



**World Zionist Organization**  
Department of Diaspora Affairs

***Ahlan le'kulam*** (hello everyone),

I was very happy to meet you all in our first Hebrew class!

As you have probably already understood, the goal of these classes is mainly to learn Hebrew, but not less important - to have some fun. During the Tachles classes, I will touch as few grammatical rules as possible and focus more on modern/"young" Hebrew, which is currently being spoken throughout Israel. Therefore, you will find that we will learn almost zero rules, but we will practice a lot.

After each Tachles class you will receive from Alicia Post an email with all the handouts you need. Please be patient, it might take a few days. In addition, you will get \*optional homework\* that you can do on your spare time. I highly recommend reviewing the *otzar milim* (vocabulary) we learned at least twice a week.

**So, what did we learned on this week?**

1. We began the first part of the program, *Sicha* (conversation). We learned that many slang words in Hebrew are from the Arabic language. Both Hebrew and Arabic are Semitic languages, so each word has a root of three letters, which can be put into a different format of different words that have similar meaning.

*For Example* – the word *Ahlan* (hello, hey), borrowed from Arabic and has 3 root letters – A.H.L (ל.ה.א), comes from *A'hel*, one of many words for “family”. The cognate Hebrew word *ohel* means “tent” – the place where the family lived. And what better greeting could be offered to a desert traveler than to be welcomed into the tent or the warm company of family.

2. *Ivrit* (Hebrew) is a gendered and numbered language, meaning that verbs, nouns and adjectives are either masculine/feminine, singular/plural (as if it's not complicated enough!). Adjectives, which must agree with the noun in gender/number, come after the noun (which is opposite the order found in English).

*For example* – *Yeled* (boy) *Yaffe* (beautiful) Vs. *Yalda* (girl) *Yaffa* (beautiful)

And-

*Yeled echad* (one boy) Vs. *Yalda achat* (one girl).



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### Some extras-

1. What do we do in a *matzav* (situation) where both women and men are sitting in one room? How do we refer them - as men or as women? Unfortunately, the Hebrew grammar rules are a bit chauvinistic, and even if there are 9 women and 1 man sitting in a room, we will refer them as men. But, these days, when awareness of gender equality is gaining momentum, Meirav Michaeli, a Knesset member in the Israeli government from the “Avodah” party, is a great example of a feminist activist who tries to fight those old-fashioned rules and mentality. You are invited to read more about her “feminine conventions” in speeches and interviews in the following link (focus on paragraph 14): <https://womenintheworld.com/2015/12/23/meet-merav-michaeli-the-fiery-feminist-of-israels-government/>
2. The similarity between the two slang words - *Basa/Sababa* (bummer/cool). Neta Barzilai, the Israeli singer who won the Eurovision Song Contest a few years ago wrote a song about it (most of the lyrics in the song are actually gibberish): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jV1sjm9Lz\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jV1sjm9Lz_Q)
3. Free online Hebrew learning -

<https://www.duolingo.com/>

[https://www.hebrewpod101.com/free-lifetime-account?src=gc\\_learn\\_search\\_nonbrandedsearch\\_hebrew-lesson-free\\_434734781673\\_&gclid=Cj0KCQjwrIf3BRD1ARIsAMuugNtkTqJ6JSt7sYdGRYPt1Y5Im1M1H83d3PWKrBuD2an2cPrWG\\_S8o3caAgG\\_EALw\\_wcB&utm\\_expid=.Wxb24crLQpaXqhNH2oWlig.1&utm\\_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F](https://www.hebrewpod101.com/free-lifetime-account?src=gc_learn_search_nonbrandedsearch_hebrew-lesson-free_434734781673_&gclid=Cj0KCQjwrIf3BRD1ARIsAMuugNtkTqJ6JSt7sYdGRYPt1Y5Im1M1H83d3PWKrBuD2an2cPrWG_S8o3caAgG_EALw_wcB&utm_expid=.Wxb24crLQpaXqhNH2oWlig.1&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F)

<https://www.fluentin3months.com/learn-hebrew-free/>

4. List of songs (each week we will listen to different Israeli songs playing before class begins, 11:50am – 12:00pm EDT):

#### Class 1:

- Slomo Artzi – Ahavtiyah
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19qoWmBJVRc>



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- Yehudit Ravitz – Bo le-rio
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0DpMYzj6l8>
- HaTikva 6 – Hachi Israeli
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mNFg-EyBkU>

**The optional homework and the answer key is in the following pages.**

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions. [ora@wzo.org.il](mailto:ora@wzo.org.il)

Wishing you all *Yom Nifla* (wonderful day) and *lehitraot* (till next time),

Or



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**Shi'urey Bait – Homework**

1. Pronouns - translate the following words into Hebrew:

We	_____	It (f)	_____
I	_____	You (p.m)	_____
It (m)	_____	He	_____
They (f)	_____	You (p.f)	_____
You (s.f)	_____	she	_____
They (m)	_____	You (s.f)	_____

2. Translate the following conversation into Hebrew:

“Hello, very nice to meet you” \_\_\_\_\_

“Thank you. What’s your (s.f) name?” \_\_\_\_\_

“My name is Or, and yours (s.m)?” \_\_\_\_\_

“My name is Alon” \_\_\_\_\_

“What’s going on Alon?” \_\_\_\_\_

“Fantastic Or, and you (s.f)?” \_\_\_\_\_

“Really bad” \_\_\_\_\_





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3. Draw a line between the words in column A and their meaning in Hebrew in column B.

Column A	Column B
See you later	Toda
Yours (s.f)	Shelanoo
Great	Oto
Me	Tov Me'od
Ok, fine	Ma Nishma
What's new	Yalla Bye
Very Good	Shelach
Him	Achla
How are you doing	Ma Chadash
Ok, bye	Beseder
Thank you	Oti
Ours	Lehitraot



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### T'shuvot - Answers Key

1. Pronouns - translate the following words into Hebrew:

We	Anachnoo	It (f)	Zo
I	Ani	You (p.m)	Atem
It (m)	Ze	He	Hoo
They (f)	Hen	You (p.f)	Aten
You (s.f)	At	she	Hee
They (m)	Hem	You (s.f)	At

2. Translate the following conversation into Hebrew:

"Hello, very nice to meet you"	Shalom/Ahalan, naim meod (lehakir)
"Thank you. What's your (s.f) name?"	Toda. Eich Kori'im lach?
"My name is Or, and yours (s.m)?"	Kori'im li Or/Ani Or, ve-shelcha / ve-ata?
"My name is Alon"	Kori'im li Alon
"What's going on Alon?"	Ma holech Alon?
"Fantastic Or, and you (s.f)?"	Metzu'yan Or, ve-at?
"Really bad"	Al Ha-panim



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3. Draw a line between the words in column A and their meaning in Hebrew in column B.

Column A

Column B

