

# Hebrew Language Basics Cheatsheet

A concise reference guide to essential Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation, designed to help beginners quickly grasp the fundamentals of the language.



# The Hebrew Alphabet (Aleph-Bet)

#### Consonants

| א (Aleph)   | Silent (sometimes a glottal stop)              |
|-------------|--|
| ב (Bet/Vet) | B (with dagesh), V (without dagesh)            |
| ג (Gimel)   | G (as in 'go')                                 |
| ד (Dalet)   | D (as in 'dog')                                |
| (He) ה      | H (as in 'hat')                                |
| ı (Vav)     | V (as in 'van'), also used as a vowel (O or U) |
| τ (Zayin)   | Z (as in 'zebra')                              |
| n (Chet)    | A guttural sound, like a raspy H               |
| ט (Tet)     | T (as in 'top')                                |

#### More Consonants

| ı (Yod)           | Y (as in 'yes'), also used as a vowel (I or E)     |
|-------------------|--|
| ר/כ<br>(Kaf/Khaf) | K (with dagesh), CH (without dagesh, as in 'Bach') |
| ל (Lamed)         | L (as in 'leg')                                    |
| מ/ם (Mem)         | M (as in 'man')                                    |
| נ/ן (Nun)         | N (as in 'no')                                     |
| ס (Samekh)        | S (as in 'sun')                                    |
| ע (Ayin)          | A guttural sound, often silent                     |
| ק/פ (Pe/Fe)       | P (with dagesh), F (without dagesh)                |
| צ/ץ (Tsadi)       | TS (as in 'cats')                                  |

#### Final Consonants and Pronunciation Notes

| ק (Qof)         | K (more guttural than Kaf)   |
|-----------------|--|
| ר (Resh)        | R (often a guttural R, similar to French)  |
| ש<br>(Shin/Sin) | SH (with dot on right), S (with dot on left)   |
| ת (Tav)         | T (as in 'tea')  |
| Final<br>Forms  | Letters Kaf, Mem, Nun, Pe, and Tsadi have<br>different forms when they appear at the<br>end of a word. |
| Dagesh          | A dot inside Bet, Kaf, or Pe changes the pronunciation (B, K, P).                                      |

# **Basic Hebrew Vocabulary**

### Greetings

| Shalom (שלום)           | Hello, Goodbye, Peace  |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Boker Tov (בוקר טוב)    | Good Morning           |
| Erev Tov (ערב טוב)      | Good Evening           |
| Laila Tov (לילה טוב)    | Good Night             |
| Ma Nishma? (מה נשמע?)   | What's up? (masculine) |
| Ma Nishmat? (מה נשמעת?) | What's up? (feminine)  |
| Beseder (בסדר)          | Okay, Alright          |
| Toda (תודה)             | Thank you              |
| Bevakasha (בבקשה)       | You're welcome, Please |

#### **Basic Phrases**

| Ken (כן)                                  | Yes                           |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Lo (לא)                                   | No                            |
| Efshar (אפשר)                             | Possible, Can                 |
| Slicha (סליחה)                            | Excuse me,<br>Sorry           |
| Ani lo medaber/medaberet lvrit (אני) אני) | l don't speak<br>Hebrew (m/f) |
| Eich korim lecha/lach? (איך קוראים)       | What's your name? (m/f)       |
| Shmi (שמי)                                | My name is                    |
| Ma shlomcha/shlomech? (?מה שלומך?)        | How are you?<br>(m/f)         |
|   |                               |

I'm good (m/f)

### Numbers 1-10

| Echad (אחד)     | One   |
|-----------------|-------|
| Shtayim (שניים) | Two   |
| Shalosh (שלוש)  | Three |
| Arba (ארבע)     | Four  |
| Hamesh (חמש)    | Five  |
| Shesh (שש)      | Six   |
| Sheva (שבע)     | Seven |
| Shmone (שמונה)  | Eight |
| Tesha (תשע)     | Nine  |
| Eser (עשר)      | Ten   |
|                 |       |

### **Basic Hebrew Grammar**

#### Gender

Hebrew nouns and adjectives have grammatical gender: masculine and feminine.

- Masculine is often the default or unmarked form.
- Feminine is often indicated by the suffix -ah (n-) or et (n-).

#### Examples:

- Yeled (ילד) Boy (masculine)
- Yalda (ילדה) Girl (feminine)
- Tov (טוב) Good (masculine)
- Tova (טובה) Good (feminine)

#### **Pronouns**

Ani tov/tova (אני טוב/טובה)

| Ani (אני)       | 1                      |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Ata (אתה)       | You (masculine)        |
| At (את)         | You (feminine)         |
| Hu (הוא)        | Не                     |
| Hi (היא)        | She                    |
| Anachnu (אנחנו) | We                     |
| Atem (אתם)      | You (masculine plural) |
| Aten (אתן)      | You (feminine plural)  |
| Hem (הם)        | They (masculine)       |
| Hen (הו         | They (feminine)        |

### Verb Conjugation (Present Tense - Simple)

Hebrew verbs conjugate based on gender and number. Here's a simplified example using the verb 'to write' (Lichtov - לכתוב) in the present tense:

- Ani kotev/kotevet (אני כותב/כותבת) I write (m/f)
- Ata kotev (אתה כותב) You write (m)
- At kotevet (את כותבת) You write (f)
- Hu kotev (הוא כותב) He writes
- Hi kotevet (היא כותבת) She writes
- Anachnu kotvim/kotvot (אנחנו כותבים/כותבות) We write (m/f)
- Atem kotvim (אתם כותבים) You write (m pl)
- Aten kotvot (אתן כותבות) You write (f pl)
- Hem kotvim (הם כותבים) They write (m)
- Hen kotvot (הן כותבות) They write (f)

# **Additional Useful Phrases**

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# Asking for Help

| Eifo ha sherutim? (איפה השירותים?)               | Where is the bathroom? |
|--|------------------------|
| Eich omrim? (באיך אומרים?)                       | How do you say?        |
| Eizo sha'a? (איזו שעה?)                          | What time is it?       |
| Efshar le'kabel? (אפשר לקבל?)                    | Can I have?            |
| (כמה זה עולה? (מה זה עולה?)                      | How much does it cost? |
| Ani tzarich/tzricha ezra (אני<br>צריך/צריכה עזרה | I need help (m/f)      |
| Le'hatzil! (להציל!)                              | Help! (in              |

emergency)

# Food and Drink

| Ochel (אוכל) | Food   |
|--------------|--------|
| Mayim (מים)  | Water  |
| Lechem (לחם) | Bread  |
| Basar (בשר)  | Meat   |
| Salat (סלט)  | Salad  |
| Cafe (קפה)   | Coffee |
| Te (תה)      | Tea    |
| Bira (בירה)  | Beer   |

# Directions

| Yashar (ישר)   | Straight      |
|----------------|---------------|
| Smola (שמאלה)  | Left          |
| Yemina (ימינה) | Right         |
| Kan (כאן)      | Here          |
| Sham (שם)      | There         |
| Le'yad (ליד)   | Next to, Near |

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