

USER'S GUIDE

The goal of this innovative bilingual dictionary is to serve you, the user, as a useful and efficient tool. We suggest that you read this short introduction carefully in order to take full advantage of all the dictionary has to offer.

Arrangement of entries

Main entries appear in strict alphabetical order, both in English and in Hebrew. In Hebrew, the full standard orthography has been employed, followed, where relevant, by the shorter spelling without vowels:

ניסיון, נְסִיוֹן [ז] דוגמה, דְּגֻמָּה [נ]

For the sake of simplicity, when the Hebrew entry consists of two or more words, only the full standard orthography is given:

מיוזג אָוִיר [ז]

In such cases, however, the individual entries for each word appear in the two spelling formats, as explained above:

מיוזג, מִזְוָג [ז] אוויר, אָוִיר [ז]

Hebrew verbs all appear in the infinitive under the letter 'ל'. This method is meant to facilitate search for those whose knowledge of Hebrew grammar is limited and would have difficulty in identifying the verb root.

לפעול, לַפְעוּל לְנִסּוֹת

In English, the verbs appear in alphabetical order, with the "to" of the infinitive form in parentheses.

(to) listen (to) teach

Entries that are conceptually related to the main entry or phrases containing the main entry appear under the main entry, preceded by a hyphen.

In the English-Hebrew section:

fact *uvdâ* עובדה, עֲבֻדָּה [נ]
- **in fact** *le'ma'asê* לְמַעֲשֵׂה
- **matter-of-fact** *inyanî* ענייני, עֲנִינֵי [ת-]

and in the Hebrew-English section:

thing דָּבָר [ז] תִּינֵג
never mind - אִין דָּבָר נְבַר מִינְד
something - דָּבָר-מָה סוּמְתִינֵג
you're welcome - עַל לֹא דָּבָר יוֹר וְוֹלְקוּם

Parts of speech

When a main entry functions as more than one part of speech, each such part is given a separate entry and is followed by a key specifying the function. Thus, (n) refers to noun, (adj) – to adjective, (v) – to verb, (adv) – to adverb, and (prep) – to preposition. These marks appear in print exclusively in the English section, but of course affect the Hebrew translation.

safe (n) *kasêfet* [נ] כְּסָפֶת [נ]
↳ (adj) *batû'ax* [בטוח] בְּטוּחַ [בטוחה]

relative (n) *ke'rov mishpaxâ* [ת] קְרוֹב מִשְׁפָּחָה [ת]
↳ (adj) *yaxasî* [ת] יַחֲסִי [ת]

rash (n) *pe'rixâ* [נ] פְּרִיחָה [נ]
↳ (adj) *paziz* [ת] פְּזִיז [ת]

For words ending in “-ing” the part of speech is always indicated.

Order in parts of speech:

When the same word serves as more than one part of speech, the entries are listed in the following order: noun * preposition * adjective * adverb * verb.

Each entry is marked with the part of speech in parenthesis:

square (n) (plaza) *kikâr* [נ] כִּכָּר, כְּפָר [נ]
↳ (geometrical shape) *ribû'a* [ז] רִבּוּעַ, רִבּוּעַ [ז]
↳ (adj) (square-shaped) *me'rubâ* [ת] מְרֻבָּע [מְרֻבָּעַת]
↳ (☺ = conservative) *me'rubâ* (שמרני = ☺) [ת] מְרֻבָּע [מְרֻבָּעַת]
↳ (adv) *yashâr* [ת] יָשָׁר [יְשָׁרָה]
(to) **square** (power of two) *le'rabê'a* לְרַבֵּעַ

Grammatical gender

The gender of common nouns in Hebrew is indicated after the entry by [ז] for masculine singular; [נ] for feminine singular; [ז"ר] for masculine plural; and [נ"ר] for feminine plural.

The feminine gender is formed in Hebrew in several ways:

When the feminine is made up of the masculine + the ‘ת-‘ suffix, the dictionary gives the tilde (~) + suffix:

(the feminine form will be: בִּינ-לְאוּמִית [ת]) בִּינ-לְאוּמִי [ת]
(the feminine form will be: צַעֲקָנִית [ת]) צַעֲקָנִי [ת]

When the feminine requires that extra letters/sounds be added to the masculine, the dictionary gives the tilde + the extra letter/sound + suffix:

(the feminine form will be: דּוּגְמִנִית, דּוּגְמִנִי [ת]) דּוּגְמִן [ת]
(the feminine form will be: טוֹבָה [ת]) טוֹב [ת]

When the feminine includes variations on the masculine, the dictionary gives the feminine form in full:

מאוחר, מאַחַר [מְאוֹחֶרֶת]	צֵעִיר [צְעִירָה]
צוֹעֵנִי [צוֹעֵנִיָּה]	חוֹטֵף [חוֹטֵפֶת]
דוב, דֹּב [דֹּבָה]	אָדוּם, אֲדוּמָה [אֲדוּמָה]

Since numbers are distinguished by gender in Hebrew, they are followed in this dictionary by [+], or [+נ], [+ז] or [+נ"ר], to emphasize that ensuing nouns must agree with them in gender and number.

Contextual clues

Many dictionaries list numerous synonyms for each entry, which complicates understanding. This dictionary makes a special effort to aid in comprehension by providing contextual clues in cases where a word can have different meanings depending on its context. These clues are indicated in parentheses after the main entry.

organ (body part) eivâr	אֵיבָר [ז]
↳ (musical instrument) ugâv	עוּגָב [ז]
stream nâxal	נַחַל [ז]
↳ (flow) zêrem	זָרָם [ז]
↳ (of studies) me'gamâ	מְגַמָּה [נ]

For some entries, the parentheses can indicate both contextual clues and parts of speech:

present (n) (gift) matanâ	מַתָּנָה [נ]
↳ (tense) hovê	הוֹוֵה [ז]
↳ (adj) (current) noxe'xî	נוֹכְחִי [-ת]

If the word has several secondary meanings, the terms are grouped under appropriate contextual definitions.

(to) take (to seize) lakâxat	לָקַחַת
↳ (to embrace) litpôs	לְתַפֵּס, לְתַפֵּס
- to take back lakâxat baxazarâ	לָקַחַת בְּחֶזֶק
- to take off (to remove) le'horîd	לְהוֹרִיד
↳ (airplane) le'hamrî	לְהַמְרִיא

NOTE! In the above example the sign ↳ refers to the main entry (“to take”), while the sign ↳ refers to the sub-entry (“to take off”).

Phonetic transcription

One of the unique and outstanding features of this dictionary is that it is fully transliterated. To help users pronounce correctly, we have refrained from the accepted rules of international transcription. Instead, we have adopted a more literal transcription system, using Latin characters for Hebrew words and Hebrew characters for English words.

Obviously, every language has sounds that cannot be transcribed, and perhaps cannot even be pronounced in other languages. English, for example, has short and long vowels, open and closed vowels, diphthongs etc., all of which are difficult for the Hebrew speaker. The phonetic transcription in the dictionary is an aid to pronunciation; it does not claim perfect correspondence.

In transcribing Hebrew words into Latin letters, we have aimed for simplicity. The Hebrew letters 'ח' and 'כ' (like the Scots' Loch Ness or the Jewish holiday Chanuka) have no equivalent in English and both have been rendered by the sign *x*.

flower pêrax פֶּרַח [ז]

blanket smixâ שְׂמִיכָה [נ]

Some Hebrew words have been divided into syllables for correct pronunciation, usually to avoid confusion caused by the proximity of two vowel sounds:

problem be'a'yâ בְּעֵינָה [נ]

(to) move le'hitno'ê'a לְהִתְנוּעֵעַ

Stress

Every transliteration in the dictionary also indicates which syllable is accented. The stressed syllable is marked by ˘

These stress marks should help you pronounce the word correctly. Moreover, in many cases, the accentuated syllable marks a difference in meaning, as in the following example:

atheist kofêr כּוֹפֵר [כּוֹפֵרִית]

ransom kôfer כּוֹפֵר, כּוֹפֵר [ז]

Slang

Slang is part and parcel of our everyday life. We have therefore included slang in the dictionary to help you speak more idiomatically and naturally, or to guide you in recognizing slang when it turns up in the written language. Slang is marked by ☺ or ☹ (vulgar, to be avoided).

flat tire **pâncher** (פּאַנצ'ר [ז] = ☹ = נָקַר)

We did our best to find a slang translation in the target language of a slang term in the source language.

yeah! (☺ = hurray) **yesh** (יש! = ☺ = קריאת התלהבות)

Everyday Hebrew

Words appearing in curly brackets - {...} - represent words with nonstandard Hebrew spelling and/or pronunciation that are nonetheless acceptable in common usage. Since our intent in this dictionary is to reflect everyday language, we have chosen to include these words in their more popular form. For example, the word for insect is usually pronounced **xarâk** {חֶרֶק} rather than **xêrek** חֶרֶק which is the correct and standard form; the word for apron is usually pronounced **sinôr** {סינור} and not **sinâr** סִינָר; the word for software is commonly written as {תוכנה} and not as תִּכְנָה.

American vs. British usage

For the most part, we have adopted standard American usage and spelling. In cases where there is a significant difference in usage, both are given and are marked accordingly by US and UK.

Legend of symbols

(...)	Illustration, context, explanation
[...]	Grammatical gender
{...}	In Hebrew, nonstandard but common spelling and/or pronunciation
see , see	See different spelling
אֶפֶס	Accepted Hebrew word for foreign term
~	Masculine form stand-in
↪	Different definition for main entry
↪	Different definition for sub-entry
☺	Slang
☹	Slang (vulgar)
US	American usage
UK	British usage
â, ê, î, ô, û	Stressed vowels within a word