

2.3.1 תרגיל קריאה - "Stop The Music" Reading Practice:

The punctuation marks have been deliberately left out of the reading that follows, in order to force you to *think about the meaning*, as you read. Write in the necessary punctuation. Then listen to the audio, paying attention to pauses, etc. to check if you did it correctly (*The content of the paragraph is based on dialogue. 2.1.*)



דוד הוא סטודנט אמריקאי
הוא יודע קצת עברית אבל
הוא לא מדבר רינה אמרה
יופי כי היא רוצה ללמוד עם
דוד דוד אמר "למדתי לקרוא
עברית" הדוד של רינה לא גר
בתל-אביב הוא גר באמריקה
יחד עם דודה דבורה



2.3.2 נכון או לא נכון?

Here are some statements about your school/university. Indicate whether you feel they are correct or not. Even though there are unfamiliar words in some sentences, try to guess which response suits you.



1. כל הפרופסורים בקמפוס מצויינים ☐ נכון ☐ לא נכון
2. אין ספרים בסיפריה (library) ☐ נכון ☐ לא נכון
3. יש אוניברסיטאות יותר גדולות ☐ נכון ☐ לא נכון
4. מהאוניברסיטה שלי ("bigger than") ☐ נכון ☐ לא נכון
5. הקמפוס הזה יפה ☐ נכון ☐ לא נכון
6. באוניברסיטה כולם יודעים עברית ☐ נכון ☐ לא נכון
7. בכיתה שלי יש יותר סטודנטים מסטודנטיות ☐ נכון ☐ לא נכון
8. בכיתה יש פרופסור וגם פרופסורית ☐ נכון ☐ לא נכון

2.3.3 עבודה בקבוצות - Group Work



Working in small groups is an excellent way to get lots of practice in speaking and listening. As you work together, avoid using English. If you're not sure how to say something - Take risks... After all you're among friends! *It is to be expected that beginners will make some mistakes.* Please bring a printout of this exercise to class.

And when you forget whose turn it is. Be sure to ask: **שָׁל מִי הַתּוֹר?**

Read these statements aloud. Then declare either:

1. נכון, 2. לא נכון, 3. אני לא יודע, 4. אני לא יודעת



ירושלים לא צ'ר קטנה



1. פילדלפיה עיר גדולה. _____
2. דוד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל. _____
3. דפנה מִירוּשָׁלַיִם. _____
4. דוד למד אֶת הָאֱלֹף-בֵּית עִם רִינָה. _____
5. דוד כתב להורים. _____
6. רינה כתבה מיכתב. _____
7. רינה מדַבֶּרֶת עִבְרִית. _____
8. דוד שכח שְׁהוּא מֵאִמְרִיקָה. _____
9. דוד סְטוּדֵנֵט מְצוּיִן. _____
10. רינה מדַבֶּרֶת לָאֵט מְאוּד. _____
11. הָהוּרִים שֶׁל דוד גֵּרִים בְּטָקְסָאס. _____
12. דוד, דפנה, ורינה סְטוּדֵנְטִים בִּאוּנִיבֶרְסִיטָה. _____

Reading Hebrew is a skill that takes a lot of practice. You can speed your progress by using the audio that accompanies this textbook

Reading **aloud** is always a good idea.

Hint: Some of the /shva/ vowel symbols have been left out.



2.3.4 בְּבִקְשָׁה לַעֲנוּת עַל הַשְּׁאֵלוֹת – Answer the questions

These questions are based on dialogue §2.1.

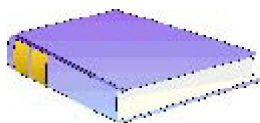


1. מַה לַמַּד דּוֹד? _____
2. הָאִם דּוֹד יוֹדֵעַ לְקַרֹּא עִבְרִית? _____
3. דּוֹד יוֹדֵעַ לְכַתּוֹב עִבְרִית? _____
4. הָאִם דּוֹד כָּתַב מִיָּתֵב? _____
5. אֵיפֹה הַהוֹרִים שֶׁל דּוֹד? _____
6. מִי בַּאֲמֵרִיקָה? _____
7. מִי פְּרוֹפֶסוֹר? _____
8. מִי אָדָם חֲשׁוֹב? _____
9. הָאִם רִינָה יוֹדַעַת אֶת הָאֶלֶף-בֵּית? _____
10. מִי כָתַב מִיָּתֵב לְאַבָּא וְאַמָּא? _____
11. אֵיפֹה יְרוּשָׁלַיִם? _____
12. לָמָּה דּוֹד לֹא יוֹדֵעַ עִבְרִית? _____



Listen to this audio to see if you answered correctly.

2.3.5 Asking Questions



There are a number of words that are used in the exercise above to start a question.

How many different words can you find?

מִי יוֹדֵעַ לְקַרֹּא?

Question number two uses the "written question mark" הָאִם .

As you can see from question three, it is not necessary to use הָאִם and it is usually omitted in conversation.

Question number twelve starts with לָמָּה (why). The answer can often begin with the word כִּי - "because". For example:

שְׁמוּאֵל לֹא כָתַב בַּמַּחְבֵּרֶת כִּי הוּא לֹא יוֹדֵעַ לְכַתּוֹב בְּעִבְרִית. (to write)

כִּי הוּא לֹא יוֹדֵעַ לְכַתּוֹב בְּעִבְרִית. or you can start with the answer when replying:

Shmuel didn't write in the notebook because he doesn't know how to write in Hebrew.

2.4 דיקדוק - ה and וְגִשִּׁים

Reminder about וְגִשִּׁים and about ה at the end of a word.

1. The letters פ כ ב are read as /b/ /k/ /p/ when they appear at the beginning of a word **as though** they were written with a וְגִשִּׁים. In a fully pointed text you will actually see the וְגִשִּׁים in these letters but usually the dots are omitted.
2. The letter ה is pronounced /h/ at the beginning and in the middle of a word but **not** at the end of a word. At the end of the word the ה only indicates a vowel sound (usually /ah/, sometimes /eh/). In these cases, the ה is not pronounced.

2.4.1 תרגיל קריאה - Listen and Follow Along Silently

Read this exercise together in class and then repeat it as homework. Listen to the audio or your instructor and respond to the prompts:

This exercise provides practice in training your eye to follow as you hear Hebrew sounded. You are not expected to understand the meaning of all of these words. Train your eye to follow as the words are read. Note the use of *yood*, *vahv*, and *final heh* to indicate vowels.



בבקשה להסתכל


סוס, סוסה, הסוס, פיל, פילה,
כיתה, יום, ים, הים התיכון, דן,
חם, חמה, עבודה, על, סימן,
קטן, קטנה, גדול, גדולה,
מיכתב, כתב, כתבת, סוף, מול,
אולי, שלי, שלך, תורה, הורים



2.4.2 תרגיל קריאה - Practice Reading

Look carefully as you proceed! When the audio “dings” read the first sentence aloud, then listen to it being read. After the next “ding” read the next sentence aloud and then listen to it being read. Continue until done.



1. דן שכח את המילה.
2. הדודה של רינה גרה בתל-אביב.
3. היא מדבבת מהר מאוד והוא לא יודע עברית.
4. הכיתה גדולה מדי ואין לוח בכיתה 

2.5 הניקוד - THE COMPLETE SET OF VOWEL MARKS

Modern Hebrew is usually written without vowel marks (ניקוד). See §1.3

2.5.1 Hebrew Spelling - איית בעברית

You will encounter Hebrew words outside this book that are spelled differently from the spelling rules followed here. Modern Hebrew spelling is in a transitional phase moving away from a style that was closer to "biblical" spelling. It has not yet stabilized completely. This textbook is more consistent in its use of the *yood* and *vahv* as vowel letters, than some of the more conservative Israeli writers. It is still common to find Israelis who adhere to a spelling style that is closer to the spelling used in a fully pointed, i.e. fully vowel-marked text. They refrain from writing a *yood* or *vahv* in places where we have chosen to employ these newer spelling strategies

Nevertheless, you will find that in this textbook, we too, have occasionally chosen to maintain a conservative spelling. For example in the short words "if" אם and "with" עם, personal names and the word עברית.

2.5.2 הניקוד - Vowel marks and vowel sounds



As you have learned, Hebrew has five vowel sounds: /ah/ /eh/ /ih/ /oh/ /oo/. However, there are more than five symbols to represent these vowel sounds.

As the chart below shows, there are a number of different symbols which today represent the same vowel sound. The reasons for this situation are historical and need not be discussed here. For now, you only need to know that the different vowel symbols listed in each row of the chart are pronounced alike.

The alef is not a silent letter. It is used to represent a vowel. When written with nikkud the alef /c/ has the sound of the nikkud (vowel) symbol associated with it.



* In a closed, unaccented syllable this symbol is pronounced /oh/.

Vowel Sound		Hebrew Symbols		
/ah/	=	אָ	אֱ	אִ
/eh/	=	עֵ	עֶ	עִ
/ih/ee/	=		יֵ	יִ
/oh/	=	* אֹ	* אֱ	אוֹ
/oo/	=			אוּ
(Example: when the shva is pronounced.) /beh/	=			בֶּ

For the *names* of the vowel symbols, see Appendix D.



2.5.3 The *shva*: The Symbol for "No Vowel" - שְׁוָא

The shvah is used in two ways:

- 1) To indicate a *cluster* of consonants: two consecutive consonants (in the same syllable) with no vowel between them.

utensil	/klee/	כְּלִי
merely	/stahm/	סְתֵם
cypress	/brohsh/	בְּרוֹשׁ

Without the שְׁוָא in the last word, you might have read it /bah-rohsh/ (inserting a vowel between the ב and the ר).

When the sequence of sounds in the cluster make it difficult or impossible to not pronounce a vowel between the consonants, then the shva is pronounced like /eh/. For example: רְכוּשׁ /reh-xush/ "possessions" or כְּגוֹן /keh-gohn/ "for example".

- 2) To mark a closed syllable: מְלָכוֹ /mahl-koh/ **not** /mah-lah/xoh/

Note: The final ך can also have vowel marks: ךֶּ or ךֵּ. Note that here the vowel marks are not below the letter. מֶה שָׂמַךְ מֵה שָׂמַךְ

2.5.4 Building Vocabulary - אוצר מילים



Use with Software Chapter 2:5 "Vocabulary for Speaking and Writing"

Name the Pictured Objects. Pay special attention to your vowel pronunciation.

סֵפֶר מִיכְתָּב בְּקָבוֹק כֶּסֶף
עִיפָרוֹן מַחְבֶּרֶת שִׁיר עֵט

