

Read Torah in Hebrew



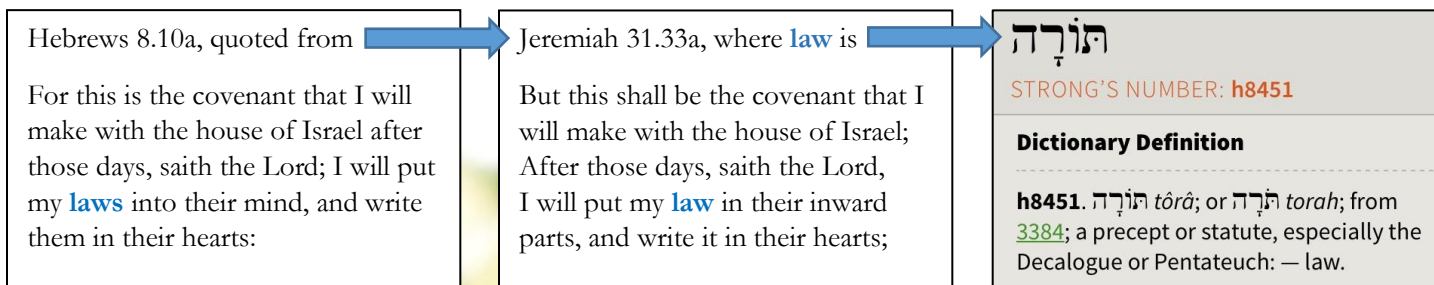
הוא ואכלתם אתה במיקום קדוש כי זקך וזק
 בנך הוא מאשי יהיה כי כן צויתני ואת זוזר
 התנופה ואת שוק התרומה תאכלו במקום נהור
 אתה ובנך ובנתך אתך כי זקך וזק בנך נתינו
 מובזי שכמי בני ישראל שוק התרומה וזוזר
 התנופה על אשי החכמים יבאי להנף תנופה
 לפני יהיה והיה כר ובנך אתך לזק עיכב
 כאשר צוה יהוה ואת שיעיר החטאת דרש
 דרש משה והנה שרף ויקצף על אכעזר

Discover the Bible's DNA

Torah is the Bible's first 5 books: **Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy**. These books are also called the 5 books of Moses, who wrote them, or the Pentateuch. Torah is the foundation for Biblical faith; Hebrew is the DNA of Torah.

By following the steps presented here, you will learn to read Torah in Hebrew. It will require many hours of intense concentration, but it works. I know, because I and many others have done it.

I had the book of Hebrews memorized for about fifteen years before someone showed me from the text that Torah is to be written in our hearts. I had never seen this. I knew Hebrews 8 quoted Jeremiah 31, but I didn't know that **law** is from the Hebrew word **Torah**:



Suddenly, I realized that Torah, God's perfect Word, is essential for the New Covenant!

I started seeing **תּוֹרָה Torah** everywhere in the Bible, and the Bible never says that Torah went away.

Torah is God's perfect gift—
Torah is grace!

This changed my life.

גל-עיני ואביטה-- נפלאות, מתורתך

Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy Torah.
Psalm 119.18

How will Torah in Hebrew change your life?



Get started by learning the Aleph-Bet. Hebrew reads from right to left.

Fun Fact: Notice the first letters of the Aleph-Bet are *aleph-bet-gimel*. Why not a-b-c? The letter ג gimel evolved into our English letter c centuries later. In fact, גמל (g-m-l gamal) is Hebrew for camel—so now start learning your ABGs!

HEBREW ALPHABET CHART

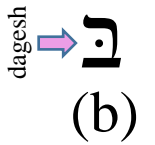
 Zayin 7	 Vav 6	 Hey 5	 Daled 4	 Gimmel 3	 Vet 2	 Bet 2	 Aleph 1
 Nun 50	 Mem 40	 Lamed 30	 Chof 20	 Kof 20	 Yud 10	 Tet 9	 Chet 8
 Shin 300	 Reish 200	 Kuf 100	 Tzadi 90	 Fey 80	 Pey 80	 Ayen 70	 Samech 60
 Final Tzadi 90	 Final Pey 80	 Final Nun 50	 Final Mem 40	 Final Chof 20	 Suf 400	 Tuf 400	 Sin 300

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 Shooroq - Oo  Cholem - Oh  Shva - E  Kibbutz - Oo  Chirik - Ee  Tsere - Ei  Segol - Eh  Patach - A  Kamatz - Ah

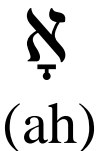
Note that five consonants (*chof, mem, nun, pey, and tzadi*) have final forms that appear differently. Final forms are used at the end of a word; the regular form is used anywhere else in the word.

A *dagesh* in a consonant changes its pronunciation: ב (b), ו (v), כ (k), ך (ch) as in Bach, etc.



Originally, the Bible had no vowels, but they were added over 1,000 years ago by scribes. It would be more difficult to read the Bible without vowels—they'll grow on you. To avoid changing the text, vowels were added above, below, or inside letters.

Second, pick one consonant and one vowel to combine to make a sound. The first letter is א *aleph* (א and א *ayen* are the only two silent letters). Add the *kamatz* (vowel, ah) and together pronounce this א (ah). (Since א is silent, you're really just pronouncing the vowel.)



Third, add another letter to make a word—this is how you read all Hebrew words. The second letter is ב (the v sound because this ב does not have a dagesh). Add ב to the א combination and you get אב (av) father, your first word! Practice combining different consonants and vowels from the chart.

אב
(av)

Fourth, buy Danny Ben Gigi’s [Hebrew-English Phonetic Bible](#) which has transliteration*:

Genesis 1

בראשית פרק א
Genesis Chapter 1

1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

*transliteration, English letters which sound like Hebrew

א. בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:
1. אַ פֶּא שֵׁא בֶּא אֶלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

1. Be•re•shéet ba•ra Elohim et ha•sha•má•yim ve•et ha•á•retz.

Fifth, practice reading Genesis 1.1 in Hebrew with the steps you learned, consonants and vowels. As you go, check your pronunciation against the transliteration, each syllable, then each word. In this way, you’ll gain confidence that you are pronouncing all Hebrew words correctly.

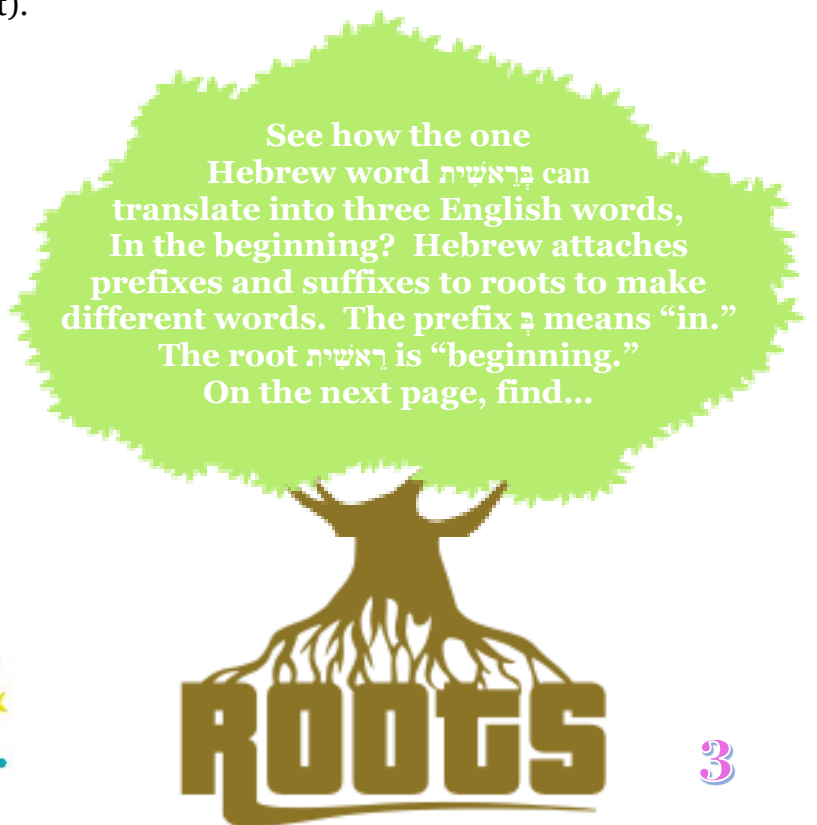
The first syllable is spelled בְּ bet (b) with a dagesh and *shva* vowel (e): (be as in Beth).

Next is רֵ reish (roll the r) plus the *tsere* (ei) vowel: this is pronounced (rrre). (The Hebrew-English Phonetic Bible has simplified transliteration).

Last is שֵׁית with shin (dot on the right, sh), chirik vowel (ee), and tav (t): pronounced (shéet, with the accent).

Put it together and the first word of the Bible is pronounced (Be•re•shéet). If you say this out loud, you’ve got it!

בְּרֵאשִׁית



Sixth, learn how to identify root words with a Strong's tool.

I recommend two: www.blueletterbible.org, which is free, or even better, [Accordance Bible](#) free *ESV with Strong's*, which you download, then use without internet.

On Blue Letter Bible, click the tools tab next to the verse to get the Hebrew.

Click on each individual Strong's number to get more details on particular words.

A nice feature is clicking the speaker icon to hear the different root words pronounced.

The screenshot shows the Blue Letter Bible interface. At the top, there's a search bar with "Verse or Word(s)" and a dropdown for "KJV". Below that are navigation arrows and buttons for "COPY", "COPY OPTIONS", "STRONG'S", and "FORMAT BY: VERSE". A menu bar includes "INTERLINEAR", "BIBLES", "CROSS-REFS", "COMMENTARIES", "DICTIONARIES", and "MISC". The main content area displays the Hebrew text for Genesis 1:1: "בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ: 1:1". Below the text, there's a "Reverse Interlinear" section with columns for "English (KJV) [?]", "Strong's", "Root Form (Hebrew)", and "Parsing". The entry for "beginning" is shown with Strong's number H7225, the Hebrew root "רֵאשִׁית", and the pronunciation "re'shiyth" with a speaker icon.

Shown here is *Accordance Bible* *ESV with Strong's*. Pressing down on a word causes Strong's to pop up.

Accordance Bible resources link to each other and are available on your desktop, tablet, or phone.

Motivation With the Aleph-Bet, Danny Ben Gigi, and a Strong's resource,

you have all you need to begin correctly pronouncing and understanding Hebrew.

Study each verse until you can pronounce and translate all without peeking at English.

Need more encouragement? It is possible that learning Hebrew [delays onset of Alzheimer's!](#)

The screenshot shows the Accordance Bible app interface. At the top, there's a search bar with "ESVi" and a search icon. Below that, the text "Gen. 1:1 In the beginning, God created" is displayed. A menu bar includes "Copy", "Highlight", "Clear", and "Share". The main content area shows the text "was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Below that, the text "Gen. 1:3 And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the" is displayed. A pop-up window shows the Strong's number H7225 for the word "beginning" (רֵאשִׁית). The pop-up includes the following information: "beginning H7225 רֵאשִׁית", "[HMT-W4] רֵאשִׁית Noun comm fem sing abs", "[KM Hebrew Dictionary] gk H8040 | s H7225 רֵאשִׁית re'shiyth 51x", "n.f. [8031]. what is first; beginning. → beginning; firstfruits.", and "NIV | ESV | HCSB | NRSV | JPS | NKJV | KJV". At the bottom of the pop-up, there are "Search" and "Amplify" buttons.

Did you see the root re•shéet has several definitions?

רֵאשִׁית

Not just *beginning*, Strong's also gives *what is first* and *firstfruits*.

Discovering depth in the Biblical texts is just one benefit of Hebrew Torah.

Another benefit is reading slowly—you'll discover more than you ever thought possible.

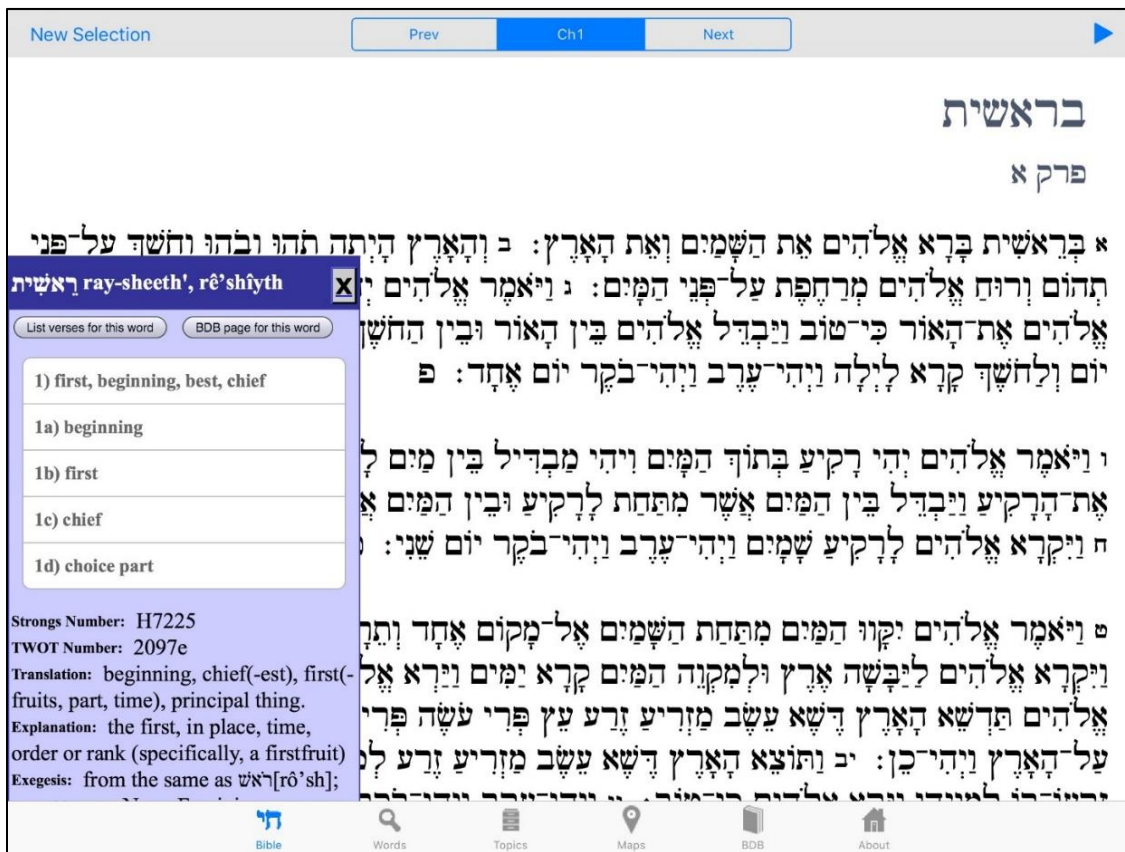
Learning to read Hebrew is easy. Perseverance is not. Be a tank. Don't stop reading.



להיות הטנק Be the tank

For about \$50, you have all the resources you need for now.
You don't need to enroll in on-line programs or buy a ton of books.
You don't need to learn *about* reading Hebrew, you just need to *read* Hebrew!
Skip grammar for now—you were fluent in English before you took grammar in school.
And if you're not ready to grind like a tank through Torah in Hebrew, read Torah in English—when you're ready for Hebrew Torah, it will be that much easier because you know what it says.
Boost your motivation with a trip to Israel—because in the Land of Israel, Hebrew Torah comes alive.

More Resources A Torah [scroll](#), with vowels but no chapter or verse markings, makes you feel like an ancient scribe studying a real scroll as you roll through the text. *A Reader's Hebrew Bible*, by Zondervan, lists less-used words at the bottom of each page. I unplugged and read the entire Tenach (Hebrew Bible) without looking at any English except these notes at the bottom of the page. It took a year and my vocabulary grew by hundreds of words.



Ze'ev Clementson's [Hebrew Bible](#) app left, for iOS. You can set it up with English/Hebrew, French/Hebrew, or Hebrew only.

There is a Hebrew voice recording of each page, too fast when you're starting, but you may like it later.

It also features a Strong's pop-up and more.

Last comes...



Grammar

Are you solid with your comprehension, pronunciation, and roots?

I recommend Accordance Bible's BHS Tagged which costs over \$100 and explains much of the grammar:

Gen. 1:5 קרא ויקרא qara qal wawConsec 3 masc sing --qal is the same as pa'al, simple active, below:

root :		פעל				
active		reflexive		passive		
פעל	פעל	הפעיל	התפעל	הפעל	פעל	נפעל
pa'al	pi'el	hif'il	hitpa'el	huf'al	pu'al	nif'al
			causative			
intensive						
simple						

Listen to Hebrew for Free

Download Dan Be'eri's Narration at archive.org That is still too fast to listen to, so get the app mimiCopy which allows you to slow the pace without changing the speaker's pitch.

Hebrew Bible (Biblia Hebraica) Tagged

Copy Highlight Clear Share ▶

Gen. 1:5 וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְאוֹר יוֹם
וּלְחֹשֶׁךְ קִרְא לַיְלָה וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב
וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם אֶחָד : פ

Gen. 1:6 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי רָקִיעַ
בְּתוֹךְ הַמַּיִם וַיְהִי מִבְדִּיל בֵּין מַיִם
לְמַיִם :

קרא Verb qal wawConsec 3 masc sing

[KM Hebrew Dictionary]
gk H7924 | s H7121 קָרָא qārā' 739x
v. [root of: 5246, 7926, 7927, 7951, 7952; 10637]. **Q** to call, summon, announce, proclaim; **Qp** to be invited as a guest, be appointed; **N** to be called, be summoned; **Pu** to be called; "to call on the name of the LORD" means to proclaim or praise the excellence of Yehweh. to worshipin Yehweh

Search Amplify

Expand Your Horizons Try Google Translate and enter Hebrew with your keyboard and camera. www.torahportions.org will keep you in sync with annual Torah readings in synagogues. A support group is encouraging—start a Hebrew class in your congregation. Pimsleur is the best way to learn modern Hebrew conversation. Search youtube.com for eteacher Biblical grammar videos. Check out Aleph Beta; you may love the Hebrew insights.

Remember, it took about 1,500 years to write the Bible. Be persistent and be prepared to spend years reading.

“Therefore every teacher of Torah who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” Matthew 13.52.

Today, disciples in the kingdom of heaven need instruction in Torah—by reading its DNA.

Videos at www.torahinmyheart.com

 Like Facebook **Torah in My Heart**



May the אור (orrr) Light of Torah be Yours, שלום Shalom, Peter