

Survival Phrases - Hebrew (Part 1) Lessons 1-30



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- ★ Expressing yourself with adjectives and being understood
- ★ Home visits and proper protocol that will wow hosts
- ★ Getting help, this may be the most useful phrase you ever learn



Lesson 1: Thank You!

תודה

LESSON NOTES

Wherever your destination may be, manners are necessary! In this respect, Israel is no different. In our very first lesson, we'll be teaching you a simple phrase that is bound to come in handy throughout your trip to Israel. I can't stress this enough, a little a bit of language can go such a long way!

In Hebrew, "Thank you" is "Toda".

You can emphasize "Toda" by adding "Raba," which literally means, "very much."

You could say "Toda raba", which would be equivalent to "Thank you very much" or "Thanks a lot."

In Hebrew, there are other ways to express one's gratitude. However, they are all variations using "Toda", which is a noun and the subject "Ani", which is a more formal "I thank you very much."

There will be occasions where you will really want to show your appreciation and politeness. During occasions such as these, you can use the subject "Ani".

In Hebrew, there are different ways to say, "I thank you" depending on the gender of the speaker and the listener. If a man is speaking, "I thank you" is "Ani mode lecha".

If a woman is speaking, "I thank you" is "Ani moda lach".

In both cases, we use the first word "Ani" ("I") to make the phrase formal.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
תודה	Toda	Thank you.
תודה רבה	Toda raba	Thank you very much or thanks a lot.
אני מודה לך	Ani mode lecha	I thank you. (male speaker, formal)
אני מודה לך	Ani moda lach	I thank you. (female speaker, formal)

QUICK TIP

By far, "Toda" is the most common way to say "Thank you." Remember, when in doubt, it is always your safest bet to keep it simple. You don't have to worry about formal or informal situations. You can use "Toda" with just about anyone, anywhere, and anytime. You say "Toda" when the waiter brings your food or drinks, when the clerk in the hotel takes your luggage to your room (of course, throwing in a tip won't hurt either!), and when somebody welcomes you or congratulates you. It doesn't matter his or her profession or age, "Toda" or "Toda raba" will always be an appropriate response.



Lesson 2: You're Welcome!

אין בעד מה

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson, we'll continue to learn more phrases that will help you with basic etiquette. Israelis are exceptionally hospitable. They use phrases of gratitude and those related quite often. Even though you may not get the chance to use "Ein bead ma" ("You're welcome") during your trip in Israel, there's a very good chance you'll hear it. So let's have a closer look at it!

In Hebrew, "You're welcome" is "Bevakasha". The word "Bevakasha" means, "You're welcome."

You can also respond to someone that has thanked you by using two very similar expressions. They are "Ein bead ma", which literally means, "it's nothing," and "Ze beseder", which means, "it's okay."

Remember, "Ein bead ma" means, "it's nothing," and "Ze beseder" means, "It's okay."

Of the expressions we have seen, please keep in mind that we can use "Bevakasha", "Ein bead ma", and "Ze beseder" in any situation, formal or informal.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
בבקשה	Bevakasha.	You're welcome.
אין בעד מה	Ein bead ma.	It's nothing.
זה בסדר	Ze beseder.	It's okay.

QUICK TIP

The word "Bevakasha" has two uses. We looked at one of them today. When you want to say, "You're welcome," we can use "Bevakasha" as a set phrase after "Toda." The second meaning of "Bevakasha" is "please," which we will explain further in the next chapter!

QUICK TIP 2

When having guests over in Israel, one always greets their guests with "Bruchim abaim". "Bruchim abaim" can refer to both a formal situation and times when you have many people over for coffee.



Lesson 3: Please

בבקשה

LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In today's lesson, we'll look at the word "Please," which will be very important when you need to ask for something.

In Hebrew, "Please" is "Bevakasha".

The easiest way to use "Please," is to point at something while saying "Bevakasha", but let's try to build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression, "This, please," which in Hebrew is "Aze bevakasha". In English, "this" comes before "please." In Hebrew, the order is the same. So we have "Aze bevakasha".

Let's look at the word for "this." In Hebrew, "this" is "Aze".

Looking at the word for "this" warrants a look at the word for "that," which is "Ahu". The phrase "That please," is "Ahu bevakasha".

Please remember that in Israel it is also a little rude to point at things, and especially at people. If it is necessary to point to something in order to explain better what one wants, then it is accepted. However, pointing in the direction of someone and especially to a person's face is a very aggressive stance. Furthermore, when pointing it is better to have one's arm, hand, and finger pointing in a relaxed way. Pointing with a stiff finger may seem intimidating.

As we saw in lesson 1, in Hebrew, there are different ways to say, "I thank you" depending on the gender of the speaker and listener. If a man is speaking, "I thank you" is "Ani mode lecha".

If a woman is speaking, "I thank you" is "Ani moda lach".

In both cases, we use the first word "Ani" ("I") to make the phrase formal.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
בבקשה	Bevakasha.	Please.
אני מודה לך	Ani mode lecha.	Please. (male speaker, formal)
אני מודה לך	Ani moda lach.	Please. (female speaker, formal)

Hebrew	Romanization	English
הזה בבקשה	Aze bevakasha.	This please.
ההוא בבקשה	Ahu bevakasha.	That please.

QUICK TIP

A final use for the word "Bevakasha," is when you give permission to someone to do something. In Israel for instance, if you were a teacher and one of your students asked you if he could be excused to the washroom, you could answer "Bevakasha" to give him permission to go.



Lesson 4: Basic Greetings

שלום

LESSON NOTES

Today, we'll cover basic greetings for the appropriate time of the day. As there are quite a few to cover, let's jump right in.

In Hebrew, we can use the phrase "Shalom" as a universal greeting. We use it both when greeting and when parting.

In Hebrew, "Good Morning" is "Boker tov". The first word, "Boker" means "morning." "Tov", which in Hebrew is "good," follows this.

In Hebrew, "Good afternoon" is "tzooramim tovim". The first word "Tzooramim" means, "afternoon." "Tovim" follows this, which in Hebrew is "good."

Finally, in Hebrew "good evening" is "Erev tov". The first word "Erev" means, "evening." "Tov" follows this, which in Hebrew is "good."

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
שלום	Shalom.	Hello and goodbye.
בוקר טוב	Boker tov.	Good morning.
צהריים טובים	Tzooramim tovim.	Good afternoon.
ערב טוב	Erev tov.	Good evening.

QUICK TIP

If you want to be on the safe side when using greetings in Hebrew, "Shalom" would be your obvious choice. However, learning the various greetings in a language can have very pleasant results. For example, when I was walking down the streets in a small village in Israel, the simple greeting "Boker tov" always put a smile on people's faces. So go ahead and try!



Lesson 5: Parting Greetings

להתראות

LESSON NOTES

Today, we will introduce parting greetings.

As we learned in the previous lesson, “Shalom” can mean both “hello” and “goodbye.” However, this is not the only way of saying goodbye in Hebrew!

A parting expression that we can use for all occasions is “Leitraot”, which literally means “goodbye.”

Let's look at another expression. The word “Shalom” as seen in the previous lesson also means “goodbye.”

We can also use “Erev tov”, the evening greeting that we saw in the last lesson, when parting or saying goodbye at night.

Let's look at the components. The first word “Erev” means, “evening.” “Tov”, which in Hebrew is “good,” follows “Erev”.

There are also several phrases for saying, “See you later.” A more casual way of saying, “See you later” or “See you soon” in Hebrew is “Daber iti”. This literally means, “we talk.”

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
להיתראות	Leitraot.	Goodbye.
ערב טוב	Erev tov.	Good evening.
דבר איתי	Daber iti.	Talk later.

QUICK TIP

The easiest way of saying your goodbyes in Hebrew is by using “Shalom!” This word means both “bye” and “take care.” Give a slight wave and a loud “shalom!” And you’ll be just like one of the locals!

QUICK TIP 2

Here is some trivia for you! Let's say you are in Israel and you have just said your hellos to an old woman sitting under a tree. You realize someone has painted the tree trunk white! Tree trunks are often painted white with lime wash primarily to fight ants. Besides, it looks nice and fits in with Israel scenery perfectly!



Lesson 6: Where is the bathroom?

איפה השירותים

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson, we'll cover an extremely important phrase, "Where is the bathroom?"

In Hebrew, "Where is the bathroom?" is "Heifo hasherutim?"

Let's look at the components. The first word "Heifo" means, "where is". Next, we have "Hasherutim". Please note the "Ha," which in Hebrew is the way to say "the," attached to the word "Sherutim," which means "toilet." So to recap, we have "Heifo hasherutim?" Literally, this means, "Where is the toilet?"

There is a more formal way to ask (but we rarely use it in Hebrew) "Where is the bathroom?" It is "Heifo hanochiyut?" This means, "Where is the bathroom?" The word "Heifo" means, "where is." Next, we have "Hanochiyut", which is the way to say "bathroom" in formal Hebrew.

Now, when you finally get to the bathroom there may be one last hurdle. In some instances, only Hebrew words are written on the doors! What to do? Well you can stop by the website and find the words for "man" and "woman" there, find them inside the PDF, or if you have an iPod, click the on the center button and you can find them there. The word for "men" is "Gvarim". The word for "women" is "Nashim".

When traveling, there may not be so many public bathrooms for tourists to use. This means your best option is to stop at either a café or a restaurant to use their bathrooms. Understandably, café owners aren't too keen on having people stop in just to use their bathroom. So to be polite, you might buy a bottle of water or order a coffee before asking "Efshar leishtamesh basherutim?" This last phrase means, "May I borrow the bathroom?" Of course, it will be nicer if you add "Bevakasha," which means "please," thus becoming "Efshar leishtamesh basherutim bevakasha?"

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
איפה השירותים?	Heifo hasherutim?	Where is the bathroom? (informal and formal)
איפה הנוחיות?	Heifo hanochiyut?	Where is the bathroom? (very formal)

Hebrew	Romanization	English
אפשר להשתמש בשירותים?	Efshar leishtamesh basherutim?	May I use the bathroom?

QUICK TIP

One can wonder and be disgusted at the standard of the Israeli's toilets. Part of the explanation might be that the Israeli himself never uses a public toilet. An Israeli will do almost whatever it takes to use his own toilet! So you see...it's mainly a problem for the tourist!

QUICK TIP 2

The word "Shirutim" doesn't only mean "bathroom," it can also mean "services." So for example, you can use it when you want to say, "The services that the government provide are very good," "Hasherutim shehamemshala maanika meod tovim."

Now you can keep yourself clean all throughout your Israel travels!



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Lesson 7: Can you speak English?

האם אתה מדבר אנגלית?

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson, we'll cover another extremely important phrase, "Can you speak English?" Using this phrase as opposed to speaking English at someone is important for many reasons. For one, if the party you're speaking to doesn't understand English, at least they'll be able to understand what you're asking. Furthermore, it shows a lot of respect on your part that you've made an effort to learn even a little bit of the language. For these reasons and many more, we're going to cover this very important phrase.

As we saw in previous lessons, in Hebrew, there are different ways to say things depending on the gender of speaker and listener.

If a man is speaking, "Can you speak English?" is "Haim ata medaber anglit?" The first word "Haim" means, "do." The second word "Ata" means, "you." The third word "Medaber", which comes from the verb "Ledaber", means, "to speak." Last, we have the word "Anglit", which in English means, "English."

If a woman is speaking, "Can you speak English?" is "Haim at medaberet anglit?" The first word "Haim" means, "do." The second word "At" means, "you." The third word "Medaberet", which comes from the verb "Ledaber", means, "to speak." Last, we have the word "Anglit", which in English means "English."

The phrase that we just learned is in the formal tense. Which means you should always use the above phrase in situations with people you don't know or elders.

When speaking to younger people, it's acceptable to use the informal tense. In which case, if you are a man, you will say in Hebrew "Ata medaber anglit?" And if you are a woman, you will say in Hebrew "At medaberet anglit?" While the difference is minimal, the significance is very important.

Please note that in order to make a question sentence, when we drop the question word "Haim", which comes at the beginning of the sentence, we need to emphasize the word "Ata" (for male) or "At" (for female) so the listener understands that we are asking a question.

Before we move on, please remember that "Haim" followed by the question is the formal way to ask if somebody speaks that language. Dropping the "Haim" before the actual question is the informal way to ask something. Without "Haim" is more direct. Do not drop it with people you don't know or with elders.

Now for a change, let's try a different language. Let's try Spanish. "Can you speak Spanish?" If "you are a man, you will say "Ata medaber sfaradit?" And if you are a woman, you will say "At medaberet sfaradit?" The word for "Spanish" is "Sfaradit". Here, just the word for the language changes, the rest is the same.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
האם אתה מדבר אנגלית?	Haim ata medaber anglit?	Do you speak English? (male speaker, formal)
האם את מדברת אנגלית?	Haim at medaberet anglit?	Do you speak English? (female speaker, formal)
אתה מדבר אנגלית?	Ata medaber anglit?	Do you speak English? (male speaker, informal)
את מדברת אנגלית?	At medaberet anglit?	Do you speak English? (female speaker, informal)

QUICK TIP

Nowadays, those who speak English have increased in Israel. Most tourist places and young people speak English, so you don't have to worry too much. However, you can never go wrong by knowing the local language, so keep studying the survival phrases!

QUICK TIP 2

Sometimes when Israelis speak English, they can come off as a bit rude. This is mainly due to the intonation of their speech, which they rarely adapt to foreign languages. Don't worry, they aren't being rude to you, they're just Israelis!



Lesson 8: I don't Understand

אני לא מבין

LESSON NOTES

Today, we shall see a very useful phrase meaning, "I don't understand." It is very useful because many times you won't immediately understand what people are saying.

As we have seen before in Hebrew, there are different ways to say things depending on the gender of the speaker and listener. If a man is speaking, in Hebrew, "I don't understand" is "Ani lo mevin". The first word "Ani" means, "I." "Lo", which in English is "No," follows this. Last, we have the word "Mevin", which in English means, "understand." To recap, we have "Ani lo mevin". Literally, this means, "I don't understand."

If a woman is speaking, in Hebrew, "I don't understand" is "Ani lo mevina". The first word "Ani" means, "I." "Lo", which in English is "No," follows this. Last, we have the word "Mevina", which in English means, "understand." To recap, we have "Ani lo mevina". Literally, this means, "I don't understand."

Now let's look at another phrase, "I don't know." In Hebrew if a man is speaking, "I don't know" is "Ani lo yodea". The word "Yodea" literally means, "To know." If a woman is speaking, "I don't know" is "Ani lo yoda'at". The word "Yoda'at" literally means, "To know."

Another way to express that you don't understand is asking someone "What does it mean?" This phrase in Hebrew is "Ma ze omer?" The first word "Ma" means, "What." Next, we have "Ze", which in English is "this." Last, we have the word "Omer", which in English means, "mean." To recap here, we have "Ma ze omer?" Literally, this means, "What does it mean?"

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
אני לא מבין	Ani lo mevin.	I don't understand. (male speaker)
אני לא מבינה	Ani lo mevina.	I don't understand. (female speaker)
אני לא יודע	Ani lo yodea.	I don't know. (male speaker)
אני לא יודעת	Ani lo yoda'at.	I don't know. (female speaker)
מה זה אומר?	Ma ze omer?	What does it mean?

QUICK TIP

When engaged in a conversation in Hebrew, you're more than likely not to understand everything they're saying to you. This could be for a number of reasons: the accent, how fast the person is speaking, or the vocabulary that the person is using. If this happens, don't be afraid to say, "Ani lo mevin" (for male) and "Ani lo mevina" (for female). Israelis will be more than happy to try to explain what they have just said. Or maybe you've understood the general sense of a phrase but there was a word someone used that you have never heard before. To find the meaning of this new word, simply ask the person "Ma ze omer?" In English this means, "What does it mean?"

QUICK TIP 2

If you have managed to understand what an Israeli has told you, they might ask you "Evanta" (for male) and "Evant" (for female), meaning, "did you understand?" You can now answer this with "Yes, I understood," which is "Ken evanti" (for both male and female).



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Lesson 9: Say It Again, Please

זה שוב בבקשה? אתה יכול להגיד את

LESSON NOTES

There will be many times when the Hebrew around you or coming at you is fast and furious and you may not catch any or all of it. In instances such as this, asking the speaker to say it again can prove the difference between understanding a crucial piece of information and spending the rest of the day trying to figure out what they just said. The following phrase will not only give you a better sense of the language, but it will also help you tune your ear as well!

As we have seen before in Hebrew, there are different ways to say things, depending on the gender of the speaker and listener. If a man is speaking, in Hebrew, "Can you repeat that please?" is "Ata yachol lehagid et ze shuv?" The first word "Ata" means, "you," followed by "Yachol", which literally means, "can." Next, we have "Lehagid", which in English is "to say." The following words are "Et ze", which in English mean, "that." Last, we have the word "Shuv", which in English means "again." To recap, we have "Ata yachol lehagid et ze shuv." Literally, this means, "Can you repeat?"

If a woman is speaking, In Hebrew, "Can you repeat that please?" is "At yechola lehagid et ze shuv?" The first word "At" means, "You," followed by "Yechola", which literally means, "can." Next, we have "Lehagid", which in English is "to say." The following words are "Et ze", which in English mean, "that." Last, we have the word "Shuv", which in English means, "again." To recap, we have "At yechola lehagid et ze shuv". Literally, this means, "Can you repeat?"

Let's look at the next expression, which is more polite. The phrase "Bevakasha", a repetition from previous lessons, means "please." All together, for a male speaker, this is "Ata yachol lehagid et ze shuv bevakasha?" For female speaker, this is "At yechola lehagid et ze shuv bevakasha?" Literally, this means, "Can you repeat please?"

At times, even repeating the words isn't enough to understand the speaker. This is often due to how fast the person is speaking. For instances such as this, you can use the phrase "Slowly please." In Hebrew, "Slowly please" is "Yoter leat". The first word "Yoter" means, "more." "Leat", which in English means, "slow," follows next. To recap, we have "Yoter leat". Literally, this means, "Slowly please."

We can use the phrases we have seen together. "Can you repeat slowly please?" For a male speaker, this is "Ata yachol lehagid et ze yoter leat bevakasha?" Here we have "Ata", which means, "you" in English. The second word is "Yachol", which in English means "can." The third word is "Lehagid", which is the verb meaning "to say." Next are the words "Et ze", which mean

“that.” After that, we have the word “Yoter”, which means “more” followed by the word “Leat”, which in English means, “slow.” Last, we have the word “Bevakasha” which in English means, “please.”

For a female speaker, this is “At yechola lehagid et ze yoter leat bevakasha?” Here we have “At,” which means, “you” in English. The second word is “Yechola,” which in English means “can.” The third word is “Lehagid,” which is the verb meaning “to say.” Next are the words “Et ze,” which mean “that.” After that, we have the word “Yoter,” which means, “more” followed by the word “Leat,” which in English means “slow.” Last, we have the word “Bevakasha,” which in English means “please.”

We can also combine “again” with “Slowly please.” “Can you repeat again and slowly please?” For a male speaker, this is “Ata yachol lehagid et ze shuv yoter leat bevakasha?”

For a female speaker, this is “At yechola lehagid et ze shuv yoter leat bevakasha?”

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
אתה יכול להגיד את זה שוב בבקשה	Ata yachol lehagid et ze shuv bevakasha?	Can you repeat that please? (male speaker)
את יכולה להגיד את זה שוב בבקשה	At yechola lehagid et ze shuv bevakasha?	Can you repeat that please? (female speaker)
יותר לאט	Yoter leat.	Slowly please.
אתה יכול להגיד את זה יותר לאט בבקשה	Ata yachol lehagid et ze yoter leat bevakasha?	Can you repeat slowly please? (male speaker)
את יכולה להגיד את זה יותר לאט בבקשה	At yechola lehagid et ze yoter leat bevakasha.	Can you repeat slowly please? (female speaker)

QUICK TIP

Asking someone to repeat what they've just said is especially important when given directions to get you where you're going. If you happen to be lost, instead of stopping someone on the street for directions, it's always best to stop in a store or a café and ask the people that work there. This is because chances are they are much more familiar with the neighborhood than the average passerby on the street is. When giving directions, Israelis tend to speak very fast, especially if they assume you already speak the language. So, if there's something that you didn't understand or if you missed part of the sentence, you can ask, “Ata yachol lehagid et ze shuv bevakasha” (for a male speaker) or “At yechola lehagid et ze shuv bevakasha” (for a female speaker). As you've just learned, this means, “Can you repeat that please?”

QUICK TIP 2

If everything else fails, body language is your best friend. Israelis have very extreme body language and wave their hands all over the place when they talk. This can be quite distracting, especially when they talk fast. However, a good way of showing that you don't understand is the simple and universal “I don't know” pose.



Lesson 10: Apologies

אני מצטער

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson, we will cover phrases we use for apologizing. Now, as you haven't quite mastered Hebrew, it's probably very prudent to go over the phrases for apologizing as they just might come in handy.

We'll start with "I'm sorry," which in Hebrew for a male speaker, is "Ani mitztaer". For a female speaker it "is Ani mitztaeret".

Please note that we use "Ani mitztaer" (for a male speaker) and "Ani mitzraeret" (for a female speaker) in the formal level of speech.

Talking to a friend, thus changing to the informal level of speech, you will use "Slicha".

We use "Slicha" and "Ani mitzraer" (for a male speaker) and "Ani mitzraeret" (for a female speaker) when you might have said or done something offensive, wrong, or embarrassing. Note that we ALSO use "Slicha" as "excuse me." Use this when you are trying to work your way through a crowd, at the subway station for instance, or when you are trying to get someone's attention in a store, or asking for directions.

Now, what if someone says "Slicha" to you after they have done something wrong and you want to respond, "No problem" or "It doesn't matter." In this case, the proper response should be "Ze beseder", which literally means, "It's nothing."

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
אני מצטער	Ani mitztaer.	I'm sorry. Excuse me. (formal for a male speaker)
אני מצטערת	Ani mitztaeret.	I'm sorry. Excuse me. (formal for a female speaker)
סליחה	Slicha.	I'm sorry. Excuse me.
זה בסדר	Ze beseder.	No problem.

QUICK TIP

If someone bumps into you on the street in Israel, don't expect an excuse me, especially in the big cities. Israelis are usually a very friendly people, but Israelis just do not consider excusing yourself for bumping into someone as time well spent. Unless someone pushes you over so hard you fall on the ground, keep walking.



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Lesson 11: Business Greetings

כמה אנשים אתם?



LESSON NOTES

There is a wide variety of Israeli dishes and your job as a visitor is to try as many different foods as possible! However, before you start eating, you have to get to the table! In today's lesson, we'll cover getting to the table in a restaurant.

When entering a restaurant in Israel, they will greet you with "Boker tov", which means "Good morning," or "Tzooraim tovim", which means "Good afternoon," or "Erev tov", which is "Good evening."

In Israel when entering a restaurant, one rarely gets seated by the waiter or waitress. The customers often have to find their own table. However, there are occasions where they will ask you the question "How many people in your party?" Practicing it will come in handy at some point. "How many people are you" in Hebrew is "Kama anashim atem?" The first word "kama" means, "How many." "Anashim" follows this, which in Hebrew means, "people." Finally, we have "Atem", which in Hebrew is "are you."

Now let's go over how to answer. In Hebrew, you would respond by telling the waiter or waitress "Anachnu shlosha", which in English means, "We are three."

Now we're going to review some numbers in Hebrew in case your party happens to be bigger. Please note that in Hebrew we have different ways to count depending on the gender of the noun that we are counting. Thus, the numbers one through five for masculine nouns are "Echad", "Shnayim", "Shlosha", "Arba'ah", and "Chamisha". For feminine nouns, the numbers are "Achat", "Shtayim", "Shalosh", "Arba", and "Chamesh".

You could also say, "We are four people," which in Hebrew is "Anachnu arba'ah anashim". The first word "Anachnu" means, "We are." We follow this with "Arba'ah", which in Hebrew is "four." The last word is "Anashim", which in English means "people."

If you are just one person, the proper answer to the question is "Ani levad", which in English means, "I am alone." The first word "Ani" means, "I am." The second word "Levad" means, "alone."

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
כמה אנשים אתם?	Kama anashim atem?	How many people are you?
אנחנו שלושה	Anachnu shlosa.	We're three.
אנחנו ארבעה אנשים	Anachnu arba'ah anashim.	We're four people.
אני לבד	Ani levad.	Only one.

QUICK TIP

Eating out is one of the greatest pleasures of traveling in Israel. The warm atmosphere and the happy people will make it an unforgettable experience. Now, if you go to a restaurant, taking a seat at an empty table is the most common way. Of course, as you learned very useful survival phrases today, you should try to use them.

QUICK TIP 2

Knowing which restaurant to go to can be very difficult because Israel has about five restaurants on every corner! This is your chance to ask the locals for their recommendations. You do this by asking "Eize misada ata mamlitz?" (if you ask a male) and "Eize misada at mamlitza?" (if you ask a female). This literally means, "Which restaurant do you recommend?" Going with the local favorites is always your best bet!



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Lesson 12: Make a Reservation

להערב בבקשה אני רוצה להזמין שולחן

LESSON NOTES

In the last lesson, we learned how to get a table at a restaurant, but my dear listeners please know that because of the popularity of Israeli food, it can be difficult to get a seat especially on the weekends. The best thing to do without a doubt is to make a reservation for the time you want to go and eat. In today's lesson, we'll cover making a reservation in a restaurant.

Normally, if you are a male and you make a phone call in order to make a reservation for the evening, you would say "Ani rotze leazmin shulhan lehaerev bevakasha?" Literally, "Ani" means, "I." We follow this with "Rotze", which in English means, "I want."

"Leazmin" is the infinitive form of the verb "to book" and literally means, "to order." We follow it with "Shulhan", meaning, "a table." Next, we have "Lehaerev", which is the equivalent of "for the evening." Finally, we have "Bevakasha", which in English means, "please."

If you are a female, you would say "Ani rotza leazmin shulhan lehaerev bevakasha?" Literally, "Ani" means, "I." We follow this with "Rotza", which in English means, "I want."

"Leazmin" is the infinitive form of the verb "to book" and literally means, "to order." We follow it with "Shulhan", meaning, "a table." Next, we have "Lehaerev", which is the equivalent of "for the evening." Finally, we have "Bevakasha", which in English means, "please."

Normally, they'll ask you how many people are in your party and the time of the reservation. In Hebrew, "How many people are you?" is "Lekama anashim?"

Now let's imagine you are a party of two. In Hebrew, you would use "Shnei anashim", which in English means, "two people."

Finally, let's see how they will ask you the time of your reservation. "Le'eize sha'a?" "At what time do you want to make a reservation?" "Le'eize sha'a" literally means, "At what time."

Now let's answer the question! Let's imagine you want to reserve a table at eight o'clock.

"Leshmone bevakasha". "At eight o'clock, please." "Leshmone" means, "At eight." "Bevakasha" means (as we know by now), "please."

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
אני רוצה להזמין שולחן להערב בבקשה	Ani rotze leazmin shulhan lehaerev bevakasha.	Can I make a reservation for this evening? (for a male)
אני רוצה להזמין שולחן להערב בבקשה	Ani rotza leazmin shulhan lehaerev bevakasha.	Can I make a reservation for this evening? (for a female)
לכמה אנשים?	Lekama anashim?	How many people are you?
שני אנשים	Shnei anashim.	For two.
לאיזה שעה?	Le'eize sha'a?	At what time do you want to reserve?
לשמונה בבקשה	Leshmone bevakasha.	At eight o'clock, please.

QUICK TIP

Israelis like eating late at night. Eating before 8:00 PM is not so common. The biggest meal of the day is dinner, and you will be eating and drinking a lot. Make sure you have lots of room in your belly so you can fully enjoy the Israeli cuisine!

QUICK TIP 2

Restaurants, cafés, and bars are usually open until early morning, and restaurants tend to close between certain hours of the day, especially during summer. The hottest time of day is between 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM in Israel, so many shops and restaurants close for siesta. If you are outside during this time, I recommend a high factor sunscreen.



Lesson 13: Non Smoking? Smoking?

פה ?סליחה, מותר לעשן

LESSON NOTES

In the last lesson, we learned how to make a reservation in a restaurant. Now that you know how to get a table, you have another big issue. If you want to enjoy your meal, the smoking issue is very important. If you are a smoker and you enter a non-smoking establishment, or if you are a non-smoker and enter a smoking establishment, this could ruin your meal. In today's lesson, we will cover how to ask for a smoking or non-smoking table.

Let's imagine first that you are a smoker. Before entering a restaurant, you need to ask, "Excuse me, is smoking allowed here?" "Slicha, mutar leashen po?"

"Slicha", as we have seen, is the translation of "Excuse me." We follow this with "Mutar leashen po". "Mutar" means, "allowed" and we follow it with "Leashen", which in English means, "to smoke." Last, is "Po", which means, "here."

Now let's look at the possible answers.

"Yes, you may smoke." "Ken, mutar leashen po". As you might have figured out, in this sentence we have only added the Hebrew word for "Yes" ("Ken") before "Mutar leashen po". This is an easy answer to a question!

Then what do we say if they do not allow smoking? We take the same pattern as before, and instead of "Ken, mutar", we just add the Hebrew words "Lo, asur", which in English means, "No, it's not allowed."

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
סליחה, מותר לעשן פה	Slicha, mutar leashen po?	Excuse me, is smoking allowed here?
כן, מותר לעשן פה	Ken, mutar leashen po.	Yes, smoking is allowed.
לא, אסור לעשן פה	Lo, asur leashen po.	No, I am sorry, it's forbidden.

QUICK TIP

In the past, smoking was generally allowed anywhere in Israel. However, since 2008, a new law to ban smoking in public places is stipulated and now they do not allow smoking in restaurants and pubs anymore.

QUICK TIP 2

Israel has few, if any smoking rooms. Israelis are in fact known to ignore any public smoking bans, so even though it is legally prohibited, it doesn't necessarily mean that people stop smoking in public places. So knowing how to ask if they allow smoking will always come in handy.



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Lesson 14: At The Table

תפריט בבקשה

LESSON NOTES

Finally, you're at the table and at your seat. Now it's time to order! In today's lesson, we will cover how to ask for a menu and then order your food and drinks.

Normally, to get the waiter's attention you can just raise your hand and simply say "Slicha!" ("Excuse me"), and then ask for a menu by saying, "Tafrit bevakasha" ("A menu, please").

"Tafrit" means, "Menu." Finally, "Bevakasha" follow this, which in English means, "please."

Once you have looked at the menu, you can finally call the waiter for the order. A typical Israeli menu is composed of "Manot rishonot" ("appetizers"), which can be a large variety of dishes from salads to small fishes, "Manot ikariyot" ("second dish"), which can be fish or meat, and "Manot achronot" ("dessert").

In 99% of cases, they will ask you what you would like to drink first. As we have already seen, in Hebrew there are different ways to say and ask things depending on the gender of the speaker and listener. Thus, if you were a male, the waiter would probably ask you, "Ma ata rotze lishtot?" "Ma" means, "what," "Ata" means, "you," "Rotze" means, "want," and finally "Lishtot" means, "to drink."

If you were a female, the waiter would probably ask you, "Ma at rotza lishtot?" "Ma" means, "what," "At" means, "you," "Rotza" means, "want," and finally "Lishtot" means, "to drink."

Now let's see some typical beverages the Israelis have with dinner.

"Bira" – "beer"

"Yain lavan" – "white wine"

"Yain adom" – "red wine"

"Maim" – "water"

In Israel, the waiter rarely asks the customer what they want. However, you can always ask for recommendations and the house specials!

If you are asking a male waiter, you will ask, “Ma ata mamlitz?” This literally means, “What do you recommend?” Let’s have a quick look at the bits and pieces of this phrase. The Hebrew word “Ma” means, “what” in English. We follow this with the word for “you,” which is “Ata”. “Recommend” is “Mamlitz”. This would be the equivalent for “What do you recommend?” in English.

If you are asking a female waiter, you will ask, “Ma at mamlitza?” This literally means, “What do you recommend?” Let’s have a quick look at the bits and pieces of this phrase. The Hebrew word “Ma” means, “what” in English. We follow this with the word for “you,” which is “At”. “Recommend” is “Mamlitza”. This would be the equivalent for “What do you recommend?” in English.

When you order in Israel, you usually just say the name of the dish you want. However, there is a polite way of saying “I would like” followed by the name of the things you want to eat. A male should say, “Ani rotze”.

Now a female would say, “Ani rotza”.

Now let’s see some good dishes you can find on a typical Israeli menu.

“Salat israeli” – The traditional Israeli salad.

“Humus” – Paste made from cooked, mashed chickpeas, blended with “thina”, olive oil, lemon juice, salad, and garlic.

“Thina” – Paste of ground sesame seeds used in cooking.

“Falafel” – Fried balls made from spiced chickpeas served in a pita bread and salad.

“Shawarma” – Shaved chicken, turkey, or beef served in pita bread or “taboon” bread with salad, humus, and french fries.

Let’s imagine you would like to order “Humus” and “Thina”. If the waiter is male, you should say, “Ani rotze humus vethina”. “I would like “Humus” and some “Thina”.

If the waiter is female, you should say, “Ani rotza humus vethina”. “I would like “Humus” and some “Thina”.

As we have seen, “Ani rotze” (for a male) or “Ani rotza” (for a female) means, “I would like.” You simply follow it with the name of the food you are ordering. Please note that before “Thina” you will find “Ve”, which in English means, “and.” However, differently from English, “Ve” is connected to the word that follows it.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
תפריט בבקשה	Tafrit bevakasha.	A menu, please.
מה אתה רוצה לשתות?	Ma ata rotze lishtot?	What would you like to drink? (for a male speaker)
מה את רוצה לשתות?	Ma at rotza lishtot?	What would you like to drink? (for a female speaker)

Hebrew	Romanization	English
אני רוצה חומוס וטחינה	Ani rotze humus vethina.	I would like a Humus and Thina. (for a male speaker)
אני רוצה חומוס וטחינה	Ani rotza humus vethina.	I would like a Humus and Thina. (for a female speaker)

QUICK TIP

A traditional Israeli meal consists of many small dishes; we call this "Salatim". This is a common way of eating around the Mediterranean countries, but they all have different dishes. If you go out for a meal and you're not quite sure what to eat, order a little bit of everything and I assure you, you won't be disappointed!



Lesson 15: Check Please!

אתה רוצה עוד משהו

LESSON NOTES

In the last lesson, we saw how to order at the restaurant, how to get the waiter's attention, and then how to order your meal and beverages. Once you have the beverages and you finally have all the entrées you have ordered, you can start to enjoy the mouth-watering meal.

Normally, if the waiter sees that you have finished, he will come to your table and kindly ask (if you are a male), "Ata rotze od mashehu?" "Would you like anything else?" "Ata" in English is "you." We have already learned this in previous lessons. "Rotze" literally means, "want." Then we have the word "Od", which you might have guessed already, means "another." Finally, we have the word "Mashehu", which in English means, "else."

"If you are a female, the waiter will ask you, "At rotza od mashehu?" "Would you like anything else?" Let's break down these words and hear them one more time. "At" in English is "you." We have already learned this in previous lessons. "Rotza" literally means, "want." Then we have the word "Od", which you might have guessed already, means, "another." Finally, we have the word "Mashehu", which in English means "else."

If you are pleased with your meal and are ready to leave, you should reply, "Lo toda, heshbon bevakasha". ("I'm fine thanks, the check please.") This is a long sentence, but let's break it down. First, we have "Lo toda", which means, "No thanks." We follow this with "Heshbon", which is "the check" in English. Last, we have "Bevakasha", which we already know from previous lessons as well, means "please" in English. All together, we have "Lo toda, heshbon bevakasha". And there you have it!

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
אתה רוצה עוד משהו	Ata rotze od mashehu.	Would you like anything else? (for a male speaker)
את רוצה עוד משהו	At rotza od mashehu.	Would you like anything else? (for a female speaker)
לא תודה, חשבון בבקשה	Lo toda, heshbon bevakasha.	I'm fine thanks, the check please.

QUICK TIP

In Israel, it is always possible to pay by cash, checks, or credit cards! You don't need to worry if you don't have cash on you. The only thing you need to pay for with cash is the tip for the waiter, so always keep some change with you when you go to a restaurant. Keep in mind that in Israel you are required to pay the tip to your waiter, which is usually between 10-12% of your final bill.

QUICK TIP 2

Even if it says everywhere that tips are included in the price, in Israel tipping is quite important. I know a tip can seem preposterous on top the service charge; however, it is courteous and good manners to give tips in restaurants, bars, and cafés. However, if the tip is already included in your bill, you don't need to tip 10-12% and you can leave as much as want.



Lesson 16: Counting

איש אחד



LESSON NOTES

This lesson is very straightforward as we're going to cover counting from zero through ten. Let's jump right in.

Please note that counting things in Hebrew can be a bit tricky as objects in Hebrew have gender.

First we will list the masculine form of the numbers, and then the feminine form.

0 - "efes"

1 - "echad/achat"

2 - "shnayim/shtayim"

3 - "shlosa/shalosh"

4 - "arba'ah/arba"

5 - "chamisha/chamesh"

7 - "shiv'ah/sheva"

8 - "shmona/shmone"

9 - "tish'ah/tesha"

10 - "asara/eser"

Neutral numbers (numbers of streets, public transport lines, and numbers as you read them one by one) are set in their feminine form. Furthermore, we also use "one" or "Echad/achat" as the indefinite article meaning "a/an" after nouns. So we have "Echad" after masculine nouns, and "Achat" after feminine nouns. For example, "One person (a man)" is "Ish echad". And "One person (a woman)" is "Isha achat".

The number comes first, followed by the thing. To say "two people" you will say, "Shnei anashim". In this case, "Anashim" is the plural of "Ish". An exception is the singular form. In the singular form, the noun that you count comes first followed by the number. Please note that In Hebrew, as you have seen, nouns have singular and plural forms and they can be feminine, masculine, or neutral.

If there are “five people,” you have “Chamisha anashim.”

Numbers can be very useful especially when shopping in Israel. Let’s imagine you are buying some presents to bring back to your country. For example, imagine you would like to buy two bottles of “Arak” (Israeli alcohol) in a nice shop. “I would like to buy two bottles of Arak,” for a male speaker is “Ani rotze liknot shnei bakkbukim shel arak bevakasha.”

“Ani rotze” are the Hebrew words for “I would like.” Next, you have the word “Liknot,” which means, “to buy.” Then you have the number “Shnei” (“two”), followed by “Bakkbukim,” which is plural for the object “bottle.” Following next is the word “Shel,” which in English means, “of.” Then we have the word “Arak” meaning “Israeli alcohol” (what that you wanted to buy). Last, is the word “Bevakasha,” which in English is “please.”

For a female speaker, “I would like to buy two bottles of Arak.” is “Ani rotza liknot shnei bakkbukim shel arak bevakasha.” “Ani rotza” are the Hebrew words for “I would like.” Next is the word “Liknot,” which means, “to buy.” Then you have the number “Shnei” (“two”), followed by “Bakkbukim,” which is plural for the object “bottle.” Following it is the word “Shel”, which in English means, “of.” Then we have the word “Arak” meaning “Israeli alcohol” (what that you wanted to buy). Last, is the word “Bevakasha”, which in English is “please.”

What do you say when you want to buy a nice, traditional, necklace? For a male speaker, "I would like to buy a necklace," is “Ani rotze liknot sharsheret achat”. “Ani rotze” are the Hebrew words for “I would like.” “Liknot” is the verb “to buy.” Next, we have “Sharsheret” (“necklace”). Finally, you have “achat” used as an indefinite article meaning, “a/an.”

For a female speaker, "I would like to buy a necklace," is “Ani rotza liknot sharsheret achat.” “Ani rotza” are the Hebrew words for “I would like.” “Liknot” is the verb “to buy.” Next, we have “Sharsheret” (“necklace”). Finally, you have “achat” used as an indefinite article meaning, “a/an.”

In this case, we use “Achat” after the noun “Sharsheret”, since “Sharsheret” (“necklace”) is in the singular form.

Eventually, you change your mind, and decide to buy “Shaon”, meaning a “watch” in English. If you are a male, you would say, “Ani rotze liknot shaon echad. “I would like to buy a watch.”

If you are a female, you would say, “Ani rotza liknot shaon echad.” “I would like to buy a watch.”

Please note that “shaon” is a masculine noun, so for this reason we have changed the indefinite article “Achat” to “Echad”.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
איש אחד	Ish echad.	One person. (a man)
אישה אחת	Isha achat.	One person. (a woman)
חמישה אנשים	Chamisha anashim.	Five people.
אני רוצה לקנות שני בקבוקים של ערק בבקשה	Ani rotze liknot shnei bakkbukim shel arak bevakasha.	I would like to buy two bottles of Arak please. (for a male speaker)

Hebrew	Romanization	English
אני רוצה לקנות שני בקבוקים של ערק בבקשה	Ani rotza liknot shnei bakbukim shel arak bevakasha.	I would like to buy two bottles of Arak please. (for a female speaker)
אני רוצה לקנות שרשרת אחת	Ani rotze liknot sharsheret achat.	I would like to buy a necklace. (for a male speaker)
אני רוצה לקנות שרשרת אחת	Ani rotza liknot sharsheret achat.	I would like to buy a necklace. (for a female speaker)
אני רוצה לקנות שעון אחד	Ani rotze liknot shaon echad.	I would like to buy a watch. (for a male speaker)
אני רוצה לקנות שעון אחד	Ani rotza liknot shaon echad.	I would like to buy a watch." (for a female speaker)

VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English
אפס	efes	zero
אחת/אחד	echad/achat	one
שתיים/שניים	shnayim/shtayim	two
שלוש/שלושה	shlosa/shalosh	three
ארבע/ארבעה	arba'a/arba	four
חמש/חמישה	chamisha/chamesh	five
שש/שישה	shisha/shesh	six
שבע/שבעה	shiv'ah/sheva	seven
שמונה/שמונה	shmona/shmone	eight
תשע/תשעה	tish'ah/tesha'	nine
עשר/עשרה	asara/eser	ten

QUICK TIP

Good Israeli souvenirs would include olive oil, Arak, Israeli jewelry, and “the evil eye” jewelry. The “evil eye” is related to superstition and is the belief that some people can bestow a curse on victims by the malevolent gaze of their magical eye. The most common form however, attributes the cause to envy with the envious person casting the evil eye unintentionally.



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Lesson 17: Counting to 100

Counting to 100

LESSON NOTES

Today we're going to continue with counting as we cover numbers 11-100.

Let's just quickly review 0 to 10.

Please note that counting things in Hebrew can be a bit tricky as objects in Hebrew have gender.

First we will list the masculine form of the numbers, and then the feminine form.

0 - "efes"

1 - "echad/achat"

2 - "shnayim/shtayim"

3 - "shlosa/shalosh"

4 - "arba'a/arba"

5 - "chamisha/chamesh"

6 - "shisha/shesh"

7 - "shiv'ah/sheva"

8 - "shmona/shmone"

9 - "tish'ah/tesha"

10 - "asara/eser "

In Hebrew, counting from 11-20 is also quite straightforward, let's jump right in.

First we will list the masculine form of the numbers, and then the feminine form.

11 - "achad asar/achat esreh"

12 - "shneyim asar/shteyim esreh"

13 - "shloshah asar/shlosh esreh"

14 - "arba' asar/arba' esreh"

15 - "chamishah asar/chamesh esreh"

16 - "shishah asar/shesh esreh"

17 - "shiv'ah asar/shva esreh"

18 - "shmonah asar/shmonah esreh"

19 - "tish'ah asar/tsha' esreh"

20 - "esrim"

As you may have noticed, you just add "Asar/esreh" to the number you want to say. However, when counting from 11-19, the numbers before the "Asar/esreh" are slightly changed.

Now that we know how to do the complicated bit, let's move on to the simpler ones.

30 - "shloshim"

40 - "arbaim"

50 - "chamishim"

60 - "shishim"

70 - "shivim"

80 - "shmonim"

90 - "tishim"

Note that from 20 onward, you only need to add the word "Ve", which in English mean "and," attached to a single number to form a combined dual number. And that the single number always follows the dual number (same as in English).

Let's try with "fifty-three." "Fifty" is "Chamishim" and "Shlosa/shalosh" is "three." Putting them together, we have "Chamishim veshlosa/Chamishim veshalosh" or "fifty-three." Please note that when we combine dual numbers with single numbers in Hebrew, we always add "Ve" before the single number, which in English means, "and." Therefore, "Chamishim veshlosa" in English is actually "fifty and three."

Let's try now with double lucky number "seventy-seven." "Seventy" is "Shivim" and "seven" is "Shiv'ah/Sheva". Put them together and you have "Shivim veshiv'ah/Shivim vesheva."

Finally, we have "Meah".

To count from "100-119", you just need to add "Ve" to the 1-19 numbers that show after the "Meah", thus making "Meah ve...." And then add the units and the 1-19 numbers that you have just learned. In all the other numbers from 120 and forward, the "Ve" comes between the dual number and the single number. Thus, you don't need to use another "Ve" between the triple number and the dual number. Let's try with some examples.

110 - "Meah veasara/Meah veeser"

198 - "Meah tishim veshmona/Meah tishim veshmone"

VOCABULARY

Hebrew	Romanization	English
עשר/עשרה	asara/eser	ten
עשרים	esrim	twenty
שלושים	shloshim	thirty
ארבעים	arbaim	forty
חמישים	chamishim	fifty
שישים	shishim	sixty
שבעים	shivim	seventy
שמונים	shmonim	eighty
תשעים	tishim	ninety
מאה	meah	hundred

QUICK TIP

Shopping in Israel can be a great experience, and one can enhance that experience by learning how to say numbers. For example, if you want to shop for clothes but have no idea how to tell the clerks your size, studying today's lesson will have helped you buy that lovely jumper you saw in the window.

QUICK TIP 2

Counting in Hebrew can be quite confusing since in Hebrew we have the masculine form and the feminine form of the numbers to count things. However, you don't need to be so strict with yourself learning all the rules because even native Israeli people often make mistakes using the wrong form.



Lesson 18: How Much?

כמה זה עולה?

LESSON NOTES

Now, here are some useful Survival Phrases for your funny days of unchecked shopping around Israeli stores.

You should remember that "Slicha" or "Excuse me" is almost always the first thing to say when you're talking to a shop clerk. After saying "Slicha", you should say, "Kama ze ole?" "How much is this?" "Kama" means, "How much" and we follow it with "Ze", which in English means, "this." Last, we have the word "Ole", which is the verb for "to cost."

However, dear listeners you know perfectly well how the Hebrew language can be varied and wide-ranging, so you won't be surprised to hear that there are some more interesting ways to ask, "How much is this?"

The Israelis love markets and most big cities have local markets once a week. There are of course also big markets in the larger cities that are working everyday where people go to find their bargains.

Let's imagine that you are near a stand of clothes in a local market and you want to buy a shirt. After saying "Slicha" to get the stand-keeper's attention, you can say "Kama ola hachultza?" "How much is this shirt?" As you can see, we use "Kama", which means, "How much." Then we use "Ola", which in English means, "cost." Last, we have the word "Hachultza", which in English means, "the shirt."

Please note that to the word "Chultza", which in English means "shirt," we attach "Ha", which in English means, "the." However, differently from English, we always attach "Ha" to the noun or the adjective that follows it.

Please note that in the situation above we use "Ola" and not "Ole" because "Ola" is the feminine way to describe the noun "Chultza", which is feminine noun.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
כמה זה עולה?	Kama ze ole?	How much is this?
כמה עולה החולצה?	Kama ola hachultza?	How much is this shirt?

QUICK TIP

Let's have a look at some possible purchases that might interest you and how to say them in Hebrew.

"Michnasaim" "trousers"

"Na'alaim" "shoes"

"kova" "hat"

"Tik" "bag"

"Meil" "jacket"

Now get out there and enjoy your shopping!

QUICK TIP 2

In Israeli markets you should know that the first price that you have been told is always higher than the real price, especially if the peddler knows you are a tourist. Therefore, you can always try to bargain on the price. The only markets that you are not supposed to bargain on the price in are food markets and of course shops.



Lesson 19: Lower the Price, Please

סליחה, כמה זה עולה?

LESSON NOTES

In Israel, haggling at the markets is very common. These little markets are temporary street markets where you can find everything from food and clothes to antiquities. In these places, you will be able to use the Survival Phrases you will learn in this lesson. Don't be afraid to use your Hebrew when speaking to the merchants because they are very funny and they can be very friendly and kind to potential customers. Are you ready to have fun at the "Shuk" ("market")?

Upon entering a "Shuk", you will be struck by the variety of colorful stalls and something that interests you will immediately attract you. Normally, if you are interested in buying something you say, "Excuse me, how much is this?" "Slicha, kama ze ole?" As soon as they tell you the price, you can start the bargaining to lower the price. Please note that this is very common at Israeli markets so don't be shy. Try to say, "Efshar ktzat hanacha?" "Can you cut the price?" This literally translates as "Can you make a little discount?" At this point, the merchant will start haggling and the final result is in your hands!

Another way to express the feeling that something is too expensive and you want to start haggling is with "Ze Meod yakar", which literally means, "It is too expensive." "Ze" means, "It is," "Meod" is "a lot, much," and finally we have "Yakar", which is the adjective meaning "expensive." "Ze Meod yakar" is actually enough to get your point across when haggling, but to make sure the seller knows you mean business it's best to add "Efshar ktzat hanacha". In other words, try saying "Ze Meod yakar, Efshar ktzat hanacha?"

Let's imagine that you are at a "Shuk", you want to buy a bag, and you want to suggest your price to the merchant straightforward. In other words, you want to establish your own price as the one you will bargain for. The merchant has just told you that the bag costs fifteen Shekels. You desperately want that bag but it's too expensive and you want to try to suggest eight Shekels. After "Ze Meod yakar", you should say, "Shmona shekalim!" ("Eight Shekels!") When haggling, this is all you need to say to get your point across. If the merchant still refuses you, slowly walk away and in most cases they will give in.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
סליחה, כמה זה עולה	Slicha, kama ze ole?	Excuse me, how much is this?

Hebrew	Romanization	English
זה מאד יקר, אפשר קצת הנחה?	Ze Meod yakar, Efshar ktzat hanacha?	It's too expensive, can you give me a discount?
זה מאד יקר!	Ze Meod yakar!	It costs too much!
שמונה שקלים!	Shmona shekalim!	I'll give you eight Shekels!

QUICK TIP

A common way of haggling in Israel is to suggest a much lower price that you are willing to pay. For example, that bag we talked about earlier cost fifteen Shekels, but you want it for eight. In this case, starting your bid at six Shekels and working your way up is the most efficient way. Sometimes you'll even get it cheaper than you expected!



Lesson 20: Currency

וחמישים ושתיים אגורות עשרים ושמונה שקלים

LESSON NOTES

In Israel, the currency is the “Shekel”. At the time of writing this, the exchange rate is roughly 4 “shekels” to the US dollar and 0.25 US dollars to 1 “Shekel”. Currently, it is 5.7 Shekels to the British Pound, and 0.17 British Pounds to 1 “Shekel”. The currency includes 20, 50, 100, and 200 “Shekel” bills, 5, 10, and 50 “Agorot”, and 1, 2, 5, and 10 “Shekel” coins. There are one hundred “Agorot” in one “Shekel.”

Let’s try to say prices in Hebrew. Let’s start with 28.52 “Shekels”. The long way is “Esrim veshmona shekalim vechamishim veshtayim agorot”. This is very straightforward. First, we say the number of “Shekels”, then the word “Shekalim”. Secondly, note that the two numbers are separated by the conjunction “Ve”, which means, “and.” Therefore, before “Ve” you always have the “Shekalim”, and after the “Ve”, you have the “Agorot”. Next, we say the number of “Agorot” and finally, the word “Agorot”. “Shekel” and “Agora” are the singular words for the Israeli currency and “Shekalim” and “Agorot” are the plural.

Saying “Shekalim” and “Agorot” is not much common in Israel, so let’s learn the easiest and local way of saying your prices. The short way is “Esrim veshmona, chamishim veshtayim”. In this case, it might not be immediately clear which number is “Shekalim” and which is “Agorot”, but remember that there is a pause after the “Shekalim”. So “Esrim veshmona, chamishim veshtayim” is the equivalent of saying “twenty-eight fifty-two.”

Let’s have one more example. “4.99 “Shekalim” in the Hebrew short version is “Arba tishim vetesha”, and the long version is “Arba’a Shekalim vetishim vetesha Agorot”.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
עשרים ושמונה שקלים וחמישים ושתיים אגורות	Esrim veshmona shekalim vechamishim veshtayim agorot.	Twenty-eight Shekalim and fifty-two Agorot.
עשרים ושמונה וחמישים ושתיים	Esrim veshmona, chamishim veshtayim.	Twenty-eight fifty-two.
ארבעה שקלים ותשעים ותשע אגורות	Arba’a Shekalim vetishim vetesha Agorot.	Four Shekalim and ninety- nine Agorot.
ארבע תשעים ותשע	Arba tishim vetesha.	Four ninety-nine.

QUICK TIP

The correct way to say a price higher than 1 “Shekel” is to use the plural word for “Shekel,” which is “Shekalim”. However, most Israelis will use the singular form “Shekel” even though they are counting many “Shekalim”.



Lesson 21: Internet Cafe

סליחה, כמה זה לשעה

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson, we'll learn about a place crucial to your travels in this modern age, the Internet café! You can find Internet cafes in most towns in Israel. Normally, you find Internet cafes in the big main cities. However, if you are in a very small town, there is a possibility that you will not be able to find one.

Let's imagine you're at the reception desk and you need to ask how much the connection costs and for how long. "Slicha, kama ze lesha'a?" This literally means, "Excuse me, how much is it an hour?" This sentence is made up of "Slicha" and then "Kama ze", which we have already seen in previous lessons, followed by "Lesh'a'a". In this case, the word "Sha'a", means, "hour" in English. Please note that attached to the word "Sha'a", we need the articulated preposition "Le", which in English means, "to." Another way of asking this is to replace "Le" with the Hebrew word "Achat", which in English means, "one." However, please note that in this case the word "Achat" will appear after the word "Sha'a". Thus, we have "Slicha, kama ze sha'a achat?"

They will probably answer you with something such as the price of the connection per hour and then "...Lesh'a'a".

This sentence is very easy to understand and it has the same meaning. In addition, the price (a number plus the word "Shekalim") will always come first. Let's imagine for example that the clerk says, "5 Shekels per hour." "Chamisha Shekalim lesha'a".

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
סליחה, כמה זה לשעה	Slicha, kama ze lesha'a?	Excuse me, how much is it per hour?
חמישה שקלים לשעה	Chamisha Shekalim lesha'a.	Five Shekels per hour.

QUICK TIP

In Israel, we call Internet cafés by the same name, "Internet café". In Israel, young people often go to Internet cafes to play online games. Many households still don't have the Internet and online gaming is mainly what people use Internet cafes for. If you are a regular, you can get a

membership card that gives you discounts at most cafes. If you only come for a one-time visit, the clerk usually sets your computer up for you from the counter and just gives you the seat number.



Lesson 22: Riding the Bus 1

כרטיס לירושלים בבקשה

LESSON NOTES

Since in Israel we don't have subway system, the bus is an important means of transportation in many Israeli cities. Usually, we use buses to cover both long and short distances. However, before starting your trip, you probably need to buy a ticket. Well, don't be so worried about it! In Israel, it is very easy. You buy the ticket from the bus driver, tell the driver where you want to go, and he will tell you how much it costs and give you your ticket after you pay him the money.

Let's imagine you are in Tel Aviv and you want to go from Central Station ("Tachana merkazit") to Jerusalem where you can see the holiest city in the entire world. How can you tell the bus driver where you want to go? "Kartis leyerushalaim bevakasha". "A bus ticket to Jerusalem." First, you have "Kartis" ("ticket"), then "Leyerushalim" ("to Jerusalem"), and finally you have "Bevakasha", which we already know means, "please." Please note that the word "Le" that is attached to the word "Yerushalim" means, "to" in English.

What if you want to know how much the ticket is? You could simply ask the driver, "Kama ze kartis leyerushalim?" "How much is a ticket to Jerusalem?" "Kama ze" is a preposition that means, "How much is it?" We have already seen this in some previous lessons. "Kartis" in English means, "ticket." Following this is the place where you want to travel, which in this case is "Leyerushalaim" meaning "to Jerusalem."

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
כרטיס לירושלים בבקשה	Kartis leyerushalaim bevakasha.	A bus ticket to Jerusalem, please.
כמה זה כרטיס לירושלים?	Kama ze kartis leyerushalaim?	How much is a bus ticket to Jerusalem?

QUICK TIP

Buses have frequent schedules starting from 05:00 AM until 12:00 midnight for all places in Tel Aviv. However, the buses don't come so often so it will be smart to check for the bus schedule on the Internet or at the bus main stations.

QUICK TIP 2

In Israel, we have many kinds of bus tickets that you can choose from. You can buy a 10-ticket bus ride on one ticket, or you can buy a weekly, monthly, or yearly bus ticket. You can also buy a long time bus ticket for just one specific line (if you use the same line everyday), which makes the bus ticket cheaper. So please don't forget to check your options in order to save your money.



Lesson 23: Riding the Bus 2

הזה נוסע? סליחה, לאן האוטובוס

LESSON NOTES

In the previous lesson, we covered how to get a bus ticket. Now that you have your ticket, get ready to jump on your bus and start the tour. But wait a moment, before you get on the bus you need to confirm if it's going to your destination. We can accomplish this by asking, "Slicha, lean haotobus haze nosea?" "Excuse me, where is this bus going to?" You have "Slicha", which you know very well by now. Then you have "Lean", which means, "to where." Next, you have "Haotobus", which is "the bus." Then we have "Haze", which is the preposition "this." Last, we have "Nosea", which literally means, "drive" in English, but in this connotation it means "go."

Another way of asking if the bus is going past somewhere is to ask, "Slicha, derech eifo haotobus haze nosea?"

"Here, we have just replaced "Lean" ("to where") with the words "Derech eifo" ("thorough which way").

Let's imagine now that you are in Tel Aviv and you have to go to "Shuk hakarmel" ("The Karmel market"), a very famous market in Tel Aviv. What would you ask the bus driver? Another way of asking if the bus stops is by saying, "Slicha, haotobus haze otzer beshuk hakarmel?" "Excuse me, does this bus stop at the Karmel market?" In this sentence, the structure is a little different. After the "Slicha", we start with the "Haotobus", which means, "the bus." Then we have "Haze", which means "this." Next, we have the verb "Otzer", which in English means, "to stop." Last, we have the name of the place where we want to stop, which in this example is "Shuk hakarmel". Please note that the preposition "Be", which in English means "in/at" is attached to the place name. Thus, "Beshuk hakarmel" means, "At the Karmel market."

Asking the driver if he stops somewhere is, "Slicha, ata otzer beshuk hakarmel?" Again, all that changes is that we replace "Haotobus haze" ("this bus") with "Ata" meaning "you (in this situation, the driver)." "Excuse me, do you stop at The Karmel market?"

Imagine that you are visiting a city for the first time, you have no idea of the distances between your favorite destinations, and you need to ask the bus driver how long the bus takes. "Kama zman ze le" (your destination)? "How long does it take to...?"

"Kama" in Hebrew is "How much." Then we have the word "Zman", which in English means, "time." When the word "Zman" follows the word "Kama", together it becomes "Kama zman", which in English we can translate as "How much time," or "How long." Then you have "Ze", which

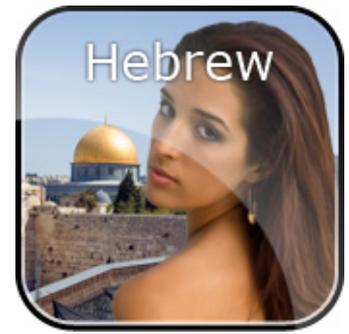
means, “it” or “this,” which you have seen in the previous lessons. Next, we have the preposition “Le”, which in English means, “to” or “for” attached to your destination. Finally, all you have to do is add the place you want to go! It’s as simple as that!

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
סליחה, לאן האוטובוס הזה נוסע	Slicha, lean haotobus haze nosea?	Excuse me, where is this bus going to?
סליחה, דרך איפה האוטובוס הזה נוסע	Slicha, derech eifo haotobus haze nosea?	Excuse me, thorough which way is this bus going?
סליחה, האוטובוס הזה עוצר בשוק הכרמל	Slicha, haotobus haze otzer beshuk hakarmel?	Excuse me, does this bus stop at the Karmel market?
כמה זמן זה ל...?	Kama zman ze le...?	How long does it take to get to...?

QUICK TIP

Unfortunately, in Israel usually just the main bus stops are written. In order to be on the safe side, in case you can’t find the information on where your bus is going to stop, you can always ask the bus driver.



Lesson 24: Riding the Bus 3

מה התחנה הבאה?

LESSON NOTES

In the previous lesson, we learned how to ask the bus driver if the bus covers your destination. Once on the bus, you'll hear announcements informing the passengers about where the bus will stop next. In Israel, it will be normal that most of the announcements you hear are just in Hebrew. In the case that there is no English announcement, you may not catch the location they announce. Thus, the phrase "What is the next stop?" may be indispensable. "Ma hatachana haba'a?"

The first word is "Ma," which is a pronoun in Hebrew meaning, "which or what." "Hatachana" follows this, which we learned in previous lessons means, "the station." Finally, we have "Haba'a" meaning, "the next."

Another way of inquiring could be to ask if your desired destination is the next stop. For this phrase, we'll use "Kikar hamedina", the most famous square in "Tel Aviv", as the destination. In Hebrew, the phrase is "Tachana haba'a ze kikar hamedina?" "Is "Kikar hamedina" the next stop?"

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
מה התחנה הבאה?	Ma hatachana haba'a?	What is the next stop?
תחנה הבאה זה כיכר המדינה?	Tachana aba'a ze kikar hamedina?	Is Kikar hamedina the next stop?

QUICK TIP

"Tel Aviv" has some great sightseeing spots that you can reach by bus. Here, we mention some of them:

"Rothschild Boulevard: "

Much of the original "Tel Aviv," around the popular "Rothschild Boulevard", was built in the pre-war Bauhaus or internationalist style. The city now has the world's largest surviving collection of Bauhaus buildings. Thousands of them are currently being handsomely restored and returned to their original gleaming white color. "

Neve Zedek":

This was the first Jewish neighborhood outside “Jaffa” (established in 1867) and it is currently benefiting from extensive restoration. Over the years, it has served as a home for numerous artists and now houses various galleries.



Lesson 25: Riding the Rails 1

בבקשה סליחה, כרטיס לרכבת

LESSON NOTES

In Israel, riding the rails is one of the best choices you can make to get around and reach all the most important parts of Israel. Today, we are going to cover how to get on the train.

As you have learned in the previous lessons, in Israel you can buy tickets from the bus driver. However, for the train you buy the tickets from the machines located at the station. Just in case you get too confused and have to ask the station attendant, we have prepared this lesson for you!

Now let's see how to get our train ticket. As you can remember from the previous lessons covering how to get a bus ticket, we can accomplish this by asking, "Excuse me, a train ticket please." "Slicha, kartis larakevet bevakasha".

Therefore, you have "Slicha" ("Excuse me"), then "Kartis" ("a ticket"), then "Larakevet", which literally means, "to the train." Last, we have the word "Bevakasha", which you should already know by now.

Our location for today's lesson will be "Haifa". Let's imagine you need to go from "Tel Aviv" to "Haifa" and you need to ask what line you have to take to get there. You can accomplish this by asking, "Excuse me, what line do I need to take for "Haifa"?" "Slicha, eize kav megia lecheifa?"

Let's see this sentence word by word. First, you have the usual "Slicha" followed by "Eize kav", which is Hebrew for "What line." This is made up by "Eize" ("what/which"), followed by the word "Kav" ("line"). Next, we have "Megia", which in English means, "arrive." Finally, you have the place name, which in this case is "Cheifa". In English though, it's called "Haifa." Please note that to the word "Cheifa" we attached the proposition "Le", which in English means, "to."

A possible answer to your question could be "Hakav ha'adom megia lecheifa" "The red line goes to Haifa." This sentence is structured very similar to English. "Hakav" is the word for "the line." After this, we have "Ha'adom", which means, "the red." Then, we have "Megia", which we saw in the previous example, means "arrive." Finally, we have the place name, which in this case is "Cheifa", and in English we say, "Haifa." Please note again, as we saw in the previous example, that to the word "Cheifa" we attached the proposition "Le", which in English means, "to."

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
סליחה, כרטיס לרכבת בבקשה	Slicha, kartis larakevet bevakasha.	Excuse me, a train ticket please.
סליחה, איזה קו מגיע לחיפה	Slicha, eize kav megia lecheifa?	What line do I need to take for Haifa?
הקו האדום מגיע לחיפה	Hakav ha'adom megia lecheifa.	The red line goes to Haifa.

QUICK TIP

You can buy tickets using the Automatic Ticket Issuing Machines (ATIMs) in all Train Stations and from Ticket Offices. ATIMs, having the option to accept banknotes (20, 50, 100, and 200 Shekels) and give change, are installed in all stations and nowadays have English as an option.



Lesson 26: Riding the Rails 2

כרטיס אחד לירושלים

LESSON NOTES

In the previous lesson, we covered how to get on the train. Riding the rails is one of the best ways to enjoy your trip and visit as many places as possible, not only at the local level, but for long distance destinations! In fact, traveling by train can be one more way to see all the wonderful things Israel can offer!

You have to ask for tickets for the “Rakevet” (“train”) at the ticket office and we can accomplish this by asking, “Kartis echad le...” and then your destination. Now of course, we need a destination. So let’s use the wonderful city Jerusalem. So how do you ask for a ticket to Jerusalem?

“One ticket to Jerusalem” in Hebrew is “Kartis echad leyerushalaim”.

This sentence is made up of “Kartis” (“ticket”), followed by “Echad” (“one”), and the preposition “for,” which in Hebrew is “Le”, attached to the name of the destination, “Yerushalaim”.

Now, what if you wanted to know how much the ticket was before buying it? “How much is a ticket to Jerusalem?” in Hebrew is “Kama ole kartis echad leyerushalaim?”

This sentence is so easy and you know the structure thanks to the previous lessons. In fact, we have “Kama ole” (“how much”), followed by “kartis echad leyerushalaim” (“a ticket to Jerusalem”).

Let’s now imagine that you are not traveling on your own, but with someone else, so you need to ask for two or more tickets. “Two tickets to Jerusalem please,” in Hebrew is “Shnei kartisim leyerushalaim”. As you can see, it’s very easy to understand. In place of “Kartis echad” (“one ticket”), you have the number “Shnei” (“two”), and then the plural noun “Kartisim” (“tickets”).

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
כרטיס אחד לירושלים	Kartis echad leyerushalaim.	One ticket to Jerusalem.
כמה עולה כרטיס אחד לירושלים?	Kama ole kartis echad leyerushalaim?	How much is a ticket to Jerusalem?
שני כרטיסים לירושלים	Shnei kartisim leyerushalaim.	Two tickets to Jerusalem.

QUICK TIP

In Israel, you can buy train tickets at the station where you can find the ticket office and the vending machines. Be careful because it is not possible to buy tickets on the train and if you ride a train without a ticket, you will receive a fine. Another place where you can buy a train ticket is the travel agency. There, you can simply ask for a ticket covering your desired ride.



Lesson 27: Riding the Rails 3

לבאר שבע כרטיס אחד למחלקה ראשונה

LESSON NOTES

In the previous lesson, we covered how to ask for and buy a train ticket. Once you have established the destination, it is time to select the type of seat you want. Normally in Israel, you can choose between “Machlaka rishona” (“first class”) and “machlaka shniya” (“second class”).

The first word “Machlaka” means, “class, department.” The second word “Reshona” (“first”) is a numeral adjective we use in concordance with the feminine noun.

Then, we have “Machlaka shniya”. After “Machlaka” this time, you have “Shniya” in place of “Rishona”, a feminine numeral adjective.

Let’s now imagine you want to buy a first class ticket. This time the destination will be “Be’er sheva”. “A first class ticket to Be’er sheva, please,” in Hebrew is “Kartis echad lemachlaka rishona lebe’er sheva, bevakasha”.

The structure is the same as you have just seen in the previous lesson. We just add “Machlaka rishona” (“first class”).

In your trips to Israel, it could happen that you will take the train and then you will go back to the city in which you’re staying. If you wish to buy a round trip ticket, how could you accomplish this in Hebrew? “I would like a round-trip to Be’er sheva, please.” “Kartis haloch vashov lebe’er sheva bevakasha”. This structure is similar to the previous one. We have only exchanged “Machlaka rishona” (“first class”) with the word “Haloch vashov” (“go and return”), or in this case, “A round trip ticket.”

To convey the English definition “round trip” in Hebrew, we say “Haloch vashov”. This is made up of the combination of the two verbs “Haloch”, (“to go”) and “Vashov” (“to return”).

Finally, if you just need a simple one-way ticket, you can accomplish it by asking, “I would like a one-way ticket to Be’er sheva, please.” In Hebrew, this is “Kartis kivun echad lebe’er sheva, bevakasha”.

As you can see, we use the exact same structure of the previous phrase but add “Kivun echad” in place of “Haloch vashov”. “Kivun echad” means, “one way.”

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
כרטיס אחד למחלקה ראשונה לבאר שבע	Kartis echad lemachlaka rishona lebe'er sheva, bevakasha.	A first class ticket to Be'er sheva, please.
כרטיס הלוך ושוב לבאר שבע בבקשה	Kartis haloch vashov lebe'er sheva bevakasha.	I would like a round-trip ticket to Be'er sheva, please.
כרטיס כיוון אחד לבאר שבע בבקשה	Kartis kivun echad lebe'er sheva, bevakasha.	I would like a one-way ticket to Be'er sheva, please.

QUICK TIP

If you want to ask for your ticket politely, a male speaker can add "Ani mevakesh". This means, "I would like." This is how the phrase would sound: "Ani mevakesh kartis echad lebe'er sheva, bevakasha." A female speaker can add "Ani mevakeshet". This means, "I would like." This is how the phrase would sound: "Ani mevakeshet kartis echad lebe'er sheva, bevakasha."



SurvivalPhrases.com

A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 28: Taking a Taxi

לרחוב שנקין

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson, we'll cover a phrase we use to get you to your destination when riding in a taxi. We'll look at the most basic way to express this, which is the word "to" followed by a destination. In today's lesson, we'll use "Shenkin street", which is a very well known shopping street in Tel Aviv. Let's go over what to say to the taxi driver to get there.

In Hebrew, "To Shenkin street" is "Lerechov shenkin". The word "to" in Hebrew is "Le". Please pay attention that "Le" is always attached to the destination word.

This is the most basic way of expressing where you would like to go and actually even the easiest one. However, speaking the local language is one of the most enjoyable things you can do on your travels. So challenge yourself by using a different option!

As we have seen, in Hebrew, there are different ways to say things depending on the gender of the speaker and listener. Thus if a man is speaking, he can say, "I would like to go to Shenkin street," which in Hebrew is "Ani rotze linsoa lerechov shenkin". Let's look at the components. The first word, "Ani" means, "I." Next is the word "Rotze", which in English is the verb "want." Then we have the word "Linsoa", which literally means, "to drive," but in this situation means, "to go." Finally, we have the word "Le" ("to"), which is attached to the destination we want to go to. Thus, all together, we have "Ani rotze linsoa lerechov shenkin".

If a woman is speaking, She can say, "I would like to go to Shenkin street," which in Hebrew is "Ani rotza linsoa lerechov shenkin". Let's look at the components. The first word, "Ani" means, "I." Next is the word "Rotza", which in English is the verb "want." Then we have the word "Linsoa", which literally means, "to drive," but in this situation means, "to go." Finally, we have the word "Le" ("to") attached to the destination we want to go to. Thus, all together, we have "Ani rotza linsoa lerechov shenkin".

One more helpful phrase when taking a taxi is, "Can you stop here, please?" "Ata yachol la'atzor po, bevakasha?" This phrase will allow you to get out of the taxi whenever and wherever you want. "Ata" is, as we know, "you" in English. After that, we have "Yachol", which is "can." Then we have the verb "La'atzor", which in English means, "to stop." Following that, we have the word "Po", which in English means "here," and last we have the word "Bevakasha", which you should know by now.

Another useful phrase you could practice when riding a taxi is "Yesh lecha odef meshtar shel mataim?" This means, "Do you have change from a 200 Shekels bill?" Let's see the structure in this sentence. "Yesh lecha" ("do you have"). After this, we added the word, "change" ("Odef").

Then we have the proposition “Me”, means, “from” attached to the word “Shtar”, which in English means, “bill.” Next, is the proposition “Shel”, which in English means “of,” and last we have the number “Mataim” (“200”), which indicates the amount of money the bill is worth.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
לרחוב שנקין	Lerechov shenkin.	To Shenkin street.
אני רוצה לנסוע לרחוב שנקין	Ani rotza linsoa lerechov shenkin.	I would like to go to Shenkin street.
אתה יכול לעצור פה בבקשה	Ata yachol la'atzor po, bevakasha?	Can you stop here, please?
יש לך עודף משטר של מאתיים	Yesh lecha odef meshtar shel mataim?	Do you have change from a 200 Shekels bill?

QUICK TIP

Taxicabs in Israel have an illuminated sign marked “TAXI” on top. One can stop a cab by simply raising a hand or by going to Taxi stands, which are located everywhere in Tel Aviv.

QUICK TIP 2

The amount of the fare paid for a taxi ride is the amount written on the meter. Extra charges apply after 12:00 midnight and for each piece of luggage carried. Pre-booked taxis are also available upon request at no extra charge. You may call them in advance from the reception of your hotel or directly to their central. They will come and pick you up from almost everywhere.



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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 29: Where Can I Buy This?

האיפה יש... פה

LESSON NOTES

Have you ever been in a city you don't know at all, and you are desperately looking for something you need and cannot find it? It happened so many times to me! I wandered around without knowing for example, where to go to reach a bar, a phone, or a restroom! Don't worry! Thanks to our survival phrases, if you go to Israel you will always be able to ask for information and help.

Today, we would like to introduce you to a phrase that will help you to track down that specific something you're looking for. "Where can I find ___ here," in Hebrew is "Heifo yesh...po?" Then, you add the name of the specific thing you are looking for, and you close with the word "Po".

In this sentence, you can use a basic structure in any situation in which you will need to get something. This structure is made up of the adverb "Heifo" ("where"), followed by another adverb "Yesh" ("there is"), and then you add the name of the specific thing you are looking for, and you close with the word "Po", which means "here."

Now let's see what kinds of things you might need if you're traveling abroad. Let's imagine you're walking around one of Israel's many beautiful beaches, it's very hot, and you need to get something to drink. Let's go and ask where you can find a bar! "Where can I find a bar here?" in Hebrew is "Heifo yesh bar po?"

As you can easily note, you have the structure you have just seen, "Heifo yesh", followed by the thing you are looking for, "Bar" ("bar"). Last, we have the word "Po", which in English means "here."

With this form, you can go anywhere you need and ask for anything you are looking for. You could use another form if you wanted to be more polite and wanted to use a different expression. Let's imagine you are looking for a phone this time. "Excuse me, could you tell me where I can find a phone here?" But remember, if you are asking a male you should say, "Slicha, ata yachol lomar li heifo yesh telefon po?" Don't you think this is more formal? Of course it is! So what do we have here? We have "Slicha" ("excuse me"), then we have "Ata", which we know by now means, "you." Next, we have the verb "Yachol", which means, "can" in English. Then we have the verb "Lomar", which we have seen before, and it means, "to say." Follow this, is the word "Li", which means, "to me." After we have said "Slicha, ata yachol lomar li" ("Excuse me, can you tell me"), we have to add the structure we learned before and what we want to be told! In this case, we want to find a phone, which is "Heifo yesh telefon po?" Let's look at the different parts. "Heifo", as

we have previously seen means, “where.” Then we have “Yesh”, which means, “there is.” This is followed by what we want to be told, “Telefon” (“phone”). Last, we have the word “Po”, which in English means, “here.” There you have it!

If you are asking a female, you should say, “Slicha, at yechola lomar li heifo yesh telefon po?” Let’s see what has changed. We have “Slicha” (“excuse me”), then we have “At”, which we know by now means, “you.” This is followed by the verb “Yechola”, which means, “can” in English. Then we have the verb “Lomar”, which we have seen before, and it means, “to say.” Next, is the word “Li”, which means “to me.” After we have said “Slicha, at yechola lomar li” (“Excuse me, can you tell me”), we have to add the structure we learned before and what we want to be told! In this case, we want to find a phone, which is “Heifo yesh telefon po?” Let’s look at the different parts. “Heifo”, as we have previously seen means, “where.” Then we have “Yesh”, which means, “there is.” This is followed by what we want to be told, “Telefon” (“phone”). Last, we have the word “Po”, which in English means, “here.” There you have it!

To ask for any other item, we can just replace “Bar” or “Telefon” with any other word and the phrase works brilliantly! Let’s try it with “Tobacco shop,” which in Hebrew is “Pitzutziya”. “Excuse me, could you tell me where I can find a tobacco shop here?” In Hebrew, if you are asking a male, this is “Slicha, ata yachol lomar li heifo yesh pitzutziya po?”

If you are asking a female, this is “Slicha, at yechola lomar li heifo yesh pitzutziya po?”

These phrases will come in handy before leaving the hotel and when talking with taxi drivers or other people trying to help you locate a desired item.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
איפה יש... פה?	Heifo yesh...po?	Where can I find ___ here?
איפה יש בר פה?	Hei-fo yesh bar po?	Where can I find a bar here?
סליחה, אתה יכול לאמר לי איפה יש טלפון פה?	Slicha, ata yachol lomar li heifo yesh telefon po?	Excuse me, could you tell me where I can find a phone here? (when asking a male)
סליחה, את יכולה לאמר לי איפה יש טלפון פה?	Slicha, at yechola lomar li heifo yesh telefon po?	Excuse me, could you tell me where I can find a phone here? (when asking a female)
סליחה, אתה יכול לאמר לי איפה יש פיצוציה פה?	Slicha, ata yachol lomar li heifo yesh pitzutziya po?	Excuse me, could you tell me where I can find a tobacco shop? (when asking a male)
סליחה, את יכולה לאמר לי איפה יש פיצוציה פה?	Slicha, at yechola lomar li heifo yesh pitzutziya po?	Excuse me, could you tell me where I can find a tobacco shop? (when asking a female)

QUICK TIP

Here are some other things you might be looking for:

“Cinema” – “beit konoa”

“Supermarket” – “super market”

“Post office” – “doar”

“Hospital” – “beit cholim”

“Pharmacy” – “beit merkachat”

QUICK TIP 2

There is a wide range of bars, cafes, and clubs all over Israel. Tel Aviv has some of the most popular clubs in the country. Whatever type of bar or club you are looking for, you will find it in Israel. You can enjoy a quiet drink overlooking the sea and watching the sunset. Alternatively, you can head to a music club and enjoy anything from rock, techno, and hip-hop, to good old traditional Israeli music.



Lesson 30: Is There a Store Near Here?

יש פה דאר בסביבה

LESSON NOTES

In the previous lesson, we covered how to ask to get something. In today's lesson, we'll introduce you to another useful phrase for asking the place where you can find what you are looking for. Today's phrase is, "Is there a (place) near here?" First, we need a place. Let's use the word "Doar", which means "Post office."

In Hebrew, "Is there a post office near here?" is "Yesh po doar basviva?"

The first word "Yesh" means, "There is." This is followed by the adverb "Po", which means, "here" in English. Next, we have the object "Doar", which means, "post office," and lastly, "Basviva" ("near here"). This literally means, "Is there a post office near here?"

To ask for a different place, we can just replace the word "Doar" with any other word and the phrase works just fine. Let's imagine you need to withdraw some money from your bank account. In Hebrew, "Is there an ATM near here?" is "Yesh po kaspomat basviva?" The only thing that changes is the thing you are looking for, in this case "Kaspomat", which is "ATM" in English.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
יש פה דאר בסביבה?	Yesh po doar basviva?	Is there a post office near here?
יש פה כספומט בסביבה?	Yesh po kaspomat basviva?	Is there an ATM near here?

QUICK TIP

You can spot Israeli post offices by their red deer logo against a white background. Post offices are usually closed for lunch break from 12:30 – 16:00 and in some days they don't work in the afternoons at all. So please be sure your nearest post office is open before you go there with your heavy package.

QUICK TIP 2

Getting cash from “Kaspomat” in Israel is more popular than any other method of exchanging money. In most cases, you pay only your usual bank fee rather than a commission, though this may vary depending on your bank's policy. Generally, you will get the best available exchange rate as well.

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- ★ Talking to the doctor and explaining symptoms correctly

- ★ Getting the right medicine
- ★ Expressing yourself with adjectives and being understood
- ★ Home visits and proper protocol that will wow hosts
- ★ Getting help, this may be the most useful phrase you ever learn

Finally, thank you again!

If you have a story to share about how Survival Phrases - Hebrew helped you with your travels, business, or personal relationships, we would love to hear about it!

Please e-mail us contactus@survivalphrases.com