

# GETTING ACQUAINTED



**SICHA**  
HEBREW AS A LANGUAGE

## LESSON 1



**TACHLES**  
PRACTICAL HEBREW

ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
המחלקה לפעילות בתפוצות  
World Zionist Organization  
Department for Diaspora Activities



# OTZAR MILIM - HEBREW BASICS AND GETTING ACQUAINTED



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HEBREW AS A LANGUAGE

## Group A – Basic Words

### Pronouns - שמות גוף -

Word/ Phrase	מילה/ משפט	Translation	תרגום	Transliteration	תעתיק פונטי
יחיד		Singular			Yachid
אני		I			Ani
אתה/ את		You (m/f)			Ata (m)/ At (f)
הוא/ היא		He/She			Hoo (m)/Hee (f)
זה/ זו		It (m/f)			Ze (m)/Zo (f)
רבים		Plural			Rabim
אנחנו		We			Anachnoo (m/f )
אתם/ אתן		You			Atem (m) /Aten (f)
הם/ הן		They (m/f)			Hem (m)/Hen (f)



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## Direct Object - מושא ישיר

Word/ Phrase	מילה/ משפט	Translation	תרגום	Transliteration	תעתיק פונטי
<b>יחיד</b>					
		Singular			Yachid
	אותי	Me			Oti (m/f )
	אותך/אותר	You (m/f)			Otcha (m)/Otach (f)
	אותה / אותו	Him/Her			Oto (m) / Otah (f)
<b>רבים</b>					
		Plural			Rabim
	אותנו	Us			Otanu (m/f )
	אתכם / אתכן	You (m/f )			Otchem (m) / Etchen (f )
	אתם / אותן	They (m/f)			Otam (m) / Otan (f)

## Possessive Adjectives - כינויי נשיכות

Word/ Phrase	מילה/ משפט	Translation	תרגום	Transliteration	תעתיק פונטי
<b>יחיד</b>					
		Singular			Yachid
	שלי	My, Mine			Sheli
	שֶׁלְךָ/שֶׁלְּךָ	Your, Yours			Shelcha (m) / Shelach (f)
	שֶׁלוֹ/שֶׁלָּהּ	His/Her, Hers			Shelo (m)/ Shelah (f)
<b>רבים</b>					
		Plural			Rabim
	שלנו	Our, Ours			Shelanoo
	שֶׁלְכֶם/שֶׁלְּכֶן	Your, Yours (plural)			Shelachem (m) /Shelachen (f)
	שֶׁלָּהֶם/שֶׁלָּהֶן	Their, Theirs			Shelahem (m) / Shelahen (f)



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## Conjunctions - מילות קשור

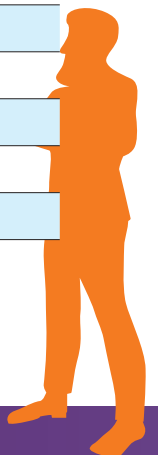
Word/ Phrase	מילה/ משפט	Translation	תרגום	Transliteration	תעתיק פונטי
!		and		Ve	
ו		Or		O	
של		of		Shel	
כי		because		Ki	
ש / כש		That/when		Sheh/Ksheh	
אז		so		Az	



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## Group B – Basic Conversation

Word/ Phrase	מילה/ משפט	Translation	תרגום	Transliteration	תעתיק פונטי
שלום		Hello/Goodbye/Peace		Shalom	
אהלן		Hello (Arabic slang)		Ahalan	
איך קוראים לך/לך?		?What's your name		Eich kori'im lach? (F) Eich kori'im lecha? (M)	
קוראים לי.../אני		...My name is.../I'm		Kori'im Li.../ Ani	
נעים מאוד להכיר		Very nice to meet you		Naim Meod (lehakir)	
מה שלוקר/ מה שלוקר?		How are you?		Ma shlomech? (F) Ma shlomcha? (M)	
מה נשמע?		How are you doing?		Ma nishma?	
מה המצב?		What's up? (lit. what's the situation?)		Ma hamatzav?	
מה העניינים?		how are things going?		Ma ha'inyanim?	
מה קורה?		What's happening?		Ma koreh?	
מה הולך?		What's going on?		Ma holech?	
מה חדש?		What's new?		Ma chadash?	
טוב מאוד		Very good		Tov me'od	
בסדר		OK, fine		Beseder	
אהלה		Great		Achla	
סבבה		Great/cool		Sababa	
מצוין		Fantastic		Metzu'yan	
על הפנים		Really bad (lit. on the face)		Al Hapanim	
ככה ככה		So so		Kacha Kacha	
לא משהו		Not great		Lo mashehu	
באסה		Bummer		Basa	
בבקשה		Please		Bevakasha	
תודה		Thank you		Toda	
להתראות		Goodbye (lit. See you later)		Lehitraot	
יום טוב		Good day		Yom tov	
יום נפלא		Have a wonderful day		Yom nifla	
ואללה, ביי		Ok...bye!		Yalla, Bye!	



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## Group C – Basic Questions

Word/ Phrase	מילה/ משפט	Translation	תרגום	Transliteration	תעתיק פונטי
	מי	Who		Mi	
	מה	What		Ma	
	איזה	Which		<b>Eizeh</b>	
	איפה	Where		<b>Eifoh</b>	
	לאן	Where to		Le'an	
	קתי	When		Matay	
	למה	Why		<b>Lamah</b>	
	איך	How		Eich	
	כמה	How much		<b>Kamah</b>	
	אתה מדברת אנגלית? אתה מדבר אנגלית?	Do you speak English?		At(F) medaberet (F) Anglit? Ata(M) medaber (M) Anglit?	
	אתה יודעת אנגלית? אתה יודע אנגלית?	Do you know English?		At (F) yoda'at (F) Anglit? Ata(M) yode'a (M) Anglit?	
	אתה מדברת עברית? אתה מדבר עברית?	Do you speak Hebrew?		At(F) medaberet (F) Ivrit? Ata(M) medaber (M) Ivrit?	
	כן/לא/אולי	Yes/No, don't/Maybe		<b>Ken/Lo/Ulay</b>	
	אני לא יודעת עברית אני לא יודע עברית	I don't know Hebrew		Ani lo yoda'at ivrit (F) Ani lo yode'a ivrit (M)	
	אני לא מדברת עברית אני לא מדבר עברית	I don't speak Hebrew		Ani lo medaberet ivrit (F) Ani lo medaber ivrit (M)	
	אני יודעת קצת עברית אני יודע קצת עברית	I know a little/a bit Hebrew		Ani Yoda'at (F) ktzat Ivrit Ani Yode'a (M) ktzat Ivrit	
	אני מדברת קצת עברית אני מדבר קצת עברית	I speak a little bit of/ a bit of Hebrew		Ani medaberet (F) ktzat Ivrit Ani medaber (M) ktzat Ivrit	
	גם אני	Me too		<b>Gam Ani</b>	
	לאט בבקשה	Slower please		<b>Le'at bevakasha</b>	
	מה את לומדת? מה אתה לומד?	What are you studying?		Ma at lomedet? (F) Ma ata lomed? (M)	



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Word/ Phrase	מילה/ משפט	Translation	תרגום	Transliteration	תעתיק פונטי
	מה את עושה? מה אתה עושה?	What do you do? (What's your profession?)		Ma at osah? (F) Ma ata oseh? (M)	
	במה את עובדת? במה אתה עובד?	What's your job? (lit. In what do you work?)		Bema at <b>ovedet</b> ? (F) Bema ata <b>oved</b> ? (M)	
	איפה את עובדת? איפה אתה עובד?	Where do you work?		Efo at <b>ovedet</b> ? (F) Efo ata <b>oved</b> (M)	
	אני סטודנטית אני סטודנט	I am a student		Ani Studentit (F)	
	אני עובדת ב... אני עובד ב...	I work in/at...		Ani <b>ovedet</b> be... (F) Ani <b>oved</b> be... (M)	



# SONG - I DON'T KNOW HEBREW



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Israel is a nation of immigrants and Israeli history is characterized by several waves of mass immigration that have influenced every facet of Israeli society: culture, religion, language, food... While immigrants from Eastern Europe, Middle Eastern countries, Africa, the Americas and other regions around the globe bring their unique and distinct ways of life to Israel, one very strong, unifying experience for these immigrants is their shared Aliyah and Klitah. Aliyah, which means “going up,” is the term used to describe immigration to Israel; Klitah means “acclimation.” Most immigrants’ Aliyah experience includes an intensive Ulpan, a Hebrew language learning program. In a tradition Ulpan, olim (immigrants) from around the world will gather together to learn Hebrew, the language of their new home and the language that binds them together as part of the Jewish people.

## Od Lo Yoda'at Ivrit

Hi lo yoda'at Ivrit  
Hi lo yoda'at Ivrit  
kim'at ba-**aretz** achat chodshayim\*  
Hi lo yoda'at Ivrit

Od lo yoda'at Ivrit  
Lo, Lo  
Od lo yoda'at Ivrit  
Lo, Lo

Ani ba-**aretz** achat chodshayim  
Od lo yoda'at Ivrit

Kshe-**bati** la-namal,\*\* ani ro'a gamal  
Amroo: “rak **Sabres**\*\*\* gamal ochel”,  
Miyad tza'**akti** lo: “ani lo mi-po”.

Pizmon

Ani chadash ba-**aretz**  
Zot ro'im miyad  
Ze moorgash, ze moorgash be-mabat echad  
Ani chadash ba-**aretz**  
Zot ro'im miyad  
Ani nirgash, ani nirgash  
Ani od po, ani od po,  
Ani od po chadash

Pizmon

## I Don't Know Hebrew

She doesn't know Hebrew  
She doesn't know Hebrew  
Almost in Israel one two months\*  
She still doesn't know Hebrew

I still don't know Hebrew  
No, No  
I still don't know Hebrew  
No, No

I'm in Israel one two months  
I still don't know Hebrew

When I came to the port\*\* I saw a camel  
They said, “Camels only eat Sabras.”\*\*\*  
Immediately I (told) shouted to it: “I am not from here.”

Chorus

I am new in Israel  
This you see right away  
This is felt, this is felt in one glance  
I am new in Israel  
This you see right away  
I am excited, I am excited  
I am still here, I am still here,  
still here new

Chorus

## עוד לא יודעת עברית

היא לא יודעת עברית  
היא לא יודעת עברית  
כמעט בארץ אחת חודשים\*  
היא לא יודעת עברית

עוד לא יודעת עברית  
לא לא  
עוד לא יודעת עברית  
לא לא

אני בארץ אחת חודשים  
עוד לא יודעת עברית

כשבאתי לנמל\*\*, אני רואה נמל  
אמרו: “רק סברס\*\*\* נמל אוכל”,  
מיד צעקתי לו: “אני לא סברה”.

פזמון

אני חדש בארץ  
זאת רואים מיד  
זה מורגש, זה מורגש במבט אחד  
אני חדש בארץ  
זאת רואים מיד  
אני נרגש, אני נרגש  
אני עוד פה, אני עוד פה,  
אני עוד פה חדש

פזמון





# SONG - I DON'T KNOW HEBREW



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\* This grammatical mistake is purposeful and reflects the fact that the speaker—new to Israel—is still learning Hebrew.

\*\* The songwriter makes an intentional spelling mistake in order to maintain the rhyme (with gamal / camel) and, perhaps, reflect the fact that the speaker is still learning Hebrew. The correct word for port should be *namel* rather than *namal*.

\*\*\* *Sabras*, a cactus fruit with a prickly outside and a sweet inside, are humorously compared to native Israelis who may seem abrasive initially though they are caring and generous once you get to know them.

**View song at:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNtjvSZQSpQ>



# WORDS FOR THOUGHTS



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To enrich your vocabulary, we recommend that you choose a few of the following words and talk briefly about their origins, and specify common phrases associated with them. To do this, you can use the following table.

Words and Transliteration	translation	Comments and notes
איך קוראים לך/לך? Eich Kor'im Lecha /Lach?	What's your name? (M./f.)	"Ma shimcha"/"Ma Shmech" (m./f.) is a more formal way of asking "What is your name?". This is the proper way to ask the question, but in conversational Hebrew it is customary to ask "Eich kor'im lecha/Lach?"
<b>Ma Nishma?</b> <b>Related expressions:</b> Manish?	מה נשמע? מה חדש? How are you doing? What's new?	The shorthand for "Ma nishma?" (although a bit outdated now)
<b>Ma ha'Inyanim?</b> <b>Related expressions:</b> Ma ha'Inyanim Itcha/Itach?	מה העניינים? מה העניינים איתך/ איתך? How are things? What's up?	In conversational Hebrew the words are merged, making it sound like "Ma'nyanim". The addition of the word "itcha" (you) creates a different meaning, of concern: "You look awful. What's up with you? Is everything all right?" It is also sometimes used as reprimand, surprise or criticism: "You still haven't decided what to study? What's up with you" This is comparable to the phrase "Ma nisgar itcha," which is also used in the same manner.
<b>Ma Koreh? Ma Holech?</b> <b>Ma haMatzav?</b> <b>Related expressions:</b> מה קורה, נבר? מה הולך, אחי? מה הסצב, אחותי? <b>Ma Koreh, Gever?</b> <b>Ma Holech, Achi?</b> <b>Ma haNatzav, Achoti?</b>	מה קורה? מה הולך? מה הסצב? What's happening? How's it going? What's up? [lit. what's the situation?] מה קורה, נבר? מה הולך, אחי? מה הסצב, אחותי? What's up, man? What's up, bro.? What's up, sis? [lit. my brother/my sister]	"Gever" (man), "achi" (my brother), and "achoti" (my sister) are popular words among the younger generation
<b>Beseder; Tov</b> <b>Related expressions:</b> Hakol Beseder, Hakol Tov / Hakol KaRagil	בסדר; טוב O.K, Fine; Good Everything is fine, Everything is good/ everything as usual, as always	It's acceptable to add the word "Hakol" (all): "all is fine", "all is well"; Or in contrast "all is normal"



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Words of Arabic Origin			
Ahalan / Alan	אהלן	Hey	Israelis use to say it as "Ahalan" and also as Short way: "Alan"
<b>Related expressions:</b>			Salutation or greeting guests (like 'Welcome')
Ahalan veSahalan	אהלן וסהלן	Welcome	
Achlah	אחלה	Cool ,Great	The meaning in Arabic: Sweetest / most delicious The word inspired a popular hummus product ("Chummus Achla ")  You can play the song of the tooth, "You're very cute": <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXtC6KeFVP8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXtC6KeFVP8</a>
Sababa	סבבה	Cool	The meaning in Arabic: "longing" or "passionate love"
<b>Related expressions:</b>			Means: Treat the obstacles lightly, take it cool
Kach/Kchi Et haBasa beSababa	קח/קחי את הבאסה בסבבה	Lit: take the bummer in cool	
Basa	באסה	Bummer, That's disappointing	The meaning in Arabic: Frustration, disappointment, depression
<b>Related expressions:</b>			if one seeks to highlight the Arabic pronunciation,
Lehitba'es (adverb)	להתבאס (שם פועל)	to become gloomy, depressed or disappointed (adverb – Slang)	The word is should be spelled "בעסה" (Ba'asa), stressing the "throaty" letter  The word used on verbal form as well: "Ani Mevo'eset Hayom" (I'm depressed today, f.), "Hitba'asti Etmol" (I got depressed yesterday), "Eize Meva'es" (it sucks)..
Questions			
Lama?	למה?	Why?	A more formal way of asking "Why" is "Madoo'a?". With different the Niquqdm the meaning of the question changes to :what for? For what purpose?
LeMa?	למה?	For what purpose?	
Eich?	איך?	How?	a more formal way of asking "How" is "Keitzad"?
Eifo?	איפה?	Where?	a more formal way of asking "Where" is Heichan"?
meEifo?	מאיפה?	From Where?	a more formal way of asking "from where" is "Meayin?"

