

To the student

To get the most out of your textbook, why not take a moment to learn how it works? Visit www.LearningBiblicalHebrewInteractively.com for integrated multimedia resources. Learn expressions as you hear them pronounced for you.



A secret to language learning. To learn a language, look for ways to actually **communicate** with it, whether to express your opinion, to accomplish tasks, or to ask others to do something. Your textbook has been designed to provide a hands-on, interactive learning experience. Don't be afraid of making mistakes. We all do. As you use the language to communicate even simple messages, you will **internalize** it and thereby will become a much better **reader** of Hebrew—our ultimate goal.

How it is organized (units, modules, segments). The book is divided into “units.” Each unit is broken up into “modules.” And modules are subdivided into “segments.” Thus the shorthand “§1.1.א.” would refer to Unit 1, Module 1, and Segment א (*alef*, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet).

JONAH STORY. Successive episodes of a tale (inspired by the biblical account of Jonah) will show how target vocabulary and expressions may combine to tell a story. Let the story with its illustrations help you learn what words mean and how to use them. Before reading each new episode, you first will want (a) to learn its vocabulary, (b) to study the explanations, and (c) engage the activities that support that episode. Then return to read the story.



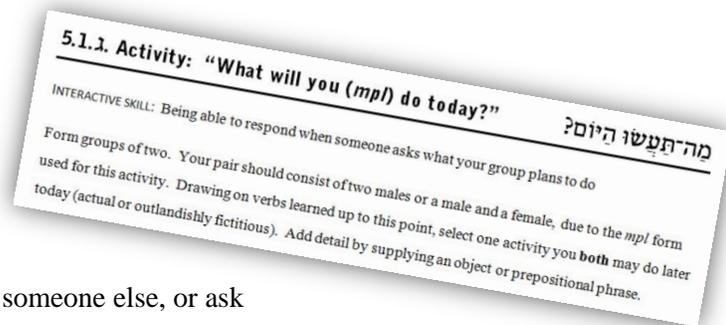
Words for responding

מלים לטעות

New vocabulary appears at the front of each Jonah episode, clustered in two groups. Learn the first group—“Words for responding”—so well that you can speak or write them at will. As for the second group (“Words for hearing”) learn them thoroughly enough that you can recognize these words when you hear them spoken or see them in writing.

Explanations and activities.

Principles of grammar unfold under the heading “Explanation.” These in turn lead to “Activities” where, with the help of a new language skill, you will express yourself, obtain something from someone else, or ask someone to do perform a task—all in Hebrew! Activities let you **communicate** in Hebrew.



Did you know that...?

הִדְעַתָּ פִּי...?

Under the heading “Did you know that...,” you will find brief articles highlighting some aspect of **culture** in the Ancient Near East. Often accompanied by illustrations, these articles range from customs of birth or death to topics such as pottery, travel, architecture, or warfare.

You can read the Bible.

אַתָּה תִּקְרָא אֶת־הַתּוֹרָה:

You will end each unit by reading from a collection of excerpts taken from the Hebrew Bible. Each selection is keyed to the module or segment that prepares you to read it. In addition to isolated excerpts (called “Selected readings”) you will find longer “Connected readings” that extend over several units (Genesis 22 and Psalm 23).

