*

"Are you okay?"

אתה בסדר?

אַתָּה בְּסֵדֶר

*Beseder* does not change form according to the subject. Here is a list of all the possible pronouns:

### Singular

"English"	Hebrew	Voweled	Romanization
"I"	אני	אֲנִי	<i>Ani</i>
"you" (masculine)	אתה	אַתָּה	<i>Atah</i>
"you" (feminine)	את	אַתְּ	<i>At</i>
"he"	הוא	הוּא	<i>Hu</i>
"she"	היא	הִיא	<i>Hi</i>

Plural			
"English"	Hebrew	Voweled	Romanization
"we"	אנחנו	אַנְחֵנוּ	<i>anaḥ'nu</i>
"you" (masculine)	אתם	אַתֶּם	<i>atem</i>
"you" (feminine)	אתן	אַתֶּן	<i>aten</i>
"they" (masculine)	הם	הֵם	<i>hem</i>
"they" (feminine)	הן	הֵן	<i>hen</i>

You can also ask whether someone is okay by asking (הכל בסדר?) (Ha-kol beseder?), meaning "Is everything all right?"

This is an easy way to ask whether someone is all right because you don't have to worry about remembering which pronoun to use.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Why You Might Want to Invest in Some Extra Plates

Breaking dishes in Israel happens very easily because most houses are not carpeted. The floors in most houses and apartments are laid entirely with tiles. People will have area rugs throughout the house to make it homier, but for the most part you will see tiles on the floor of the house. This also makes houses and apartments easy to clean. Most people clean their floors at least once a week, and they like to do this on Friday, before Shabbat begins. To clean the floor, you just pour water with soap onto the floor and move the water throughout the house with a squeegee, finally pushing it out the door. If you live in an apartment, you use the same technique but you soak up the water with a floor towel when you are done. It's a lot easier than having to vacuum and clean up wall-to-wall carpets, and it really helps keep the houses and apartments cool in the summertime when temperatures reach over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.



## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #15

## Describing Things in Hebrew

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# 15

# HEBREW

1. PETER: בוקר טוב! ממש חם היום! הקיץ בישראל חם מאוד, נכון?
2. DAVID: גם הקיץ בקליפורניה חם.
3. PETER: נכון
4. SARAH: הקיץ בישראל חם ולח.
5. PETER: ולח?

# ENGLISH

1. PETER: Good morning! It's really hot today. Summer in Israel is very hot, right?
2. DAVID: Summer in California is also hot.
3. PETER: Right.
4. SARAH: Summer in Israel is hot and humid.
5. PETER: And humid?

# ROMANIZATION

1. PETER: Boker tov! Mamash ĥam ha-yom. Ha-ka'itz be-yis'ra'el ĥam me'od, nakhon?
2. DAVID: Gam ha-ka'itz be-kaliforniyah ĥam.

CONT'D OVER

3. PETER: nakhon
4. SARAH: Ha-ka'itz be-yis'ra'el ĥam ve-laħ.
5. PETER: ve-laħ?

## VOWELLED

1. PETER: בוקר טוב! ממש חם היום! הקיץ בישראל חם מאוד, נכון?
2. DAVID: גם הקיץ בקליפורניה חם.
3. PETER: נכון
4. SARAH: הקיץ בישראל חם ולח.
5. PETER: ולח?

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
קיץ	Ka'itz	summer	noun	masculine
לח	lach	Humid, damp		
בוקר	boker	morning	noun	masculine
בוקר טוב	boker tov.	good morning	expression	
ממש	mamash	really		
חם	Ĥam	hot	adjective	Masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>אני לא אוהב את החום בקיץ. <i>Ani lo ohev et ha-ḥom ba-ka'itz.</i></p> <p>I don't like the heat in the summer.</p>	<p>אני אוהב לשחות בקיץ. <i>Ani ohev lis'chot ba-ka'itz.</i></p> <p>I love to swim in the summer.</p>
<p>מזג האוויר היה חם ולח. <i>Mezeg ha-avir hayah cham ve-lach.</i></p> <p>The weather was hot and humid.</p>	<p>נראה בבוקר. <i>Nit'ra'eh ba-boker.</i></p> <p>See you in the morning.</p>
<p>אני רץ בבוקר. <i>ani ratz ba-boker</i></p> <p>I jog in the morning.</p>	<p>בוקר טוב דנה. <i>boker tov, Dana</i></p> <p>Good morning, Dana.</p>
<p>אמרנו בוקר טוב במסדרון. <i>Amar'nu boker tov ba-mis'daron.</i></p> <p>We said good morning in the corridor.</p>	<p>בוקר טוב דנה. <i>boker tov, Dana</i></p> <p>Good morning, Dana.</p>
<p>זה ממש יפה. <i>Zeh mamash yafeh.</i></p> <p>That's really nice.</p>	<p>האוכל היה חם מדי. <i>Ha-okhel hayah ham mida'i.</i></p> <p>The food was too hot.</p>
<p>הבשר חם מדי. <i>Ha-basar cham mida'i.</i></p> <p>The meat is too hot.</p>	<p>השמש מחממת את המדבר החם. <i>ha shemesh me'chamemet et ha-mid'bar ha-cham.</i></p> <p>The sun is heating the hot desert.</p>
<p>הקיץ חם בישראל. <i>ha-kayitz cham b'Israel</i></p> <p>Summer is hot in Israel.</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### בוקר

*Boker* means "morning" in Hebrew. There is another word that we spell exactly same way

(without the vowels) that means "cowboy," but the emphasis is on the last syllable instead of the first.

## בוקר טוב

*Boker tov* is "good morning" in Hebrew. The traditional response to this greeting is *בוקר אור*, meaning "morning light."

## חם

*Ham* is the adjective for "hot." It has four forms:

	Singular			Plural		
<b>Masculine</b>	חם	חֹם	ḥam	חמים	חֻמִּים	ḥamim
<b>Feminine</b>	חמה	חֻמָּה	ḥamah	חמות	חֻמוֹת	ḥamot

Unlike English, *ḥam* cannot be used for the meaning "spicy." It is also not used in the same way as in English when you want to say "I'm hot," but rather *חם לי*, "It's hot to me."

## לח

*Laḥ* is the adjective for "humid" or "damp." If you spend time in Israel in the summer, you will use this word a lot.

	Singular			Plural		
<b>Masculine</b>	לח	לֹחַ	laḥ	לחים	לֹחִים	laḥim
<b>Feminine</b>	לחה	לֹחָה	laḥah	לחות	לֹחוֹת	laḥot

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Learning to Describe Things in Hebrew.

הקיצבישראלחםולח

הקיצבישראלחםולח.

*Ha-ka'itz be-yis'ra'el ḥam ve-laḥ.*

"Summer in Israel is hot and humid."

In order to describe things in Hebrew, you need adjectives. You will also need to know all four forms of the adjective to use them correctly. Adjectives must agree in number and in gender with the noun that they are describing. Adjectives come in four forms: masculine singular, masculine plural, feminine singular, and feminine plural. Adjectives are more predictable than nouns because they always have the correct endings, whereas nouns are sometimes irregular. The endings for adjectives are as follows:

### Singular

	Ending	Voweled	Romanization
Masculine	-	-	-
Feminine	or ה- ת-	ת־ or ה־	-ah or -et

### Plural

	Ending	Voweled	Romanization
Masculine		ים-	ים־ -im
Feminine		ות-	ות־ -ot

The masculine singular form is the base form for the adjective. We then add endings according to the number and gender of the noun it describes. Sometimes this means that certain vowels in the base word will change when we add the endings, depending on the consonants of the base word.

In our example from the dialogue, the words חם and לח are describing the word קיץ, meaning "summer." קיץ is a masculine singular noun, so the adjectives stay in their base form. If you were to change the noun that they describe, you would change the ending of the adjective as well. Here are some examples.

**For Example:**

1. Masculine singular:

תנור חם

תִּנּוֹר חָם

*tanur ĥam*

"hot oven"

2. Feminine singular:

לחמניה חמה

לֶחְמַנְיָה חֻמָּה

*laĥ'maniya ĥamah*

"hot bun"

3. Masculine plural:

תנורים חמים

תִּנּוֹרִים חֻמִּים

*tanurim ĥamim*

"hot ovens"

4. Feminine plural:

לחמניות חמות

לֶחְמַנְיּוֹת חֻמוֹת

*laĥ'maniyot ĥamot*

"hot buns"

5. Masculine singular:

מגבון לח

מִגְבּוֹן לֶחֶ

*mag'von laĥ*

"damp wet wipe"

6. Feminine singular:

מגבת לחה

מִגְבֵּת לֶחֶה

*magevet laĥah*

"damp towel"

7. Masculine plural:

מגבונים לחים

מִגְבוֹנִים לְחִים

*mag'vonim laħim*

"damp wet wipes"

8. Feminine plural:

מגבות לחות

מִגְבוֹת לְחוֹת

*magevot laħot*

"damp towels"

There are times when the feminine adjective will end in -ת instead or -ה.

**For Example:**

1.

סטודנטית מצוינת

סְטוּדֵנְטִית מְצוּיֶנֶת

*studentit metzuyenet*

"excellent student" (feminine)

This agreement must occur both when the adjective comes directly after the noun and when the adjective describes the noun within the sentence.

**For Example:**

1. Direct description:

היא סטודנטית מצוינת.

הִיא סְטוּדֵנְטִית מְצוּיֶנֶת.

*Hi studentit metzuyenet.*

"She is an excellent student."

2. Description within a sentence:

הסטודנטית היא מצוינת.

הַסְטוּדֵנְטִית הִיא מְצוּיֶנֶת.

*Ha-studentit hi metzuyenet.*

"The student is excellent."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT



## When to Expect Heat Waves in Israel

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The summer is not the only time when it's hot in Israel. In the spring, Israel experiences a weather pattern called a *sharav* (שרב) or *hamsin* (חמסין). This is where a hot wind blows up from the Arabian Desert and causes Israel to be extremely hot and dry. It can also be very dusty during this time, and dust storms may even occur. Most Israelis close their windows and doors and retreat into their houses until it passes, especially when the weather is intensely hot or when the dust is so thick it could be dangerous for your health. *Sharavs* generally occur in the spring months of April through June. They last around two to three days and are followed by cooler weather and sometimes a bit of rain. Temperatures that would normally be in the twenties (70 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit) can rise into the upper thirties and forties (95 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit).

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #16

## Responding with Interjections in Hebrew

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 16

# HEBREW

1. PETER: זה ספר התמונות של המשפחה שלי.

2. SARAH: יפה! (מדפדפת בדפים) מי זאת?

3. PETER: זאת האחות הקטנה שלי.

4. SARAH: היא חמודה! מי זה?

5. PETER: אה... זה אני.

6. SARAH: מה! אתה כל-כך צעיר.

# ENGLISH

1. PETER: This is my family's photo album.

2. SARAH: Nice! (turns pages) Who's this?

3. PETER: That's my younger sister.

4. SARAH: She's cute! Who's this?

5. PETER: Ah...that's me.

6. SARAH: What! You are so young!

# ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. PETER: Zeh sefer ha-t'munot shel ha-mish'pahah sheli.
2. SARAH: Yafeh! (midaf' defet ba-dapim) Mi zot?
3. PETER: Zot ha-aħot ha-k'tanah sheli.
4. SARAH: Hi ħamudah! Mi zeh?
5. PETER: Ah... zeh ani.
6. SARAH: Mah! Atah kol-kakh tza'ir.

## VOWELLED

1. PETER: זֶה סֵפֶר הַתְּמוּנוֹת שֶׁל הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה שְׁלִי.
2. SARAH: יָפֵה! (מִדְפַּדְפֶּת בַּדָּפִים) מִי זֹאת?
3. PETER: זֹאת הָאָחוֹת הַקְטָנָה שְׁלִי.
4. SARAH: הִיא חֲמוּדָה! מִי זֶה?
5. PETER: אָה... זֶה אֲנִי.
6. SARAH: מָה! אַתָּה כָּל-כָּךְ צָעִיר.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
אחות	aħot	sister, nurse		feminine

חמוד	c̥hamudḥamud	Cute		masculine
כל-כך	Kol-kach	so, so much		
צעיר	Tza'ir	young		masculine
ספר	sefer	book	noun	masculine
משפחה	mish'pachah	family	noun	feminine
תמונה	tmuna	picture	noun	feminine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>מה השם של אחות שלך?</p> <p><i>Mah ha-shem shel ha-aḥot shelakh?</i></p> <p>What's the name of your sister?</p>	<p>אחות שלי גרה בגרמניה.</p> <p><i>aḥot sheli garah be-germani'a.</i></p> <p>My sister lives in Germany.</p>
<p>איזה כלב חמוד!</p> <p><i>Eizeh kelev c̥hamud!</i></p> <p>What a cute dog!</p>	<p>היא כל-כך גבוהה.</p> <p><i>Hi kol-kakh gavohah.</i></p> <p>She's so tall.</p>
<p>כשהייתי צעיר, אהבתי לרכוב על אופניים.</p> <p><i>K'she-hayiti tza'ir, ahav'ti lir'kov al ofanayim.</i></p> <p>When I was young, I loved to ride bikes.</p>	<p>הספר היה ארוך מאוד.</p> <p><i>Ha-sefer hayah aroch me'od.</i></p> <p>The book was very long.</p>
<p>המשפחה של ניר גדולה.</p> <p><i>Ha-mish'paḥah shel Nir g'dolah.</i></p> <p>Nir's family is big.</p>	<p>אני אוהבת את המשפחה שלי.</p> <p><i>Ani ohevet et ha-mish'paḥah sheli.</i></p> <p>I love my family.</p>
<p>המשפחה אוכלת ארוחת ערב.</p> <p>The family is eating dinner.</p>	<p>זאת תמונה של הכלב שלי.</p> <p><i>Zot t'munah shel ha-kelev sheli.</i></p> <p>This is a picture of my dog.</p>

*zo tmunah yafa*

It's a nice picture.

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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ספר

A *sefer* is a "book" in Hebrew. It comes from the root ס.פ.ר., which encompasses words relating to counting and telling or informing.

### תמונה

*T'munah* is a "picture," and we can also use it to describe both a photograph and a drawing of something.

### אחות

*Achot* is the word for "sister" as well as "nurse." Since this word already has an ending like a plural ending, the plural is אחיות (*achayot*).

### חמוד

*Chamud* means "cute," and we can also use it as a term of endearment, meaning "sweetie." We use it with children, but we can also use it among adults.

### כל-כך

*Kol-kach* is made up of two words "all" and "thus," and it means "so" or "so much." We use it to reinforce the extent to which something is true.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Using Interjections in Hebrew.**

יפה!  
יפה!

***Yafeh!***  
**"Nice!"**

---

You use interjections in Hebrew much in the same way as you do in English. They may stand on their own, but they are part of the larger idea of the whole context of the conversation. We use them in spoken Hebrew, but they are usually taken from adjectives used in the language itself. Here are some other interjections that we use often in Hebrew.

Hebrew	Voweled	Romanization	"English"
מצוין!	מְצוּיִן!	<i>Metzuyan!</i>	"Excellent!"
יופי!	יוֹפִי!	<i>Yofi!</i>	"Great!"
מהמם!	מְהֵמֵם!	<i>Mehamem!</i>	"Stunning!"
אוי ואבוי!	אוי וְאָבוֹי!	<i>Oy va'avoy</i>	"How awful!"
מה!?!	מָה!?!	<i>Mah!?! </i>	"What!?! "
לא נכון!	לֹא נָכוֹן!	<i>Lo nachon!</i>	"Not true!"
חבל!	חֶבֶל!	<i>Chaval!</i>	"Pity!"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Will You Have to Say "Cheese" for the Camera in Israel?

Israelis aren't as photography crazy as people in other countries may be. The concept of professional photography is an underdeveloped one in Israel. You are most likely to have professional photos taken for your wedding or bar mitzvah and that's about it. Most families don't have professional photos taken throughout the years like they do in the United States. Senior photos are also not even part of going to high school.

When it comes to taking photos yourself, Israelis like to do this but they are not crazy about it. If they have a camera with them, they take photos. There is no need to take photos of every moment of the day. Israelis are most likely to take photos only on special occasions and on special trips.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #17

## Talking About Age in Hebrew

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# 17



# HEBREW

1. PETER: שרה, איפה תמר הקטנה?
2. SARAH: היא שמה.
3. PETER: (בקול רך) אה, איזה חמודה. היא כל כך קטנה, לא? בת כמה היא?
4. SARAH: היא בת שנה.
5. (תמר מתחילה לבכות)
6. PETER: אוי, אני מצטער, כל כך מצטער! אנחנו עושים רעש? סליחה!

# ENGLISH

1. PETER: Sarah, where is little Tamar?
2. SARAH: She's over there.
3. PETER: (In a soft voice) Ah, how cute! She's so little, isn't she? How old is she?
4. SARAH: She's a year old.
5. (Tamar starts to cry)
6. PETER: Oh, I'm sorry, so sorry! Are we making noise? Excuse me!

# ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. PETER: Sarah, eifo Tamar ha-k'tanah?
2. SARAH: Hi shamah.
3. PETER: (be-kol rakh) Ah, eizeh hamudah. Hi kol-kakh k'tanah, lo? Bat kamah hi?
4. SARAH: Hi bat shanah.
5. (Tamar mat'hilah liv'kot)
6. PETER: Oy, Ani mitz'ta'er, kol-kakh mitz'ta'er! Anah'nu osim ra'ash? S'lihah!

## VOWELLED

1. PETER: שָׂרָה, אֵיפֹה תָמָר הַקְטָנָה?
2. SARAH: הִיא שָׁמָּה.
3. PETER: (בְּקוֹל רַךְ) אָה, אֵיזָה חֲמוּדָה. הִיא כָּל כָּךְ קְטָנָה, לֹא? בֵּת כָּמָה הִיא?
4. SARAH: הִיא בֵּת שָׁנָה.
5. (תָּמָר מִתְחִילָה לִבְכוֹת)
6. PETER: אוֹי, אֲנִי מִצְטָעֵר, כָּל כָּךְ מִצְטָעֵר! אֲנַחְנוּ עוֹשִׂים רָעָשׁ? סְלִיחָה!

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
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איזה	eizeh	How, which		male
בת	bat	daughter	noun	feminine
בן כמה	ben kamah	How old? (masc.)		masculine
בת כמה	Bat kamah	How old? (fem.)		feminine
כמה	kamah	how much or how many	interrogative	
שנה	shanah	Year/One year		feminine
אנחנו	Anaħ'nu	we		
לעשות/עשה	La-asot/asah	To make/do		
רעש	Ra'ash	noise	noun	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>איזו שמלה את רוצה ללבוש? <i>Eizeo sim'lah at rotzah lil'bosh.</i></p> <p>Which dress do you want to wear?</p>	<p>אני הבת של מוזיקאים. <i>Ani ha-bat shel muzika'im.</i></p> <p>I am the daughter of musicians.</p>
<p>הבת שלנו פרופסור באוניברסיטה והבן שלנו איש עסקים</p> <p>Our daughter is a university professor, and our son is a businessman.</p>	<p>בן כמה אתה? <i>Ben kamah atah?</i></p> <p>How old are you (masc.)?</p>
<p>בת כמה את? <i>Bat kamah at?</i></p> <p>How old are you (fem.)?</p>	<p>כמה שנים גרת בארץ? <i>Kamah shanim gar't ba-arezt?</i></p> <p>How many years did you (feminine) live in Israel?</p>

<p>כמה מכוניות יש לך?  <i>Kamah mekhoniyot yesh le'ka?</i></p> <p>How many cars do you have?</p>	<p>אני מתחילה ללמוד השנה.  <i>Ani mat'hilah lil'mod ha-shanah.</i></p> <p>I am starting to study (university) this year.</p>
<p>אנחנו אוכלים פסטה.  <i>Anaḥ'nu okh'lim pasta.</i></p> <p>We are eating pasta.</p>	<p>אנחנו רוצים ללכת לים.  <i>Anaḥ'nu rotzim la-lekhet la-yam.</i></p> <p>We want to go to the sea.</p>
<p>טליה עושה עוגיות היום.  <i>Taliya osah ugiyot ha-yom.</i></p> <p>Taliya is making cookies today.</p>	<p>יש תמיד הרבה רעש בתל אביב.  <i>Yesh tamid har'beh ra'ash be-tel aviv.</i></p> <p>There is always a lot of noise in Tel Aviv.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### איזה

In the text, we use *eizeh* like an interjection, and it means "how." You can use this with many words like "beautiful," "ugly," "expensive," etc. We also use *eizeh* for the word "which" when asking "which" item is being discussed.

### לעשות

*La'asot* means "to make" or "to do."

### רעש

*Ra'ash* is "noise," and you generally use it to describe "noise" that bothers you, so it is a negative term.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking How Old Someone Is in Hebrew.**

בת כמה היא?

בת כמה היא?

***Bat kamah he?***

**"How old is she?"**

The first thing that you need to determine when asking for someone's age is whether you are asking about a male or female person. For males, you start out the sentence with בן or "son," and for females, you start out with בת, or "daughter." After this, you add the word כמה for "how much." The last word in this sentence is the subject that you are asking about. It sounds weird when you translate this sentence into English, but you are basically asking "How many years have you been a son or daughter?"

### For Example:

1. בן כמה אתה?  
בֶּן כַּמָּה אַתָּה?  
*Ben kamah atah?*  
"How old are you (masculine)?"
2. בת כמה את?  
בֵּת כַּמָּה אַתְּ?  
*Bat kamah at?*  
"How old are you (feminine)?"
3. בן כמה הוא?  
בֶּן כַּמָּה הוּא?  
*Ben kamah hu?*  
"How old is he?"
4. בת כמה
5. בן כמה יואב?  
בֶּן כַּמָּה יוֹאָב?  
*Ben kamah Yo'av?*  
"How old is Yo'av?"
6. בת כמה קרין?

### Answering the Question "How Old Is She?"

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To answer this question, you start out with the subject. In the dialogue, Peter was asking how old the baby is, so Sarah used היא for the subject. Then she added בת and the last part of the sentence is the number of years that Tamar has lived. In the dialogue, we used only שנה because Tamar is only one year old. When talking about children who are one and two years old, you will use only שנה, meaning "year," and שנתיים, meaning "two years," and no numbers.

## For Example:

1.

היא בת שנה.

היא בַּת שָׁנָה.

*Hi bat shanah.*

"She is one year (old)."

For most people, you will need only to end with the number of years old the person is.

## For Example:

1.

אני בן עשרים.

אֲנִי בֶן עֶשְׂרִים.

*Ani ben es'rim.*

"I am twenty years old."

2.

אני בת שלושים וחמש.

אֲנִי בַת שְׁלוֹשִׁים וְחֲמֵשׁ.

*Ani bat sh'loshim ve-ḥamesh.*

"I am thirty-five years old."

3.

הוא בן שנה.

הוא בֶן שָׁנָה.

4.

היא בת שנתיים.

היא בַת שְׁנַתַּיִם.

*Hi bat sh'natayim.*

"She is two years old."

5.

יואב בן חמש-עשרה.

יוֹאָב בֶּן חֲמֵשׁ-עֶשְׂרֵה.

6.

קרין בת שלושה חודשים.

קָרִין בַּת שְׁלוֹשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים.

When talking about how many years old someone is, you use the feminine numbers because שנה is a feminine word. When you talk about how many months old a baby is, you use the masculine number because the word חודש is a masculine word.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Who Calls the Shots in an Israeli Family?

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The ratio of children to adults in Israel is higher than in other westernized countries. The birth rate in Israel is around 2.97 in the Jewish population and 3.75 in the Muslim population, according to Wikipedia. Israelis love children, and they make people with children feel comfortable in many situations. Almost all restaurants and stores in Israel welcome children gladly. Children are a big part of everyday life. They are included in most of the family activities. Children are often welcome at parties and many weddings along with their parents. Because Israelis are so open to children, there are also many activities in Israel for children throughout the year, especially during the holidays. If you're a child, Israel is a great place to live. One of the drawbacks is that people are very focused on their children, and therefore, children have a little more control over their families than in other countries.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #18

## Talking Likes and Dislikes in Hebrew

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# 18



# HEBREW

1. SARAH: קו-קו! קו-קו!
2. TAMAR: (צוחקת)
3. DAVID: תמר אוהבת לשחק "קו-קו"
4. PETER: באמת? בסדר, אז... קו-קו
5. TAMAR: (בוכה)
6. PETER: אה! אני מצטער, סליחה
7. DAVID: תמר לא אוהבת גברים. (צוחק)

# ENGLISH

1. SARAH: Peek-a-boo! Peek-a-boo!
2. TAMAR: (laughs)
3. DAVID: Tamar loves to play peek-a-boo.
4. PETER: Really? Okay, so... peek-a-boo.
5. TAMAR: (cries)
6. PETER: Oh! I'm sorry, excuse me!
7. DAVID: Tamar doesn't like men. (laughs)

# ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. SARAH: Ku-ku! Ku-ku!
2. TAMAR: (tzoñeket)
3. DAVID: Tamar ohevet le-sahek "ku-ku".
4. PETER: Be-emet? Beseder, az... ku-ku.
5. TAMAR: (bokhah)
6. PETER: Ah! Ani mitz'ta'er, sliḥah!
7. DAVID: Tamar lo ohevet g'varim. (tzohek)

## VOWELLED

1. SARAH: קו-קו! קו-קו!
2. TAMAR: (צוֹחֶקֶת)
3. DAVID: תָּמָר אוֹהֶבֶת לְשַׁחַק "קו-קו"
4. PETER: בְּאֵמֶת? בְּסֵדֶר, אֲזֵ... קו-קוֹ
5. TAMAR: (בּוֹכָה)
6. PETER: אָה! אֲנִי מִצְטָעֵר, סְלִיחָה!
7. DAVID: תָּמָר לֹא אוֹהֶבֶת גְּבָרִים. (צוֹחֵק)

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
קו-קו	Ku-ku	Peek-a-boo		
לאהוב/אהב	Le-ehov/ahav	To love/liked		
לשחק/שיחק	Le-saḥek/siḥek	To play/played		masculine
באמת	Be-emet	really, truly	adverb	
אז	az	So, then		
גבר	gever	man		masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>הבן שלי אוהב כלבים.</p> <p><i>Ha-ben sheli ohev k'lavim.</i></p> <p>My son loves dogs.</p>	<p>אני אוהבת לשחק קו-קו עם האחייני שלי.</p> <p><i>Ani ohevet le-saḥek ku-ku im ha-aḥiyan sheli.</i></p> <p>I love to play peek-a-boo with my nephew.</p>
<p>הוא משחק טניס כל בוקר.</p> <p><i>Hu me'saḥek tenis kol boker.</i></p> <p>He plays tennis every morning.</p>	<p>טל אוהב את דנה.</p> <p><i>Tal ohev et danah.</i></p> <p>Tal loves Dana.</p>
<p>הוא בא מחר, באמת.</p> <p><i>Hu ba maḥar, be'emet.</i></p> <p>He's coming tomorrow, really.</p>	<p>הם באמת חושבים שאת לא רואה.</p> <p><i>Hem be-emet ḥosh'vim she-at lo ro'ah.</i></p> <p>They really think that you can't see.</p>
<p>אז אנחנו צריכים לחשוב על זה.</p> <p><i>Az anaḥ'nu tz'richim laḥ'shov al zeh.</i></p> <p>So, we need to think about this.</p>	<p>אתה באמת נראה כמו הדוד שלי.</p> <p><i>Atah be-emet nireh k'mo ha-dod sheli.</i></p> <p>You really look like my uncle.</p>

איפה הגבר הזה עם השיער הארוך?

*Eifo ha-gever ha-zeh im ha-se'ar ha-aroch?*

Where is that man with the long hair?

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

*Ku-ku* is the Israeli equivalent of Peek-a-boo. It's played exactly the same way as in North America.

## לשחק

*Le-sachek* is "to play" in Hebrew. Just like in English, it can be used for sports and games. It is not used for playing instruments. It is used for the verb "to act (dramatic)" as well.

## אז

Az means both "so" and "then."

## גבר

*Gever* is the word for "man" but it has more of a slang usage than אדם. The word *gever* emphasizes the masculinity of a person, whereas *adam* emphasizes the human aspect.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of this Lesson is Talking About What you Like and Don't Like in Hebrew.**

תמר אוהבת לשחק "קו-קו".

תָּמַר אוֹהֶבֶת לְשַׁחֵק "קו-קו".

*Tamar ohevet le-sachek ku-ku.*

"Tamar loves to play peek-a-boo."

To talk about what you like in Hebrew, we usually use the word לאהוב which really means "to love" but it is also used for "like." There is another verb for "to like" which is לחבב but it's used much less often. So, לאהוב is used for both the verbs "to love" and "to like." לאהוב in the present tense:

	Singular			Plural		
<b>Masculine</b>	אוהב	אוֹהֵב	<i>Ohev</i>	אוהבים	אוֹהֲבִים	<i>Ohavim</i>
<b>Feminine</b>	אוהבת	אוֹהֶבֶת	<i>Ohevet</i>	אוהבות	אוֹהֶבוֹת	<i>Ohavot</i>

Examples:

1. אני אוהב עוגה.  
אֲנִי אוֹהֵב עוּגָה.  
*Ani ohev ugah.*  
"I like cake."
2. את אוהבת לשיר  
אֶת אוֹהֶבֶת לְשִׁיר.  
*At ohevet la-shir.*  
"You (fem.) love to sing."
3. הוא אוהב את הים.  
הוא אוֹהֵב אֶת הַיָּם.  
*Hu ohev et ha-yam.*  
"He loves the sea."
4. רחלי אוהבת כחול.  
רַחֵלִי אוֹהֶבֶת כָּחֹל.  
*Racheli ohevet kachol.*  
"Racheli likes blue."
5. אנחנו אוהבים לשחות.  
אֲנַחְנוּ אוֹהֲבִים לְשַׁחֹת.  
*Anach'nu ohavim lis'chot.*  
"We love to swim."
6. נטע ואת אוהבות לעשות שופינג.  
נָטַע וְאֶת אוֹהֲבוֹת לַעֲשׂוֹת שׁוּפִינֵג.  
*Neta ve-at ohavot la-asot shopping.*  
"You (fem.) and Neta love to do shopping."
7. הם אוהבים פיצה.  
הֵם אוֹהֲבִים פִּיצָה.  
*Hem ohavim pitzah.*  
"They love pizza."
8. הן אוהבות סלט יווני.  
הֵן אוֹהֲבוֹת סָלַט יְווֹנִי.  
*Hen ohavot salat yevani.*  
"They (fem.) love Greek salad."

## Talking About What You Don't Like

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Here's an example:

1.

תמר לא אוהבת גברים.

תִּמְרָא לֹא אוֹהֶבֶת גְּבָרִים.

*Tamar lo ohevet g'varim.*

"Tamar doesn't like men."

Saying that you don't like something is simple, you just place the word לא (*no*) in front of the verb לאהוב.

For example:

1.

אני לא אוהב עוגה.

אֲנִי לֹא אוֹהֵב עוּגָה.

*Ani lo ohev ugah.*

"I don't like cake."

2.

רחלי לא אוהבת כחול.

רַחֲלִי לֹא אוֹהֶבֶת כָּחוֹל.

*Racheli lo ohevet kachol.*

"Racheli doesn't like blue."

3.

אנחנו לא אוהבים לשחות.

אֲנַחְנוּ לֹא אוֹהֲבִים לִשְׁחוֹת.

*Anach'nu lo ohavim lis'hot.*

"We don't like to swim."

4.

הן לא אוהבות סלט יווני.

הֵן לֹא אוֹהֲבוֹת סָלַט יוּוֹנִי.

*Hen lo ohavot salat yevani.*

"They (fem.) don't like Greek salad."

As you can see from the examples, you can follow the verb לאהוב with nouns or verbs just like in English.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Popular Sports in Israel

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Every culture has its own set of games and Israel is no different. One popular children's game is called *machanayim*. It is a game that is similar to dodge ball. You play it in teams and when people are thrown out of the game, they stand behind the other team and try to help their team by attacking the team from the back if their team can get the ball to them. There are many more rules than in dodge ball and more strategy is involved in the game. Another popular game is *shesh'besht*. *Shesh'besht* is backgammon and it is widely played in Israel. There are several versions of the game that you can play that are not played in the States usually, and that many grown-ups enjoy.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #19

## Checking the Time in Hebrew

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 19



# HEBREW

1. SARAH: באיזה שעה בדיוק הפגישה עם פטר?

2. DAVID: זה בעשר וחצי

3. SARAH: ומה השעה עכשיו?

4. DAVID: השעה תשע וחמש דקות. מהרי שלא נאחר.

5. SARAH: כן! רק עוד דקה אחת.

6. DAVID: את תמיד אומרת את זה... ואז...

# ENGLISH

1. SARAH: At what time exactly is the meeting with Peter?
2. DAVID: At ten thirty.
3. SARAH: And what time is it now?
4. DAVID: The time is five minutes after nine. Hurry up so we won't be late.
5. SARAH: Yes! Just one more minute.
6. DAVID: You always say that...and then...

# ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. SARAH: Be-eizeh sha'ah be-diyuk ha-p'gishah im Peter?
2. DAVID: Zeh be-eser va-ħetzi
3. SARAH: u-mah ha-sha'ah akh'shav?
4. DAVID: Ha-sha'ah tesha ve-ħamesh dakot. Mahari she-lo ne'aħer.
5. SARAH: Ken! Rak od dakah aħat.
6. DAVID: At tamid omeret et zeh... ve-az...

## VOWELLED

1. SARAH: באיזה שעה בדיוק הפגישת עם פטר?

2. DAVID: זה בעשר וחצי

3. SARAH: ומה השעה עכשיו?

4. DAVID: השעה תשע וחמש דקות. מהרי שלא נאחר.

5. SARAH: כן! רק עוד דקה אחת.

6. DAVID: את תמיד אומרת את זה... ואז...

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
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את	Et	- (no translation, sign of direct object)	preposition	
לאומר/אמר	Le'emor/amar	To say/said	verb	
שעה	sha'a	hour, time	noun	feminine
בדיוק	Be-diyuk	exactly		
אחרי	Ahare'i	after, behind	preposition	
רק	rak	only	conjunction	
למהר/מהיר	Le-maher/miher	To hurry/hurried		masculine
עם	Im	with		
חצי	chetzi	half		masculine
עכשיו	Akh'shav	now	adverb	
דקה	Dakah	minute	noun	feminine
עוד	Od	more	adverb	
תמיד	tamid	always	Adverb	none

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>אתם קונים את הבית הזה?</p> <p><i>Atem konim et ha-bayit ha-zeh?</i></p> <p>Are you buying this house?</p>	<p>היא אומרת שלום.</p> <p><i>Hi omeret shalom.</i></p> <p>She is saying hello.</p>
<p>בשעה אחת יש שישים דקות.</p> <p><i>Be'sha'a akhat yesh shishim dakot.</i></p> <p>In one hour, there are sixty minutes.</p>	<p>איפה את גרה בדיוק?</p> <p><i>Eifo at garah be-diyuk?</i></p> <p>Where do you live exactly?</p>

<p>היא נפגשת איתו אחרי הקונצרט. <i>Hi nif'geshet ito aħare'i ha-kon'tzert.</i></p> <p>She is meeting him after the concert.</p>	<p>אנחנו יכולים לעבור דירה אחרי מאי. <i>Anach'nu yecholim la-avor dirah aħare'i ma'i.</i></p> <p>We can change apartments after May.</p>
<p>הוא בא אחרי דליה. <i>Hu ba aħare'i Dalia.</i></p> <p>He is coming after Dalia.</p>	<p>יש לי רק חמש דקות עכשיו. <i>Yesh li rak ĥamesh dakot akh'shav.</i></p> <p>I only have five minutes right now.</p>
<p>תן לי רק סיגריה אחת בבקשה. <i>Ten li rak sigari'ah aĥat be-vakashah.</i></p> <p>Give me only one cigarette please.</p>	<p>אני ממהרת להגיע הביתה. <i>Ani memaheret le-hagiya ha-bay'tah.</i></p> <p>I am hurrying to get home.</p>
<p>היא רוצה פיצה עם בצל. <i>Hi rotzah pitzah im batzal.</i></p> <p>She wants pizza with onions.</p>	<p>אנחנו עובדים חצי יום היום. <i>Anach'nu ov'dim ĥatzi yom ha-yom.</i></p> <p>We are working a half day today.</p>
<p>עכשיו הם חייבים ללכת. <i>Akh'shav hem ĥayavim la-lekhet.</i></p> <p>Now they have to go.</p>	<p>עכשיו אני הולך לעשות קניות. <i>Akh'shav ani holech la-asot k'niyot.</i></p> <p>Now I am going to do shopping.</p>
<p>יש לי רק חמש דקות. <i>Yesh li rak ĥamesh dakot.</i></p> <p>I only have five minutes.</p>	<p>היא רוצה עוד קולה. <i>Hi rotzah od kola.</i></p> <p>She wants more cola.</p>
<p>יש רק עוד שלושה ימים עד החופש הגדול. <i>Yesh rak od sh'loshah yamim ad ha-ĥofesh ha-gadol.</i></p> <p>There are only three more days until summer vacation.</p>	<p>כן, אני תמיד רעבה <i>ken ani tamid re'eva</i></p> <p>Yes, I'm always hungry. (feminine speech)</p>
<p>אני תמיד שותה חלב חם בערב. <i>ani tamid shoteh chalav cham ba-erev</i></p> <p>I always have hot milk in the evening.</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

*Be-diyuk* means "exactly" and it is made up of two words, ב- and דיוק. Literally, they mean, "with exactness."

*P'gishah* is a "meeting," this can refer to a formal meeting or a meeting with friends.

*Achare'i* means "after." It is used in time expressions as well as normal speech. It can also be translated as "behind."

*Le'emor* means "to say" or "to tell." The א' in this word changes vowel sound throughout, so you may not recognize the different versions of this word until you use it a lot.

*Et* is a very important word in Hebrew that has no English equivalent. It is used to indicate a direct object.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of this Lesson is Talking About Time in Hebrew

השעה תשע וחמש דקות.

הִשְׁעָה תִּשְׁעָה וְחֲמִשָּׁה דְּקוּת.

***Ha-sha'ah teisha ve-hamesh dakot.***

**"The time is five minutes after nine."**

In general, when talking about time we use feminine numbers because all the nouns pertaining to time are feminine: שעה ("hour"), דקה ("minute") and שנייה ("second"). To tell someone the time, you begin with the word השעה or "the hour." After this you can say היא meaning "is" or just the time directly. You can tell the time with the exact minutes or use words such as "half" and "quarter."

Examples of time phrases:

1. השעה היא שתיים וחמש דקות.  
השעה היא שתיים וחמש דקות.  
*Ha-sha'ah hi sh'tayim ve-chamesh dakot.*  
"The time is five past two."
2. השעה שלוש ורבע.  
השעה שלוש ורבע.  
*Ha-sha'ah shalosh va-reva.*  
"The time is quarter past three."
3. השעה ארבע ועשרים דקות.  
השעה ארבע ועשרים דקות.  
*Ha-sha'ah ar'ba ve-es'rim dakot.*  
"The time is twenty past four."
4. השעה היא חמש וחצי.  
השעה היא חמש וחצי.  
*Ha-sh'ah hi chamesh va-chetzi.*  
"The time is half past five."
5. השעה היא שש ושלשים ושבע דקות.  
השעה היא שש ושלשים ושבע דקות.  
*Ha-sha'ah hi shesh ve-sh'loshim ve-sheva dakot.*  
"The time is six thirty-seven."
6. השעה רבע לשמונה.  
השעה רבע לשמונה.  
*Ha-sha'ah reva li-sh'moneh.*  
"The time is a quarter to eight."
7. השעה היא תשע בדיוק.  
השעה היא תשע בדיוק.  
*Ha-sha'ah hi teisha be-diyuk.*  
"The time is exactly nine."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Attitudes to Time in

The concept of time and being on time in Israel is very flexible. Although being on time for work is important, no one will be looking at their watch if you come a little late. However, there is a limit. Someone who consistently comes to work an hour or so after they should, will probably not have a job for very long. Also at work, when a meeting is called for a specific time, you can be certain that it won't start at that time and it will probably end a little later as well. At home and in social situations the concept of time is even more flexible. If you come to a gathering at the time it was set, you will probably be the only one there, other than the host. Most people come around fifteen minutes to half an hour later than the set time at casual events. Even at weddings, you will have many people arriving much later than the wedding ceremony. Time is just not important to Israelis, they get to where they are going eventually and no one stresses about it.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #20

## Talking about Existence in Hebrew

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- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 3 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
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# 20



# HEBREW

1. (בנסיעה)

2. DAVID: (קירקור קיבה) אני רעב!

3. PETER: יש דרייב ת'רו שמה. אתה אוהב עוף מטוגן?

4. SARAH: עוף... מטוגן...

5. PETER: את לא אוהבת?

6. SARAH: יש לי אלרגיה.

7. PETER: יש לך אלרגיה לעוף?

8. SARAH: כן, לצערי.

9. DAVID: פטר, היזהר, יש חתול על הכביש.

10. PETER: אוה, כן, תודה.

# ENGLISH

1. DAVID: (stomach rumbles) I'm hungry!
2. PETER: There's a drive-thru over there. Do you like fried chicken?
3. SARAH: fried...chicken...
4. PETER: You don't like it?

CONT'D OVER

5. SARAH: I'm allergic...
6. PETER: You have an allergy to chicken?
7. SARAH: Yes, unfortunately.
8. DAVID: Peter, be careful! There is a cat in the road.
9. PETER: Oh, Yes, thank you!

## ROMANIZATION

1. DAVID: (kir'kur ke'ivah) Ani ra'ev.
2. PETER: Yesh drive thru shamah. Atah ohev of metugan?
3. SARAH: of... metugan...
4. PETER: At lo ohevet?
5. SARAH: Yesh li alergiyah.
6. PETER: Yesh lakh alergiyah le-of?
7. SARAH: Oh, Ken, le-tza'ari.
8. DAVID: Peter, hizaher! Yesh hatul al ha-k'vish.
9. PETER: Oh, Ken, todah!

## VOWELLED

CONT'D OVER

1. (בְּנִסְיָה)

2. DAVID: (קִירְקוּר קִיבָּה) אָנִי רָעַב!

3. PETER: יֵשׁ דְּרִיב תִּירוּ שְׁמָה. אֵתָה אוֹהֵב עוֹף מְטוּגָן?

4. SARAH: עוֹף... מְטוּגָן...

5. PETER: אֵת לֹא אוֹהֶבֶת?

6. SARAH: יֵשׁ לִי אֲלֶרְגִיָּה.

7. PETER: יֵשׁ לְךָ אֲלֶרְגִיָּה לְעוֹף?

8. SARAH: כֵּן, לְצֹעֲרִי.

9. DAVID: פֶּטֶר, הִיזָהָר, יֵשׁ חֲתוּל עַל הַכְּבִישׁ.

10. PETER: אוֹה, כֵּן, תוֹדָה.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
מטוגן	metugan	fried	adjective	
אלרגיה	alergiyah	allergy	noun	feminine
לצערי	Le-tza'ari	unfortunately	expression	
להיזהר/נזהר	Le-hizaher/ nizhar	To be careful/ was careful	verb	
כביש	K'vish	Street/road	Noun (masc.)	

רעב	ra'ev	hungry	adjective	masculine
יש	yesh	there is	adverb	none
עוף	of	chicken	noun	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>העוף הזה מטוגן או אפוי? <i>Ha-of ha-zeh metugan oh afu'i.</i></p> <p>Is this chicken fried or baked?</p>	<p>יש לי אלרגיה למנגו. <i>Yesh li alergiyah le-man'go.</i></p> <p>I have an allergy to mangos.</p>
<p>אני לא יכולה לבוא לצערי. <i>Ani lo yekholah la-vo le-tza'ari.</i></p> <p>I (fem.) can't come unfortunately.</p>	<p>ממה אנחנו צריכים להיזהר פה? <i>Mi-mah anah'nu tz'rikhim le-hizaher po?</i></p> <p>What do we need to be careful here?</p>
<p>איפה הכביש הראשי בעיר? <i>Eifo ha-k'vish ha-rashi ba-ir?</i></p> <p>Where is the main street in town?</p>	<p>האישה רעבה. האיש הרעב מחפש אוכל במקרר <i>ha-isha re'evah. ha-ish ha-ra'ev me'chapes ochel ba-mekarer.</i></p> <p>The woman is hungry. The hungry man is looking for food in the refrigerator.</p>
<p>יש פארק ליד הבית שלי. <i>Yesh park le-yad ha-bayit sheli.</i></p> <p>There is a park next to my house.</p>	<p>יש פה בנק בסביבה? <i>yesh po bank ba-sviva?</i></p> <p>Is there a bank near here?</p>
<p>יש שם מכונית. <i>yesh sham mechonit</i></p> <p>There is a car over there.</p>	<p>את אוכלת עוף פעמיים בשבוע. <i>At ochelet of pa'amayim ba-shavu'a.</i></p> <p>You eat chicken twice a week.</p>
<p>הטבח בישל את העוף על האש. <i>ha-tabach bishel et ha-of al ha-esh</i></p> <p>The cook barbecued the chicken.</p>	<p>האיש חותך עוף. <i>ha-ish chotech of</i></p> <p>The man is cutting chicken.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

*Metugan* means "fried" in Hebrew. This word is derived from the verb *le-tagen* (לטגן) "to fry."

## לצער

*Le-tza'ari* means "unfortunately." It is made up of three parts. The first part is ל- or "to." Next is צער or "sorrow" and the last is -י or "my." So, literally you are saying "to my sorrow."

## להיזהר

*Le-hizaher* is the Hebrew for "to be careful." This verb is part of a group of verbs that are partially passive. You will recognize this group by the ה- that precedes the root of the verb. A simple way to tell someone to be careful is to say זהירות. This word you don't have to conjugate according to who you are talking to, as opposed to the way we used it in the dialogue.

## כביש

A *k'vish* is a "road" or a "highway." In Israel, this is used when talking about specific highways, like *k'vish 6* - כביש 6 ("Highway #6").

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of this Lesson is Talking about Existence in Hebrew

יש חתול על הכביש.

יש חתול על הכביש.

*Yesh hatul al ha-k'vish.***"There is a cat on the road."**

The phrases "there is" and "there are" in English are יש in Hebrew. When you want to show the existence of something you can use this word. In the present tense, there is no agreement in gender or number. יש is used for everything, no matter the subject. In the dialogue, David tells Peter that there is a cat on the road. He says first, יש or "there is" and then חתול (cat) and then the rest of the information for the sentence. Here are some more examples of sentences of existence:

1.

יש צלחת על השולחן.

יש צלחת על השולחן.

*Yesh tzalahat al ha-shul'han.***"There is a plate on the table."**

2.

יש כלבים בגינה.  
יֵשׁ כָּלָבִים בַּגִּינָה.

*Yesh k'lavim ba-ginah.*  
"There are dogs in the garden."

3.

יש אוטו למכירה.  
יֵשׁ אוֹטוֹ לְמִכְרָה.

*Yesh oto li-m'khirah.*  
"There is a car for sale."

4.

יש שמש בחוץ.  
יֵשׁ שֶׁמֶשׁ בַּחוּץ.

*Yesh shemesh ba-hutz.*  
"The sun is out."

## Using יש to Show Possession

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Here's an example:

1.

יש לי אלרגיה.  
יֵשׁ לִי אֲלֶרְגִיָּה.

*Yesh li Alergiyah.*  
"I have an allergy."

*Yesh* can also be used to show possession. All you need to do is to add a possessor to a sentence showing existence. For this you need the word "to" (ל-) and the pronoun or name of the possessor. The literal translation of the phrase would be "there is to..." Here are some examples using our previous examples as a starting sentence:

1.

יש לך צלחת על השולחן.  
יֵשׁ לְךָ צִלְחַת עַל הַשּׁוּלְחָן.

*Yesh lakh tzalaḥat al ha-shul'han.*  
"You (fem.) have a plate on the table."

2.

יש לנו כלבים בגינה.  
יֵשׁ לָנוּ כָּלָבִים בַּגִּינָה.

*Yesh lanu k'lavim ba-ginah.*  
"We have dogs in the garden."

*Yesh le-David oto li-m'khirah.*

"David has a car for sale."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Fast Food in Israeli

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Drive-thrus are actually hard to come by in Israel. There are comparatively very few fast food chains that have made it in Israel, namely McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Burger King and the Israeli Burger Ranch. Fast food costs much more than in North America and Israelis make less money, so they can't afford to eat at fast food restaurants as often. Most fast food restaurants don't have a drive-thru, but there are a few McDonald's throughout the country that do. In general, the food is pretty much the same, with a few additions that are more like Israeli food, like the McKabob at McDonald's. There have been several fast food chains that have tried to make it in Israel but Israelis just weren't eating in these places, so they have had to pull out of Israel or minimize their business. In Israel, the preferred "fast food" is falafel and schwarma instead of the traditional "American" fast food restaurants.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #21

## Describing Actions Using Hebrew Verbs

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- 2 Romanization
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# # 21



# HEBREW

1. (תמר בוכה)

2. PETER: תמר, את רעבה? שרה, תמר אוכלת בננות?

3. SARAH: אכן כן, תמר אוהבת בננות.

4. (תמר צוחקת)

5. PETER: באמת? בסדר תמר, בבקשה.

6. (כלב בוכה)

7. PETER: שרה, דובי אוכל בננות?

# ENGLISH

1. (Tamar cries)

2. PETER: Tamar, are you hungry? Sarah, does Tamar eat bananas?

3. SARAH: Yes she does, Tamar loves bananas.

4. (Tamar laughs)

5. PETER: Really? Okay Tamar, here you go.

6. (The dog whines)

7. PETER: Sarah, does Dubi eat bananas?

# ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. (Tamar bokhah)
2. PETER: Tamar, at re'evah? Sarah, Tamar okhelet bananot?
3. SARAH: Akhen ken, Tamar ohevet bananot.
4. (Tamar tzohekhet)
5. PETER: Be'emet? Be-seder Tamar, be-vakashah.
6. (Ha-kelev bokheh)
7. PETER: Sarah, Dubi okhel bananot?

## VOWELLED

1. (תמר בוכה)

2. PETER: תמר, את רעבה? שרה, תמר אוכלת בננות?

3. SARAH: אכן כן, תמר אוהבת בננות.

4. (תמר צוחקת)

5. PETER: באמת? בסדר תמר, בבקשה.

6. (הכלב בוכה)

7. PETER: שרה, דובי אוכל בננות?

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
לאכול/אכל	Le-echol/achal	To eat/ate		
בננה	banana	banana	noun	feminine
אכן	achen	indeed		
לאהוב/אהב	Le-ehov/ahav	To love/liked		
באמת	Be-emet	really, truly	adverb	
בסדר	beseder	okay	adjective	none

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>אני אוכל ביצה קשה כל יום בבוקר.  <i>Ani ochel beitzah kashah kol yom ba-boker.</i></p> <p>I eat a hardboiled egg every day in the morning.</p>	<p>מגדלים בננות בישראל.  <i>Megad'lim bananot be-yis'ra'el.</i></p> <p>(They) grow bananas in Israel.</p>
<p>בננות עשירות באשלגן  <i>bananot ashivot b'ashlegan</i></p> <p>Bananas are rich in potassium.</p>	<p>אכן כן, אני אוהבת לנסוע ברכבת.  <i>Akhen ken, Ani ohevet lin'so'a ba-rakevet.</i></p> <p>Indeed, I like to travel by train.</p>
<p>הבן שלי אוהב כלבים.  <i>Ha-ben sheli ohev k'lavim.</i></p> <p>My son loves dogs.</p>	<p>טל אוהב את דנה.  <i>Tal ohev et danah.</i></p> <p>Tal loves Dana.</p>
<p>הם באמת חושבים שאת לא רואה.  <i>Hem be-emet hosh'vim she-at lo ro'ah.</i></p> <p>They really think that you can't see.</p>	<p>הוא בא מחר, באמת.  <i>Hu ba ma'har, be'emet.</i></p> <p>He's coming tomorrow, really.</p>
<p>אתה באמת נראה כמו הדוד שלי.  <i>Atah be-emet nireh k'mo ha-dod sheli.</i></p> <p>You really look like my uncle.</p>	<p>בסדר, אני הולך הביתה.  <i>beseder, ani holech ha-bayta.</i></p> <p>Okay, I'm going home.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

*Le'echol* means "to eat." This verb is part of the פעל verb group.

*Achen* means "indeed" in Hebrew. It's used when you want to emphasize a positive answer.

*Le-ehov* is translated as both "to love" and "to like."

*Be-emet* means "really." The literal translation is "in truth."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of this Lesson is Talking About Actions Using Verbs in Hebrew

תמר אוכלת בננות?

תָּמַר אוֹכֶלֶת בִּנְנוֹת?

*Tamar ochelet bananot?*

"Does Tamar eat bananas?"

In order to describe actions, we must learn how to conjugate verbs. In Hebrew, there are seven different groups of verbs (בניינים) and these seven different groups are conjugated a little differently. In this lesson, we will learn to conjugate the simplest of these verb groups. It's called פעל.

The verb לאכול, "to eat," that was used in the dialogue belongs to the פעל verb group. The first thing that you need to know is the root letters of the verb. We remove the ל' and the ו' and we are left with the root אכל. In this word, this is also the form found in the dictionary, and it is the masculine singular form in the past tense. Once you have determined the root, you can begin to build the conjugations. Within the verb group, the root letters are built in the same way for each verb within a certain pattern that stays the same within that verb group.

We will focus on the present tense of the verb group פעל in this lesson. To represent the letters of the root, we are using a o'. Here are the patterns for all פעל verbs:

	Singular	Plural
Masculine	oqio	ioqioim

<b>Feminine</b>	אֹכֵלֶת	אוֹכְלוֹת
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The next step is to take the verb root אכל and put it into the pattern:

	Singular	Plural
Masculine	אוֹכֵל	אוֹכְלִים
Feminine	אוֹכֵלֶת	אוֹכְלוֹת

The final step is to decide which verb conjugation you need to use according to the agreement with the subject.

For example:

- אני אוכל דג.  
אֲנִי אוֹכֵל דָּג.

*Ani ochel dag.*

"I am eating a fish."

- היא אוכלת סלט.  
הִיא אוֹכְלֶת סָלַט.

*Hi ochelet salat*

"She is eating a salad."

- הם אוכלים בשר.  
הֵם אוֹכְלִים בָּשָׂר.

*Hem och'lim basar.*

"They are eating meat."

- אתן אוכלות עוף.  
אַתֶּן אוֹכְלוֹת עוֹף.

*Aten och'lot of.*

"You (fem. pl.) are eating chicken."

## Other Action Verbs With Which to Practice

So, now that you know the basic principle of making verbs in Hebrew, let's practice with some

other action verbs.

The first verb is לרקוד which means "to dance" in Hebrew. The root is רקד.

"to dance" - לרקוד		Singular	Plural
Masculine		רוקד	רוקדים
Feminine		רוקדת	רוקדות

1. גל רוקד.  
גַל רוקֵד.  
*Gal roked.*  
"Gal is dancing."
2. אני רוקדת.  
אֲנִי רוקֵדֶת.  
*Ani rokedet.*  
"I (fem.) am dancing."
3. אנחנו רוקדים.  
אֲנַחְנוּ רוקֵדִים.  
*Anaḥ'nu rok'dim.*  
"We are dancing."
4. הן רוקדות.  
הֵן רוקֵדוֹת.  
*Hen rok'dot.*  
"They (fem. pl.) are dancing."

The last example we will use is לספור which means "to count." The root is ספר.

to count - לספור		Singular	Plural
Masculine		סופר	סופרים
Plural		סופרת	סופרות

For example:

1. אתה סופר את המכוניות.  
אתה סופר את המכוניות.  
*Atah sofer et ha-mechoniyot.*  
"You are counting the cars."
2. דנה סופרת עד מאה.  
דנה סופרת עד מאה.  
*Dana soferet ad me'ah.*  
"Dana is counting to one hundred."
3. הם סופרים את האנשים.  
הם סופרים את האנשים.  
*Hem sofrim et ha-anashim.*  
"They are counting the people."
4. יוליה ופנינה סופרות את הילדים.  
יוליה ופנינה סופרות את הילדים.  
*Yulia u-P'nina so'rot et ha-yeladim.*  
"Yulia and Phina are counting the children."

In Hebrew, there is only one present tense, so it translates as both the simple present tense and present progressive in English.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Agriculture in Israel

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With the current trend of trying to eat more locally, Israel is the place to live. Israel grows most of what it needs, in terms of agriculture. Some figures state that Israel grows up to 95% of what it needs; only importing such things as grains, coffee and sugar. Fruit and vegetables are fresh and very tasty in Israel because it's all grown so locally. This is also why the diets of most Israelis are so healthy. With all this agriculture, Israel has also developed many technologies that are used throughout the world. Since the land in Israel is so diverse, they have had to come up with ways to grow crops, even in arid places like the desert. Bananas are only one of the crops that Israel grows; they are also one of the top producers of citrus and grow such crops as tomatoes, cucumbers and avocados. In the hills in the north, apples, pears and cherries are grown too.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #22

## What Would You Like from the Israeli Supermarket?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 22



# HEBREW

1. (בסופר)

דוויד, מה תשתה הערב? יין? בירה?

2. PETER:

אשתה בירה.

3. DAVID:

אז אקנה בירה. שרה, את גם תשתי בירה?

4. PETER:

כן, קצת.

5. SARAH:

# ENGLISH

1. (At the Supermarket)

2. PETER: David, what will you drink this evening? Wine? Beer?

3. DAVID: I'll have beer.

4. PETER: I'll buy beer then. Sarah, will you drink beer too?

5. SARAH: Yes, a little.

# ROMANIZATION

1. (ba-super)

2. PETER: David, tish'teh ha-erev? Ya'in? Birah?

CONT'D OVER

3. DAVID: Esh'te birah.
4. PETER: Az ek'neh birah. Sarah, at gam tish'ti birah?
5. SARAH: Ken, k'tzat.

## VOWELLED

1. (בסופר)

2. PETER: דוויד, מה תשתה הערב? ויין? בירה?

3. DAVID: אשתה בירה.

4. PETER: אז אקנה בירה. שרה, את גם תשתי בירה?

5. SARAH: כן, קצת.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
לשתות/שתה	Lish'tot/shatah	to drink	verb	
הערב	Ha-erev	This evening		male
יין	ya'in	wine	noun	masculine
בירה	birah	beer	noun	feminine
קצת	ktzat	a little	adjective	
לקנות	Lik'not	to buy	verb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>אנחנו שותים תה עם חלב כל ערב. <i>Anaḥ'nu shotim teh im ḥalav kol erev.</i></p> <p>We drink tea with milk every evening.</p>	<p>מה אתה שותה? <i>Mah atah shoteh?</i></p> <p>What are you drinking? (male listener)</p>
<p>יין אדום הולך טוב עם בשר. <i>Ya'in adom holekh tov im basar.</i></p> <p>Red wine goes well with meat.</p>	<p>אנחנו שותים בירה עם פיצה. <i>Anaḥ'nu shotim birah im pizza.</i></p> <p>We drink beer with pizza.</p>
<p>יש לי קצת אוכל במקרר. <i>yesh li ktzat ochel ba-mekarer.</i></p> <p>I have a little food in the fridge.</p>	<p>אנחנו קנינו עוגיות טעימות. <i>Anaḥ'nu kaninu ugi'ot te'imat.</i></p> <p>We bought tasty cookies.</p>

  

<p>איפה קונים אוכל בזול? <i>Eifo konim okhel be-zol?</i></p> <p>Where can one buy food for cheap.</p>
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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### לשתות

*Lish'tot* means "to drink" in Hebrew. It is an irregular verb because it has a ה- in the root letters. *Heh* is a letter that tends to change to other letters or drop off completely in irregular verbs. *Lish'tot* is part of the פעל verb group.

### הערב

*Ha-erev* is actually two words, *ha*—which is the definite article "the" and *erev*—which means "evening." Adding ה- to time expressions translates as "this." In this case it would be "this evening."

### קצת

*K'tzat* is "a little" in Hebrew. It tends to be a difficult word to pronounce for English speakers because of the sh'va vowel on the first letter. This word can also be doubled to mean, "bit by bit" (קצת קצת).

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of this Lesson is Actions in the Future in Hebrew

דויד, מה תשתה הערב?

דויד, מה תשתה הערב?

*David, mah tish'teh ha-erev?*

"David what will you drink this evening?"

Talking about actions in the future requires knowledge of the future tense. So, this is our first venture into the future in Hebrew. Conjugating verbs in the future requires knowing the root of the word, just like in the present tense. The first verb, לשתות, is irregular because it has a ה- in the root. The root of לשתות is שתה. The reason that it is irregular is because of the ה' in the root. *Heh* is a weaker consonant (one that acts like a vowel) that changes to other consonants and disappears in some of the conjugations. In the infinitive, the ה' is replaced by a ת', which is why it may be difficult to determine the root letters in the beginning. Fortunately, all verbs that have a ה' in the last place in the root are conjugated the same within their verb group. So once you learn the basic conjugations, you will be able to apply it to other verbs with the same irregularities.

The future tense is made by adding prefixes to all the verb conjugations and suffixes to a few of the verb conjugations. These are added to a verb stem, which is the root with a vowel pattern. With לשתות the ה' in the verb stem is dropped when there is a suffix added to the end of the word, otherwise it remains.

Here are the general prefix and suffix additions in the future tense:

Singular		Plural	
Subject	conjugation	Subject	conjugation
אני	א+בסיס	אנחנו	נ+בסיס
אתה	ת+בסיס	אתם/אתן	ת+בסיס+ו
את	ת+בסיס+י		
הוא	י+בסיס	הם/הן	י+בסיס+ו
היא	ת+בסיס		

• בסיס is used for "verb stem"

In the dialogue there were three different conjugations in the future tense present. The first

was in the sentence: מה תשתה הערב? Peter is asking David what he will drink, so he uses the conjugation for אתה. You will notice from the sentence that Peter does not use the word אתה, this is because in Hebrew in the future tense you can understand the subject from the conjugation of the verb. The subject will only be present when the subject cannot be understood from the verb conjugation or when there should to be an emphasis on the subject.

For example:

1.

אשתה בירה.

אֶשְׁתֶּה בִּירָה.

*Esh'te birah.*

"I will drink beer."

David's answer to Peter was: אשתה בירה. He used the first person conjugation: "I will drink beer." Again, there is no subject, it is understood from the conjugation of the verb.

1.

את גם תשתי בירה?

אֶתְּ גַם תִּשְׁתֶּי בִּירָה?

*Tish'ti birah gam?*

"Will you drink beer also?"

Peter then goes on to ask Sarah if she will drink beer as well. He uses the conjugation for את : את גם תשתי בירה?. This is one of the conjugations in which you see that the ה' of the root has been dropped.

All the conjugations for לשתות in the future tense:

English	Hebrew	Vowelled	Transliteration
I will drink	אשתה	אֶשְׁתֶּה	<i>Esh'teh</i>
You (masc) will drink	תשתה	תִּשְׁתֶּה	<i>Tish'teh</i>
You (fem) will drink	תשתי	תִּשְׁתִּי	<i>Tish'ti</i>
He will drink	ישתה	יִשְׁתֶּה	<i>Yish'teh</i>
She will drink	תשתה	תִּשְׁתֶּה	<i>Tish'teh</i>
We will drink	נשתה	נִשְׁתֶּה	<i>Nish'teh</i>

You (pl.) will drink	תשתו	תִּשְׁתּוּ	<i>Tish'tu</i>
They will drink	ישתו	יִשְׁתּוּ	<i>Yish'tu</i>

1.

אז אקנה בירה.

אֶז אֶקְנֶה בִּירָה.

*Az ek'neh birah.*

"So I will buy beer."

There is one other verb in the dialogue and it is also in the future tense. Peter says אז אקנה where he uses the verb לקנות in the future tense. This verb is also in the פעל verb group and it also has a ה' as the last letter in the root, so it is conjugated in the same way as לשתות.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Drinking in Israel

Believe it or not, Israel produces both beer and wine. There are over a hundred wineries in Israel, both large and small. Wine has been produced in Israel since Biblical times and now it is produced throughout Israel, even in desert areas where the grapes must be grown with drip irrigation. Not all Israeli wine is Kosher, but most of the larger wineries have kosher certificates. Israel produces red wine, white wine and sparkling wine. Beer is produced on a much smaller scale. There are two major breweries and some smaller ones as well. The two main beers are Goldstar and Maccabee. The legal drinking age in Israel is 18, although many people drink wine during holidays and on Shabbat whenever their families allow them, which may be well before that age. Most Israelis drink in moderation and it has only been in the last decade that alcohol abuse has become a larger scale problem.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #23

## You're Going Places in Israel

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# # 23

# HEBREW

1. PETER: דוויד, מה זה?
2. DAVID: זה פאב. אתה אוהב ללכת לפאבים?
3. PETER: אכן, כן.
4. DAVID: אז, נלך לפאב היום בערב?
5. PETER: זה נשמע טוב.
6. DAVID: שרה, היום בערב אני ופטר הולכים לפאב. תבואי איתנו?
7. SARAH: לכו ותהינו.

# ENGLISH

1. PETER: David, what is this?
2. DAVID: That's a bar. Do you like going to bars?
3. PETER: Indeed, I do.
4. DAVID: So, shall we go to a bar tonight?
5. PETER: That sounds good.
6. DAVID: Sarah, tonight Peter and I are going to a bar. Will you come with us?
7. SARAH: Go and have fun.

# ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER



1. PETER: David, mah zeh?
2. DAVID: Zeh pub. Atah ohev lalekheth le-pabim?
3. PETER: Akhen, ken.
4. DAVID: Az, nelekh le-pab ha-yom ba-erev?
5. PETER: Zeh nish'ma tov.
6. DAVID: Sarah, ha-yom be-erev ani u-Peter hol'khim le-pab. Tavo'i itanu?
7. SARAH: L'khu ve-te'hanu.

## VOWELLED

1. PETER: דָּוִיד, מָה זֶה?
2. DAVID: זֶה פֶּאב. אַתָּה אוֹהֵב לֵלְכֶת לְפָאבִים?
3. PETER: אֲכֵן, כֵּן.
4. DAVID: אַז, גַּלֵּךְ לְפָאב הַיּוֹם בְּעֶרֶב?
5. PETER: זֶה נִשְׁמָע טוֹב.
6. DAVID: שָׂרָה, הַיּוֹם בְּעֶרֶב אֲנִי וּפֶטֶר הוֹלְכִים לְפָאב. תְּבוֹאִי אִתָּנוּ?
7. SARAH: לְכוּ וְתִיהְנוּ.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
פאב	pub	pub, bar		
ללכת/הלך	La-lekhet/ halakh	to go, to walk		
היום	Ha-yom	today	noun	masculine
להישמע/נשמע	le-hishama/ nish'ma	to sound	verb	
לבוא/בא	la-vo/ba	to come	verb	
איתנו	itanu	with us		
להיהנות/נהנה	le-hanot/ nehenah	to enjoy/enjoyed		

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>יש פאב טוב פה בעיר. <i>Yesh pab tov po ba-ir.</i></p> <p>There is a good bar here in the city.</p>	<p>הם הולכים לראות סרט. <i>Hem hol'khim lir'ot seret.</i></p> <p>They are going to see a movie.</p>
<p>יש לי שלוש פגישות היום. <i>Yesh li shalosh p'gishot ha-yom.</i></p> <p>I have three meetings today.</p>	<p>היום אתם חייבים לעשות שיעורי בית. <i>Ha-yom atem hayavim la'asot shi'urei bayit.</i></p> <p>Today you (masc.pl.) have to do homework.</p>
<p>זה נשמע כמו דלקת ראות. <i>Zeh nish'ma k'mo daleket rei'ot.</i></p> <p>It sounds like a lung infection.</p>	<p>הוא בא ביום שלישי. <i>Hu ba be-yom shli'shi.</i></p> <p>He is coming on Tuesday.</p>
<p>היא לא יודעת מתי לבוא. <i>Hi lo yoda'at mata'i la-vo.</i></p> <p>She doesn't know when to come.</p>	<p>אתם אוכלים איתנו היום? <i>Atem okh'lim itanu ha-yom?</i></p> <p>Are you (pl.) eating with us today?</p>

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אני נהנה מריצה בחוף.

*Ani neheneh me-ritzah ba-hof.*

I enjoy running on the beach.

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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### פאב

In Hebrew, you can call a "bar" either a פאב or a בָּר. Israelis use the word "pub" as a result of the British influence in Israel.

### להישמע

*Le-hishama* means "to sound" and it is part of the verb group נפעל. You will recognize this verb group by the נ- at the beginning of the verb conjugations in the past and present tenses.

### איתנו

*Itanu* means "with us." The suffix will change according to the pronoun used in this word.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of this Lesson is Talking About Going Places in Hebrew

אתה אוהב ללכת לפאבים?

אתה אוהב ללכת לפאבים?

*Atah ohev la-lekhet le-pabim?*

"Do you like to go to pubs?"

---

To talk about going places in Hebrew, you can use the word ללכת. It means both "to go" and "to walk. In this part of the dialogue, David asks Peter if he likes to go to pubs. Just like in English when the first verb "to like" is conjugated, the second verb follows in the infinitive form. So, the verb ללכת is seen in the infinitive form in this sentence. Here are more examples of ללכת in the infinitive form.

1.

*Ani rotzeh la-lechet la-kaniyon.*

"I want to go to the mall."

אני רוצה ללכת לקניון.

אני רוצה ללכת לקניון.

2.

את צריכה ללכת לקניות.  
את צריכה ללכת לקניות.

*At tz'richah la-lechet li-k'niyot.*  
"You (fem.) need to go shopping."

3.

הם אוהבים ללכת לים.  
הם אוהבים ללכת לים.

*Hem ohavim la-lechet la-yam.*  
"They love to go to the sea."

4.

אתן חייבות ללכת לסופר.  
אתן חייבות ללכת לסופר.

*Aten hayavot la-lechet la-super.*  
"You (fem. pl.) have to go to the supermarket."

After the word ללכת the word ל- follows and then the destination. ל- or "to" always follows ללכת when talking about going to a destination.

In the previous examples we used ללכת in the present tense conjugations. There is also an example in the dialogue:

1.

היום בערב אני ופטר הולכים לפאב.  
היום בערב אני ופטר הולכים לפאב.

*Ha-yom ba-erev ani u-Peter hol'chim le-pab.*  
"Today in the evening Peter and I are going to a pub."

Here are all four present tense conjugations:

Singular			Plural		
Masculine	הולך	הולך <i>Holech</i>	הולכים	הולכים <i>Hol'chim</i>	
	הולכת	הולכת <i>Holechet</i>	הולכות	הולכות <i>Hol'chot</i>	

ללכת is a part of the verb group and is conjugated like the other verbs we have learned in פעל this group, namely לאכול and לאוהב.

Another example where we use the verb ללכת is when David says to Peter:

1.

אז, נלך לפאב היום בערב?  
אז, נלך לפאב היום בערב?

*Az, nelech le-pab ha-yom ba-erev?*

"So, we will go to a pub today in the evening?"

This example uses the verb in the future tense to talk about what they will do in the evening. -  
לך is the verb stem and נ- is the conjugation for "we" in the future. So, נלך means "we will go"  
and there is no need for a subject because the subject is understood from the verb  
conjugation.

The last place we find the verb ללכת is in the last line when Sarah says:

1.

לכו וְתִהְיוּ.  
לכו וְתִהְיוּ.

*L'chu ve-tehanu.*

"Go and have fun."

Here we have the word לכו which is in the command form of the verb for more than one  
person. There are only three forms used in the imperative or command form in Hebrew, here  
they are for ללכת:

	Hebrew	Vowelled	Transliteration
<b>Masculine</b>	לך	לֶךְ	<i>Lech</i>
<b>Feminine</b>	לכי	לְכִי	<i>L'chi</i>
<b>Plural</b>	לכו	לְכוּ	<i>L'chu</i>

The root of the verb ללכת is הלך and as we talked about in the last lesson, ה' often disappears  
in verb conjugations. Here again in the future and in the imperative verb conjugations the ה' is  
not present.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Drinking Culture in Israel

Bars and Pubs in Israel are a little bit different from bars in other countries. Israelis love the social aspect of bars and don't usually come with the objective to drown themselves in alcohol. It's more a place to hang out with your friends, eat, dance and socialize. Thursday is probably the most crowded day to go to the pub. Thursday is the last day of the work week for most people, so they like to go out and relax before the weekend. Friday nights are also popular, but since many people spend Friday nights with their families, the crowds tend to be younger. Most Israelis go out to the pub around 10PM and stay late. So, if you are looking for a bar around 8PM, they will probably be pretty empty. Besides alcohol, most bars and pubs sell good food as well, since Israelis like to eat as much as they like to drink there.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #24

## Finding New Words in Hebrew

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- 2 Hebrew
- 2 English
- 2 Romanization
- 3 Vowelled
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# # 24

# HEBREW

1. :PETER מmmm... זה טעים. (משתעל) זה חריף!
2. :SARAH (צוחקת) זה סחוג.
3. :PETER סחוג? מה זה סחוג באנגלית?
4. :DAVID חכו רגע. (מצפצף) אה, סחוג נקרא סחוג באנגלית.
5. :SARAH כן, זה רוטב חריף.

# ENGLISH

1. PETER: Mmm... this is tasty. (Coughs) That's spicy!
2. SARAH: (Laughs) It's Skhug.
3. PETER: Skhug? What is Skhug in English?
4. DAVID: Wait a moment. (beeping) Oh, Skhug is called Skhug in English.
5. SARAH: Yes, it's a spicy sauce.

# ROMANIZATION

1. PETER: Mmm... zeh ta'im. (mish'ta'el) Zeh ĥarif!
2. SARAH: (Tzoĥeket) Zeh s'ħug.

CONT'D OVER



3. PETER: S'hug? Mah zeh s'hug be-anglit?
4. DAVID: ĥaku rega. (metzaftzef) Ah, s'hug nikra s'hug be-anglit.
5. SARAH: Ken, zeh rotev ĥarif.

## VOWELLED

1. PETER: מממ... זה טעים. (משתעל) זה חריף!
2. SARAH: (צוחקת) זה סחוג.
3. PETER: סחוג? מה זה סחוג באנגלית?
4. DAVID: חכו רגע. (מצפצף) אה, סחוג נקרא סחוג באנגלית.
5. SARAH: כן, זה רוטב חריף.

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
לחכות	Le-ĥakot	to wait	verb	
רגע	rega	moment		
להיקרא/נקרא	le-hikare/nikra	to be called/ was called		
רוטב	rotev	sauce	noun	masculine
חריף	ĥarif	spicy	adjective	masculine
סחוג	S'hug	Skhug		

אנגלית	anglit	English	noun	feminine
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## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>חיכיתי חצי שעה בשבילך.  <i>Hikiti hatzi sha'ah bish'vil'kha.</i></p> <p>I waited half an hour for you.</p>	<p>אנחנו מחכים לחברים שלנו.  <i>Anaḥ'nu meḥakim la-ḥaverim shelanu.</i></p> <p>We are waiting for our friends.</p>
<p>כשיש לך רגע, תתקשרי אלי.  <i>K'she-yesh lakh rega, tit'kashri ela'i.</i></p> <p>When you (fem.) have a moment, call me.</p>	<p>זה נקרא לחם בעברית.  <i>Zeh nikra lehem be-ivrit.</i></p> <p>It's called bread in Hebrew.</p>
<p>יש לכם רוטב לסלט?  <i>Yesh lakhem rotev la-salat?</i></p> <p>Do you have a sauce for the salad?</p>	<p>אני אוכלת הרבה פלפלים חריפים באוכל שלי.  <i>Ani okhelet har'beh pil'pelim ḥarifim ba-okhel sheli.</i></p> <p>I eat many hot peppers in my food.</p>
<p>סחוג עם גבינה לבנה על לחם, זה טעים מאוד.  <i>S'hug im g'vinah levanah al lekhem, zeh ta'im me'od.</i></p> <p>Skhug with white cheese on bread is very delicious.</p>	<p>היא מדברת רק אנגלית.  <i>Hi medaberet rak an'glit.</i></p> <p>She only speaks English.</p>

אנגלית זה קשה!

*anglit ze kashel*

English is difficult!

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### חריף

*Ḥarif* means "spicy." Many falafel vendors also use this word for their *skhug*. If they ask you if you want חריף they are asking you if you want this spicy sauce on your falafel. This can also be used for the word "harsh" when describing things from people to conversations.

*S'khug* is a special spicy sauce that comes in both red and green varieties. See the Cultural Insight for more information about it.

## לְחַכּוֹת

*Le-ḥakot* means "to wait." When you are waiting for someone or someone, you use the preposition ל- after this verb.

## רָגַע

*Rega* means "a moment." There is a common phrase in Israel that doubles this word: ,רגע, רגע!. It means "just a moment."

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of this Lesson is Asking About New Words in Hebrew

מה זה סָחוּג בְּאִנְגְלִית?

מָה זֶה סָחוּג בְּאִנְגְלִית?

*Mah zeh s'ḥug be-anglit?***"What is *skhug* in English?"**

The fastest way to learn Hebrew requires dedication and using Hebrew as much as possible. Instead of asking what something is in English, use this phrase in Hebrew when you don't know a word.

The phrase starts with מה, meaning "what." This is followed by זה. Together, these two words are "what is." You follow this with the word you want to know and then באנגלית.

For example:

1.

*Mah zeh sefer be-anglit?***"What is book in English?"**

מה זה סֵפֶר בְּאִנְגְלִית?

מָה זֶה סֵפֶר בְּאִנְגְלִית?

2.

*Mah zeh maḥ'shev be-anglit?***"What is computer in English?"**

מה זה מַחְשֵׁב בְּאִנְגְלִית?

מָה זֶה מַחְשֵׁב בְּאִנְגְלִית?

3.

מה זה דלת באנגלית?

מה זה דלת באנגלית?

*Mah zeh delet be-anglit?*

"What is door in English?"

David answered this question by saying:

1.

סחוג נקרא סחוג באנגלית.

סחוג נקרא סחוג באנגלית.

*S'hug nikra s'hug be-anglit.*

"Skhug is called skhug in English."

In this case there is no equivalent in English, but usually you will get the answer that you need to understand the word. In this answer, you have the word that you want to know, followed by באנגלית or "in English" and then נקרא which means "is called" and then the word in English. The verb נקרא is a passive verb, which is why it is from the verb group נפעל. You may remember learning it's active equivalent לקרא when we learned how to say our names. You will notice that both words have the same root, קרא but they are in a slightly different form. Verbs in the נפעל verb group have a נ' in the beginning of the word in the past and present tenses. Here are the answers to our example sentences:

1.

ספר נקרא בוק באנגלית.

ספר נקרא בוק באנגלית.

*Sefer nikra book be-anglit.*

"A sefer is call a book in English."

2.

מחשב נקרא קומפיוטר באנגלית.

מחשב נקרא קומפיוטר באנגלית.

*Maħ'shev nikra computer be-anglit.*

"A maħ'shev is called a computer in English."

3.

דלת נקראת דור באנגלית.

דלת נקראת דור באנגלית.

*Delet nikret dor be-anglit.*

"A delet is called a door in English."

In this sentence the agreement is between the subject, the word you want to know, and the verb. In the last sentence, the word דלת is a feminine word so the verb נקראת is also in the

feminine conjugation.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### A Unique Israeli Sauce

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*Skhug* is a special spicy sauce that was brought to Israel by the Yemenite Jews. It is made from garlic, coriander, hot peppers and olive oil. Traditionally all the ingredients are ground on a special stone that acts as a large mortar and pestle. There are two main versions of *skhug*. There is the green kind that's made with green peppers and the red kind that is made with red peppers. There is also a version called brown *skhug*, which is green *skhug* mixed with tomatoes. As we mentioned in the vocabulary section, sometimes *skhug* is referred to simply as *ħarif*. *Skhug* is a popular addition to falafel and schwarma. It can also be spread with hummus or white cheese on bread.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #25

## A Holiday for the Whole Family in Israel

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- 2 English
- 3 Romanization
- 4 Vowelled
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- 5 Sample Sentences
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# # 25

# HEBREW

1. :PETER אני אסע למקסיקו בשנה הבאה.

2. :SARAH למה?

3. :PETER האחות הקטנה שלי מתחתנת שם.

4. :DAVID מזל טוב. זה נחמד. מתי תיסע?

5. :PETER ביוני.

6. :SARAH יפה! מריה נוסעת גם?

7. :PETER כן! הבן שלי והכלב יבואו גם.

8. :SARAH הכלב שלך גם? ווא!

9. :PETER אחרי זה, נבוא לישראל.

10. :DAVID באמת? ואוו!

# ENGLISH

1. PETER: I'm going to Mexico in the next year.

2. SARAH: Why?

3. PETER: My sister is getting married there.

4. DAVID: Congratulations! That's nice. When are you going?

CONT'D OVER

5. PETER: In June.
6. SARAH: Neat! Is Maria going too?
7. PETER: Yes! My son and the dog will come too.
8. SARAH: Your dog too? Wow!
9. PETER: After that, we'll come to Israel.
10. DAVID: Really? Wow!

## ROMANIZATION

1. PETER: Ani esa le-mek'siko ba-shanah ha-ba'ah.
2. SARAH: Lamah?
3. PETER: Ha-aḥot sheli mit'ḥatenet sham.
4. DAVID: Mazal tov! Zeh neḥ'mad. Mata'i ti'sa?
5. PETER: Be-yuni.
6. SARAH: Yafeh! Maria nos'at gam?
7. PETER: Ken! Ha-ben sheli ve-ha-kelev yavo'u gam.
8. SARAH: Ha-kelev shel'kha gam? Wow!
9. PETER: Aḥare'i zeh, navo le-yis'ra'el.

CONT'D OVER



## VOWELLED

1. :PETER אני אסע למקסיקו בשנה הבאה.

2. :SARAH למה?

3. :PETER האחות הקטנה שלי מתחתנת שם.

4. :DAVID מזל טוב. זה נחמד. מתי תיסע?

5. :PETER ביוני.

6. :SARAH יפה! מריה נוסעת גם?

7. :PETER כן! הבן שלי והכלב יבואו גם.

8. :SARAH הכלב שלך גם? וואו!

9. :PETER אחרי זה, נבוא לישראל.

10. :DAVID באמת? ואוו!

## VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
לנסוע/נסע	Lin'so'a/nasa	to travel / traveled	verb	
מקסיקו	Mek'siko	Mexico	noun	feminine

הבא	haba'a	next	adjective	masculine
למה	lamah	why	expression	
להתחתן/התחתן	Le-hit'haten/ hit'haten	to marry/ married		
נחמד	Neħ'mad	nice	adjective	
אחרי	Aħare'i	after, behind	preposition	
אחות	achot	sister	noun	feminine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>אני נוסע כל יום לעבודה באוטו. <i>Ani nose'a kol yom la-avodah ba-oto.</i></p> <p>I travel to work every day in the car.</p>	<p>היא נוסעת ברכבת כל יום. <i>Hi nosa'at ba-rakevet kol yom.</i></p> <p>She travel on the train every day.</p>
<p>טיילתי במקסיקו לארבעה חודשים. <i>Tiyal'ti be-mek'siko le-ar'ba'ah ĥodashim.</i></p> <p>I traveled in Mexiko for four months.</p>	<p>חודש הבא. <i>hudesh ha-ba.</i></p> <p>Next month.</p>
<p>למה אתם חייבים ללמוד היום? <i>Lamah atem hayevim lil'mod ha-yom?</i></p> <p>Why do you have to study today?</p>	<p>למה אתם לא אוכלים בשר? <i>Lamah atem lo okh'lim basar?</i></p> <p>Why don't you (pl.) eat meat?</p>
<p>הם מתחתנים בשנה הבאה. <i>Hem mit'hat'nim ba-shanah ha-ba'ah.</i></p> <p>They are getting married next year.</p>	<p>הבוס שלי מאוד נחמד. <i>Ha-bos sheli me'od neħ'mad.</i></p> <p>My boss is very nice.</p>
<p>היא נפגשת איתו אחרי הקונצרט. <i>Hi nif'geshet ito aħare'i ha-kon'tzert.</i></p> <p>She is meeting him after the concert.</p>	<p>אנחנו יכולים לעבור דירה אחרי מאי. <i>Anaħ'nu yecholim la-avor dirah aħare'i ma'i.</i></p> <p>We can change apartments after May.</p>

<p>הוא בא אחרי דליה.  <i>Hu ba aḥare'i Dalia.</i>  He is coming after Dalia.</p>	<p>אני רוצה לשלוח את המכתב הזה לאחותי.  <i>ani rotsa lishloach et ha-michtav haze le-achoti.</i>  I would like to send this letter to my sister.  (female speaker)</p>
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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### לנסוע

*Lin'so'a* means "to travel." לנסוע is irregular because the נ' from the root drops off in the future tense.

### הבא

*Ha-ba* means "next." Literally it means "the coming" since בא comes from the verb לבוא "to come."

### להתחתן

*Le-hit'haten* means "to marry." It is a part of the reflexive verb group התפעל because it involves two people.

### נחמד

*Neḥ'mad* means "nice." It can be used to describe someone or something and it can also be used as an interjection.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of this Lesson is Talking About the Future in Hebrew

אני אסע למקסיקו בשנה הבאה.

אני אסע למקסיקו בשנה הבאה.

*Ani e'sa le-mek'siko ba-shanah ha-ba'ah.*

"I will travel to Mexico in the next year."

This sentence could actually be said in either the present tense or the future tense. In the dialogue, Peter used the future tense to talk about where he was going in the next year. In the future tense, the verb stem always has א' as the suffix when it's in the first person. Unlike the

present tense, this does not change according to the gender of the speaker. Peter used אני before the verb, although he did not have to because it would have been understood from the verb conjugations. He wanted to emphasize the fact that *he* is traveling.

With the verb לנסוע in the future tense, the נ' is dropped. לנסוע is part of the פעל verb group. So, it is conjugated similar to the other verbs that we have learned in the future tense thus far. Sarah later asks Peter מתי תיסע? which also uses the future tense of לנסוע. Here again is the general pattern of how verbs are conjugated in the פעל verb group.

Singular		Plural	
Subject	conjugation	Subject	conjugation
אני	א+בסיס	אנחנו	נ+בסיס
אתה	ת+בסיס	אתם/אתן	ת+בסיס+ו
את	ת+בסיס+י		
הוא	י+בסיס	הם/הן	י+בסיס+ו
היא	ת+בסיס		

- בסיס verb stem is used for "is."

With the verb לנסוע, the verb stem is נס because the נ' is dropped. Here are more examples of לנסוע in the future tense.

- אתה תיסע בעוד שבוע.  
אַתָּה תִּסַּע בְּעוֹד שָׁבוּעַ.

*Atah tisa be-od shavu'a.*

"You (masc.) will travel in another week."

- תיסעי לברזיל בנובמבר.  
תִּסַּעִי לְבְּרַזִּיל בְּנוֹבֶמְבֶּר.

*Tis'i le-brazil be-november.*

"You (fem.) will travel to Brazil in November."

3.

ניסע הביתה מחר.

נִיסַע הַבֵּיתָה מָחָר.

*Nisa ha-bay'tah maħar.*

"We will travel home tomorrow."

4.

יסעו לשבועיים.

יִסְעוּ לַשְּׁבוּעִיִּים.

*Yis'u li-sh'vu'ayim.*

"They will travel for two weeks."

The verb לבוא is also used in the dialogue in the future tense.

1.

הבן שלי והכלב יבואו גם.

הַבֵּן שְׁלִי וְהַכֶּלֶב יָבוֹאוּ גַם.

*Ha-ben sheli ve-ha-kelev yavo'u gam.*

"My son and the dog will come also."

The verb לבוא is also a part of the פעל verb group. In the future, the verb stem is בוא. In our sample sentence, Peter is talking about his son and his dog, so he used the conjugation pattern for הם.

1.

אחרי זה, נבוא לישראל.

אַחֲרֵי זֶה, נָבוֹא לְיִשְׂרָאֵל.

*Aħare'i zeh, navo le-yis'ra'el.*

"After that, we will come to Israel."

In this sentence, Peter uses נבוא when he is talking about how his whole family will come to Israel. More examples with לבוא in the future tense:

1.

אבוא הביתה שבוע הבא.

אָבוֹא הַבֵּיתָה שְׁבוּעַ הַבָּא.

*Avo ha-bay'tah shavu'a ha-ba.*

"I will come home next week."

2.

הוא יבוא לקניון איתך.

הוא יָבוֹא לְקַנְיוֹן אִיתְךָ.

*Hu yavo la-kaniyon itakh.*

"He will come to the mall with you (fem.)."

*Tavo'u la-mesibah, nakhon?*

"You (pl.) will come to the party, right?"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Israeli Weddings

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Weddings in Israel are a big event. They are held in a special wedding hall and everyone is invited. The couple invites their friends, colleagues, family and family friends, as well as the friends and colleagues of their parents. Most people end up with a guest list of 300 to 500 people. The wedding begins with appetizers and meeting the bride and groom and their family. This is called *Kabalat Panim*. There isn't a tradition of the bride and groom not seeing each other before the wedding. When you come into the wedding you drop off your gift, which is usually a gift of money. Most people find out how much the couple has paid for each wedding guest and then they give at least that much. After the *kabalat panim*, the religious ceremony begins. The guests gather around the *chuppah* while the Rabbi and the parents stand under the *chuppah* and go through the ceremony. After the ceremony, the guests and the couple celebrate with music, food and dancing. In secular weddings, all the guests dance together. In weddings where the couple is religious, the women and the men dance separately. The music can be anything from traditional religious or Israeli music to techno and club music. The wedding can go on past midnight, but slowly the guests leave and the couple is left to their new life together.