Hello and welcome to Hebrew Podcasts. Today’s podcast is our first lesson. In this lesson you’ll learn spoken Hebrew by listening to a dialog and a discussion of vocabulary, grammar, and idioms.

With each podcast there’s a lesson guide where you can read the transcript, see the full translation, get additional information, and do a few exercises to reinforce the lesson. You can download the lesson guide from our web site at http://hebrewpodcasts.com.

In this first beginner-level lesson we’ll meet Rina. She’ll help us practice some greetings and learn some new words.

Let’s begin.

Hello Rina! שָלֹם רינה!

Hello Danny. How are you? שָלֹם דָנִי. מַה שלֹם-הָא?

Great, thank you. How are you? נֶהֶדֶר, תּוֹדָה. מַה שלֹם-הָא?

All right. בּסֶרֶד גָמוּר.

I greeted Rina by sayingשלום. This is the most common greeting in Hebrew and it can mean either hello or goodbye.

Hello Rina! שָלֹם רינה!

The word,שלום, can also mean peace or well being. We see it used next when Rina asks me “How are you?”

How are you? מַה שלֹם-הָא?

In Hebrew,שלום is a single-word combination of the words:ע שלום.Uni כ with כֶפֶפֶל is a combination of the words:ע שלום כֶפֶל, which is what we say to a female person.

Let’s practice:

Hello Rina. How are you? שָלֹם רינה. מַה שלֹם-הָא?

Hello Danny. How are you? שָלֹם דָנִי. מַה שלֹם-הָא?

I answered you, Rina, withתודה, תּוֹדָה. Great, thank you.

Rina, if I wanted to say ‘thank you very much!’ I would say:

Toּדָה רבָה!

When I asked you how you are, Rina, you said:

בּסֶרֶד גָמוּר

That means all right.بسֶרֶד means all right,בסֶרֶד emphasizes that it’s completely all right.

Let’s listen to this short dialog again. This time we’ll pause after each line so that you can practice by repeating out loud:

Transcription

We’ll use transcription in our lesson guides to help you read new Hebrew words. You should read the transcription as if it was English. We’ll use é and à to better approximate the Hebrew sounds. You should pronounce those as you would in French. 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 or the u in up.

Finally we’ll use h (the letter h with an underscore) to denote the sound of the letter Het (ח) or the loose version of the letter Kaf (כ). You should refer to lesson 2 to hear this sound.

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

שלום
בּסֶרֶד גָמוּר

Right-to-left

Hebrew is written right-to-left, line by line going down the page.

In our English text, if we include some Hebrew words, then read the text as you would read any English text, but when you get to the Hebrew words, then read them from right to the left. For example, follow the arrows:

Right...
Hello Rina!
שלום רינה

Hello Danny. How are you?
שלום דני. איך אתה?

Great, thank you. How are you?
מדהו, תודה. איך אתה?

All right.
ב_approved.

Okay, now suppose I wanted to introduce myself to you Rina. I would say:
שלום אניDanny.

This means, hello, I'm Danny. Rina, you would then respond with:
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Pleased to meet you! I'm Rina.
 прият될יając רינה.

Pleased to meet you!
 прият｡לך

Next, I'm going to ask Rina if she goes to school.

Rina, do you go to school?
왜 אתה הליך ספר?

In Hebrew, a question is often formed simply by the way we emphasize and without changing word order. For example, the statement: you go, is והן אתה ספר then when we turn it into a question: do you go? It simply becomes אתה ספר.

Finally, ספר, school, is composed of two words, ספר, which means a book, and ספר, literally means book house. ספר also means to school.

Rina, let's listen to your answer.

Yes. I go to the school Kidmah.
כן, אני הלך ספר Kidmah.

You said yes, you go to the school named Kidmah.

In my question, we heard את הספר, to school, but when Rina answered, we heard את הספר, to the school.

That's a verb that means go. In Hebrew, verb forms change based on the gender and plurality of the subject. In our case, the subject is Rina.

is therefore the feminine form of the verb to go.

Let's consider some variations.
If Avi, a man, wanted to say ’I go to school’, he would say:

\[
\text{אני הולך ל}\text{שֵׁרוֹן} \quad \text{À-ni ho-léh lé-véit hà-sé-fér}
\]

Rina, if you and Noa, two girls, wanted to say ’we go to the city’, you would say:

\[
\text{אנו הולכות לירא} \quad \text{À-nàn ho-lé-hót là-ir}
\]

Let’s hear my question and Rina’s answer again.

Rina, do you go to school?

\[
\text{רינה, אתה/people הולכת ל}\text{שֵׁרוֹן?} \quad \text{Ri-nà, àt ho-lé-hót hà-sé-fér?}
\]

Yes. I go to the school Kidmah.

\[
\text{כן, אני הולכת ל}\text{שֵׁרוֹן כידמה} \quad \text{Kén, à-ni ho-lé-hót hà-sé-fér kid-mà.}
\]

So, Rina, please tell us about your Hebrew Teacher, האומרים לעברית.

\[
\text{אני疙aira את המורה לעברית.} \quad \text{À-ni o-hé-vét ét hà-mo-rà lé-iv-rit.}
\]

Rina loves her Hebrew teacher. We hear”? WHICH is the feminine form of the verb to love.

\[
\text{ורה ואני/יה/אני האומרים/אות/אני} \quad \text{À-nà/Àtá/À-ni à-ho-lé-hôt}
\]

Let’s try some variations.

Rina, if you were speaking about a male English teacher, then you would say:

The English Teacher

\[
\text{המורה לאנגלית} \quad \text{Hà-mo-rà lá-àn-glit}
\]

And to speak about both teachers ’my teachers’, you would say:

my teachers

\[
\text{המורים שלה/אות/אני} \quad \text{Hà-mo-rim shé-li}
\]

Okay, Rina, tell us more about your Hebrew teacher.

She is a new teacher

\[
\text{אני מורה חדשה} \quad \text{À-ní à-ho-lé-hà-dà-shà}
\]

from Tel-Aviv.

\[
\text{מחלקת שמאל} \quad \text{mi-tél à-viv.}
\]

She is very nice

\[
\text{אני ת стала} \quad \text{À-ní nèh-mà-dà mé-od}
\]

and she plays with us

\[
\text{אני משביעה/אות/אני} \quad \text{À-ní mi-sé-hà-tà ee-tà-noo}
\]

and sings songs with us.

\[
\text{אני משביעה/אות/אני} \quad \text{À-ní mi-sé-hà-tà ee-tà-noo shi-rim.}
\]

Okay, we heard quite a bit here. Let’s examine what we heard:

Rina, you said that your Hebrew teacher is new

\[
\text{כן, אני מורה חדשה.} \quad \text{Kén, À-ní ho-lé-hà-dà-shà.}
\]
 Chadasha is the feminine singular form of the Hebrew adjective חダー. If you were talking about your teachers—in plural—you would say...

**New teachers**
Mo-rim ha-dà-shim

Rina’s teacher is from Tel-Aviv. Let's listen to that again in the dialog:

**She is a new teacher from Tel-Aviv.**
Hee mo-ra ha-dà-sha mi-lé-à-viv.

Hebrew uses prefixes like ל in לעברית, or in מ from מלם אבב. Those prefixes are the prepositions of, and from, respectively.

Next Rina told us that her teacher is very nice. She is very nice is

**She is very nice**
Hee néh-mà-da mé-od

She is very nice and she plays with us. Let's listen to how Rina said that:

**She is very nice and she plays with us**
Hee néh-mà-da mé-od vé-hee mé-sà-hék ee-tà-noo

Let’s hear that again

**She is very nice and she plays with us**
Hee néh-mà-da mé-od vé-hee mé-sà-hék ee-tà-noo

Rina’s new teacher also sings with the kids. So Rina,

Do you like to sing?
At o-hé-vét la-shir?

Yes, it’s nice.
Kén. Zé néh-màd.

I’m learning to sing
Ànî lo-mé-dét la-shir

Hanukkah songs.
Shí-rim shél hà-noo-kà.

Like for example
Kmo lé-má-shàl

“Ma'oz Tzur Y’shu’ati…”

To sing, לישר, is nice.

So Rina, what song are you learning now for Hanukkah?

I'm learning to sing
Ànî lo-mé-dét la-shir

“Ma'oz Tzur Y’shu’ati…”

that’s another verb in its feminine singular present tense, just like מַשְׁקַת.

Before we conclude our lesson, let’s listen again to the entire dialog. We'll pause after each line for you to repeat it out loud.
That’s it for today. In our next lesson we’ll meet Noa and we’ll review the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

Until then

שלום וודהו!
This lesson’s vocabulary

you (fem.) — את
Kidmah school — בית הספר קידמה
school — בית ספר
alright — בסדר גמור
Danny —Danny
she — היא
and —...ו
it — זה
new (fem.) — חדשה
Hanukkah — חנוכה
like — כמו
yes — כן
learning (fem.) — לומדת
for example — למשל
to sing — לשיר
from — מ...
very — מאד
how are you — אתה שלומך
teacher — מורה
Hebrew teacher — מורה לטבעית
play (fem.) — משמחת
great — נдержан
nice — נחמד
nice (fem.) — נחמדת
Rina — רינה
songs — שירים
hello —שלום
sings (fem.) — שרה
thank you — תודה
Tel-Aviv — תל אביב
Lesson 1 – Exercises

Match each sentence with its Hebrew translation. Then draw a line to connect them.

I am going to school
אני去医院 את המורה
À-ni o-hé-vét ét hà-mo-rà

I love the teacher
אני לומדת לשיר
À-ni lo-mé-dét là-shir

The teacher is nice
אני הולכת לבר ספר
À-ni ho-lé-hét le-véit sé-fér

I am learning to sing
המורה מש chóكت אתנו
Hà-mo-rà mé-sa-hé-két ee-tà-noo

The teacher plays with us
המורה נחמדת
Hà-mo-rà néh-mà-dà

Select the correct form of the verb and write it in the space. Pay attention to gender and plurality.

1. Ri-nà __________ le-véit sé-fér.
   Hol-him
   Ho-lèh
   Ho-lé-hét

2. Hoo __________ ét hà-mo-rà.
   O-hév
   O-hà-vim
   O-hà-vot

3. Hà-mo-rim __________.
   Néh-màd
   Néh-mà-dim
   Néh-mà-dà

4. A-nàh-noo __________.
   Mé-sà-hé-két
   Mé-sà-hék
   Mé-sà-h-kim

5. Hém __________ shi-rim shél hà-noo-kà.
   Là-màd
   Lom-dim
   Lo-mé-dét

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