



Hebrew Podcasts

Lesson 1A – Prelude to Lesson 1

Easy Level

Hello and welcome to Hebrew Podcasts.

If you are just starting to learn Hebrew and find that our lesson 1 goes too fast, then this easy-level lesson is for you. It's designed to prepare you for lesson 1 by covering the basic vocabulary that you'll need in that lesson.

Before we begin, I'd like to encourage you to download the read-along lesson guide that goes together with this lesson. You can download it from our web site at <http://hebrewpodcasts.com>.

And please let us know what you think about our podcast and give us any suggestions that you may have for how we can improve it. You can contact us by e-mail at learn@hebrewpodcasts.com or using the Feedback form on our web site.

I'm Danny and Noa is here to help me.

שלום נועה!

שלום דני!

Let's begin.

A great way to learn a language is to speak it out loud. So don't be shy! Repeat after us. Let's give it a try. I'll greet Noa Shalom and you repeat after me:

שלום נועה!

 Shà-lom No-à
▶ the clock indicates that we pause here for you to repeat

שלום נועה!

Very good!

Now let's see how to introduce ourselves. Now suppose that I wish to say "I'm Danny". First, let's hear how to say "I".

Let's repeat after Noa

אני

 À-ni

אני

Excellent!

Now I'm ready to say "I'm Danny"

אני דני

 À-ni Dà-ni

אני דני

Noa, now it's your turn

אני נועה

 À-ni No-à

אני נועה

Well done!

Transcription

We'll use transcription in our lesson guides to help you read Hebrew. You should read the transcription as if it was English. We'll use hyphens to help the pronunciation. We'll use **é** and **à** to better approximate the Hebrew sounds. Are you familiar with the expression **déjà vu**, or the word **résumé**? If so, then you should pronounce these two accents accordingly. Otherwise, pronounce **é like the e in let** and pronounce **à like the a in bark**.

Finally we'll use **h** (the letter h with an underscore) to denote the sound of the letter Het (ח). You should refer to lesson 2 to learn more about this sound.

You'll see transcription in green. Here are a couple of examples:

Shà-lom **שלום**
À-ni **אני**



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Now let's use the second person. I'll say "You're Noa"



Àt No-à

את נועה

את נועה

את means you. This is the feminine form. Let's hear the masculine form. Noa will say "You're Danny"



À-tà Dà-ni

אתה דני

אתה דני

אתה mean you when speaking to a male.

Next, let's learn how to say thank you. Repeat after Noa...



To-dà

תודה

תודה

Wonderful!

Okay, Noa, let's say some really simple sentences. To do that, let's learn a few nouns and a few verbs.

Let's start with the nouns. Repeat after Noa, a book is



Sé-fér

ספר

ספר

Hebrew is



Iv-rit

עברית

עברית

A teacher is



Mo-ré

מורה

מורה

And a house or a home is



Bà-yit

בית

בית

Great!

Now for the verbs. The following verbs are all in the present tense. We say these verbs differently depending on the gender of their subject. In the following examples, Noa will speak about me, so we'll hear the masculine form. Repeat after Noa, "You can"



À-tà yà-hol

אתה יכול

אתה יכול

Postcard from Israel



Timna Valley Park is a National Park in the Negev desert near Eilat. The Park is noted for its natural sandstone formations. It includes what are believed to be the oldest Copper mines in the world, dating back to at least 4000 BC and worked almost continuously by many civilizations including the Egyptians and Romans.

Postcard from Israel



Soreq Cave is an active cave with a uniquely dense concentration of stalactites. The cave was discovered in 1968 near Bet Shemesh. It is 83 meters long, 60 meters wide and 15 meters high. Some of the stalactites have been dated as 300,000 years old.



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You go



À-tà ho-léh

אתה הולך

אתה הולך

You love



À-tà o-hév

אתה אוהב

אתה אוהב

You play



À-tà mé-sà-hék

אתה משחק

אתה משחק

You learn or you study



À-tà lo-méd

אתה לומד

אתה לומד

Outstanding!

Okay, we're ready for a simple sentence. How would we say "Danny is learning Hebrew"?



Dà-ni lo-méd iv-rit

דני לומד עברית

דני לומד עברית

Fantastic!

And "Danny loves Hebrew"?



Dà-ni o-hév iv-rit

דני אוהב עברית

דני אוהב עברית

Good job!

For the next two sentences we need a preposition. We want to use the words "to the", in Hebrew we simply add ל in front of the word. So "to the house" is לבית, and "to the city" is לעיר.

So, Noa, how do we say "Danny is going to the house"?



Dà-ni ho-léh là-bà-yit

דני הולך לבית

דני הולך לבית

Bravo!

And "Danny is going to the city", or "Danny is going to town"?



Dà-ni ho-léh là-ir

דני הולך לעיר

דני הולך לעיר

Nice!

Postcard from Israel



United Buddy Bears in Jerusalem

In 2007, the "United Buddy Bears" stood hand in hand in Cairo along the River Nile, for the first time promoting their international unifying message in an Arab country. In summer, they arrived in Jerusalem, where the municipality facilitated the exhibition on Safra Square right in front of the town hall and in close proximity to the Old City. The Buddy Bears advocate living together in peace and harmony.



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Now, a couple of adjectives. Those are words that describe a noun.
To say “new”, it’s



Hà-dàsh

חדש

חדש

And to say “nice”, it’s



Néh-màd

נחמד

נחמד

Awesome!

So now let’s add some words together. Noa, how about “a new house”



Bà-yit hà-dàsh

בית חדש

בית חדש

“A new teacher”



Mo-ré hà-dàsh

מורה חדש

מורה חדש

“A new book”



Sé-fér hà-dàsh

ספר חדש

ספר חדש

“A nice teacher”



Mo-ré néh-màd

מורה נחמד

מורה נחמד

And “a nice house”



Bà-yit néh-màd

בית נחמד

בית נחמד

That’s grand!

Next, let’s learn how to ask a question. A simple question word that means what is **מה**

So I’ll call Noa and she’ll respond with what? Noa?



Mà?

מה?

מה?

We already know how to say new, so to ask what’s new, we say



Mà hà-dàsh?

מה חדש?

מה חדש?



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Good!

Now let's learn to ask "How are you?"



Mà shlom-hà?

מה שלומך?

מה שלומך?

מה שלומך? that's "how are you"? And to answer, let's learn the word for "good"



Tov

טוב

טוב

And we already know how to say thank you. So let's practice



Mà shlom-hà?

מה שלומך?

מה שלומך?

And I answer



Tov to-dà!

טוב תודה!

טוב תודה!

That's good, thank you!

You're doing really well. Learning a language is all about practice, repetition, and recitation. It helps consolidate all these new words in the brain.

At this point it's a good time to mention that in Hebrew nouns have a gender and other parts of the sentence such as verbs and adjectives also change form to agree with the gender of the subject.

So far we've heard a lot of the masculine form because Noa was talking about me or to me. Now let's go back and change some of our examples to their feminine form by having Noa speak of herself.

Noa, how would you say that you love Hebrew?



À-ni o-hé-vét iv-rit

אני אוהבת עברית

אני אוהבת עברית

We see **אוהב** turns into **אוהבת**.

Let's see another example. How do you say "a new city"?



Ir hà-dà-shà

עיר חדשה

עיר חדשה

We see **חדש** turns into **חדשה**. That's because the word for city, **עיר**, is a feminine noun.

This concept of all nouns having gender feels very strange to English speakers and makes learning Hebrew harder. But don't be discouraged. You'll get the hang of it, I promise.



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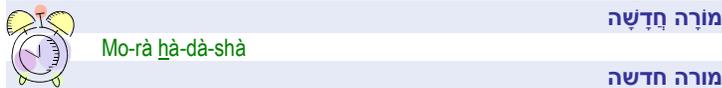
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Some nouns, like animals or professions have two forms, one for male and one for female. There are examples of that in English too, like an actor and an actress and a rooster and a hen.

In our lesson, we learned how to say a teacher, **מורה**. Well, that was the word for a male teacher. For a female teacher the word is



And to say “new teacher” speaking of a female teacher



And to say “nice teacher” speaking of a female teacher



Very good!

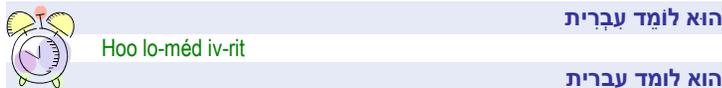
Let’s look at another example. I learn Hebrew, when spoken by a woman, it’s



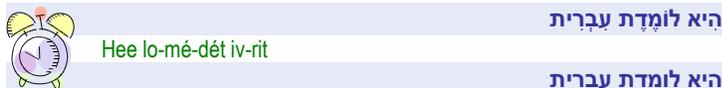
Excellent!

Noa, I hope you’re not tired yet because we have some more words to learn so we can make some more sentences. Let’s learn how to say he and she.

Let’s repeat after Noa, “he is learning Hebrew”

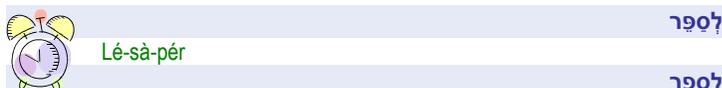


And “she is learning Hebrew”



Well done!

Now let’s see a couple of verbs in the infinitive. The infinitive is the form of the verb that describes the action: to tell and to sing. Let’s hear these two verbs in the infinitive. To tell is





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And to sing is



Là-shir

לְשִׁיר

לְשִׁיר

Wonderful!

Now let's see two examples with these two verbs. To say "She can tell" or "she is able to tell" is



Hee yé-ho-là lé-sà-pér

היא יְכוּלָה לְסַפֵּר

היא יְכוּלָה לְסַפֵּר

Fantastic!

Noa, how would you say "she can sing"?



Hee yé-ho-là là-shir

היא יְכוּלָה לְשִׁיר

היא יְכוּלָה לְשִׁיר

Good job!

The word for a song is שִׁיר. In plural, the word for songs is שִׁירִים. So to say "she can sing songs", we would say



Hee yé-ho-là là-shir shi-rim

היא יְכוּלָה לְשִׁיר שִׁירִים

היא יְכוּלָה לְשִׁיר שִׁירִים

Nice!

Noa, how do you say "with us"?



Ee-tà-noo

אִיתְנוּ

אִיתְנוּ

So "she is learning with us" or "she is studying with us" would be



Hee lo-mé-dét ee-tà-noo

היא לומֶדֶת אִיתְנוּ

היא לומֶדֶת אִיתְנוּ

Very good!

Let's see a variation. "She is coming with us"



Hee bà-à ee-tà-noo

היא בָּאָה אִיתְנוּ

היא באה אִיתְנוּ

באה that's the verb for coming. It's the feminine form. To hear the masculine form, which is בא, let's see how to say "He is coming with us"



Hoo bà i-tà-noo

הוא בָּא אִיתְנוּ

הוא בא אִיתְנוּ

Super!



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That's it for today. Please remember that learning to speak a new language requires practice. You need to speak out loud and repeatedly. I hope that this lesson will make lesson 1 easier to learn and more enjoyable.

Now you're ready for lesson 1 where we'll meet Rina. She'll tell us about her school and about her teacher. We'll practice some greetings and learn some new words.

Until then

שלום ולהתראות!

Oh, yes, **להתראות**, that's goodbye.

שלום ולהתראות!

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Lesson 1A – Exercise

Match each picture with the correct Hebrew word. Draw a line between the word and the picture.



מורה mo-rà

ספר sé-fér

בית bà-yit

עיר eer

לשיר là-shir

חדש hà-dàsh

לומדת lo-mé-dét

מה mà

הולכת ho-lé-hét