



TRIP.EXPERT

Many Israelis have fair English skills and it is very easy to speak fluently, especially with the young ones. Hebrew is a gender-specific language, meaning that there are usually different suffixes when you talk to a man or a woman. Here are some basic Hebrew words and slang phrases to ease your communication with the locals. We are sure they will appreciate your politeness and do everything they can to make your trip even more superb.

Basic Hebrew

Hi – you can use hi but also Shalom, which literally means peace and use as a common blessing when you meet someone or enter a place.

How are you doing? - Ma nish-ma?

What's up? – Ma Ko-re?

Good morning – boker tov

Good afternoon – tzha-rayim tovim

Good evening – erev tov

Good night – lila tov

Bye – you may also use bye or le-hit-ra-ot

Yes – ken

No - lo

Ok – be-se-der

I'm ok – ani be-se-der

Everything is ok – ha-kol be-se-der

No problems - ein be-a-ya

Wonderful – ne-he-dar!

Thanks – toda

Thank you very much - toda raba

Please – be-va-ka-sha

Sorry, excuse me – sli-ha

Enough – ma-s-pik and also dai

Stop – a-t-zor

Caution – ze-hi-rut

How much? – Kama?

How much it cost? Ka-ma ze ole?

Where – eifo

Where is the restroom? – eifo ha-shiro-tim?

When – ma-tay

When do you close? – ma-tay a-tem so-grim?

Station – ta-cha-na

Bus – o-to-bos

Taxi – mo-nit

Train – ra-ke-vet

Train station - ta-cha-nat ra-ke-vet

Food – o-ch-el

Market – shuk

Restaurant – Mis-a-da

Bakery – ma-a-fi-ya

Grocery – ma-ko-let or super(market)

Supermarket – supermarket

I'm vegetarian –

Woman: ani tzim-cho-nit

Man: ani tzim-cho-ni

I'm a vegan –

Woman: ani tiv-o-nit

Man: ani tiv-o-ni

Bank – bank

Post office – Do-ar

Museum – mo-ze-on

Hotel – ma-lon

A moment – re-ga

One moment please – re-ga e'had be-va-ka-sha

Minute – daka

Hour – sha'a

Day – yom

Week – sha-vo-a

Month – ho-de-sh

Right – ye-min

Left – s-mall

Straight – ya-shar

Around the corner – me-sa-viv la-pi-na

Assistance / help – e-z-ra

I need help –

Woman: ani tzricha ezra

Man: ani tzarich ezra

Doctor – Ro-fe

Medication – tro-fa

Pharmacy – Be'it mir-ka-hat

I'm in pains – Ko-ev li

Help! – Ha-tzi-lo!

Ambulance - ambulance

Fire – S-re-fa

Police – mish-ta-ra

Do you speak English? –

To a woman: At medaberet An-glit?

To a man: Ata me-da-ber An-glit?

I don't speak Hebrew –

Woman: ani lo me-da-beret Ivrit

Man: ani lo me-da-ber Ivrit

I don't understand –

Woman: ani lo me-vina

Man: ani lo me-vin

I love you –

Man to a woman - ani ohev otach

Woman to a man – ani ohevet otcha

Man to man – ani ohev otcha

Woman to a woman – ani ohevet otach

Happy holiday – chag sa-me-ach!

Bon appetite – Beteavon

Cheers – le-haim!

Slang

Hayoosh

The suffix oosh (sometimes spelled as osh or ush) is a popular suffix meant to indicate affection or cuteness. Usually common as ending to the words hi (hayoosh) or bye (bayoosh) but can be added almost to anything. So if someone reminds you to upload your pictures to Instoosh (Instagram) and Faysoosh (Facebook) answer with todoosh (toda, thank you).

Achi

Israelis are usually very friendly and informal. Achi means brother or bro and Achuti is sister. It is very much equivalent to the word dude and it is also common that people whom have just met will call each other achi or achuti. Its mean that they feel comfortable with each other.

Neshama

Ne-sha-ma or neshama sheli means soul or my soul. It is a word to describe love and affection and is very widely used, even among strangers.

Kapara

Kapara (pronounced ka-pa-ra) is a very popular word among Israelis. The exact translation is atonement, but today it is going far from the original meaning and mostly means honey or darling.

Motek

Honey, sweetie, baby, darling and pumpkin, all in one word.

Haim sheli

My life, usually directed to beloved ones, people they really care about.

Nu

Nu is maybe the most versatile word you will encounter in Israel and is a very much based context. Usually can be translating into "oh, come on" and used very often to rush or nudge people when they are late to go or do something.

Sababa

Sa-ba-ba, an Arabic word that is widely adopted by all Israelis. When someone says sababa it means ok, good, or great.

Achla

Ach-la. Same as sababa. Means everything is just fine, excellent, or superb.

Walla

Wa-lla, is also an Arabic word popular among all. It's a bit tricky word that can be translated to true, really, or seriously. It is used in two main situations, once as approval and the other as wonder. For example, if your friend tells you that you have forgotten your wallet in your hotel room, you may answer with "walla", in the meaning of "true, you are right". On the other hand, if you tell your friends that you have been in Eilat and it was raining, something that rarely happens, they may answer with "walla?" Which means "really? Seriously?".

Yallah

Ya-llah, another widely used Arabic word which can be translated into come on, let's go, or let's move. Sometimes added to the word bye (yallah bye) when someone is leaving. It is also used as the word nu to rush or nudge people when they are late to go or do something.

Baasa

Another word origin from Arabic but widely used by all. Baa-sa means bummer, or sucks, when something really goes wrong and you feel bad about it.

Haval Al HaZman

Too bad on the time, but what it really says is "waste of time". Haval Al HaZman, just like many other slang words depends on context. It can either mean you are wasting your time or that it's something really awesome. For example, your friend asks you to walk 15 minutes till you'll arrive at the beach, you may answer – "haval al hazmal, let's take a bus". On the other hand, if your friend asks you how was the party last night, you may answer – "haval al hazman! The party was awesome".

Stam

When an Israeli says stam she or he means that it's nothing, something which has no importance. With the right context, it also says I wasn't serious, or I was just kidding.

Kal

Sometimes you will hear Israelis say Kal (or Kalil) and while the translation of Kal is easy, it also means no problems or don't worry about it.

Azov oti, be-ima shkha

Leave me, in your mother. Yep, that what its say. It sounds harsh but it's really isn't. The expression has few meanings, depends on the context. First and foremost its means, please leave me alone. But it's also the Israeli way to say no way, a common comment on something that is unbelievable, unwanted, or good to be true.

Meshuga

Crazy. Depends on the context, can either mean that something is completely insane or really great.

Balagan

Mess. Can refer to something that is messy and needs to be fixed up or cleaned, but also to something that is fun and enjoyable. For example, if someone says "Yallah, balagan!" its means come on, let's get crazy and have fun.

Eize nasich

What a prince. If it is a woman then Israelis might say "eize nesicha" which means what a princess. Other versions are eize melech and eize malka (what a king and what a queen). Sound a bit strange but really has lovely meaning as long as it's not cynically said. It's referring to a great guy or girl, an ace, a really nice and beautiful person.

Mushlam

Mushlam, or mush, in the short version, means perfect, flawless. As we hope your trip will be.