

Vocabulary



ENGLISH ROMANIZATION



תודה Todah THANKS1 EXAMPLE ▲

תודה על המתנה!

Todah al ha-matanah!

Than korhe 



מה Ma WHAT 4 EXAMPLES ▲

על מה אתה מדבר?

al ma ata medaber?

WHAT are you TALKING ABOUT?

מה אתה שותה?

Mah atah shoteh?

WHAT are you DRINKING? (MALE LISTENER)

מה אתה עושה?

Mah atah oseh?

WHAT are you DOING? (MALE LISTENER)

מה אתה רוצה לשתות?

ma ata rotzeh li-SHTOT?

WHAT do you WANT TO DRINK? (male listener)

☐ שָׁלוֹם *shalom* *HELLO, GOODBYE or PEACE* 2 EXAMPLES ▲

מתִּי יִהְיֶה שָׁלוֹם?

Mata'i yi'yeh shalom?

When will there be peace?

שָׁלוֹם לְכָל הַיְלָדִים!

Shalom le-kal ha-yeladim!

Hello to all the children!

☐ שְׁלוֹמְךָ *shlom'cha* *your peace or your condition*

☐ בְּסֹדֵר *beseder* *fine or in order* 1 EXAMPLE ▲

הַמְּבַחֵן הָיָה בְּסֹדֵר.

Ha-miv'lan hayah be-seder.

The test was fine.

Grammar

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking "How are you?" in Hebrew.

מָה שְׁלוֹמְךָ?

Mah shlom'cha?

"How are you?"

THIS PHRASE IS THE MOST BASIC AND FORMAL WAY TO ASK SOMEONE HOW THEY ARE, BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO USE IT ONLY IN FORMAL SITUATIONS. YOU CAN USE THIS PHRASE WITH YOUR FAMILY,

Using This Phrase for All Genders and Numbers

מָה שְׁלוֹמְךָ/מָה שְׁלוֹמְךָ/מָה שְׁלוֹמְכֶם/מָה שְׁלוֹמְכֶן. Hebrew often divides people into four main groups in dialogue: masculine singular, feminine singular, masculine plural, and feminine plural. In this phrase, you have מה or "what" followed by שלום- , meaning "peace," followed by a possessive ending. You are literally saying "What's your peace?" or "what's your condition?" What you are really saying is "How are you?" You put the appropriate ending on the last word according to who you are talking to. Here is the breakdown:

"YOUR" SUFFIX	SUFFIX IN HEBREW	TRANSLITERATION
Masculine singular	ךָ	-cha
Feminine singular	ךְ	-ech
Masculine plural	כֶּם	-chem
Feminine plural	כֶּן	-chen

You will see these endings repeated in other words and phrases as you learn more Hebrew. The feminine plural is seldom used in Israel anymore. Most often, Israelis opt to use the masculine plural for any group of people, whether male or female. The reason for this is that using the feminine plural is a very specific case where you have only women. If there is one man present, you must use the masculine plural.

Here are some examples with these second person possessive endings using the word for "uncle," דוד.

For Example:

GENDER	HEBREW	TRANSLITERATION	"ENGLISH"
Masculine	דוֹדְךָ	Dod'kha	"your (singular) uncle"
FEMININE	דוֹדְךָ	Dodekh	"your (singular) uncle"
Masculine	דוֹדְכֶם	Dod'khem	"your (plural) uncle"
FEMININE	דוֹדְכֶן	Dod'khen	"your (plural) uncle"

And now let's look at the breakdown with the example from our dialogue. In the dialogue, we heard "How are you?" in the masculine singular, because the speaker was speaking to a man. You need to change the ending of *shlom-* depending on who you are talking to. Here is the list of possibilities in the second person "you."

GENDER	HEBREW	TRANSLITERATION	"ENGLISH"
Masculine	מה שלומך?	Mah shlom'kha?	"How are you?" מה שלומך?
FEMININE	מה שלומך?	Mah shlomekh?	"How are you?" מה שלומך?
Masculine	מה שלומכם?	Mah shlom'chem?	"How are you?" (PLURAL)
FEMININE	מה	Mah shlom'chen?	"How are you?" (PLURAL)

שלוּמֵךְ?

Cultural Insights

What to Expect on the Job in Israel

THE WORK CULTURE IN Israel is DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CULTURES YOU MAY BE FAMILIAR WITH. WORK IS RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED IN Israel, WHICH MEANS THAT HAVING A WARM, OPEN, AND FRIENDLY WORKPLACE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EFFICIENCY OR STRICT DEADLINES. SINCE THE WORKPLACE IS SUCH AN OPEN PLACE, FRIENDSHIPS IN THE WORKPLACE ARE COMMON. UNLIKE OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE WORK AND PERSONAL LIFE ARE SEPARATE, IN Israel THE TWO OFTEN OVERLAP. COLLEAGUES WILL MEET TOGETHER DURING THEIR WORK BREAKS AND TALK ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL LIVES. WORK RELATIONSHIPS FREQUENTLY EXTEND TO LIFE OUTSIDE OF THE WORKPLACE AS WELL, WITH COLLEAGUES MEETING FOR DINNER OR DRINKS AFTER WORK. DISCUSSIONS ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL LIFE IN THE WORKPLACE MAY BE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR SOME, BUT FOR ISRAELIS IT'S NORMAL. CONVERSATIONS MAY EVEN EXTEND TO HOW MUCH RENT YOU PAY OR HOW MUCH DEBT YOU OWE TO THE BANK. THIS OPEN AND BLUNT ATMOSPHERE MAY BE NEW FOR YOU, BUT IF YOU TAKE THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW YOUR CO-WORKERS, THEY WILL APPRECIATE IT.

Vocabulary

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ENGLISH ROMANIZATION



נעים na'imnice, pleasant (MASC.)1 EXAMPLE ▲

Kor'im lo David.

His NAME is David



מאוד *me'od* very1 EXAMPLE ▲

היום מאוד חם.

hayom meod kham.

Today is very hot.



אני *ani*3 EXAMPLES ▲

אני מאמריקה.

Ani me'america.

I am from America.

אני ישן.

ani yashen.

I'm sleeping (male speaker)

אני אוהב אותך.

ani ohev otakh.

I love you (male speaker)

The Focus of This Lesson Is Introducing Yourself in Hebrew.

קוראים לי...

קוראים לי...

Kor'im li...

"I'm called..."

היא זה הנאמר רד
 yourself in Hebrew. You use this phrase the first time you meet someone or if someone forgets your name and need to remind him or her what it is.

We use this exact phrase for both masculine and feminine speakers without a change in the verb. The reason it doesn't change with the gender is the speaker uses a special "impersonal" sentence that doesn't require a subject. When sentences do not have a subject in Hebrew, we state the verb in the masculine plural form. Although the meaning of this phrase is "I'm called...", the literal translation is "(they) call me..." In Hebrew, when you want to talk about something that people do in general or always, you use the masculine plural form of the verb, and you use the subject "they." The literal meaning of this phrase would be "one calls me..." or the passive phrase "I am called..." Kor'im li or "to me" and then your name.

Example from the Dialogue

- קוראים לי טל.
קוראים לי טל.

Kor'im li Tal.

"I'M called Tal."

Sample Sentences

1. קוראים לי רוטם.

קוראים לי רוטם.

Kor'im li Rotem.

"I'M called ROTEM."

2. קוראים לי מותק.

קוראים לי מותק.

Kor'im li motek.

"I'M called sweetheart."

Other Examples of How to Use Impersonal Sentences

Let's go further with this concept of impersonal sentences with some examples. Remember that when you use this sentence structure, you are talking about something that people do.

1. קונים הרבה חומוס בישראל.

קונים הרבה חומוס בישראל.

Konim har'beh humus be-yis'ra'el.

2. ("People" or "they") *Chayavim la-lekhet le-be'it sefer.*

חייבים ללכת לבית ספר.

חייבים ללכת לבית ספר.

Chayavim la-lekhet le-be'it sefer.

"(One) MUST GO TO school."

3. יודעים לדבר באנגלית.

יודעים לדבר באנגלית.

Yod'im le-daber be-anglit.

4. "(They) KNOW TO SPEAK IN ENGLISH."

Israelis are very open and friendly people in general. However, they do have their rougher side, which is why Israelis are often compared to a "prickly pear," or *sabra*. The term *sabra* has come to describe someone who was born and raised in Israel. The *sabra* plant is a cactus that is common in Israel with thick skin and a soft, sweet inside. It has come to be an appropriate description of native Israelis who are definitely tough on the outside but much softer on the inside. When you are out on the streets in Israel, it may seem like Israelis are irritable and loud. They definitely stand up for themselves and are not afraid to go after real ~~hate~~ hate. It is true that on a personal level, they are very open, friendly, and even

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ENGLISH Romanization

הנה hineh here, here is 2 EXAMPLES ▲

הנה המידע מהפגישה.

HINEH ha-me'ida me-ha-p'gishah.

Here is the information from the meeting.

הנה התיק שלך. (feminine)

HINEH ha-tik shelakh.

Here is your bag. (feminine)

מתנה *matanah* present² EXAMPLES ▲

זו מתנה נפלאה.

Zo matanah niFla'ah.

This is a wonderful present.

תודה על המתנה!

Todah al ha-matanah!

Thanks for the gift!

קטנה *k'tanah* small¹ EXAMPLE ▲

היא חתולה קטנה.

Hi hatulah k'tanah.

She's a small cat.

ממני *mimeni* from me¹ EXAMPLE ▲

זה משהו קטן ממני.

Zeh mashehu katan mimeni.

It's something small from me.

רבה *rabah* many¹ EXAMPLE ▲

Barukh ha-ba la-bayit sheli.

Welcome to my house.

בבקשה be-vakashah re ele 1 EXAMPLE ▲

בבקשה.

be-vakasha.

You're welcome.

Lesson Notes

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Grammar

The Focus of This Lesson Is Showing Appreciation in Hebrew.

תודה רבה.

תּוֹדָה רַבָּהּ.

Todah rabah.

"Many thanks."

You will hear and use this phrase a lot in Hebrew. It means "many thanks." In this phrase, you have a noun, *todah*, and an adjective, *rabah*. In Hebrew, there must be agreement between a noun and an adjective in a sentence. Nouns come in four forms: singular masculine, singular feminine, plural masculine, and plural feminine. For example, the word "house" is *bayit* (singular masculine), *beit* (singular feminine), *bayot* (plural masculine), and *beivot* (plural feminine). The word "house" is a noun and it is in the singular masculine form.

adjective **רַב** is *you must first find in Hebrew* **רַב** *your* **רַבִּים** *types of noun your noun is*. In the case of the phrase *today rabah*, the *noun* is feminine. This means that the adjective, *rabah*, is also feminine. Here is our chart for this adjective again:

	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
Masculine	רַב	רַב	rav	רַבִּים	רַבִּים	rabim
Feminine	רַבָּה	רַבָּה	rabah	רַבּוֹת	רַבּוֹת	rabot

Here are examples of the adjective **רַב** with four different types of nouns:

a. *Maline* **רַב** *scu*

כאב רב

כְּאֵב רַב

Ke'ev rav

"*h pain*"

b. *Feminine singular:*

אהבה רבה

אַהֲבָה רַבָּה

Ahavah rabah

"*h le*"

c. *Masculine plural:*