PRONUNCIATION מִבְטָא **1.38**

The American who wishes to achieve an acceptable Israeli accent must devote special attention to the **vowels**, **intonation**, and **diction**.

Vowels - מִבְטָא **1.38.1**

Hebrew vowels are "tense". In other words, the mouth muscles are held in a firm position, which does not vary during the pronunciation of the syllable. In American English, the quality of the vowels may change during pronunciation. Pronounce the English words as they are transcribed after the equal signs. Then try to pronounce the Hebrew syllable without changing the vowel quality.

cool	=	/coo-wel/	vs	כוֹל
call	=	/caw-el/	vs	קוֹל
peel	=	/pee-el/	vs	פִּיל

You may find it useful to practice imitating a heavy Israeli accent in English to get the feel of the Hebrew vowels. To get the "feel" of the Hebrew.

/eet iz yoosfull tuh dry eet!/

Intonation 1.38.2

Every language has a *melody*. Sometimes if you are within earshot of a conversation but not close enough to actually hear the words clearly, you can tell if the people are speaking English, French, Spanish, or German. Why is that so? Because each language has its own rhythm or cadenced as well as its melodic characteristics. Try to use the Hebrew melody. Use the audio recordings and your instructor as models. However, do not expect to acquire an Israeli accent solely by listening. Pronunciation skill is acquired through **interacting** with other speakers -- not merely by listening.

Your accent is an important part of what you are learning. And while it is not the most important aspect of your Hebrew study, you can be sure that Israelis will appreciate your attempt to master the accent. Moreover, it can actually influence how Israelis judge your Hebrew ability and whether they will answer you in Hebrew or not!

Diction 1.38.3

Spoken language is not the same as written language. Spoken sentences do not have spaces between the words as they do on paper. The words are often run together so that several words sound like one. Look at these two versions of the same sentence:

/MAH-t OMEH-ret/	=	אַתְ וְאֶרֶת
/MAH at oh-MEH-reht/	=	אַה אַת אוֹאֶרֶת

Note that slight pauses may occur in a sentence, often in the middle of a word. This is common in casual or rapid speech among native speakers of Israel. You will need to "tune" your ears to hear the individual words within the stream of the sentence, in order to understand authentic Israeli Hebrew. Now think about the two kids in an American high school who are running down the hallway during the noon hour ... Here's what you might hear:
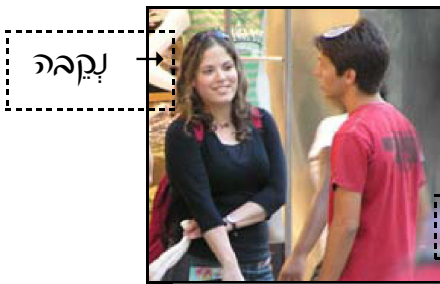
"Hay jeet yet?"
"No, Ju?"
*(*Translation: Hey, did you eat yet? No, did you?)

1.39   דִּקְדּוּק - **GRAMMAR**

1.39.1   שֵׁמוֹת עֶצֶם וָמִין - **The Gender of Nouns**

💻 **Use with Software Chapter 1:13 "Gender Agreement With Nouns & Adjectives"** (See also §2.20) **and Chapter 1: 5 "Spelling & the Order of the Alphabet"**

נְקֵבָה →

← זכר

Hebrew nouns are either masculine gender זכר מִין , or

feminine gender מִין נְקֵבָה.

(The word מִין means both "gender" and "sex".)

Nouns that end in an */ah/* vowel and whose last letter is a ה, or nouns that end with a ת are generally נְקֵבָה מִין.

Here are some feminine nouns

אַחְבֶּרֶת	סִירָה	תֵּלְאִיזְה	כִּיתָה
	סְלִיחָה	עִבְרִית	סְטוּדֶנְטִית

Here are some masculine nouns:

סוּף	סִיר	צִ'יפְּרוֹן	בּוֹקֶר
אַוִר	סְטוּדֶנְט	סֶפֶר	יוֹם

Warning: Beware of words that end in an /ah/ vowel but are not accented on the last syllable, and are not written with a ה. Words like רֶגַע and פַּגַם are masculine.

The vocabulary lists at the end of each chapter indicate the grammatical gender of nouns with an abbreviation: נְקֵבָה = נ and זכר = ז .

Agreement of Adjective and Nouns 1.39.2

🖥 **Use with Software Chapter 1 "Drill On Adjectives of Mixed Gender"**

Watch what happens to adjectives when they refer to a feminine noun. See how their form changes from the form of a masculine noun.

 יֶלֶד קָטָן

יַלְדָה קְטָנָה

Feminine נְקֵבָה = נ		Masculine זָכָר = ז	
a good class	כִּיתָה טוֹבָה	a good student	תַלְמִיד טוֹב
This is a big class	זֹאת כִּיתָה גְדוֹלָה	a good book	סֵפֶר טוֹב
		a good week	שָבוּעַ טוֹב

דִינָה תַלְמִידָה טוֹבָה Dina is a good student

1.39.3 מָלְאוּ אֶת הֶחָסֵר - Fill in the Blanks

Pretend that this is a conversation between a man and woman. She happens to say to him that he is a good man and he immediately responds that she is a good woman. From then on it was back and forth. Whatever was said about a man was then applied to a woman and vice versa.   You fill in the responses.

🎧
1. אַתָה אִיש *(man)* טוֹב   כֵּן, וְגַם אַתְ אִישָה טוֹבָה

2. הוּא סְטוּדֶנְט חָדָש   כֵּן, וְגַם הִיא _____

3. אֲנִי אוֹרֵחַ אָדִין   כֵּן, וְגַם אֲנִי _____ (אוֹרַחַת)

4. הוּא תַלְמִיד כָּאן   כֵּן, וְגַם הִיא _____

5. הוּא אִיש אָמֵרִיקָאִי   כֵּן, וְגַם הִיא _____ (אָמֵרִיקָאִית)

6. אֲנִי גָדוֹל מְאוֹד   כֵּן וְגַם אֲנִי _____

7. אֲנִי אִיש נָעִים   כֵּן וְגַם אֲנִי _____

🎧

יֶלֶד קָטָן
יְלָדִים קְטָנִים

יַלְדָה קְטָנָה
יְלָדוֹת קְטָנוֹת

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RULES כְּלָלִים 1.40

1. The Hebrew **adjective** always **follows** the noun it describes.

בּוֹקֶר טוֹב

good morning

שִׁירָה טוֹבָה

good poetry

2. The **gender (מִין)** of the adjective must always be the same as that of the noun it describes. If the Hebrew noun is masculine, the adjective must also be masculine. This "matching" is called *agreement.*

תַּלְמִיד טוֹב

a good student *(m)*

תַּלְמִידָה טוֹבָה

a good student *(f)*

3. The **number (מִסְפָּר)** singular or plural, of the adjective must *always be in agreement*   with the noun it describes.

תַּלְמִיד טוֹב

תַּלְמִידִים טוֹבִים

תַּלְמִידָה טוֹבָה

תַּלְמִידוֹת טוֹבוֹת

4. **The adjective that describes a definite noun must also be definite**. The prefix **ה** must be attached to the adjective too.

Grammatical Terms When the noun refers to something specific, known, or unique, we say the noun is a **definite noun:** example "**the** notebook". The adjective that describes a definite noun must also reflect that definiteness.

הלוּחַ **ה**גָּדוֹל   **ה**בּוֹקֶר **ה**טוֹב

המַחְבֶּרֶת **ה**קְטַנָּה **ה**שִׁירָה **ה**חֲדָשָׁה

The opposite of **a definite noun** is an **indefinite noun:**

"**a** good book" = סֵפֶר טוֹב, "a small notebook" = מַחְבֶּרֶת קְטַנָּה.

5. Hebrew likes to keep **the accented syllable** at the end of the word. Notice what happens to the masculine form of most two-syllable adjectives when a feminine or plural ending is added. Study these examples.

כִּתָּה קְטַנָּה   סֵפֶר קָטָן

כִּתָּה נֶחְמָאָה   בּוֹקֶר נָעִים

כִּתָּה גְּדוֹלָה   סֵפֶר גָּדוֹל

תַּלְמִידִים גְּדוֹלִים   תַּלְמִיד גָּדוֹל

In the feminine form of the adjective, notice how the accent shifts to the new last syllable, and the vowel of the first syllable almost disappears. The "zero-vowel" is written as a *sheva.*

NOTE: At this point you are not expected to memorize these rules. However, it is important for you to begin to recognize and anticipate the changes in the forms of the adjectives that you hear in your instructor's speech or see in the texts you read.

LACK OF "AGREEMENT" IS A SERIOUS ERROR IN HEBREW‼

Challenge: Can you infer a general rule about forming the plurals of masculine and feminine nouns? (You will learn the rule later... This question is for those who like puzzles.)

1.40.1 מלאו את החסר - Fill in the Blanks

Below is an exercise in changing adjectives from masculine form to feminine form. Remember that the vowel in most two-syllable adjectives is reduced to a שְׁוָא, in the plural form. Try it out with these expressions. First write in how you think the word should be. Then check your answers.

חדשה _____	אִיש גָדוֹל	1.
תלמידה _____	תַלְמִיד טוֹב	2.
מחברת _____	סֵפֶר חדש	3.
חדשה _____	אִיש צָעִיר	4.
מחברת _____	ארוז קטן	5.
שורה _____	סֵפֶר קצר	6.
מחברת _____	סֵפֶר שמור	7.

1.40.2 אין זכר – אין נקבה

STUDY THESE PAIRS OF SENTENCES. WATCH THE CHANGES.

אין נקבה	אין זכר
דינה תלמידה טובה	דן תלמיד טוב
הִנֵה כִּתָה קְטַנָה	הִנֵה סֵפֶר קטן
לכות שורה ארוכה	לה שיר ארוך
לכות לה אורה נעימה	לה לה שיר נעים
מחברת גְדוֹלָה וְיָפָה	שיר ארוך וְיָפֶה

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1.40.3 תַּרְגִּיל תִּרְגּוּם :Translation Exercise

Translate the following sentences from Hebrew to English. Indicater (*m*) or (*f*).

שֵׁם יָפֶה _____

תַּלְמִיד טוֹב _____

תַּלְמִידָה טוֹבָה _____

אִילָה חֲדָשָׁה _____

סִיר חָדָשׁ _____

כִּיתָה נְשִׂיאָה _____

תַּלְמִידוֹת טוֹבוֹת תַּלְמִידִים טוֹבִים _____

Translate the following sentences from English to Hebrew.

A new book   _____

A good class   _____

A small blackboard (whiteboard)   _____

A small blackboard (whiteboard)   _____

1.41 הַ — THE ה AT THE END OF A WORD

1.41.1 - "Consonantal" ה At The End Of A Word

Look carefully at these sentences:

He is a tall student	הוּא סְטוּדֶנְט גָּבוֹהַּ
She is a tall student	הִיא סְטוּדֶנְטִית גְּבוֹהָה
There is a class	יֵשׁ כִּיתָה
There are classes	יֵשׁ כִּיתוֹת

- The ה at the end of גָּבוֹהַּ is different from the ה in words like כִּיתָה or יָפֶה . The ה in גָּבוֹהַּ is part of the root of the word. The ה does not disappear before the addition of plural endings or the addition of a ה for the feminine form as you see in the word גְּבוֹהָה.

- Like the ח in the word לוּחַ, this ה (see the little dot - אַ'סֵק — in it) at the end of a word is "supposed" to indicate that the ה is to be pronounced after the /*ah*/ vowel - with the *h* actually sounded. Hardly anyone does. Most Israelis ignore this rule and just say /*a*/. IMPORTANT: Do not read the word גָּבוֹהַּ /ga-vo-ha/. **You must pronounce it** /ga-vo-ah/.