

Ivrit bkalut

Hebrew is easy

By Dàvid Uhlár i Escandell

Pages dedicated to Dana I. and all my Israeli and Jewish friends (Ilan, Danny,...)



[Back to the main language Page](#)

[1/Pronunciation](#) [2/Vocabulary](#) [3/Grammar](#) [4/Conjugation](#)

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1/ PRONUNCIATION

Ancient Hebrew (Hebrew spoken by Moses and Abraham) had certainly a pronunciation close to modern Arabic, ie full of guttural and emphatic sounds. Modern Hebrew has lost almost all these hard sounds and we often say it has a 'European' pronunciation.

-Ashkenazi Hebrew really sounds like a European language (German). '**Alef** has no sound. "**ayin** represents a simple stop. **Resh** is pronounced French (Parisian) or German 'r'. **Qof** and **Kaf** sounds like a regular 'k'. **Khaf** and **Het** are pronounced like German 'ch' (as in *Bach*) or Spanish 'j' (as in *hijo*). **He** is often not pronounced or sounds like a regular **Alef**.

-Sepharadi Hebrew has a pronunciation closer to Ancient Hebrew and to nowadays Middle East Arabic. '**Alef** is a full glottal stop. "**ayin** is pronounced with the throat (like the initial sound of Arabic "*omar*). **Resh** is rolled like Spanish or Italian 'r'. **Qof** and **Kaf**, **Khaf** and **Het** sound different. **He** is clearly pronounced. A dotted consonant sounds different (thus d with a dot sounds like English 'th' of *that*, not like d of *David*).

Because of HTML limitations I will write Hebrew by means of Latin alphabet. This is a simple but efficient phonetic transcription. We'll use the following letters: '**B, V, G, D, H, W, Z, KH, T, Y, K, L, M, N, S, ", P, F, TS, R, SH, A, E, I, O, U.**

In order to have a rather good and modern pronunciation just remember that basically all vowels and consonants sound like in Spanish, Italian or German (not English). **SH** and **H** sound like English *short* and *hat*. **KH** sounds like Arabic 'kh' (*Khartum*), Spanish 'j' (*Juan, hijo*), or Scottish & German 'ch' (*Loch, Bach*). **R** can be pronounced the Spanish, Italian, French or German way. It is not an English or American 'r'! **TS** as in *tsetse*. ' (**alef**) is generally silent. " ("**ayin**) can be pronounced as a glottal stop when it is in the

middle of a word (example: **nosa"at** (*go*) must be pronounced [nosa-at], not *[nosat]). Otherwise, at the beginning or the end of a word you can forget it. Vowels are: **A** as in *bus*; **E** as in *get*; **I** as *Israel*; **O** as in *word*; **U** as in *tool*.

The Hebrew Alphabet

Name	"Squared" letters	Cursive letters	Pronunciation		Transcription	Name	"Squared" letters	Cursive letters	Pronunciation	
			Biblical	Israeli					Biblical	Israeli
alef	א	א	occlusive glottale	—	—	khaf	כ	כ	kh palatal	kh
beth	ב	ב	b	b	b	lamed	ל	ל	l	l
veth	ו	ו	v	v	bh,v	mem	מ	מ	m	m
gimel	ג	ג	g-gh	g	g	nun	נ	נ	n	n
daleth	ד	ד	d,dh	d	d	samekh	ס	ס	s	s
hè	ה	ה	h aspiré (laryngal)	h	h	'ayin	ע	ע	pharyngale fricative	—
vav	ו	ו	w	v	w, v	pe	פ	פ	p	p
zayin	ז	ז	z	z	z	fe	ף	ף	f	f
heth	ח	ח	h pharyngal	h/kh	h	tsadi	צ	צ	s emphatique	ts
tet	ט	ט	t emphatique	t	t	qof	ק	ק	k emphatique	k
yod	י	י	y	y	y	resh	ר	ר	r	r
kaf	כ	כ	k palatal	k	k	shin	ש	ש	ch français	sh
						sin	ש	ש	s lateral	s
						tav	ת	ת	t,th anglais	t

NB1: The word "alphabet" comes from the 2 first Hebrew letters, **Alef** and **Beth**. Surprisingly enough, Hebrew alphabet is related to ours. This ancient relationship is still visible nowadays: look at **Qof** (Q) or **Resh** (R) after an axial symmetry for instance!! Take squared **Shin**, make a 90° rotation and with a little imagination you'll get Greek Sigma which became our S.

NB2: A dot in **Veth** (V aka BH) turns it into a **Beth** (B). Likewise, a dot in **Khaf** (KH) turns it into a **Kaf** (K), and a dot in **Fe** (F aka PH) turns it into a **Pe** (P). My way to remember it is to say *the dot removes the H*: BH(V)->B, KH->K, PH(F)->P. In a regular text these dots are never written.

NB3: **Gimel**, **Daleth** or **Tav** without a dot were used to write different sounds still existing in Arabic and in Yemeni Hebrew for instance (GH, DH and TH). The usual pronunciation is G, D and T with or without the dot (which is, in any case, never written!)

NB4: **Shin** (SH) and **Sin** (S) are the same letter. Shin has a dot on its right (generally not written). Sin has a dot on its left.

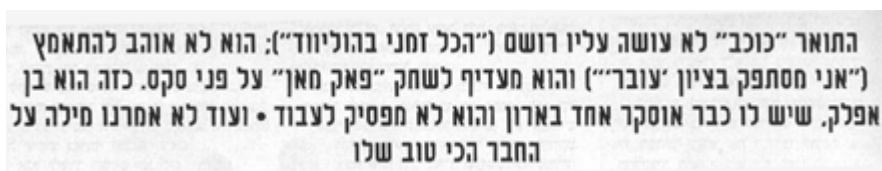
NB5: **Khaf** (KH), **Mem** (M), **Nun** (N) and **Tsadi** (TS) have two shapes each: one when the letter is inside a word (2nd shape in the table) and one when the letter is at the end of a word (1st shape in the table).

NB6: **Kaf** (K) and **Qof** (Q) used to represent two different sounds: regular K and maybe emphatic K. Nowadays there is no difference in pronunciation between these letters and we'll transcribe both of them as K. Same story with **Sin** and **Samekh**, **Tet** and **Tav**.

NB7: Hebrew is written from right to left (I thought this one was important to mention...!)

It is important to mention that in Hebrew, like in Arabic and Syriac, only consonants (and Y and W) are written. This is certainly due to the fact that all Semitic words are based on a consonant root. Therefore, it is difficult for a beginner to read a text in Hebrew since to read a text you need to know the vowels of all the words... Even worse: in some cases only the context will help you to put an end to the ambiguity. **Yesh lekha khatul** (*he has a cat*) and **Yesh lakh khatul** (*she has a cat*) are written exactly the same way...

Here is an example of a text in modern Hebrew, taken from an Israeli magazine (it's about Ben Affleck...)



Fortunately, in textbooks for students and books for children a system of vocalization is used. It is, in my opinion, not perfect, but it helps a lot to read accurately any text. Here it is:

Hebrew Vowels					
silent (Q)	(oo) as in <i>boa</i> !	(ee) or (ih) as in <i>sit</i>	(oh)	(eh) as in <i>let</i>	(ah)
◌	◌	◌	◌	◌	◌
◌	◌	◌	◌	◌	◌
◌	◌	◌	◌	◌	◌

NB1: ◌ represents any Hebrew cons
 NB2: ◌ and ◌ are also consonants (v
 NB3: there are 3 ways to write A; 3 for
 2 for I; 4 for O; 2 for U. This is due
 the fact that Ancient Hebrew had
 sounds that disappeared in mode
<http://perso.wanadoo.fr>

Here is an example of a vocalized text in modern hebrew (it's about Winnie the Pooh...)

פּוּ הַכֵּין עוּגָה לְיוֹם הַהִלָּדוֹת הַקְּרוֹב שֶׁלָּהּ, אֲבָל הוּא לֹא יוֹדֵעַ
 בֶּן פֶּמָה אֵתָהּ. כַּמָּה גְרוֹת הוּא צָרִיךְ לְשִׁים עַל הָעוּגָה? הַקֵּף
 בְּמַעְגָל אֵת הַתְּשׁוּבָה הַנְּכוֹנָה.
 הֵאֵם עָרַכְתָּ מְסָבָה לְכַבוֹד יוֹם הַהִלָּדוֹת שֶׁלָּהּ?

2/ VOCABULARY-EXPRESSIONS

(Hebrew-English-French)

Shalom = peace, hi = *paix, bonjour*

Ken = yes = *oui*

Lo = no = *non*

Boker tov = good morning = *bonjour (le matin)*

Tsahoraim tovim = good afternoon = *bonjour (l'après-midi)*

'Erev tov = good evening = *bonsoir*

Laila tov = good night = *bonne nuit*

Shabbat shalom = Shabbat of peace (on Friday evening) = *Shabbat de paix (le Vendr. soir)*

-> Answer: *Shabbat shalom umevorakh*

Shavua' tov = good week (on Sat. Night) = *bonne semaine (le Samedi soir)*

Shana tova = happy new year = *bonne année*

Khag sameakh = good feast = *bonne fête*

Barukh haba = welcome = *Soyez le bienvenu*

-> Answer: **Barukh hanimtsa**

Beteavon = enjoy your meal! = *bon appétit*

Lekhaim = cheers! = *A votre santé, Tchín-tchín!*

Toda = thank you = *merci*

Toda raba = thank you very much = *merci beaucoup*

-> Answer: **'al lo davar; bevakasha; ze haya ta'anug**

Bevakasha = please = *s'il vous plaît*

Slikha = excuse me but...(question) = (*pour poser une q°*)

Ani mevakesh = I'm sorry = *excusez-moi*

Slikha 'al hahafra'a = I'm sorry = *je suis désolé*

Ani mitsta'er = I regret = *je suis désolé, navré*

Mazal tov = congratulations = *félicitations*

Kol hakavod = bravo! = *bravo!*

Bevakasha lehakir et... = I'd like to introduce you to... = *je vous présente...*

Na lehakir et... = I'd like to introduce you to... = *je vous présente...*

-> Answer: **Na'im me'od = nice to meet you = *enchanté***

Shmi... = my name's... = *je m'appelle...*

Ma shimkha? = what's your name (masculine)? = *comment vous appelez vous(masculin)?*

Ma shmekh? = what's your name (feminine)? = *comment vous appelez vous(féminin)?*

Ma shlomkha? = how are you (masculine)? = *comment allez vous (masculin)?*

Ma shlomekh? = how are you (feminine)? = *comment allez vous (féminin)?*

Shlomi tov = I'm fine = *je vais bien*

Lehitra'ot = good bye, see you = *au revoir, à bientôt*

Lehitra'ot makhar = see you tomorrow = *à demain*

Ze lo meshane = that's nothing = *cela ne fait rien*

Nim 'as li = I'm fed up = *j'en ai marre*

Adjectives (only masculine forms are given)

Katan = little, small = *petit*

Gadol = big, large, great = *grand, gros*

Me"anyen = interesting = *intéressant*

Gavoha = tall, high = *grand, haut*

Moshekh = attractive = *attirant*

Eleganti = elegant = *élégant*

Tov = good = *bon*

Ra" = bad = *mauvais*

Ragil = ordinary = *ordinaire*

Mushlam = perfect = *parfait*

"aliz = gay = *gai/gay*

Kaved= heavy = *lourd*

Khamud = cute = *mignon*

Ge'e = proud = *fier*

Nehedar = magnificent = *magnifique*

Tari = fresh (food) = *frais*

"atslan = lazy = *fainéant*

Yafe = pretty, beautiful = *joli, beau*

"ashir = rich = *riche*

Rakh = soft = *doux*

Ta"im = delicious = *délicieux*

Arokh = long = *long*

Yakar = dear, expensive= *cher*

Khakham = wise = *sage, savant*

Kehe = dark = *sombre*

Retsini = serious = *sérieux*

"atsbani = nervous= *nerveux*

Ko"es = angry = *en colère*

Naki = clean = *propre*

Khadash = new = *neuf, nouveau*

"asuk = busy = *occupé*

Gamur = finished = *terminé*

Muzar = weird = *bizarre, mystérieux*

Meshune = strange = *étrange*

"ani = poor = *pauvre*

Yakhid = unique = *unique*

Raze = skinny = *maigre*

Nadiv = generous = *généreux*

Khazak = strong = *fort*

Tsa"ir = young = *jeune*

Ro"esh = noisy = *bruyant*

Kashe = difficult, hard = *difficile*

Savir = sensible = *sensible*

Tipesh = stupid = *stupide*

Samikh = thin = *fin*

Nasuy = married = *marié*

Nehedar = wonderful = *merveilleux*

Kereakh = bald = *chauve*

Khole = sick = *malade*

Zol = cheap = *pas cher*

Kal = easy = *facile*

Tsame = thirsty = *assoiffé*

Ayom = terrible = *terrible*

Tsar = narrow = *étroit*

Mekho"ar = ugly = *laïd*

Shavur = broken = *cassé*

Katsar = short, brief = *court, bref*

Kafu = frozen = *gelé*

Pir'i = wild = *sauvage*

Me"unan = cloudy = *nuageux*

Yashar = straight, honest = *honnête*

Sha'aftan = ambitious = *ambitieux*

Ken = sincere = *sincère*

Mishtokek le'ahavim = amorous = *amoureux*

Bari' = healthy = *en bonne santé*

Enokhi = selfish = *égoïste*

Levad = alone = *seul*

Batuakh = safe = *sûr*

Melukhlakh = dirty = *sale*

"ayef = tired = *fatigué*

Normali = normal = *normal*

Shone = different = *différent*

Kar = cold = *froid*

Kham = hot = *chaud*

Kal = light = *léger*

Yashev = dry = *sec*

Shavir = fragile = *fragile*

Ragish = tender = *tendre*

Amits = brave = *courageux*

Metoraf = crazy = *fou*

Barur = obvious = *évident*

Ratuv = wet = *mouillé*

Iti = slow = *lent*

Meruba" = square = *carré*

Nakhuts = necessary = *nécessaire*

Male' = full = *plein*

Akhra'i = responsible = *responsable*

Tov lev = kind, gentle = *gentil*

Ha-tsva'im= the colors = *les couleurs*

Adom= red = *rouge*

Varod= pink = *rose*

Lavan= white = *blanc*

Afor= grey = *gris*

Khum= brown = *marron*

Shakhor= black = *noir*

Yarok= green = *vert*

Tsahov= yellow = *jaune*

Kakhol= blue = *bleu*

Katom= orange = *orange*

Luakh hashana= the calendar = *le calendrier*

Yom ri'shon= Sunday = *dimanche*

Yom sheni= Monday = *lundi*

Yom shlishi= Tuesday = *mardi*

Yom revii'= Wednesday = *mercredi*

Yom khamishi= Thursday = *jeudi*

Yom shishi= Friday = *vendredi*

Yom shabbat= Saturday = *samedi*

Boker= morning = *matin*

Akharey hatsahorayim= afternoon = *après-midi*

Erev= evening = *soir*

Layla= night = *nuît*

Etmol= yesterday = *hier*

Hayom= today = *aujourd'hui*

Makhar= tomorrow = *demain*

Yanuar, Februar, Merts, April, May, Yuni, Yuli,

Ogust, September, Oktober, November, Detsember

Aviv= spring = *printemps*

Kayits= summer = *été*

Stav= autumn = *automne*

Khoref= winter = *hiver*

Ha-mispakha= the family = *la famille*

Ben= son = *fil*s

Bat= daughter = *fille*

Yuladim= children = *enfants*

Akh= brother = *frère*

Akhot= sister = *soeur*

Aba= father = *père*

Ima= mother = *mère*

Dod= uncle = *oncle*

Doda= aunt = *tante*

Saba= grandfather = *grand-père*

Savta= grandmother = *grand-mère*

Key words

Mi = who = *qui*

Ma = what = *quoi*

Eifo = where = *où*

Le'an = to where = *vers où*

Me'ayin = from where = *d'où*

Matai = when = *quand*

Lama = why = *pourquoi*

Ekh = how = *comment*

Kama = how much/many = *combien*

Eze = which one(s) = *lequel, lequel(les)*

Ezo = which one (fem) = *laquelle*

Lo...lo = neither...nor = *ni...ni*

Yesh = there is/are = *il y a*

Ein = there isn't/aren't = *il n'y a pas*

Ish/adam lo = no-one = *personne*

Lo...klum = no...anythg = *ne...rien*

Shum = no, none = *aucun*

Beshum makom = nowhere = *nulle part*

Af pa'am = never = *jamais*

Me 'olam lo = never = *jamais*

Im ki = though = *bien que*

Af 'al pi she = though = *bien que*

Kede she = in order to = *afin que*

Im = if = *si*

Ba= in = *dans*

Lifney= in front of = *devant*

Meakhorey= behind = *derrière*

Mi= from = *de*

Al= on = *sur*

'Ad ki = till = *jusqu'à*

'Ad asher = till = *jusqu'à*

Me'az she = since = *depuis que*

Mishe = as soon as = *dès que*

Ve = and = *et* (ve needs to be 'glued' to a word; it

O = or = *ou*

Aval = but = *mais*

Akh/Ulam/Bram = however = *toutefois/cependant*

She = that = *que*

Mishehu = someone = *quelqu'un*

Mashehu = something = *quelque chose*

Tsarikh she = it is necessary that = *il est nécessaire*

Muzar she = it is strange that = *il est étrange que*

Tov she = it is good that = *il est bon que*

Khaval she = it's a pity that = *il est dommage que*

Mazal she = it's a chance that = *c'est une chance*

Mipne she = because = *parce que*

Mishum she = because = *parce que*

Mikevan she = since, because = *puisque*

Me'akhar she = given that = *étant donné que*

Ho'il ve = given that = *étant donné que*

Leakhar she = after that = *après que*

Lifne she = before that = *avant que*

Bizman she = at the moment when = *au moment*

Kefi she = like, as = *comme (comparaison)*

Kol kakh she = so much that = *tellement que*

Me'al la= over = *par-dessus*

Ban= between = *entre*

Al yad= next to = *à côté de*

Mitakhat la= under = *sous*El= into = *dans*Kol= all = *tout* (ex: kol haTmunot=all the pictures)**3/ GRAMMAR****A/ Personal Pronouns**

	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Masculine</i>
<i>First Singular (I)</i>	<i>Ani</i>	
<i>2nd Singular (Thou)</i>	<i>At</i>	<i>Ata</i>
<i>3rd Singular (He/she/it)</i>	<i>Hi</i>	<i>Hu</i>
<i>First Plural (We)</i>	<i>Anakhnu</i>	
<i>2nd Plural (You)</i>	<i>Aten</i>	<i>Atem</i>
<i>3rd Plural (They)</i>	<i>Hen</i>	<i>Hem</i>

These pronouns are used exactly the same way as in English.

In Hebrew the verb 'to be' has no present form. Thus to say "I'm David" you will simply say *Ani David* ("I David").

B/ Personal Suffixes - Declension of nouns and prepositions

A great difference between Hebrew and IndoEuropean languages is that prepositions and nouns can be "conjugated" (declined). Hebrew "declensions" are much easier than in Latin, Greek or Russian, fortunately. They are based on the following endings:

	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Masculine</i>
<i>First Singular (I)</i>	<i>-i</i>	
<i>2nd Singular (Thou)</i>	<i>-kh</i>	<i>-kha</i>
<i>3rd Singular (He/she/it)</i>	<i>-a</i>	<i>-o</i>
<i>First Plural (We)</i>	<i>-nu</i>	
<i>2nd Plural (You)</i>	<i>-khen</i>	<i>-khem</i>
<i>3rd Plural (They)</i>	<i>-an or -hen</i>	<i>-am or -hem</i>

These endings will be used to express the possession when added to a noun, and also to conjugate

prepositions.

Let's see a full example of a noun declension: how to say *my uncle, your aunt, our uncles...??*

Uncle=**dod**. Aunt=**doda**.

	Dod (uncle)	Doda (aunt)	Dodim (uncles)	Doc
1 st sing	Dodi	Dodati	Doday	Doc
2 nd sing masc	Dodkha	Dodatkha	Dodeykha	Doc
2 nd sing fem	Dodekh	Dodatekh	Dodaykh	Doc
3 rd sing masc	Dodo	Dodato	Dodav	Doc
3 rd sing fem	Doda	Dodata	Dodeyha	Doc
1 st plur	Dodenu	Dodatenu	Dodeynu	Doc
2 nd plur masc	Dodkhem	Dodatkhem	Dodeykhem	Doc
2 nd plur fem	Dodkhen	Dodatkhen	Dodeykhen	Doc
3 rd plur masc	Dodam	Dodatam	Dodeyhem	Doc
3 rd plur fem	Dodan	Dodatan	Dodeyhen	Doc

(the green suffixes are called 'constructed state' and are explained a bit further)

Thus, *our aunts*=dodoteynu; *my uncle*=dodi; *his uncles*=dodav, etc.

By means of these personal suffixes you can decline a lot of prepositions. Here are some of them:

Shel (of) -> my, your,...

Sheli (of mine=my-1 st sing)	Shelanu (of ours=our-1 st plur)
Shelkha (of yours=your-2 nd masc sing)	Shelakhem (of yours=your-2 nd masc plur)
Shelakh (of yours=your-2 nd fem sing)	Shelakhen (of yours=your-2 nd fem plur)
Shelo (of his=his-3 rd masc sing)	Shelahem (of theirs=their-3 rd masc plur)
Shela (of hers=her-3 rd fem sing)	Shelohen (of theirs=their-3 rd fem plur)

This is another way, more colloquial, to express possession. *My uncle*=**dodi** or **ha dod sheli** ("the-uncle of mine").

Shel non declined means *of*: **haKhatula shel David** ("The-she-cat of David")=*David's cat*.

L- (to, towards, for) -> to me,...

Li	Lanu
Lekha	Lakhem
Lekh	Lakhen
Lo	Lahem
La	Lahen

These forms are very useful to create the verb **'to have'** in Hebrew. Actually Hebrew doesn't have any verb 'to have'. We use instead the expression **Yesh I-** ("there is to..."). Thus *I have an uncle* will be said **yesh li dod**. *They (masc plur) have a cat* is **yesh lahem khatul**.

The negative form of Yesh I- is **Ein I-** ("there isn't to..."). *I don't have any aunt* will be **ein li doda**.

B- (in) -> in me,...

Bi	Banu
Bekha	Bakhem
Bakh	Bakhen
Bo	Bahem
Ba	Bahen

Et (direct object marker) -> me,...

Oti	Otanu
Otkha	Otkhem
Otakh	Otkhen
Oto	Otam
Ota	Otan

This is another little word you need to know. **Et** is a direct object marker. It can be conjugated and thus become English *me, you, him, her, us, you, them* in *I see you, you want us*, etc.

Let's take the most telltale example: how to say *I love you*? *To love* is **ohav** for masculine lovers and **ohavet** for feminine lovers. We have thus 4 ways to say *I love you*: Male to female => **Ani ohav otakh**. Male to male => **Ani ohav otkha**. Female to male => **Ani ohavet otkha**. Female to female => **Ani ohavet otakh**.

Further we'll see the other uses of **et**.

M- (from) -> from me,...

Mimeni	Mimenu
Mimkha	Mikem
Mimekh	Miken
Mimenu	Mehem
Mimena	Mehen

This one is marvellously irregular. Be careful!

-

'im (with) -> with me,...

Iti	Itanu
Itkha	Itkhem
Itakh	Itkhen
Ito	Itam
Ita	Itan

The declension is made by using another form of **et**.

Go with us will be **bo itanu**.

Bishvil (for) -> for me,...

Bishvili	Bishvilenu
Bishvilkha	Bishvilkhem
Bishvilekh	Bishvilkhen
Bishvilo	Bishvilam
Bishvila	Bishvilan

-

"al (on) -> on me,...

Alay	Aleynu
Aleykha	Aleykhem
Alaykh	Aleykhen
Alav	Aleyhem
Aleyha	Aleyhen

Of course this one has many uses. A good example is the famous expression **Shalom aleykhem** which means *Peace on you* and which sounds so close to its Arabic counterpart *Salem 'alikum!*

Beyn (between, among) -> between me,...

Beyni	Beynenu
Beynkha	Beynekhem
Beynekh	Beynekhen
Beyno	Beynehem
Beyna	Beynehen

Ei (to, towards) -> to me,...

Elay	Eleynu
Eleykha	Eleykhem
Elaykh	Eleykhen
Elav	Eleyhem
Eleyha	Eleyhen

Lifney (before, in front of) -> in front of me,...

Lefanay	Lefaneynu
Lefaneykha	Lifneykhem
Lefanaykh	Lifneykhen
Lefanav	Lifneyhem
Lefaneyha	Lifneyhen

-
Akharey (after) -> after me,...

Akharay	Akhareynu
Akhareykha	Akhareykhem
Akharaykh	Akhareykhén
Akharav	Akhareyhem
Akhareyha	Akhareyhen

-
Ein (not to be) -> I am not,...

Eineni / Eini	Einenu
Einkha	Einkhem
Einekh	Einkhen
Eino	Einam
Eina	Einan

-
Kmo (as, like) -> like me,...

Kamoni / Kemoti	Kamonu / Kemotenu
Kamokha / Kemotkha	Kemokhem / Kemotkhem
Kamokh / Kemotekh	Kemokhen / Kemotkhen
Kamohu / Kemoto	Kemohem / Kemotam
Kamoha / Kemota	Kemohen / Kemotan

-
"ad (as far as) -> as far as me,...

Aday	Adeynu
Adeykha	Adeykhem
Adaykh	Adeykhem
Adav	Adeyhem
Adeyha	Adeyhen

-

Bli (without -> without me,...)

Bil'aday	Bil'adeynu
Bil'adeykha	Bil'adeykhem
Bil'adaykh	Bil'adeykhem
Bil'adav	Bil'adeyhem
Bil'adeyha	Bil'adeyhen

(built with bli+'ad)

Example (from a song I really love): **Ani lo yekhola bil'adeykha**=*I can't live without you.*

-

'atasm (self)-> myself,...

Atsmi	Atsmenu
Atsmekha	Atsmekhem
Atsmekh	Atsmekhem
Atsmo	Atsmam
Atsma	Atsman

-

-

C/ Masculine, Feminine, Singular, PluralFeminine nouns generally end in either **a** or **t**.The plural endings are generally **-im** for masculine nouns and **-ot** for feminine nouns.Example: **dod** (uncle), **doda** (aunt), **dodim** (uncles), **dodot** (aunts). It is not always that easy...

The easiest adjectives follow these rules.

Example1: **tov** (good, masc sing), **tova** (good, fem sing), **tovim** (good, masc plur), **tovot** (good, fem plur).

Example2: **gadol** (tall, great), **gdola**, **gdolim**, **gdolot**. The a is dropped, be careful!

-

D/ Articles - Demonstratives

The definite article is **HA** in Hebrew. It is always prefixed to a noun. *The film* is **HaSeret**.

HA is 'swallowed' by **L-** (*to*) and **B-** (*in*) to become **LA** (*to the*) and **BA** (*in the*). For instance, *In the morning* is **BaBoker** (and not *BeHaBoker).

There is no indefinite article. *A film* is simply **Seret**.

Ze = *this is* (for masc)

Z'ot = *this is* (for fem)

Now let's have a look at some telltale examples you need to learn... (be careful, they were chosen on purpose!):

Seret tov ("film good"; film is masc) = *a good film*

Mis'ada tova ("restaurant good"; restaurant is fem) = *a good restaurant*

Haseret hakhdash ("the-film the-new") = *the new film*

Haseret khadash ("the-film new"; 'to be' does not exist in present tenses) = *the film is new*

Seret khadash ("film new") = *a new film*

Hakibuts haze ("the-kibbutz the-this is") = *this kibbutz*

Hatmuna haz'ot me'anyenet ("the-picture the-this is interesting") = *this picture is interesting*

Hasimla hatsehuba haz'ot ("the-dress the-yellow the-this is") = *this yellow dress*

E/ Construct state

A construct state characterizes a group of two nouns in which the second noun determines the first one without any preposition.

Example: **mits tapuzim** ("juice oranges")= *orange juice*

At fem-sing and masc-plur the end of the first word is modified. At fem-plur and masc-sing there are no changes.

Fem-sing **A** becomes **AT**

Masc-plur **IM** becomes **EI**

Example1: **uga** (fem-sing)=*cake* => **ugat shokolad**=*a chocolate cake*

Example2: **tapuzim** (masc-plur)=*oranges* => **tapuzei lsra'el**=*oranges from Israel*

It is interesting to say that the **-AT** ending shows us a very primitive stage of the Hebrew language. **Uga** (cake), written with a final silent -H, was certainly pronounced ***Ugat** thousands of years ago. Then the final -T disappeared and its ghost reappears only in the construct state!

Use of the definite article (*The*) with the construct state: be careful!!! **Ha** is used only with the second noun...

Mits tapuzim = (*an*) *orange juice*

Mits hatapuzim = *the orange juice*

-

F/ The numbers

From 1 to 19:

Numbers for feminine words:

1=**Akhat**, 2=**Shtaim** (**Shtey** in construct state), 3=**Shalosh**, 4=**Arba**", 5=**Khamesh**, 6=**Shesh**, 7=**Sheva**", 8=**Shmone**, 9=**Tesha**", 10=**Eser**

11=**Akhat "esre**, 12=**Shtem "esre**, 13=**Shlosh "esre**, 14=**Arba" "esre**, 15=**Khamesh "esre**, 16=**Shesh "esre**, 17=**Shva" "esre**, 18=**Shmone "esre**, 19=**Tsha" "esre**

Numbers for masculine words:

1=**Ekhad**, 2=**Shnaim** (**Shney** in construct state), 3=**Shlosha**, 4=**Arba**"a, 5=**Khamisha**, 6=**Shisha**, 7=**Shiv**"a, 8=**Shmona**, 9=**Tish**"a, 10=**Asara**

11=**Akhad "asar**, 12=**Shnem "asar**, 13=**Shlosha "asar**, 14=**Arba**"a "asar, 15=**Khamisha "asar**, 16=**Shisha "asar**, 17=**Shiv**"a "asar, 18=**Shmona "asar**, 19=**Tish**"a "asar

-

From 20 to 90:

20=**Esrim**, 30=**Shloshim**, 40=**Arba**"im, 50=**Khamishim**, 60=**Shishim**, 70=**Shiv**"im, 80=**Shmonim**, 90=**Tish**"im

From 100 to 900:

100=**Me'a**, 200=**Mataim**, 300=**Shlosh me'ot**, 400=**Arba" me'ot**, 500=**Khamesh me'ot**, 600=**Shesh me'ot**, 700=**Shva" me'ot**, 800=**Shmone me'ot**, 900=**Tsha" me'ot**

From 1000 to 10000:

1000=**Elef**, 2000=**Alpaim**, 3000=**Shloshet alafim**, 4000=**Arba"at alafim**, 5000=**Khameshet alafim**, 6000=**Sheshet alafim**, 7000=**Shiv"at alafim**, 8000=**Shmonat alafim**, 9000=**Tish"at alafim**, 10000=**"Aseret alafim**

How to use these numbers?

-The feminine form is used for counting: *one, two, three...* is **akhat, shtaim, shalosh...**

-The numerals from 1 to 19 agree with their noun. *One* goes after the noun whereas the other numerals go before it. *Two* is used in its construct form: **Shtaim** becomes **Shtey** and **Shnaim** becomes **Shney**.

Examples:

Counting pictures: **Tmuna** (*picture, photo*; feminine noun): **tmuna akhat, shtey tmunot, shalosh tmunot, arba" tmunot**, etc

Counting teachers: **More** (*teacher*; masculine noun): **more ekhad, shney morim, shlosha morim, arba"a morim**, etc.

- the numerals up to 99 are made by connecting tens and units with **ve** (*and*). *Twenty-six* is **"esrim veshesh** (feminine) **and "esrim veshisha** (masculine). In these compounds *One* does not follow the noun anymore and *Two* is in its usual form (no construct state).

- Greater numbers are made starting from the higher units, adding **ve** (*and*) before the last member.

1225 is **Elef mataim "esrim vekhamesh** (*1000 200 20 and 5*).

Ordinal numbers:

Ordinal numbers for **masculine** words:

1st=**Rishon**, 2nd=**Sheni**, 3rd=**Shlishi**, 4th=**Rvi"i**, 5th=**Khamishi**, 6th=**Shishi**, 7th=**Shvi"i**, 8th=**Shmini**, 9th=**Tshi"i**, 10th=**Asiri**

Ordinal numbers for **feminine** words:

1st=**Rishona**, 2nd=**Shenit**, 3rd=**Shlshit**, 4th=**Rvi"it**, 5th=**Khamishit**, 6th=**Shshit**, 7th=**Shvi"it**, 8th=**Shminit**, 9th=**Tshi"it**, 10th=**Asirit**

G/ Some expressions

Very

Me'od= *very*

Ex: **dvarim me'anyenet me'od** ("things interesting very")=*things very interesting*

That

She (pronounced as in Sherry)= *that*

Ex: **Ata khosev she ha-kneset ptukha** ("you think that the-parliament open")=*you think that the parliament is open*

Age

Ben kama hu? ("son how many he?")= *How old is he?*

Bat kama hi? ("daughter how many she?")= *How old is she?*

Hu ben X ("he son X")= *He is X years old*

Hi bat X ("she daughter X")= *She is X years old*

Ani ben X=*I'm X years old*

There is/are...There is/are no

Yesh = *There is, There are*

Ein = *There is no, There are no*

Ex1: **Yesh malon al-yad Qumran** ("there's hotel near Qumran")=*there is a hotel near Qumran*

Ex2: **Ein malon beQumran** ("there's no hotel in-Qumran")=*there is no hotel in Qumran*

We have already seen **Yesh** and **Ein** in the expression **Yesh L- / Ein L-** (*to have, not to have*)

Where?

Eifo = *Where* (for static things=locative)

Le'an = *Where* (to where=directive)

Me'ayin = *From where*

Et-The direct Object marker

We have already seen the declension of this little word to express *me, him, us*, etc.

Et is only used to mark a definite noun (ie preceded by **HA=the**), otherwise it is not used.

Example: **Kakh kise** ("take chair")=*take a chair*. "a chair" is direct object of "take". No **et** needed because it is indefinite.

But: **Kakh et hakise** ("take **et** the-chair")=*take the chair*. "the chair" needs **et** to become direct object of "take" because it is definite (by HA).

More than

Yoter mi...=*more than...*

Ex: **Hu yoter tov mimeni** ("he more good than me")=*He's better than me*

Yoter...=*more...*

Ex: **Yoter kham** ("more warm")=*warmer*

The most

Haki...=*the most...*

Ex: **hayom haki kham** ("the-day the most warm")=*the warmest day*

Also:

Beyoter...=*the most...*

The noun and the adjective must be preceded by **HA** (*the*).

Ex: **hamakom hayafe beyoter** ("the-place the-beautiful most")=*the most beautiful place*

As...as

Kmo...= *as...as / like*

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