



Hebrew Podcasts

Lesson 1 – Introduction

Beginner Level

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!	שלום רינה! Shà-lom Ri-nà!
Hello Danny. How are you?	שלום דני. מה שלומך? Shà-lom Dà-ni. Mà shlom-hà?
Great, thank you. How are you?	נהדר, תודה. מה שלומך? Né-hé-dàr, to-dà. Mà shlo-mé <h>h</h> ?
All right.	בסדר גמור. Bé-sé-dér gà-moor.

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

Hello Rina!	שלום רינה! Shà-lom Ri-nà!
-------------	------------------------------

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?	מה שלומך? Mà shlom-hà?
--------------	---------------------------

In Hebrew, **שלומך** is a single-word combination of the words: **שלום שלך**. This is what we say to a male person. **שלומך** is a combination of the words: **שלום שלך**, which is what we say to a female person.

Let's practice:

Hello Rina. How are you?	שלום רינה. מה שלומך? Shà-lom Ri-nà. Mà shlo-mé <h>h</h> ?
Hello Danny. How are you?	שלום דני. מה שלומך? Shà-lom Dà-ni. Mà shlom-hà?

I answered you, Rina, with **נהדר, תודה**. Great, thank you.

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

To-dà rà-bà	תודה רבה!
-------------	-----------

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

Bé-sé-dér gà-moor	בסדר גמור
-------------------	-----------

That means all right. **בסדר** means all right, **בסדר גמור** 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 hyphens to help the pronunciation. 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:

Shà-lom שלום
Bé-sé-dér gà-moor בסדר גמור

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:

Rina said **בסדר גמור** which means "all right".



Hebrew Podcasts

Lesson 1 – Introduction

Beginner Level

Hello Rina! **שלום רינה!**
Shà-lom Ri-nà!

Hello Danny. How are you? **שלום דני. מה שלומך?**
Shà-lom Dà-ni. Mà shlom-hà?

Great, thank you. How are you? **נהדר, תודה. מה שלומך?**
Né-hé-dàr, to-dà. Mà shlo-mé-h?

All right. **בסדר גמור.**
Bé-sé-dér gà-moor.

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

Hello, I'm Danny. **שלום, אני דני.**
Shà-lom, à-ni dà-ni.

This means, hello, I'm Danny. Rina, you would then respond with:

Pleased to meet you! I'm Rina. **נעים מאוד! אני רינה.**
Nà-im mé-od! à-ni Ri-nà.

נעים מאוד is an expression that means 'Pleased to meet you!'. Literally, it means 'very pleasant'. That's a very useful expression.

Pleased to meet you! **נעים מאוד!**
Nà-im mé-od!

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

Rina, do you go to school? **רינה, את הולכת לבית ספר?**
Ri-nà, àt ho-lé-hét lé-véit sé-fér?

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 **את הולכת** and when we turn it into a question: *do you go?* It simply becomes **את הולכת?**

Finally, **בית ספר**, school, is composed of two words, **בית ספר**.

ספר means *a book*, and **בית ספר** literally means *book house*.

ספר לבית means *to school*.

Rina, let's listen to your answer

Yes. I go to the school Kidmah. **כן. אני הולכת לבית הספר קידמה.**
Kén, à-ni ho-lé-hét lé-véit hà-sé-fér kid-mà.

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

In my question, we heard **לבית ספר**, to school, but when Rina answered, we heard **לבית הספר**, to *the* school.

הולכת, 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.

הולכת is therefore the feminine form of the verb to go.

Let's consider some variations.

Nikkud

נקוד

Hebrew vowel marks, or *nikkud*, are useful for beginner readers. They tell you how to pronounce and let you distinguish between words that are otherwise spelled the same. For example, without nikkud, the word **שלומך** is written identically in its masculine **שלומך** and feminine **שלומך** forms.

Experienced readers, however, don't rely on nikkud. They read whole words rather than phonetically and they can resolve ambiguity from the context. Modern Hebrew books, newspapers and web sites do not provide nikkud.

In our lessons guides we will have Hebrew text typed without nikkud.

You can read more about nikkud on Wikipedia.

How are you...?

How are you? **מה שלומך?**
Mà shlom-hà?

How do you do? **מה נשמע?**
Mà nish-mà?

What's up? **איך המרגש?**
Éyh hà-màr-gàsh?

How are you feeling? **מה חדש?**
Mà hà-dàsh?



Hebrew Podcasts

Lesson 1 – Introduction

Beginner Level

If Avi, a man, wanted to say 'I go to school', he would say...

אני הולך לבית הספר
 À-ni ho-léḥ lé-véit hà-sé-fér

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

אנחנו הולכות לעיר
 Ā-nàḥ-noo hol-ḥot là-ir

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

Rina, do you go to school? **רינה, את הולכת לבית ספר?**
 Ri-nà, àt ho-lé-ḥét lé-véit sé-fér?

Yes. I go to the school Kidmah. **כן. אני הולכת לבית הספר קידמה.**
 Kén, à-ni ho-lé-ḥét lé-véit hà-sé-fér kid-mà.

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

I love the Hebrew teacher. **אני אוהבת את המורה לעברית.**
 À-ni o-hé-vét ét hà-mo-rà lé-iv-rit.

Rina loves her Hebrew teacher. We hear **אוהבת**, which is the feminine form of the verb to love.

עברית is Hebrew. **לעברית** means *of Hebrew* – the teacher of Hebrew.

Let's try some variations

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

The English Teacher **המורה לאנגלית**
 Hà-mo-ré lé-àn-glít

And to speak about both teachers 'my teachers', you would say...

my teachers **המורים שלי**
 Hà-mo-rim shé-li

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

She is a new teacher **היא מורה חדשה**
 Hee mo-rà ḥà-dà-shà

from Tel-Aviv. **מתל אביב.**
 mi-tél à-viv.

She is very nice **היא נחמדה מאוד**
 Hee neh-mà-dà mé-od

and she plays with us **והיא משחקת איתנו**
 vé-hee mé-sà-ḥé-két ee-tà-noo

and sings songs with us. **ושרה איתנו שירים.**
 vé-shà-rà 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

Yes. She is a new teacher. **כן. היא מורה חדשה.**
 Kén. Hee mo-rà ḥà-dà-shà.

Present Tense

to go **ללכת**
Là-lé-ḥét

I/you/he go/goes **אני/אתה/הוא**
 (male singular) **הולך**
 Ā-ni/Ā-tà/Hoo ho-léḥ

I/you/she go/goes **אני/את/היא**
 (female singular) **הולכת**
 Ā-ni/Āt/Hee ho-lé-ḥét

we/you/they go **אנחנו/אתם/הם**
 (male plural) **הולכים**
 Ā-nàḥ-noo/Ā-tém/Hém hol-ḥim

we/you/they go **אנחנו/אתן/הן**
 (female plural) **הולכות**
 Ā-nàḥ-noo/Ā-tén/Hén hol-ḥot

דני ורינה הולכים לתל אביב
 Dà-ni vé-ri-nà hol-ḥim lé-tél à-viv

Danny and Rina go to Tel Aviv
 (Danny and Rina are going to Tel Aviv)

Present Tense

to love **לאהוב**
Lé-é-hov

I/you/he love/loves **אני/אתה/הוא**
 (male singular) **אוהב**
 Ā-ni/Ā-tà/Hoo o-hév

I/you/she love/loves **אני/את/היא**
 (female singular) **אוהבת**
 Ā-ni/Āt/Hee o-hé-vét

we/you/they love **אנחנו/אתם/הם**
 (male plural) **אוהבים**
 Ā-nàḥ-noo/Ā-tém/Hém o-hà-vim

we/you/they love **אנחנו/אתן/הן**
 (female plural) **אוהבות**
 Ā-nàḥ-noo/Ā-tén/Hén o-hà-vot

דני אוהב לשיר
 Dà-ni o-hév là-shir

Danny loves to sing



Hebrew Podcasts

Lesson 1 – Introduction

Beginner Level

חדשה is the feminine singular form of the Hebrew adjective **חדש**. If you were talking about your teachers—in plural—you would say...

New teachers **מורים חדשים**
Mo-rim **hà-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. **היא מורה חדשה מתל אביב.**
Hee mo-rà **hà-dà-shà mi-tél à-viv.**

Hebrew uses prefixes like **ל** in **לעברית**, or **מ** in **מתל אביב**. 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 **היא נחמדה מאוד**
Hee **néh-mà-dà mé-od**

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

היא נחמדה מאוד והיא משחקת איתנו
Hee **néh-mà-dà mé-od vé-hee mé-sà-hé-két ee-tà-noo**

Let's hear that again

היא נחמדה מאוד והיא משחקת איתנו
Hee **néh-mà-dà mé-od vé-hee mé-sà-hé-két ee-tà-noo**

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

Do you like to sing? **את אוהבת לשיר?**
Àt o-hé-vét là-shir?

Yes, it's nice. **כן, זה נחמד.**
Kén. Zé **néh-màd.**

I'm learning to sing **אני לומדת לשיר**
À-ni lo-mé-dét là-shir

Hanukkah songs. **שירים של חנוכה.**
shi-rim shél **hà-noo-kà.**

Like for example **כמו למשל**
Kmo lé-mà-shàl

"Ma'oz Tzur Y'shu'ati..." **"מעוז צור ישועתי..."**
"mà-oz tsoor yé-shoo-à-ti..."

To sing, **לשיר**, is nice, **זה נחמד**.

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

I'm learning to sing **אני לומדת לשיר**
À-ni lo-mé-dét là-shir

"Ma'oz Tzur Y'shu'ati..." **"מעוז צור ישועתי..."**
"mà-oz tsoor yé-shoo-à-ti..."

לומדת, that's another verb in its feminine singular present tense, just like **הולכת** and **משחקת**.

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.

Present Tense

to play **לשחק**
Lé-sà-hék

I/you/he play/plays **אני/אתה/הוא**
(male singular) **משחק**
À-ni/À-tà/Hoo mé-sà-hék

I/you/she play/plays **אני/את/היא**
(female singular) **משחקת**
À-ni/À-t/Hee mé-sà-hé-két

we/you/they play **אנחנו/אתם/הם**
(male plural) **משחקים**
À-nàh-noo/À-tém/Hém mé-sàh-kim

we/you/they play **אנחנו/אתן/הן**
(female plural) **משחקות**
À-nàh-noo/À-tén/Hén mé-sàh-kot

הילדות משחקות בבית הספר
Hà-yé-là-dot mé-sàh-kot bé-béit hà-sé-fér
The girls **play** at school



Hebrew Podcasts

Lesson 1 – Introduction

Beginner Level

שלום רנה!
 שלום דני. מה שלומך?
 נהדר, תודה. מה שלומך?
 בסדר גמור.
 רנה, את הולכת לבית ספר?
 כן. אני הולכת
 לבית הספר קדמה.
 אני אוהבת
 את המורה לעברית.
 היא מורה חדשה
 מתל אביב.
 היא נחמדה מאד
 והיא משחקת אתנו
 ושרה אתנו שירים.
 את אוהבת לשיר?
 כן, זה נחמד.
 אני לומדת לשיר
 שירים של הנקה.
 כמו למשל
 "מעוז צור ישועתי".

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 ולהתראות!

Adjective

Nice

נחמד

Néḥ-màd

I am/you are/he is

אני/אתה/הוא

nice (m. singular)

נחמד

À-ni/À-tà/Hoo néh-màd

I am/you are/she is

אני/את/היא

nice (f. singular)

נחמדה

À-ni/Àt/Hee néh-mà-dà

we are/you are/they

אנחנו/אתם/הם

are nice (m. plural)

נחמדים

À-nàh-noo/À-tém/Hém néh-mà-dim

we are/you are/they

אנחנו/אתן/הן

are nice (f. plural)

נחמדות

À-nàh-noo/À-tén/Hén néh-mà-dot

מורים נחמדים

Mo-rim néh-mà-dim

Nice teachers

מורות נחמדות

Mo-rot néh-mà-dot

Nice teachers (referring to a group of all-female teachers)

Hanukkah

חנוכה

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, celebrates the re-kindling of the Temple menorah at the time of the Maccabee rebellion. It is an eight-day Jewish holiday beginning on the 25th day of the month of Kislev, which may fall anytime from late November to late December.





Hebrew Podcasts

Lesson 1 – Introduction

Beginner Level

This lesson's vocabulary

you (fem.)	את
Kidmah school	בית הספר קידמה
school	בית ספר
alright	בסדר גמור
Danny	דני
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	מאוד
how are you	מה שלומך
teacher	מורה
Hebrew teacher	מורה לעברית
play (fem.)	משחקת
great	נהדר
nice	נחמד
nice (fem.)	נחמדה
Rina	רינה
songs	שירים
hello	שלום
sings (fem.)	שרה
thank you	תודה
Tel-Aviv	תל אביב



Hebrew Podcasts

Lesson 1 – Introduction

Beginner Level

Lesson 1 – Exercises

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

I am going to school	אני אוהבת 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 לבית ספר À-ni ho-lé- <u>h</u> ét lé-véit sé-fér
I am learning to sing	המורה משחקת איתנו Hà-mo-rà mé-sà- <u>h</u> é-két ee-tà-noo
The teacher plays with us	המורה נחמדה Hà-mo-rà néh- <u>h</u> mà-dà

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

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Ri-nà _____ lé-véit sé-fér. | 1. רינה _____ לבית ספר. |
| Hol- <u>h</u> im | (א) הולכים |
| Ho-lé- <u>h</u> | (ב) הולך |
| Ho-lé- <u>h</u> ét | (ג) הולכת |
| 2. Hoo _____ ét hà-mo-rà. | 2. הוא _____ את המורה. |
| O-hév | (א) אוהב |
| O-hà-vim | (ב) אוהבים |
| O-hà-vot | (ג) אוהבות |
| 3. Hà-mo-rim _____. | 3. המורים _____. |
| Néh- <u>h</u> màd | (א) נחמד |
| Néh- <u>h</u> mà-dim | (ב) נחמדים |
| Néh- <u>h</u> mà-dà | (ג) נחמדה |
| 4. A-nà- <u>h</u> -noo _____. | 4. אנחנו _____. |
| Mé-sà- <u>h</u> é-két | (א) משחקת |
| Mé-sà- <u>h</u> ék | (ב) משחק |
| Mé-sà- <u>h</u> -kim | (ג) משחקים |
| 5. Hém _____ shi-rim shél <u>h</u> à-noo-kà. | 5. הם _____ שירים של חנוכה. |
| Là-màd | (א) למד |
| Lom-dim | (ב) לומדים |
| Lo-mé-dét | (ג) לומדת |

© Both the podcast and this accompanying lesson guide are copyrighted material. All rights reserved. You may not distribute these materials without permission from the copyright owner.