PRONUNCIATION הֹגִייָה 1.38

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

1.38.1 הגייה - Vowels

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	うらう
call	=	/caw-el/	VS	קול
peel	=	/pee-el/	VS	פול



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/ = מת ומֶרֶת MAH at oh-MEH-reht/ = מה את אומֶרת 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?)

GRAMMAR - דיקדוק 1.39

The Gender of Nouns - שמות עצם ומין 1.39.1

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"



Hebrew nouns are either masculine gender מין זכר, or feminine gender מין נקבה.

(The word מין 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 ה are generally מין נקבה.

Here are some feminine nouns

מחְבֶּרֶת	שירה	תלְמידה	כיתה
	סְליחה	עבְרית	סְטוּדֶנְטית

Here are some masculine nouns:

סוף	שיר	עיפּרון	בּוקֶר
עמוּד	סטודנט	קפֵר	לוּתַ

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 שבוע are masculine.

The vocabulary lists at the end of each chapter indicate the grammatical gender of nouns with an abbreviation: au בין ביה au and au = au.





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.





ילדה קטנר

נֶלֶד קטן

נ. = נְקַבה Feminine

Masculine つづき = さ

a good class פֿיתה טובה This is a big class זֹאת כִּיתה גִדולה a good student תלְמיד טוב

a good book מֶפֶר טוב

a good week שבוּעַ טוב

Dina is a good student דינה תלְמידה טובה

Fill in the Blanks - למלא את החסר 1.39.3

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.



בֵן, וגם את אישה טובה

ַבַן, וגם היא

בֶן, וגם אני_____ (מצוּיֵינֵת)

ַבַן, וגם היא_____

בֶן, וגם היא_____ואמריקאית

כֵן וגם אני_____

טוב (man) טוב .1

3. אני מורה מצויין

2. הוא סטודנט חדש

4. הוא תלמיד כאן

5. הוּא איש אמֶריקאי

6. אני גדול מְאוד

ך. אני איש נעים







ילדה קטנה יְלדות קטנות

RULES כּללים 1.40



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

בּוֹקֶר טוב שירה טובה good poetry good morning



2. The **gender** (מיץ) 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*.

תלְמידה טובה תלְמידה טובה a good student (f) a good student (m)



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

תלְמיד טוב תלְמידים טובים תלְמידה טובה תלְמידות טובות

4. The adjective that describes a definite noun must also be definite. The prefix \overrightarrow{n} 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.

הבּוקר הטוב הלוּחַ הגדול המחָבֵּרת הקטנה השירה החדשה



"a good book" = מַחֶבֶּרת קְטנה, "a small notebook" = מַחֶבֶּרת קָטנה.



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.

סֵפֶּר קטן כיתה קְטנה בוקֶר נעִים כיתה נְעימה סֵפֶּר גדול כיתה גְדולה תלִמיד גדול תלִמידים גִדולים

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.)

Fill in the Blanks - למלא את החסר 1.40.1

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 אוֹר .in the plural form. Try it out with these expressions. First write in how you think the word should be. Then check your answers.

Word bliedid oc. Then electr your allowers.			
	אישה	איש גדול	1.
0	תלמידה	תלמיד גבוהַ	2.
	מַחְבֶּרֶת	ספֶר חסֵר	3.
	אישה	איש עיֵיף	4.
	מחְבֶּרֶת	עמוּד קטן	5.
	שוּרה	סֵפֶר קצר	6.
	מַחְבֶּרֶת	סֵפֶּר שחור	7.

1.40.2 מין זכר - מין נְקַבה

STUDY THESE PAIRS OF SENTENCES. WATCH THE CHANGES.

	מין נְקֵבה	מין זכר
	דינה תלְמידה טובה	דן תלְמיד טוב
	הִינֵה כִּיתה קְטנה	הִינֵה סֵפֶר קטן
	זאת שורה ארוּכּה	זֶה שיר ארוך
	זאת לא מורה נְעימה	זֶה לא שיר נעים
26	מתבֶּרת גִדולה וִיפה	שֵׂיער ארוך וִיפֵה





Translation Exercise: תרגיל תיָרגוּם 1.40.3

Translate the following sentences from Hebr	ew to English. Indicater (m) or (f).
_	שֵם יפֶּה 🥼
	תלמיד טוב
	תלמידה טובה
	מילה חדשה
	שיר חדש
	כיתה נעימה
	תלמידות טובות תלמידים טובים
Translate the following sentences from Engli	sh to Hebrew.
A new book	/
A good class	
A small blackboard (whiteboard)	
A small blackboard (whiteboard)	
	AT THE END OF A WORD - 7 1.41
	antal" 7 At The End Of A Word - 1.41.1
Look carefully at these sentences:	
He is a tall student	הוּא סְטוּדֶנְט גבוהַ
She is a tall student	היא סְטוּדֶנְטית גְבוּהָה 🔍
There is a class	יש כיתה
There are classes	יש כיתות
• The ה at the end of אברה is different from th	ne ה in words like יפה or יפה . The
in גבוה is part of the root of the word. Th	ne \vec{n} does not disappear before the
addition of plural endings or the addition of a word גְבוֹהָה.	Π for the feminine form as you see in the
• Like the ה in the word לוֹחַ, this ה (see the l	ittle dot - מפיק – in it) at the end of a
-	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 גבוה /ga-vo-ha/. You must

pronounce it /ga-vo-ah/.