

LearnHebrewPod.com

The first conversational Hebrew course by Podcasts
Learn to speak Hebrew as it is spoken in Israel

Lesson 1A

Basic Introduction

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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 colleaguesor better still, let them introduce themselves to each other, and by that to you 😊

Eran:	sha-lom.		ערן:	שלום.
Liat:	sha-lom.		ליאת:	שלום.
Eran:	ma shmech?		ערן:	מה שמך?
Liat:	Li-at.		ליאת:	ליאת.
	ma shim-cha?			מה שימך?
Eran:	E-ran.		ערן:	ערן.
Liat:	le-hit-ra-ot Eran.		ליאת:	להתראות ערן.
	yom nif-la!			יום נפלא!
Eran:	to-da.		ערן:	תודה.
	le-hit-ra-ot Liat.			להתראות ליאת.
	yom nif-la!			יום נפלא!

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.	ערן:	שלום.
Liat:	sha-lom.	Hello.	ליאת:	שלום.
Eran:	ma shmech?	What is your name?	ערן:	מה שמך?
Liat:	Li-at.	Liat.	ליאת:	ליאת.
	ma shim-cha?	What is your name?		מה שימך?
Eran:	E-ran.	Eran	ערן:	ערן.



Liat:	le-hit-ra-ot E-ran. yom nif-la!	See you Eran. Have a wonderful day!	ליאת: להתראות ערן. יום נפלא!
Eran:	to-da. le-hit-ra-ot Liat. yom nif-la!	Thanks. See you Liat. Have a wonderful day!	ערן: תודה. להתראות ליאת. יום נפלא!

Jonathan: Let's repeat the dialogue once more, but at a slower pace...

Eran:	shalom.	Hello.	ערן: שלום.
Liat:	shalom.	Hello.	ליאת: שלום.
Eran:	ma shmech?	What is your name?	ערן: מה שמך?
Liat:	Liat. ma shimcha?	Liat. What is your name?	ליאת: ליאת. מה שימך?
Eran:	Eran.	Eran.	ערן: ערן.
Liat:	le-hitra-ot Eran. yom nifla!	See you Eran. Have a wonderful day!	ליאת: להתראות ערן. יום נפלא!
Eran:	toda. le-hitra-ot Liat. yom nifla!	Thanks. See you Liat. Have a wonderful day!	ערן: תודה. להתראות ליאת. יום נפלא!

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:



sha-lom	Hello	שלום
ma	What is	מה
shmech	Your name	שמך
shim-cha	Your name	שימך
to-da	Thanks	תודה
le-hitra-ot	See you	להתראות
yom	A day	יום
nif-la	Wonderful	נפלא

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.

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

shalom	Hello	שלום
ma	What is	מה
shmech	Your name (when addressing a female)	שמך
shimcha	Your name (when addressing a male)	שימך
toda	Thanks	תודה
le-hitra-ot	See you	להתראות
yom	A day	יום
nifla	Wonderful	נפלא



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-hit-ra-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:

shalom	Hello	שלום
ma	What is	מה
shmech	Your name (when addressing a female)	שמך
shimcha	Your name (when addressing a male)	שימך
toda	Thanks	תודה
le-hitra-ot	See you	להתראות
yom	A day	יום
nifla	Wonderful	נפלא

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

Eran: shalom.	Hello.	שלום.	ערן:
Liat: shalom.	Hello.	שלום.	ליאת:
Eran: ma shmech?	What is your name?	מה שמך?	ערן:
Liat: Liat.	Liat.	ליאת.	ליאת:
ma shimcha?	What is your name?	מה שימך?	
Eran: Eran.	Eran	ערן.	ערן:



Liat: le-hitra-ot Eran. yom nifla!	See you Eran. Have a wonderful day!	ליאת: להתראות ערן. יום נפלא!
Eran: toda. le-hitra-ot Liat. yom nifla!	Thanks. See you Liat. Have a wonderful day!	ערן: תודה. להתראות ליאת. יום נפלא!

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.		ערן: שלום.
Liat: shalom.		ליאת: שלום.
Eran: ma shmech?		ערן: מה שמך?
Liat: Liat. ma shimcha?		ליאת: ליאת. מה שימך?
Eran: Eran.		ערן: ערן.
Liat: le-hitra-ot Eran. yom nifla!		ליאת: להתראות ערן. יום נפלא!
Eran: toda. le-hitra-ot Liat. yom nifla!		ערן: תודה. להתראות ליאת. יום נפלא!

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!**