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## Lesson 17 A

# Independence Day

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Liat: Hey yonatan, **ma shlomcha?** - **How are you?**

Jonathan: **achla!** **ma shlomech** Liat?

Liat: **Great – ne-hedar.** I'm very excited - **ani me-od mitrageshet** about the next holiday, **yom ha-azzma-ut.** I'm always happy when someone has a birthday, and **yom ha-azzma-ut** is a kind of birthday!

Eran: Hey Yonatan, **a-halan** Liat, **ma ha-mazzav?** - **What's up?** - **ma ha-mazzav?**

Jonathan: **shalom** Eran! **ani margish ne-hedar** and Liat **definitely** - **lelo safek** **margisha ne-hedar.** **ve eych ata margish ha-yom?** - **And how do you feel today?**

Eran: **sababa.** **mamash achla.** I share Liat's feeling about **yom ha-azzma-ut.** It's a holiday which is actually like a big birthday party...

Liat: As you know Jonathan, from our lessons on **Purim...** **Eran and I really love parties** - **Eran ve ani me-od o-havim mesibot.**

Jonathan: **ani be-hechlet zocher et ze** - **I certainly remember that.** **ve ani maskim** - **and I agree,** **yom ha-azzma-ut** is really like a big birthday party, which is celebrated by many people. Liat, on your way in, you mentioned that you have an idea for today's Hebrew discussion.

Liat: **ze nachon Yonatan.** - **That's right Jonathan.** When I visited my sister's family the other night, I met her lovely daughter Maya. **Maya hi bat sheva** - **Maya is seven years old** and she is in **kita bet** - **the second grade.** **Bet** is the second letter of the Hebrew **Alphabet** - the **Alef Bet,** **kita bet** is, **second grade....** anyway, as we were playing together, Maya asked me to help her with her home work. The teacher at their school asked them to write short essays about **yom ha-azzma-ut.** Of course I helped her...but also asked for her permission to use her essay....

Eran: **ba shi-ur shelanu!** - **In our lesson!** Wow Liat! That's a wonderful idea.

Jonathan: **gam ani choshev kacha** - **I also think so!** Would you like to read it for us?

Liat: **kamuvan.** Eran, would you like to share the reading of it with me?

Eran: **ze i-hi-ye li le-oneg** - **that will be a pleasure for me.**



be-yom ha-azz-ma-ut  
a-nach-nu cho-ge-gim  
yo-mu-le-det le-me-di-nat  
Is-ra-el.

ביום העצמאות  
אנחנו חוגגים  
יומולדת למדינת  
ישראל.

me-di-nat Is-ra-el  
huk-ma be-shnat  
e-lef tsha me-ot  
ar-ba-im ve-shmo-ne.

מדינת ישראל  
הוקמה בשנת  
אלף תשע מאות  
ארבעים ושמונה.

ha-sha-na, shnat al-pa-im  
ve-shmo-ne hi ti-hi-ye  
be-di-yuk bat shi-shim sha-na.

השנה, שנת אלפיים  
ושמונה היא תהייה  
בדיוק בת שישים שנה.

ba-chag a-nach-nu to-lim  
et ha-de-gel ba-mir-pe-set,

בחג אנחנו תולים  
את הדגל במירפסת,

me-tay-lim ve-rok-dim im  
ku-lam ba-re-cho-vot,

מטיילים ורוקדים עם  
כולם ברחובות,

ve-ba-lay-la mis-tak-lim  
be-zi-ku-key di-nur.

ובלילה מסתכלים בזיקוקי  
דינור.

Jonathan: Liat, you have done a great job, helping Maya with this essay! I'm really proud of both of you 😊 The first half talks about [yom ha-azzma-ut](#) as a birthday, and the second half describes things we usually do on this day. Good job! Let's read it once more while I give the English translation:

be-yom ha-azz-ma-ut  
a-nach-nu cho-ge-gim  
yo-mu-le-det le-me-di-nat  
Is-ra-el.

On the independence day  
we celebrate  
the birthday of the State  
of Israel.

ביום העצמאות  
אנחנו חוגגים  
יומולדת למדינת  
ישראל.

me-di-nat Is-ra-el  
huk-ma be-shnat  
e-lef tsha me-ot  
ar-ba-im ve-shmo-ne.

The State of Israel was  
established in the year  
one thousand nine hundred  
forty eight.

מדינת ישראל  
הוקמה בשנת  
אלף תשע מאות  
ארבעים ושמונה.

ha-sha-na, shnat al-pa-im  
ve-shmo-ne hi ti-hi-ye  
bedi-yuk bat shishim shana

This year, the year two  
thousand and eight, she will  
be exactly sixty years old.

השנה, שנת אלפיים  
ושמונה היא תהייה  
בדיוק בת שישים שנה.

ba-chag a-nach-nu to-lim  
et ha-de-gel ba-mir-pe-set,

On the holiday, we hang  
the flag on the porch,

בחג אנחנו תולים  
את הדגל במירפסת,



me-tay-lim ve-rok-dim im  
ku-lam ba-re-cho-vot,

We walk and dance with  
everybody in the streets,

מטיילים ורוקדים עם  
כולם ברחובות,

ve-ba-lay-la mis-tak-lim  
be-z-iku-key di-nur.

And at night, we watch  
the fireworks.

ובלילה מסתכלים  
בזיקוקי דינור.

Jonathan: Let's split the essay into two halves, which we will discuss in this lesson and in Audio Lesson **shva-esre bet - seventeen B**. For now, let's read the first half once more, but **at a slower pace – be-kezzev iti**:

be-yom ha-azzma-ut  
anachnu chogegim  
yomuledet le-medinat  
Isra-el.

On the independence day  
we celebrate  
the birthday of the State  
of Israel.

ביום העצמאות  
אנחנו חוגגים  
יומולדת למדינת  
ישראל.

medinat Isra-el  
hukma be-shnat  
elef tsha me-ot  
arba-im ve-shmone.

The State of Israel was  
established in the year  
one thousand nine hundred  
forty eight.

מדינת ישראל  
הוקמה בשנת  
אלף תשע מאות  
ארבעים ושמונה.

ha-shana, shnat alpa-im  
ve-shmone hi ti-hi-ye  
bediyuk bat shishim shana.

This year, the year two  
thousand and eight, she will  
be exactly sixty years old.

השנה, שנת אלפיים  
ושמונה היא תהייה  
בדיוק בת שישים שנה.

Jonathan: And now, let's review the new vocabulary from the first half of Maya's essay:

azz-ma-ut

Independence

yom ha-azz-ma-ut

Independence day

cho-ge-gim

Celebrate (when referring to more than one male or  
a mixed gender group)

yo-mu-le-det

Birthday

me-di-na

A state

me-di-nat

The state of



<b>huk-ma</b>	<b>Was established</b>
<b>be-shnat</b>	<b>In the year of</b>
<b>e-lef</b>	<b>One thousand</b>
<b>tsha me-ot</b>	<b>Nine hundred</b>
<b>ha-sha-na</b>	<b>This year</b>
<b>ti-hi-ye</b>	<b>Will be (when referring to a female)</b>
<b>bat</b>	<b>At the age of</b>

Jonathan: Let's discuss some of the words we have just learned:

The meaning of the word **azzma-ut** is **independence**. As we know, Hebrew has an extensive way of forming different roots, using different building blocks for creating verbs and in many cases, also for creating nouns. The root letters of the word **azzma-ut** are **A**, **ZZ** (which we pronounce as zz) and **M**. In Hebrew, these letters are **a-yin**, **zzadik** and **mem**. The meaning of this root, and its final meaning are determined by the pattern and form it will take, as a final word. The word **ozzma**, which has the same root, means **strength** or **power**. Another word with the same root is **azzum**, means **enormous** or **very big**. In our case, **azzma-ut** is **independence**. We can see how significantly the final meaning of the root is based upon the form or pattern it is being 'cast' into. The form **azzma-ut** uses the root letters, while adding the suffix 'ut' to them: **azz-ma-**and the suffix 'ut' = **azz-ma-ut**.

Another example of this kind of form can be found with the word **chak-la-ut**.

The root here is **Ch** (which is pronounced ch), **K** and **L** or in Hebrew, **chet**, **kuf** and **lamed**.

**chak-la-ut** is **agriculture**

**azz-ma-ut** – **independence**

Another form used with these roots produces adjectives:

**azzma-i** – **independent**

**chakla-i** – **agricultural**

Eran: The word **yom** is **a day**. **yom ha-azzma-ut** is **the day of independence**. As we remember from our previous lessons, in these kinds of combinations, the definite article 'The' appears in the second word. **yom ha-azzma-ut** - **the** day of independence, **Rosh ha-shana** - **the** head of the year.

Jonathan: **yom ha-azzma-ut** - **the day of independence**. Even without being a separate word, I can tell that the word **yom** appears in another place in the dialogue.



Liat: The word **yom** appears also in the word **yo-mu-le-det**. As in English, the word birthday is comprised of the words birth and day, so in Hebrew **yom huledet**, **yom huledet**... but we usually combine these two words very quickly, so they become **yomuledet**. **yomuledet**. Eran, how would you say “the birthday”?

Eran: The same as in **yom ha-azzmaut**. I attach the definite article “The” to the word **huledet**. **yom ha-huledet**.

**yom ha-azzmaut hu yom ha-huledet shel medinat Israel** -

**The** day of independence is **the** birthday of the State of Israel.

Jonathan: One word, which has two versions on our vocabulary list, is the word, state. A state is medina, but in Maya’s essay, she wrote:

Eran: **medinat Isra-el** - **The State of Isra-el**.

Jonathan: As we can see, the word **medina** becomes **medinat**...that is actually a new kind of a suffix! It reveals a unique feature, which exists in Semitic Languages, such as Hebrew and Arabic. This is a situation in which two nouns are in a row, within a special context. The proper grammatical term for this phenomenon is called ‘contiguity’. In our method, we will refer to this as a special type of possessive adjective. In our example, this is an adjective, which actually describes the state, the medina, as belonging to Israel.

**medinat Isra-el** meaning the State **of** Isra-el.

**The State of Isra-el- medinat Isra-el**.

We use the word medina and add to it the suffix...

Liat: ‘**at**’. By doing that, we actually say ‘the state of’. This is a very common suffix, Jonathan, for feminine words, which end with the vowel ‘a’ and with the Hebrew letter **hey**. Let me give you another example: the Hebrew word for **a queen** is **malka**. But when I say **the Queen of England**, I say **malkat anglia**. **Anglia** is **England**.

**malka** becomes **malkat**, **malkat anglia** is the Queen **of** England.

Eran: Another example is the word **simla** - **a dress**. In Hebrew, when we say ‘a wedding dress’, we actually say ‘the dress of the bride’. The description of the dress is that it belongs to and is used by the bride. **A bride** in Hebrew is **kala**.

The word **simla** becomes **simlat** meaning, **the dress of**...

**simlat kala** - **the dress of the bride, meaning, wedding dress**.

Jonathan: **toda!** We added a new number to our vocabulary today. Eran, you mentioned the first number when you indicated the year that Israel was established.

Eran: **ze nachon Yonatan** - **that’s correct Jonathan**. I said:



**medinat Isra-el  
hukma be-shnat  
elef tsha me-ot  
arba-im ve-shmone.**

The State of Israel was established in the year one thousand nine hundred forty eight.

**מדינת ישראל  
הוקמה בשנת  
אלף תשע מאות  
ארבעים ושמונה.**

In lesson **arba esre - fourteen**, we learned how to count up to a hundred. We know that **arba-im ve-shmone** is **forty-eight**, literally translated as **forty and eight**. **elef** is a **thousand**, **tsha me-ot** is **nine hundred**. The State of Israel was established in the year one thousand, nine hundred forty eight.

Jonathan: And Liat, you indicated the year in which **medinat Israel** will be **bat shishim - sixty years old**.

Liat: **ze nachon Yonatan - that's correct Jonathan**. I said:

**ha-shana, shnat alpa-im  
ve-shmone hi ti-hi-ye  
bediyuk bat shishim shana.**

This year, the year two thousand and eight, she will be exactly sixty years old.

**השנה, שנת אלפיים  
ושמונה היא תהייה  
בדיוק בת שישים שנה.**

**shmone** is **eight**. **alpa-im** is **two thousand**. This year, the year two thousand and eight, she will be exactly sixty years old.

Jonathan: **toda!** We will continue studying our numbers up to two thousand in Audio Lesson #17-B. Last remark for today is in regard to the word **ha-shana**. The word **shana** is a **year** and the prefix **'ha'** is a prefix, which, most of the time, we are familiar with as the definite article **'The'**. But in our context today, it has another meaning! **ha-shana** is not translated in Maya's essay as 'the year' but **'this year'**. We will return to this prefix many times in our future lessons. The way to distinguish it is of course by relating it to the context. **ha-sha-na - this year**.

Now, let's repeat all of the new words which we studied in the first half of the essay. Eran and Liat will read each word twice while pausing in between, giving you enough time to repeat them:

**Independence**

**azzma-ut**

**azzma-ut**

**Independence day**

**yom ha-azzma-ut**

**yom ha-azzma-ut**

**Celebrate (when referring to more than one male or a mixed gender group)**

**chogegim**

**chogegim**



Birthday	yomuledet	yomuledet
A state	medina	medina
The state of	medinat	medinat
Was established	hukma	hukma
In the year of	be-shnat	be-shnat
One thousand	elef	elef
Nine hundred	tsha me-ot	tsha me-ot
This year	ha-shana	ha-shana
Will be (when referring to a female)	ti-hi-ye	ti-hi-ye
At the age of	bat	bat

Jonathan: Let's repeat the first half of Maya's essay once more. Make sure to join us for Lesson #17-C, as in that lesson we will read it again, while giving you enough time to repeat each sentence.

**be-yom ha-azzma-ut  
anachnu chogegim  
yomuledet le-medinat  
Isra-el.**

On the independence day  
we celebrate  
the birthday of the State  
of Israel.

**ביום העצמאות  
אנחנו חוגגים  
יומולדת למדינת  
ישראל.**

**medinat Isra-el  
hukma be-shnat  
elef tsha me-ot  
arba-im ve-shmone.**

The State of Israel was  
established in the year  
one thousand nine hundred  
forty eight.

**מדינת ישראל  
הוקמה בשנת  
אלף תשע מאות  
ארבעים ושמונה.**

**ha-shana, shnat alpa-im  
ve-shmone hi ti-hi-ye  
bediyuk bat shishim shana.**

This year, the year two  
thousand and eight, she will  
be exactly sixty years old.

**השנה, שנת אלפיים  
ושמונה היא תהייה  
בדיוק בת שישים שנה.**

Jonathan: **toda Eran ve-toda Liat ve-toda lachem studentim yekarim.** After reviewing this lesson, please join us for Lesson #17-B, where we will read and explain the second half of the essay, learn how to count up to two thousand and give you some fun exercises for practicing and improving your Hebrew. **yom huledet same-ach Isra-el! -Happy Birthday Israel! toda le-hitra-ot!**

Eran and Liat: **yom huledet sameach Israel! - Happy Birthday Israel! le-hitra-ot!**