

הקשר היהודי שלך Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – By Linda S Trapasso

You Say “Shabbos” and I Say “Shabbat”

If you’re like me, you think about learning more Hebrew. I learn a word here and there, but it’s not consistent. And there are some words used around TBA that I’m still not sure what they mean. I can read and speak the Hebrew prayers, but I have little understanding of what I’m saying. And don’t even ask about conversing in Hebrew, even though Ruth Harris tried to teach modern Hebrew to my adult B’nai Mitzvah class several years ago.

There are many things you can learn on the Internet. Hebrew is one of them. We’ll take a look at learning more Hebrew using the Internet and why you say “Shabbos” and I say “Shabbat”.



There are two versions of Hebrew: biblical; classical, used in the Talmud and prayers; and modern, spoken in Israel today. Most of the Hebrew learning on the Internet is focused on modern Hebrew. Online trope and prayer studies, of course, use classical Hebrew. There are two pronunciations – Sephardic, used in Israel for modern Hebrew, and Ashkenazic.

One of our favorite sites, [My Jewish Learning](#), offers some historical information on the Hebrew language, as well as basic alphabet and vowel information. Be sure to check out the article on [Sephardic and Ashkenazic Hebrew](#). Then let me know if you figured out why you say “shabbos” and I say “shabbat”.

Go to the Nefesh B’Nefesh site, specifically its [Ulpan and Hebrew Learning Resources Online page](#). This page is very comprehensive, covering ulpan in and outside Israel, podcasts, software for learning Hebrew, sites to help you learn the alphabet and basics, sites for building vocabulary, and more.



Another comprehensive site is [Best Hebrew Sites](#). Scroll about a third to halfway down this long page – it is chock full of links to learning sites, podcasts, audio tutorials, and more. This site is run by a former Hebrew language teacher.

Also look at [Learn Hebrew Pod](#), where you can find free lessons on vocabulary, grammar, and reading skills. This site takes advantage of technology, offering interactivity, video, and more. Scroll about halfway down the page to determine what level you are.

Scroll further and you can sign up for a newsletter. Note that additional lessons require site membership for a fee (scroll to the bottom and click on Pricing & Signup on the left).

[Learn Hebrew Phrases with Audio](#) has “...54 topics with 1,211 Hebrew phrases and sentences. In addition to the online audio flash, the site includes 152 printable study sheets” according to Jacob Richman, site owner. Lesson items are in Hebrew, transliteration, and English.



For quick lists of words and phrases, head over to The Jewish Federations of North America’s list of [Hebrew Phrases](#). Also look at Omniglot, which has a page of [Useful Hebrew Phrases](#) showing the Hebrew spelling and transliteration.

So take some time and figure out what’s the best way to pick up some Hebrew knowledge. Whether you’re a beginner or advanced, there is something for everyone!