



Temple B'nai Israel
Aurora, Illinois

Courses in the Hebrew Language

למודי עברית

Spring 2026

Preliminary Hebrew / Basic Hebrew Level 1 (one semester)

- No prerequisites
- Learn all the Hebrew letters and vowels of the aleph-bet
 - learn how to read and pronounce Hebrew words
 - great opportunity to start learning to read Hebrew
 - learn preliminary vocabulary (Preliminary Hebrew only)
- Text: Teach Yourself to Read Hebrew, EKS Publishing + additional handouts
 - Available through Amazon: [available through Amazon](#)

Basic Hebrew Level 2 (two semesters)

- Prerequisite: equivalent of Preliminary Hebrew: know the aleph-bet and how to pronounce Hebrew words
- Course is similar to what religious school students learn in 3rd+4th grades at TBI Religious School
 - students must already know the Aleph-Bet and how to pronounce simple words
 - students are not required to have any vocabulary knowledge
 - great opportunity to start learning to read and understand simple stories
 - depending upon student capabilities, course may be taught over one or two semesters
- Texts:
 - “*Shalom Ivrit 1*” by Nili Ziv; ©2003 Behrman House Publishing
 - available through Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Shalom-Ivrit-Behrman-House/dp/0874411602/ref=sr_1_1
 - “*Yesh Lanu Llama*” (book 1) by Varda Cohen (et al); ©1988 Behrman House Publishing
 - available through Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Yesh-Lanu-Llama-Vol-1/dp/087441492X/ref=sr_1_1
 - book plus additional handouts
- Practice writing in Hebrew block letters
- Learn a 160 word vocabulary
- Hebrew language concepts covered:
 - Review alef-bet and word pronunciation
 - Present tense verbs
 - Prefixes for: and, the, for/to, from, in
 - Male & female nouns & adjectives
 - Writing in Hebrew block letters
 - simple sentence structures
- Practice reading and pronouncing words and sentences with proper inflection
- Read simple stories with simple vocabularies
- Approximately 20 minutes homework assigned per class session

Basic Hebrew Level 3 (two semesters)

- Prerequisite: equivalent of Basic Hebrew Level 2: know the aleph-bet and how to pronounce Hebrew words
- Course is similar to what religious school students learn in 5th+6th grades at TBI Religious School
 - students must already know how to read simple sentences
 - students are expected to know the vocabulary taught in Basic Hebrew Level 2
 - great opportunity to start learning to read and understand simple stories
 - depending upon student capabilities, course may be taught over one or two semesters

- Texts:
 - “*Shalom Ivrit 2*” by Nili Ziv; ©2004 Behrman House Publishing
 - available through Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Shalom-Ivrit-2-Nili-Ziv/dp/0874411637/ref=sr_1_1
 - “*Yesh Lanu Llama*” (book 2) by Varda Cohen (et al); ©1994 Behrman House Publishing
 - available through Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Yesh-Lanu-Llama-Vol-2/dp/0874415691/ref=sr_1_1
 - book plus additional handouts
- Practice writing in Hebrew block letters
- Learn additional 151 word vocabulary
- Hebrew language concepts covered:
 - Review alef-bet and word pronunciation
 - Present tense verbs
 - Prefixes for: and, the, for/to, from, in
 - Male & female nouns & adjectives
 - Writing in Hebrew block letters
 - simple sentence structures
- Practice reading and pronouncing words and sentences with proper inflection
- Read simple stories with simple vocabularies
- Approximately 20 minutes homework assigned per class session

Basic Hebrew Level 4 (two semesters)

- Prerequisite: equivalent of Basic Hebrew Level 3; know how to read & write Hebrew script, read simple stories
- Course is similar to what religious school students learn in 6th+7th grades at TBI Religious School
 - any younger student wishing to get ahead or review this level Hebrew is welcome
 - questions about prerequisites: please contact Gary Raymond to discuss
 - great opportunity for "rusty" parent and student to do Hebrew course together
 - depending upon student capabilities, course may be taught over one or two semesters
- Texts:
 - “*Shalom Ivrit 3*” by Nili Ziv; ©2004 Behrman House Publishing
 - available through Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Shalom-Ivrit-Welcome-Modern-English/dp/0874411661/ref=sr_1_1
 - “*Let’s Talk! Modern Hebrew for Teens*” ©2006 Behrman House Publishing
 - available through Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Lets-Talk-Modern-Hebrew-Teens/dp/0874417821/ref=sr_1_1
 - “*Let’s Talk Now! More Modern Hebrew for Teens*” by Nili Ziv; ©2015 Behrman House Publishing
 - <https://store.behrmanhouse.com/index.php/let-s-talk-now-more-modern-hebrew-for-teens.html>
 - book plus additional hand-outs
- Practice writing in Hebrew script
- Learn a 190 word vocabulary
- Hebrew language concepts covered:
 - Review concepts covered (first class day - prior to registration):
 - proper consonant & vowel pronunciations
 - Subject pronouns (I, we, he, etc.)

- Present tense verbs & active Hebrew participle (is writing, is saying, is making, etc.)
- Male & female nouns & adjectives
- Writing in Hebrew script
- Basic vocabulary review
- New concepts covered:
 - Past tense verbs (Hebrew perfect)
 - Object Pronouns (me, us, him, etc.)
 - Irregular plural nouns & adjectives
 - Passive Hebrew participle (is written, is said, is made, etc.)
- Practice reading and pronouncing words and sentences with proper inflection
- Read simple stories with simple vocabularies
- Approximately 20 minutes homework assigned per class session

Intermediate Hebrew Levels 5-7 (two semesters each)

- Prerequisite: equivalent of Basic Hebrew Level 4; know how to read & write Hebrew script; know present tense & past tense verb forms; know pronouns, possessive endings
- Course is similar to what religious school students learn in 7th+8th grades
 - any younger student wishing to get ahead or review this level Hebrew is welcome
 - questions about prerequisites: please contact Gary Raymond to discuss
 - great opportunity for "rusty" parent and student to do Hebrew course together
 - depending upon student capabilities, course may be taught over one or two semesters
 - We rotate use of various textbook series for this course. Here are some of the textbooks we've used in past years. Selection of textbook depends upon the teacher's evaluation of student capabilities:
 - Text: *Ivrit Chaiyah (Modern Hebrew)* – book 1, 2
 - by Blumberg & Lewittes, ©1974 Hebrew Publishing, NY
 - available through Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Modern-Hebrew-Conversation-Reading-Grammar/dp/0884826783/ref=sr_1_28
 - Text: *Ivrit / Shalav – level 1, 2, 3*
 - by Ora Band, ©1983 Los Angeles Hebrew High School, CA
 - available through Amazon:
 - Level 1: https://www.amazon.com/Hebrew-Language-Course-Level-English/dp/0874413311/ref=sr_1_1
 - Level 2: https://www.amazon.com/Hebrew-Language-Course-Level-2/dp/0874413605/ref=sr_1_2
 - Level 3: https://www.amazon.com/Hebrew-Language-Course-Level-English/dp/0874413818/ref=sr_1_5
 - Text: *Ivrit Min HaHatchala (Hebrew from Scratch)* – book 1, 2
 - by Shlomit Chayat, ©2019 Academon Press, Israel
 - Available through Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Hebrew-Scratch-Part-HaHatchala-HaChadash/dp/B0035G8WME/ref=sr_1_1
 - Text: *Contemporary Hebrew 1*

- by Menahem Mansoor, ©1976 Behrman House Publishing
 - Available through Amazon:
https://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Hebrew-1-English/dp/087441251X/ref=sr_1_fkmr2_1
- Text: *Speak Hebrew For Real – Intermediate 1, 2, 3*
 - by Ruti Yudovich, ©2016 CreateSpace Independent Publishing
 - Available through Amazon:
 - Level 1: https://www.amazon.com/Speak-Hebrew-Real-Intermediate/dp/1530748267/ref=sr_1_6
 - Level 2: https://www.amazon.com/Speak-Hebrew-Real-Intermediate-II/dp/1535347643/ref=sr_1_10
 - Level 3: https://www.amazon.com/Speak-Hebrew-Real-Intermediate-III/dp/1544871236/ref=sr_1_9
- a variety of additional books are used depending upon student progress in class
 - books plus additional hand-outs
- Practice writing in Hebrew script
- Learn a 300 word vocabulary
- Hebrew language concepts covered:
 - Seven verb Binyanim - including a variety of common Gizrot for each Binyan
 - Present, Past, and Future conjugations
 - Expressing Commands/Requests - Imperative, Future 2nd Person, Infinitive
 - Hebrew Infinitives and related grammar rules.
 - Past Continuing/Repeated actions
 - Transitive vs Intransitive verbs and their inflections
 - Numbers: Cardinal, Ordinal, Absolute, Construct, Gender
 - Colors
 - Syllable stress, Segolates, Double Patakh, Furtive Patakh, Shva+Khataf vowels
 - Declension of nouns (adding pronominal suffixes to nouns).
 - Direct versus Indirect objects
 - Adjectives - rules for both attributive adjectives and predicate adjectives
 - Construct state and associated rules.
 - Participle (verbal adjectives) - including standard inflections for Binyan Pa'al verbs
 - Gerunds (verbal nouns)
 - Hebrew word prefixes, their meanings and declensions
 - Prepositions, their meanings and declensions
 - Locative Hei suffix
 - Hebrew question syntax
 - Vav-Conjunctive
 - Vav-Inversive
 - Definite Direct Object Particle Et
 - Expressing Possession in present, past, and future tenses
 - Using a Hebrew dictionary - including differences between classic and modern Hebrew spelling
- Practice reading and writing sentences
- Read second level stories with simple vocabularies
- Approximately 20 minutes homework assigned per class session

Intermediate Hebrew Levels 8-9 (two semesters each)

- Prerequisite: equivalent of Intermediate Hebrew Level 7; ability to read short Hebrew stories and engage in basic Hebrew conversations
- Course uses text books, dictionaries, handouts, internet links and teacher directed conversation to engage students in a Hebrew and Jewish Life learning experience. Emphasis on exploring Hebrew, not only as a language, but as a basis for ethics and Jewish tradition.
- Text: To be determined, based upon student skills
- Class is conducted in Hebrew and homework assignments are given in Hebrew. Other than text books, most handouts do not use nikkud (Hebrew vowels).