

Frum Hebrew-learning resources online

Planning on making Aliya? Want to improve your/your kid's Hebrew? Here are some valuable links.

There's a wealth of Hebrew-learning resources online, but you don't want to compromise on the frum atmosphere... That's why you'll find these wonderful frum resources super helpful

Frum Hebrew learning resources online to get you/your kid comfortable with Hebrew (and some advice):

1. Get a frum Israeli partner to chat with once/twice a week on the phone/Zoom. See link <u>below.</u>

You get hands-on experience talking in Hebrew and getting corrected, and you don't have to feel uncomfortable about the way you speak, since your partner will make tons of mistakes in English, too...

Your partner wants to learn English, you want to learn Hebrew, so you 'trade' languages: Speak to each other half the time in Hebrew, and half the time in English.

- You get the real way they speak; the spoken Israeli lingo.
- You can choose someone on your frumkeit level, with separate tracks for men/women/boys/girls, choose age range, etc.
- You can do it while you wash the dishes; no need to invest special time (if you choose to do it on the phone, as opposed to Zoom).

Pick a convenient time that works in both time zones. (Afternoon is a great time, afternoon in America is night in Israel.) N.Y. is 7 hours behind Israel, LA is 10 hours behind.

You can sign up at <u>Hebrew Reid.</u> No sign-up fee; one-time fee once you agree to your suggested partner. Switching partners is at no extra charge.

2. Listen to frum Israeli kid songs, stories and videos. (Here are 3 links to free ones; highly recommended!)

Kid songs are a good starting point, whether you're a kid or an adult. They're fun and easy to understand. We all still have that kid in us, come on, admit it... if you enjoy listening to Shnooky and Doctor Middos with your kids, (at least until you know all the songs by heart), start out learning with the kids, just like Rebbi Akiva did.

List of recommended frum song and video links in Hebrew:



<u>A. Rebbi Alter</u>

Songs intertwined with stories on parshas shavua and Jewish holidays, on video as well as audio. Aimed at younger kids [Preschool-2 grade]. (Free)

Added plus: These are available both in Hebrew and English. So if you're not sure you understand the Hebrew, you can do it again in English and see if you understood correctly!

<u>B. Rav Moshe Zaltzman</u>

Stories on parshas hashavua and Jewish holidays, audio only. (Free)



He has very clear speech, and it's very interesting even for older kids.

<u>C. Rav Emanuel Tehilla</u>

2 kids shiurim on Pesach, audio only. (Free) Very interesting, even for older kids.

Frum Hebrew learning resources (and advice) AFTER Aliya or when you visit Israel:

1. Talk in Hebrew to the grocery store owners, even when they answer you in English.

Warning: <u>Every time</u> you try speaking in Hebrew to an Israeli vendor, they catch your Americanaccented "reish" and "lamed" and immediately answer in English [as they want to be helpful]. So, if learning Hebrew is a priority for you, you've got to be determined to answer them in Hebrew.

• Be prepared to make mistakes (no worries, they know very well that your mistakes are due to your being American. Remember, you have an American accent.)

2. Read Frum Hebrew comic books/storybooks

Comic books are entertaining, for kids, and are a great learning tool for adults, too. Comics are recommended for improving Hebrew because they have no long paragraphs whatsoever, which gives the reader a super-easy job. Just read a single Hebrew sentence, and presto! You understand the picture.

How to find frum children's libraries in your area:

Here's a really special thing about Israel that you may not know about: The gmachim! Open up your local Israeli telephone book, and you'll find a large gmachim list toward the end of it, ranging from kids' sefarim to car seats. Many of these gmachim cannot be found online. Look for "sifriya" or "sefarim" and you're all set.

Online frum Hebrew comic books and story books:

Frum Hebrew comic books and storybooks can be ordered online from anywhere in Israel. Below is a list of comic books and storybooks with a link to the website where they can be ordered.

Or, (assuming you're in Israel) go to your nearest Feldheim or Ohr Hachaim bookstore, and you'll find plenty frum Hebrew comic books. Make sure the words are big enough for your liking. Use one of the recommended Hebrew comic books or story books below if you're looking for something interesting with great chinuch values.

Recommended frum Hebrew comic books:

By Mishmeres Hashalom (Written for 1st-6th grade Israelis.) Not available at regular bookstores. Call (02) 537-9160 or turn to your local volunteer from Mishmeres Hashalom to find out where to purchase these comic books. Some of these comic books may be available in English as well. If you'd like, you can get both languages, to help you understand.

These <u>first two</u> have especially large lettering, relative to your average comic book.

- **Hanitzachon** (Translation: "The victory".) A story about bein adam lachaveiro and the impact of our words on others.
- **Akevot Basheleg** (Translation: "Footsteps in the snow".) A story about chessed with mesirus nefesh.

Each comic book is one, long story.

• **Shlomics** – [Regular sized text]. A compilation of short stories on judging others favorably and shemiras halashon.

By Mordechai Chalamish – Publisher: Yefeh Nof (Written for 1st-6th grade Israelis.) Available at almost all frum bookstores in Israel. The unique aspect of these comics is that the main storyline is already known to the reader, which helps with understanding the Hebrew, yet it's so interesting you can't put it down, since there are so many uncommonly known midrashim woven into the storyline.

- <u>Yaldei Shushan Menatzchim Et Haman</u> (Translation: The children of Shushan triumph over Haman.) The Purim story, incorporating many unknown midrashim. A fascinating read.
- <u>Elishama Ve'efrayim Yotz'im Mimitzrayim</u> (Translation: Elishama and Efrayim leave Egypt.) A Pesach haggadah that has the story of Pesach in comic form, including the slavery in Egypt, the ten makos and the splitting of the Yam Suf. We recommend getting the hardback version as the print is larger and easier to read.
- Micha Vehorkenus Nilchamim Be'antiyochus

 (Translation: Micha and Horkenus fight Antiochus) The Chanuka story, based on midreshei chazal. There's a whole lot you didn't know...

3. If you're looking for larger font print, read frum Hebrew children's books.

Start with these children's books. Once you master that, you can go on to older kid's books, novels, etc.

Recommended frum Hebrew children's books:

Shlabim books, by Imma shel Leah'le [Written for 1st/2nd grade Israelis, but older kids enjoy them, too.]

(Available at most frum Israeli bookstores.) There are younger, preschool-age Shlabim books, not listed here. Shlabim books don't rhyme, but the story itself more than makes up for that. Not too

many words; with unique pencil-drawn illustrations adding life and character.

- <u>Matana Mat'ima Bidyuk</u> (Translation: The perfect gift) Theme: Sensitivity to others, even if we don't like the present they gave us.
- <u>Ma'asim Ktanim</u> (Translation: Small deeds) Theme: The little things are what really count. Helping others in small, yet meaningful ways.
- <u>Sipur Shel Hashgacha Pratit</u> (Translation: A story of hashgacha pratis) Theme: The real point of hashgacha pratis is the connection with Hashem that is achieved through it.
- <u>Shlosha Ptakim Shchorim Uperach</u> (Translation: Three black notes and a flower) Theme: Focus on the positive side of things.
- <u>Af Pa'am Lo Levad</u> (Translation: Never alone.) Theme: You can always talk to Hashem, in your own words.

By Tovy Baron (Publisher: Sefarim Tovim) [Written for preschool-2nd grade Israelis.] (Available at most frum bookstores in Israel) Caters to younger kids. Always rhymes, with not too many words to a page. Each book's theme is given over in a fresh, original and heartfelt fashion. (Available in English, if you want both languages to help your understanding of the Hebrew.)

- <u>Mi Ohev Otcha Yoter Mikulam?</u> (Translation: Who loves you more than everyone?) Theme: Hashem loves us more than anyone else does. One of the sentences is repeated throughout the story, so you'll be speaking Hebrew in rhymes and by heart by the end of the book...
- <u>Avi, Hayeled Hasame'ach Ba'olam</u> (Translation: Avi, the happiest boy in the world) Theme: Being happy with one's share, and gratitude.
- <u>Avi Ve'esty Magi'im Lamalchut</u> (Translation: Avi and Esti are crowned [literally: reach kingship]) Theme: Sensitivity to others.
- <u>Imma Tamid Ohevet Oti</u> (Translation: Imma always loves me) Theme: Mommy loves you no matter what, even when you aren't perfect.

Happy Reading! In Hebrew, that's 'Kriyah Mehana!' (Literal translation: 'Enjoyable reading.)