

שילובים מערביים



LEARN HEBREW CONVERSATION THROUGH A MODERN ISRAEL CONNECTION

Michelle Geft

מיכל גפט

שָׁלוֹם יִשְׂרָאֵל

מִיִּכָּל גִּפְט

Shalom Israel

Learn Hebrew Conversation through a Modern Israel Connection

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Use this QR code to be connected to the web page that will have all the links to conversations and further research for this book. Bookmark this page for use throughout this book.



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שיחה אחת

השפה

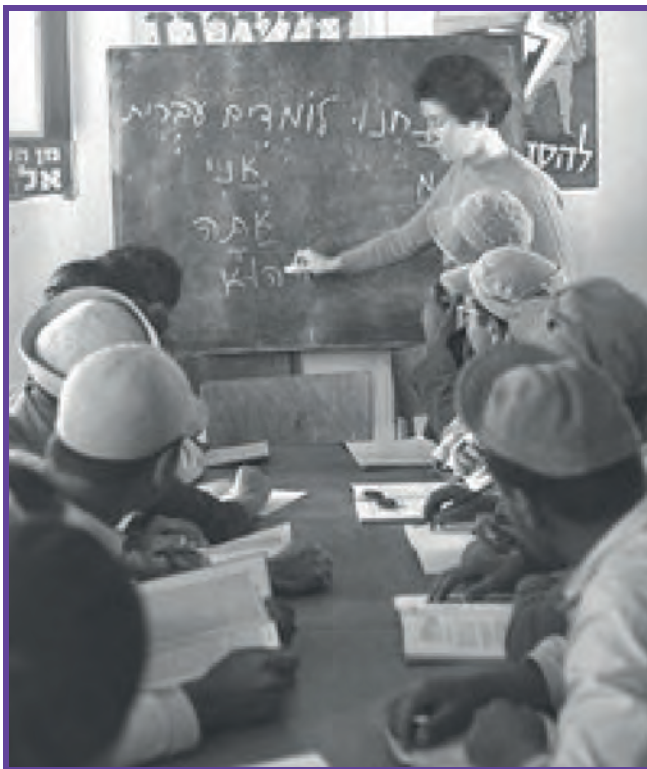
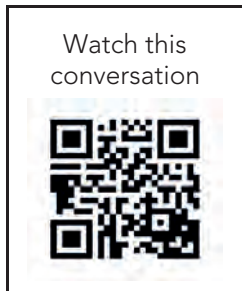
אלי: שלום¹, אני² אלי. אני ילד³.

רחל: שלום, אני רחל. אני ילדה⁴. ומי^{5/6} את?⁷

לאה: אני לאה. מי אתה?⁸

דניאל: אני דניאל.

אלי, רחל, לאה, דניאל: וזאת⁹ השפה^{10/11} העברית¹²



Students learning Hebrew in Ulpan, 1955
Photo Credit: Moshe Pridan, 1955. Wikipedia Commons

מלון

1. שלום - hello, goodbye, peace
2. אני - I (am)
3. ילד - boy
4. ילדה - girl
5. ו... / ו...* - and
6. מי - who (is/are)
7. את - you (f.s.)
8. אתה - you (m.s.)
9. זאת / זה - this / that (f.s.)
10. ה... / ה...* - the
11. שפה - language
12. עברית - Hebrew

*The words "and" & "the" are represented in Hebrew by adding one letter in front of a word. These words in Hebrew are not stand alone words. You will see more examples of this in upcoming conversations.

Conversation One

The Language



When Eliezer Ben Yehuda was a young boy, his father read to him in Hebrew and he developed a love for the language. At the time, Hebrew was only used in prayers, literature and for studying the Jewish scriptures. As Eliezer became educated, he decided that Hebrew should be the spoken language of the Jewish people. Many people opposed his idea but he believed in it. He worked many years to create a new Hebrew dictionary. To create the dictionary, he used words from the *Tanah* (scriptures), and other Hebrew literature. He

also created new words for objects and ideas that were modern. He spoke only in Hebrew to his family and also wrote a Hebrew newspaper. Eliezer Ben Yehuda was a key figure in the revival of Hebrew into a modern language.

Now, Hebrew is one of the national languages of Israel. Throughout history, Jews would adapt Hebrew from the *Torah* to the languages spoken in the environment in which they lived. For example Yiddish is a combination of Hebrew and German and Ladino is a combination of Hebrew and Spanish. Jews now have a common language among the entire nation, worldwide, in gratitude mostly to Eliezer Ben Yehuda.

Info and video
about Ben Yehuda



Photo Credit: Shlomo Narinsky, first published 1918 in Jerusalem.

Hebrew song
about Ben Yehuda



שיחה אחת

השפה

Match the phrases:

I (am) a girl	שלום
hello/ goodbye/	את ילדה
peace you (are) a boy	אני ילד
who are you (m.s.)	אני ילדה
you (are) a girl	אתה ילד
I (am) a boy	מי אתה

Write these words in handwriting:

(You don't have to write the vowels. See below for help.)

1. שלום _____
2. אני ילדה _____
3. אני ילד _____
4. זאת עברית _____
5. מי את? _____

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ פ צ ק ר ש ת
א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ פ צ ק ר ש ת

Conversation One

The Language

Match the picture to the word:



1. עֵבְרִית



2. יְלָדָה



3. יְלָד

א ב ג

4. שָׁלוֹם

Write these phrases in Hebrew:

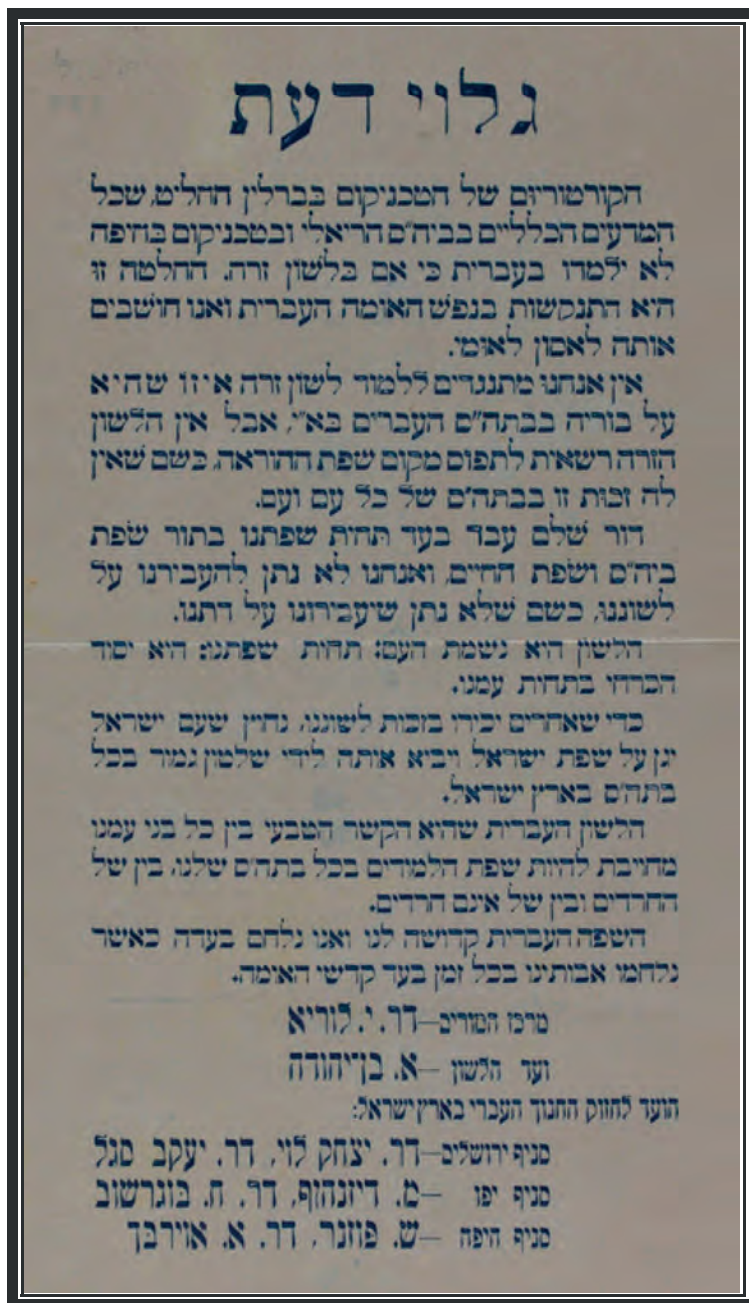
1. Hello, I (am a) boy. _____
2. Who (are) you (f.s.)? _____
3. This (is) the Hebrew language. _____
4. You (are a) girl. _____
5. Peace. _____

Hebrew
Quiz:



שיחה אַחת השָׁפָה

In the Yishuv (the Jewish, settled land before 1948), there was a debate about what the official language of the schools and the universities should be. Many argued it should be Hebrew because they were trying to build a national language for the Jewish people. However, the academic committee of the time thought the language of general studies should be German because German was the language of the academia and sciences of the time. Eliezer Ben Yehuda took a big part in the debate arguing that Hebrew should, of course, be the language that all education in Israel should be taught in. This event is referred to as "The Language War (of 1913)," מְלַחַמַת הַשְּׂפוּת.



This poster was created and disseminated to promote the use of Hebrew in the Yishuv.

You can find the translation of this poster on the next page.

Can you find Ben Yehuda's name?



Conversation One

The Language

Discussion:

What language do you think the schools in Israel should have been teaching in?
Do you think the same for today? Why?

Note: Some of the Ultra Orthodox of the time were opposed to using Hebrew as a modern language because they believed (and some still believe) that Hebrew is a holy language to be used only for *Torah*, *t'filla*, and Jewish Scriptures.

Here is the translation of the Hebrew poster on the page to your right:

OPINION PIECE

The board of governors of the Technikum in Berlin decided that all of the general science subjects in the Reali School in the Technikum in Haifa should not be taught in Hebrew but rather in a foreign language. This decision is an attack on the soul of the Hebrew nation and we see it as a national disaster.

We have no objection to the teaching of any foreign language in the Hebrew schools in the land of Israel, but the foreign language may not take the place of the language of instruction, as would be the case in other nations.

An entire generation worked for the revival of our language as the language of instruction and of everyday life. And we will not agree to giving up our language, just as we would not agree to give up on our religion.

Language is the soul of a nation: The revival of our language is the source of our nation's existence and a necessary foundation for the revival of our nation.

In order for others to recognize the legitimacy of our language, it is essential for the people of Israel to defend the language of Israel and have it be the authoritative language of the schools in all of the land of Israel.

The language of Israel is the natural connection between all the people of our nation. It is imperative to be the language of studies in all of our schools, in the orthodox and in the non-orthodox schools.

The Hebrew language is holy to us and we will fight for it as our forefathers fought throughout history for all things holy of our nation.

Chairman of teachers: Dr. Luria

Committee of Languages: E. Ben-Yehuda

Committee of Hebrew education in the land of Israel:

Branch of Yerushalayim: Dr. Yitzhak Levi, Dr. Yaacov Sigal.

Branch of Jaffa: Mr. Dizenhoff, Dr. H. Bugreshoff

Branch of Haifa: Sh. Pozner, Dr. A. Ayerbach

Photo on opposite page and this translation is from The National Library of Israel web site.

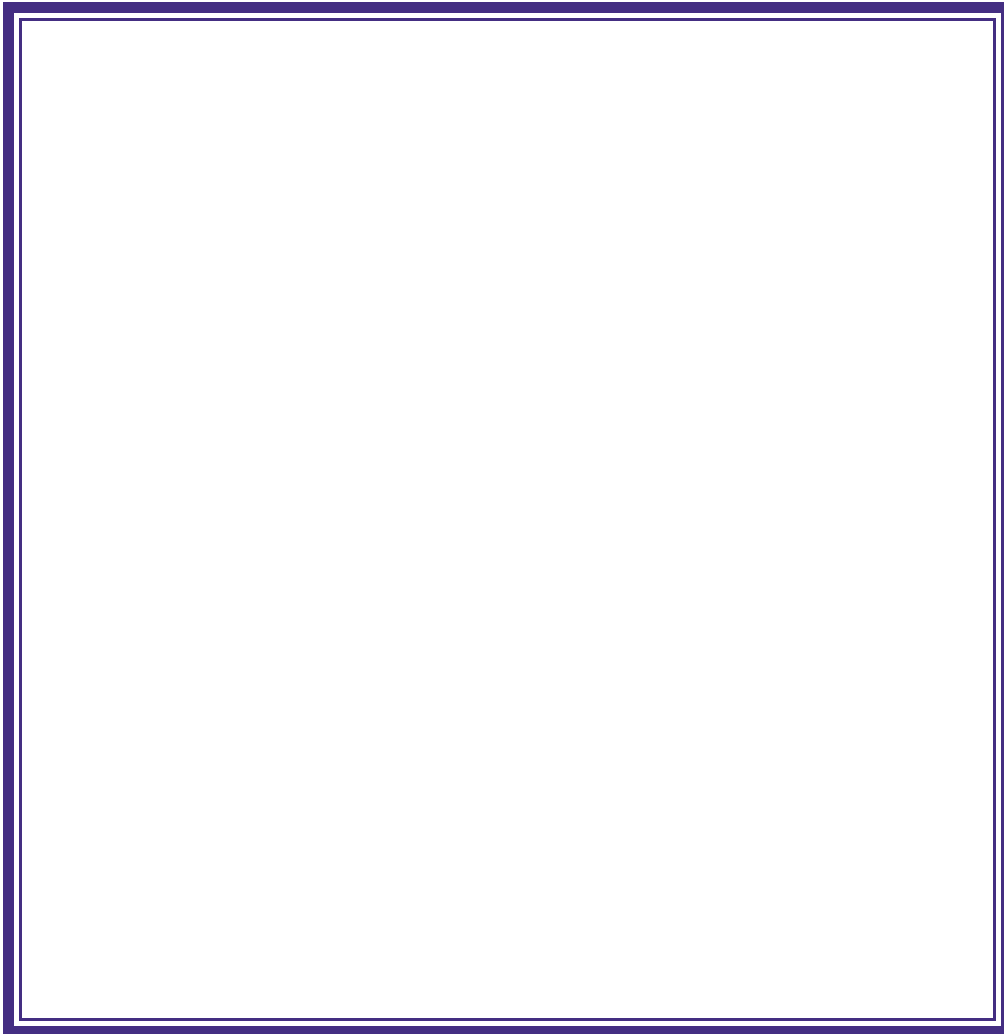
שיחה אֶחָת הַשָּׁפָה

Art Project:

Try to find an Israeli newspaper or magazine. Look through it to find the words we learned in this conversation. Cut the words out and paste them below.

If you can't find the words, cut out letters to make the words.

Use your imagination to make a collage or a picture.



Use your imagination:

Eliezer Ben Yehuda had to make up words in Hebrew for modern culture.

Using Hebrew and English as your base:

Can you make up a word in Hebrew? _____

What does your word mean? _____

What is your rationale? _____

Include your new word in your art piece above.

Conversation One

The Language

Who do you think this street is named after?



All the street signs in Israel are written in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

Discussion:

Why do you think the street signs are written in these three languages?