Lesson 1A
Basic Introduction
Jonathan: shalom uvruchim habaim, Hello and welcome to www.LearnHebrewPod.com

Welcome to lesson one of the first conversational Hebrew course by podcasts. My name is Jonathan. I will be your host for this program. For the last three years, I have been teaching Hebrew in New York and New Jersey and I am excited to share my knowledge and technique with you on this podcast program.

Let us start our first lesson. I would like to introduce you to two of my friends and colleagues....or better still, let them introduce themselves to each other, and by that to you 😊

Eran: sha-lom.
Liat: sha-lom.
Eran: ma shmech?
Liat: Li-at.
ma shim-cha?
Eran: E-ran.
Liat: le-hit-ra-ot Eran. yom nif-la!
Eran: to-da.
le-hit-ra-ot Liat. yom nif-la!

Jonathan: We just heard our first Hebrew podcast conversation. Let us listen to it once more, while I translate it into English:

Eran: sha-lom. Hello. 
Eran: ma shmech? What is your name? 
Liat: Li-at. Liat. 
ma shim-cha? What is your name? 
Eran: E-ran. Eran.
Jonathan: Let’s repeat the dialogue once more, but at a slower pace...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Hebrew</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>لىايت: le-hit-ra-ot E-ran.</td>
<td>See you Eran.</td>
<td>ליתראות ערן.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>تודה: to-da.</td>
<td>Thanks.</td>
<td>תודה.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>לייוט: le-hit-ra-ot Liat.</td>
<td>See you Liat.</td>
<td>ליתראות ליוט.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>יומ נפלא! yom nif-la!</td>
<td>Have a wonderful day!</td>
<td>יום נפלא!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eran: Shalom.
Liat: Shalom.
Eran: Ma shmech?
Liat: Liat.
Eran: Ma shimcha?
Liat: Liat.
Eran: Eran.
Liat: Le-hitra-ot Eran.
Eran: To-da.
Eran: Le-hitra-ot Liat.
Liat: Yom nifla!
Eran: Yom nifla!

Jonathan: So, I believe that even before I translated the sentences into English, we all understood that they were introducing themselves to each other. So Hi Liat and Hi Eran!

Eran and Liat: Hi Jonathan!

Jonathan: Now, let us listen just to the vocabulary of the conversation. Liat will read the new words, and Eran will translate them into English:
Jonathan: Using the vocabulary you just provided us with, we will soon be translating all of the dialogue again into English. Through the process of translation, you will notice that sometimes we will translate the sentences literally, in word for word translation. But using just this method of a literal translation might result in a loss of the sentence meaning. In these cases, we will also translate the whole phrase or the expression that has a specific meaning in Hebrew, to its parallel expression or phrase in English.

We will soon hear two examples of this type of translation. The first is on the current podcast and the second on audio lesson #1-B, which is also available to you free of charge on our website [www.LearnHebrewPod.com](http://www.LearnHebrewPod.com).

Let us once again listen to the translation of the individual words and then translate the sentences themselves:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hebrew</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Hebrew</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>שלום</td>
<td>Hello</td>
<td>מה</td>
<td>ממה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>שמה (_female)</td>
<td>Your name (when addressing a female)</td>
<td>שםך</td>
<td>שמה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>שימך (_male)</td>
<td>Your name (when addressing a male)</td>
<td>תודה</td>
<td>תודה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>להתראות</td>
<td>See you</td>
<td>יום</td>
<td>יום</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>נפלא</td>
<td>Wonderful</td>
<td>נפלא</td>
<td>נפלא</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jonathan: Using the vocabulary you just provided us with, we will soon be translating all of the dialogue again into English. Through the process of translation, you will notice that sometimes we will translate the sentences literally, in word for word translation. But using just this method of a literal translation might result in a loss of the sentence meaning. In these cases, we will also translate the whole phrase or the expression that has a specific meaning in Hebrew, to its parallel expression or phrase in English.

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Let us once again listen to the translation of the individual words and then translate the sentences themselves:
Jonathan: When Eran met Liat, the first thing he said was: shalom. In Hebrew this word has three meanings. shalom is peace, as in the sentence Israel has a peace treaty with Egypt. The second meaning is simply hello and finally we can also use shalom as goodbye.

Liat: And I replied to Eran's greeting by saying the same, shalom.

Eran: I then asked her ma shmech?

ma meaning what is and shmech ... your name.

What is your name?

Liat: And I of course replied by saying my name, Liat, and asked him: ma shimcha?

ma meaning what is and shimcha - your name.

What is your name?

Jonathan: Now Liat, Eran just asked you: ma shmech? which is what is your name, but you replied ma shimcha? Eran said shmech and you are saying shim-cha. It sounds quite similar but with a different vowel at the end?

Liat: Yes Jonathan, because when I am asking a male his name, I will say: ma shimcha?. BUT if I am addressing a female, I will say: ma shmech?. The different ending signifies if I am speaking to a male or a female:

shimcha means your name when addressing a male.

shmech is your name when addressing a female.

Jonathan: So with this example we notice a difference between English and Hebrew when addressing people. In Hebrew we use different words when addressing a male or a female. As we know in English it remains the same.

When asking Eran for his name, we will say ma shim-cha? ma shimcha?

When asking Liat for her name we will say ma shmech? ma shmech?

We will be addressing this issue more thoroughly on podcast #2-B which you can find and download on our website – www.LearnHebrewPod.com

But for now, let us return to our conversation!

Liat: So, after Eran has told me his name, I said le-hitra-ot, Eran. yom nifla.

le-hitra-ot - see you,

yom nif-la - have a wonderful day.

le-hitra-ot, Eran. yom nifla - see you Eran. Have a wonderful day
Jonathan: Here we have the first example of an expression that when translated word for word, might be a bit confusing. When I am saying yom nifla, I am literally saying a wonderful day but because in Hebrew I do not always need to use the word have, yom nifla which is a wonderful day is actually translated as have a wonderful day.

Now Eran, you replied with the same sentence, but added another word at the beginning.

Eran: I was also saying toda.

toda is thanks.

to-da, le-hitra-ot. yom nif-la - Thanks, see you. Have a wonderful day.

Jonathan: And now, let’s repeat all of the new words we’ve been just studying:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Hebrew</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>shalom</td>
<td>שלום</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ma</td>
<td>מה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shmech</td>
<td>שמך</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shimcha</td>
<td>שמך</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toda</td>
<td>תודה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le-hitra-ot</td>
<td>להתראות</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yom</td>
<td>יום</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nifla</td>
<td>נפלא</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jonathan: Let’s do the same but with the whole sentence:

Eran: shalom. Hello. 


Eran: ma shmech? What is your name? 

Liat: Liat. What is your name? 

Eran: Eran. Eran.
Jonathan: The last exercise of this podcast is for you to actually speak in Hebrew. Eran and Liat will read the dialogue once more, giving you enough time to repeat each sentence:

Eran: shalom.
Liat: shalom.
Eran: ma shmech?
Liat: Liat. ma shimcha?
Eran: Eran.
Liat: le-hitra-ot Eran.
yom nifla!
Eran: toda.
Liat: le-hitra-ot Liat.
yom nifla!

Jonathan: toda Eran and toda Liat. Let us learn one more word before we finish up. In Hebrew ve stands for the word and. Now let us say an entire sentence...

toda Eran ve toda Liat - Thanks Eran and Thanks Liat.

ve, do not forget to check lesson #1-B for some more advanced features to be used when meeting someone. toda for being with us. le-hitra-ot.

Eran and Liat: le-hitra-ot!