

LearnHebrewPod.com

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

Lesson 32 B

In Honor of the Hanukkah

Learn Hebrew Pod™
Language Fountain Ltd.
All rights reserved ©
contact@learnhebrewpod.com
www.learnhebrewpod.com



Jonathan: *shalom uvruchim ha-ba-im le-shi-ur* audio *mispar shloshim ve-shta-im bet shel* Learn Hebrew Pod. **natchil et ha-shi-ur ha-yom - we will start today's lesson**, by sorting the verbs from the Hanukkah Cooking conversation into two groups: the first includes **pa-al** verbs, that have non-guttural letters as their third root letter. The second group includes **pa-al** verbs that have a special guttural letter as their third root letter. Please note, by guttural letter, we are not only referring to the letter 'hey'. For a list of guttural letters and the different ways of producing vocal sounds in Hebrew, please refer to Eran's lecture on this topic, in lesson 29-A. *a-halan Eran, a-halan Liat. ma kore?*

Liat: *achla!*

Eran: *magniv!*

Liat: We have some *sufgani-yot* from our last lesson, would you like one, Jonathan?

Jonathan: *hmm... toda*, I actually prefer *levivot*, are there any left?

Eran: Sorry, *rak sufgan-yot...*

Jonathan: Liat, I have noticed a slight difference between the way you pronounce the word for doughnuts and the way Eran and I pronounce it. You say *sufgani-yot* and we say *sufgan-yot...*

Liat: *ze nachon, Yonatan*. As in any live conversational language, some words are pronounced differently by different people. It's really a slight difference but yes! I say *sufgani-ya* and *sufgani-yot...*

Eran: While me and you, Jonathan, say *sufgan-ya* and *sufgan-yot*.

Liat: Both options are correct in conversational Hebrew... but mine is more 'academically' accurate.

Jonathan: Right. Another example of this is **tomato** and **tomatoes**: *agvan-ya* and *agvan-yot* versus *agvani-ya* and *agvani-yot*.

Okay, let's read the verbs from our last conversation divided into the two categories I just mentioned:

Liat: We will read you the verb the way it appear in the conversation, then the translation and finally the 'he in the past' conjugation.

Jonathan: Verbs in **pa-al** (when the third letter is not guttural):



Appears in the conversation as:	In the form of:	He in the Past (third person singular conjugation in the past tense)
natna	She gave	natan
amart	You said – when referring to a female	amar
o-hev	Like/ Love – when referring to a male	a-hav
shachati	I forgot – either male or female	shachach

Jonathan: Verbs in **pa-al** (with different guttural letters as the third root letter):

Appears in the conversation as:	In the form of:	He in the Past (third person singular conjugation in the past tense)
at yoda-at	You know – when referring to a female	yada - the third letter is 'ayin'
ani ose	I am doing – when referring to a male	asa – the third letter is 'hey'
shamati	I've heard – either male or female	shama – the third letter is 'ayin'
kanita	You bought – when referring to a male	kana – the third letter is 'hey'
nasati	I went (when using automotive transportation) – either male or female	nasa – the third letter is 'ayin'
kaniti	I bought – either male or female	kana – the third letter is 'hey'
mazzati	I found – either male or female	mazza – the third letter is 'alef'
razziti	I wanted – either male or female	razza - the third letter is 'hey'
liknot	To buy – an infinitive construct form	kana – the third letter is 'hey'
karati	I read – either male or female	kara – the third letter is 'alef'
osim	We are doing/ We are preparing – when referring to more than one male or a group of a mixed gender	asa – the third letter is 'hey'



Jonathan: **toda Eran ve-Liat**. As we can see, many of the verbs used in the conversation have a guttural letter as the third letter of the root. Let's start our discussion by refreshing our memory of the past tense conjugations of **pa-al**, for masculine and feminine, singular and plural pronouns.

We will use the verb **katav** – he wrote:

Eran:		Liat:	
I wrote	katavti	I wrote	katavti
You wrote	katavta	You wrote	katavt
He wrote	katav	She wrote	katva
We wrote	katavnu	We wrote	katavnu
You wrote	katavtem	You wrote	katavten
They wrote	katvu	They wrote	katvu

Jonathan: As we already know, transformation of forms as a part of the building block structure is an important and significant part of how verbs are conjugated in Hebrew. Let's repeat the list of the verbs which we used in the conversation, using the **singular past tense conjugation**. We will now sort them out according to the specific guttural letter they use for the third root letter:

Verbs in the **pa-al** (with the guttural letter 'hey' as the third root letter):

Did/ Was doing	asa
Bought	kana
Wanted	razza
Saw	ra-a(a)

Jonathan: Verbs in the **pa-al** (with the guttural letter 'ayin' as the third root letter):

Knew	yada
Heard	shama
Went (when using automotive transportation)	nasa



Jonathan: Verbs in the **pa-al** (with the guttural letter 'alef' as the third root letter):

Found	mazza
Read	kara

Jonathan: As you can see, all of these words end with an 'A' sound. Regarding the first group, we have already learned that it ends with the letter 'hey' produced by the throat; hence it is considered a guttural letter.

Eran: In The second and the third group, when transliterating into English, they also have an 'a' sound. Yet, they do not end with the letter 'hey' but use either the guttural letters: 'ayin' or 'alef'.

Liat: In our next lesson, we will learn that in the present tense, they have different sets of conjugations! But from reading them in the English transliteration, we cannot tell by their third person conjugation in the past tense, to which group they belong, meaning what is their third root letter. In English they all end with the letter 'A' with the sound 'a'.

Eran: These differences need to be memorized along with the Hebrew translation of the word. Familiarizing yourself with how the word is written in Hebrew is a very helpful tool for this.

Liat: If you are not yet Hebrew readers, we highly recommend using our '**How to Read Hebrew- Introduction and Guidelines**' audio lessons.

Eran: And the '**Full Basic Course**' under the Learn Tab on the Learn Hebrew Pod website.

Jonathan: As we saw in lesson 29, there are certain things we **cannot do** with guttural letters. The basic restriction is that we cannot produce a 'stop sign' on most of them. Let's explain again what a 'stop sign' means in our terminology by checking the 'natural letter' verb – '**katav**' – **wrote**. Its root letters are **K, T & V** – **kaf, taf, & vet**.

Eran: In the **singular past tense conjugation**, this verb can be split into two syllables:

The first syllable is called an 'open syllable'. It ends with a **vowel**:

ka

Liat: The second syllable is called a 'closed syllable'. It ends with the **consonant V**:

tav

Jonathan: We refer to these consonant 'stops' as 'stop signs'. The 'stop sign' may appear at the end of a word or at the end of a 'closed syllable' in the middle of a word. We 'stop' or 'rest' on the consonant before proceeding to the next syllable or word.



Eran: However, as we already know, this consonant rest cannot be performed on a letter like 'hey'.

Liat: We can say: **lamad**, **katav**, **rakad**, etc. but we cannot say: **kanah**, **razzah**, **asah**

Jonathan: Today we will see that this restriction also applies to verbs that have 'ayin' or 'alef' as their third root letter.

Liat: For the 'ayin' group we cannot say: **yadaa**, **shamaa**, **nasaa**.

Eran: For the 'alef' group we cannot say: **mazaa**, **karaa**.

Jonathan: In the **singular past tense conjugation**, all of the verbs which end with 'hey', 'alef' or 'ayin', sound as if they consist of only two letters.

Liat:

Ending with 'hey':

asa - we can only hear the **A** and the **S**, **a-sa**.

kana - we can only hear the **K** and the **N**, **ka-na**.

razza - we can only hear the **R** and the **ZZ**, **ra-zza**.

ra-a - we can only hear the **R** and the **A**, **ra-a**.

Eran:

Ending with 'alef':

mazza - we can only hear the **M** and the **ZZ**, **ma-zza**.

kara - we can only hear the **K** and the **R**, **ka-ra**.

Ending with 'ayin':

yada - we can only hear the **Y** and the **D**, **ya-da**.

shama - we can only hear the **Sh** and the **M**, **sha-ma**.

nasa - we can only hear the **N** and the **S**, **na-sa**.

Jonathan: It's important to note that the letter 'ayin' does not always necessarily conform to what we have just reviewed. Usually in modern conversational Hebrew a verb such as 'nasa' which ends with an 'ayin' and 'mazza' which ends with an 'alef' will both comply with what we just explained. But, some Hebrew speakers may emphasize a low guttural sound on the 'ayin' and say 'nasaa', 'shamaa'. While this is a more 'correct' pronunciation, it is rarely employed today and may lead to confusion. At this point, we will treat the 'ayin' the same way as the 'alef' and the 'hey' – **a guttural letter which cannot be pronounced on a 'stop sign'**.



Jonathan: We are already familiar with the past tense conjugations for all the personal pronoun of verbs whose third letter is 'hey', let's refresh our memory and listen to a parallel reading of 'katav' - 'all natural letters' and 'asa' – third root letter 'hey'. We will start with the singular conjugations:

		כתב – katav		רצה – razza
Eran:	I wrote	katavti	I wanted	razziti
Liat:	I wrote	katavti	I wanted	razziti
Eran:	You wrote	katavta	You wanted	razzita
Liat:	You wrote	katavt	You wanted	razzit
Eran:	He wrote	katav	He wanted	razza
Liat:	She wrote	katava	She wanted	razzta

Jonathan: We can see that the same suffixes are used, but the third root letter 'hey' verbs also employ an 'l' infix sound: **razziti**, **razzita**, **razzit** for the personal pronouns 'I' and 'You' conjugations. In the personal pronoun 'She' conjugation the consonant 't' is added: **razzta**. In future lessons, we will see that this 't' is a common transformation Hebrew often employs for replacing the letter 'hey'.

Let's now repeat the above chart, comparing the 'all natural letters' root verb 'katav' to a third root letter 'alef' verb and a third root letter 'ayin' verb:

		כתב – katav		מצא – mazza		נסע – nasa
Eran:	I wrote	katavti	I found	mazzati	I went	nasati
Liat:	I wrote	katavti	I found	mazzati	I went	nasati
Eran:	You wrote	katavta	You found	mazzata	You went	nasata
Liat:	You wrote	katavt	You found	mazzat	You went	nasat
Eran:	He wrote	katav	He found	mazza	He went	nasa
Liat:	She wrote	katava	She found	mazz-a(a)	She went	nas-a(a)

Jonathan: As we can see, the third root letter 'alef' verb in the singular past tense conjugations sound the same as the third root letter 'ayin' verb.



Jonathan: To conclude, let's have a parallel reading of the verbs ending with 'hey' the 'alef' and 'ayin' conjugated in the past tense, singular:

	רצה – razza		מצא – mazza		נסע – nasa	
Eran:	I wanted	razziti	I found	mazzati	I went	nasati
Liat:	I wanted	razziti	I found	mazzati	I went	nasati
Eran:	You wanted	razzita	You found	mazzata	You went	nasata
Liat:	You wanted	razzit	You found	mazzat	You went	nasat
Eran:	He wanted	razza	He found	mazza	He went	nasa
Liat:	She wanted	razzta	She found	mazz-a(a)	She went	nas-a(a)

Jonathan: They all use the same suffixes but the 'alef' and the 'ayin' verbs do not use the infix 'i' sound, they 'keep' the 'A' sound.

Let's go through the same procedure with the plural conjugations. We'll start by comparing the 'all natural root letter verb' **katav** to the verb **razza** which has 'hey' as its third root letter:

	כתב – katav		רצה – razza	
Eran:	We wrote	katavnu	We wanted	razzinu
Liat:	We wrote	katavnu	We wanted	razzinu
Eran:	You wrote	katavtem	You wanted	razzitem
Liat:	You wrote	katavten	You wanted	razziten
Eran:	They wrote	katvu	They wanted	razzu
Liat:	They wrote	katvu	They wanted	razzu

Eran: For the 'we' and the 'you' conjugation of 'razza', we use the 'i' vowel infix sound with the second root letter **ZZ**, but other than that, I keep everything the same as 'katav':

We use the 'nu' suffix for 'we': **katavnu**, **razzinu**.

The 'tem' suffix for 'you': **katavtem**, **razzitem**.

And the 'u' vowel suffix for 'them': **katvu**, **razzu**.



Liat: And the same applies for feminine. For the 'we' and the 'you' conjugation of 'razza', I use the 'i' vowel infix with the second root letter **ZZ**, but other than that, I keep everything the same as for the 'katav'.

I'm using the 'nu' suffix for 'we': **katavnu**, **razzinu**.

The 'ten' suffix for 'you': **katavten**, **razziten**.

The 'u' vowel suffix for 'you': **katvu**, **razzu**.

Jonathan: Let's now repeat the above chart, comparing the verb 'katav' with a third root letter 'alef' verb and a third root letter 'ayin' verb:

	כתב – katav	מצא – mazza	נסע – nasa
Eran:	We wrote katavnu	We found mazzanu	We went nasanu
Liat:	We wrote katavnu	We found mazzanu	We went nasanu
Eran:	You wrote katavtem	You found mazzatem	You went nasatem
Liat:	You wrote katavten	You found mazzaten	You went nasaten
Eran:	They wrote katvu	They found mazz(a)u	They went nas(a)u
Liat:	They wrote katvu	They found mazz(a)u	They went nas(a)u

Jonathan: To conclude, let's do a parallel reading of the verbs ending with 'hey', 'alef' and 'ayin' in the past tense, plural:

	רצה – razza	מצא – mazza	נסע – nasa
Eran:	We wanted razzinu	We found mazzanu	We went nasanu
Liat:	We wanted razzinu	We found mazzanu	We went nasanu
Eran:	You wanted razzitem	You found mazzatem	You went nasatem
Liat:	You wanted razziten	You found mazzaten	You went nasaten
Eran:	They wanted razzu	They found mazz(a)u	They went nas(a)u
Liat:	They wanted razzu	They found mazz(a)u	They went nas(a)u



Jonathan: They all use the same suffixes but the 'alef' and the 'ayin' ones do not use the 'l' infix sound, they 'keep' the 'A' sound.

We encourage you to practice these verbs by using other examples. The most useful tool to make the 'hard work' of conjugating verbs easy and fun can be found on the Learn Hebrew Pod website under the Learn Tab. Choose the Verb and Tense you would like to study today and start practicing.

toda le-kulchem ve-le-hitra-ot be-shi-ur shloshim ve-shta-im gimel.

Eran and Liat: toda, le-hitra-ot!