Hebleo Email Course Sample Booklet – Lessons 1-3, Exercises and Vocabulary

Hebleo

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Lesson 1 Summary – Hebrew Writing and מ,נ,ת

- ## How Memory and Learning Work

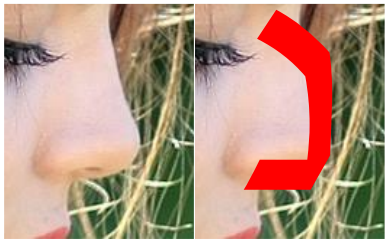
  If you were to try to memorize the following number: **0704177609112001**
  It would be difficult if you looked at it as a random string of numbers.
  It becomes much easier, however, if you realize it's actually 2 famous dates (assuming you know them): July 4th 1776, and September 11th 2001 (07.04.1776, 09.11.2001 – The signing of the American declaration of independence and the 9/11 terror attack respectively).

  The reason this makes the string of numbers easier to remember is that the above dates are meaningful to you, and so you can connect the new information (the string of numbers) to established old information (the knowledge you have of these dates). This is called the **Associative Network Memory Model**, and it is a key principle in the science of learning. As Cognitive Science/Psychology researchers we leverage our knowledge of how learning works throughout the course: We first connect Hebrew concepts to things you already know, and then to things you've already learned in the course, creating a seamless integration of the course material and making Hebrew learning much smoother and easier. Starting with:

- ## Our First 3 Letters (of 22 total)

  מ makes the "M" sound. We gave it the association of **M**ountain climber, where the hump is the mountain and the stick is the climber:

  נ makes the "N" sound. The association we made for it is that of a **N**ose, for a face looking to the right:

  ת makes the "T" sound. The association we made for it is that of person **T**ripping over something he's walking towards:

- **Principles of Hebrew Writing**

  There are 3 things we need to learn about Hebrew writing in general for this lesson:

  - **Hebrew is written from right to left:** That means that the word מָנָת is read starting from the מ (M), then the נ (N) and finally the ת (T). Don't worry about the markings underneath the letters, we will learn those in the next lesson.
  - **Hebrew has 5 letters that change their appearance at the end of the word.** These versions are called **"Final Letters"**. we have already learned 2 of these 5 letters: מ and נ.
    - The final version of מ is ם (it's just a square). Example word: תָּמִים – Tamim (naïve)

      (Don't worry about the unfamiliar markings and letters, these will be learned in lessons 2 and 3 respectively. For now, simply notice that the same "M" letter changes from מ to ם at the end of the word.)
    - The final version of נ is ן. example word: נָתַן (Natan) – he gave

      It loses its bottom part (its "floor") and instead the side part (the "wall") becomes longer, going below the rest of the letters. See above how the top of the letter is identical, and the only difference is the bottom.

      This is how all final letters except ם work: They lose their floor and elongate their wall. Here's another one as an example (will be learned properly in the full course): פ becomes ף. Notice here, too, that the letter is identical except for the bottom. The same applies to the rest of the final letters.

      The logic here is that since it's the end of the word, you don't need to move to the left for the next letter like in the middle of the word (since Hebrew is written from right to left), so there's no need to "prepare" by finishing the letter near where the new letter would start.
  - **Hebrew has 2 writing systems.**

    The first is called **Block**. It's sharper, and is the main system used for type and print (internet, TV, newspapers, etc.)

    The second, is called **Script**. It's rounder and mostly used for handwriting, as it makes it easier (You can think about it as Hebrew's equivalent to cursive).

    Because of the prevalence of print over handwriting these days, we'll focus on block in the course. However, each lesson will have an optional handwriting exercise that also explains script for those interested in handwriting. You can see the first one in the next page.

Optional: Lesson One Handwriting

As we mentioned during lesson 1, Hebrew has 2 writing systems:

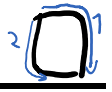
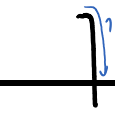
Block is the print writing system, and is characterized by sharp angles.

Script is the handwriting system, and is characterized by round curves.

Each letter has a block variant, and a script variant (like English has a capital and small variant for each letter). In the main lessons we'll be learning the block versions of the letters as they are the ones you'll encounter reading and typing. However, every lesson with new letters will have a supplementary document explaining the script versions of its letters for those of you interested in handwriting.

First, let's look at how to write the block letters by hand.

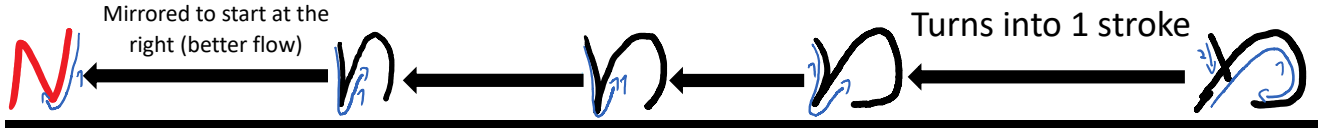
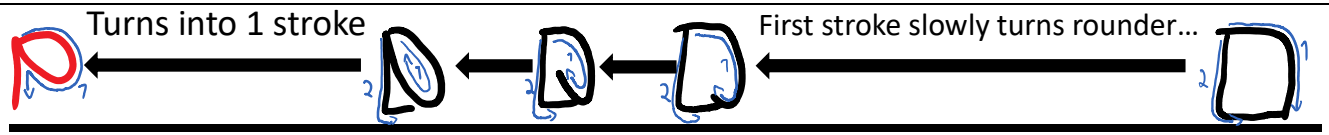
You can fill this table as well if you want to practice handwriting. For final N, notice it needs to go all the way underneath the line:

	מ
	M
	ם
	Final M
	נ
	N
	ו
	Final N
	ת
	T

How script letters came to be

Because script is meant to be easier to write, the script letters developed from the block letters in a way that makes writing easier – usually by reducing the number of strokes per letter (so you lift your hand off the page fewer times per letter). If we keep this in mind, it becomes easier to see how each letter turned into its script counterpart over time, with writing becoming sloppier and people trying to reduce the hassle of writing. For each of the 3 letters below, we'll show you an approximation of the process it went through so that you wouldn't have to memorize the script, but so that it will instead just make sense from knowing the block.

(This is another usage of the association network model – instead of memorizing the script separately, we're associating them with their block counterparts, which we associated with concepts you're already familiar with, to make remembering them easier).

Script		Block	Sound
ת		ת	T
נ		נ	N
ו		ו	
מ		מ	M
ם		ם	

If you want to know how to write by hand, you may practice writing the cursive letters below. When there's more than one acceptable way to write the letter, all options are provided:

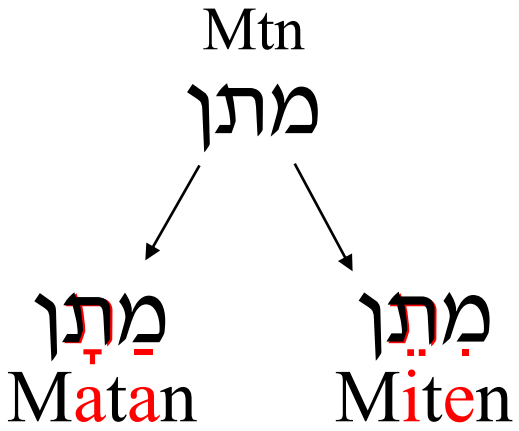
	M
	Final M
	N
	Final N
	T

Lesson 2 Summary – Vowel Markers

- **What Are Vowels**

  There are 2 types of sounds in language – **consonants** and **vowels.**
  Consonants are the kind of sounds we learned in the last lesson, M,N,T,P,D,S and so on. These are the kind of sounds you can't pronounce more than 2 consonants one after the other. For example, try pronouncing the following word: **Grmn**.

  Notice how you must add extra sounds (that sound like the letters a,e,i,o, or u) at some point. And the word German is definitely easier to pronounce precisely because it has them. These "connection" sounds are called **vowels**. While English has the letters a,e,i,o,u to mark vowels, Hebrew has a different method – letters are (mostly, as we'll see in lesson 3) consonants, and if there are vowels after them, these are marked using dots and lines underneath letters. That means you can have different words using all the same letters. For example:



  As you can see, the vowels (red) are not letters, but rather markings. These markings are called in Hebrew "**Nikkud**" (sometimes referred to as "Nekudot" abroad), which means **dotting**. Native speakers do not write with Nikkud unless there is ambiguity, as they are familiar with the words. This might sound odd but it makes sense for English as well – if you're a native English speaker, you can probably read the following English sentence even though the vowels (a,e,i,o,u) have been removed:

  My lptp brk ystrdy.

  The reason you probably read the above as "my laptop broke yesterday" is because of 2 things:

  1. **Familiarity**: You know English so you know what words contain the consonants you see above, greatly narrowing down your options.
  2. **Context:** You could read "brk" as "broke" instead of "break" because it's between "Yesterday" and "Laptop". When there is ambiguity, context helped you make sense of the word. This is what native Hebrew speakers do all the time, and what we will gradually learn to do as well, as we learn new words and understand how Hebrew looks.

- **First 3 Vowel Markers: a, e, i**
  - **"i" Vowel Marker** - The “i” vowel is a single dot underneath a letter:

    תִ

    You can remember it as either the dot for “i” moving down, or as just one itsy bitsy dot, as "itsy bitsy" has a lot of "i" sounds in it.

  - **“a” Vowel Marker** – Has 4 ways it can look, but we can simplify it:

    תָ תָּ תַ תַּ

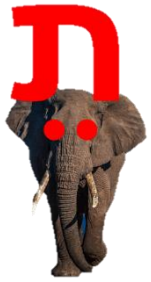
    Notice that all 4 have a **horizontal line** underneath them, regardless if they also have another line below it or 2 dots next to it. Since even most native Hebrew speakers don't know the difference between the different "a" markers, and since we want to eventually stop using Nikkud altogether, there's no point in learning it. So use whichever you want (if any) when writing, and for reading all you need is to recognize the horizontal line. **If you see a horizontal line, the sound is always "a"**.

    We can remember it using a depressor, more commonly known as "that wooden stick the doctor uses that causes you to gag". Think of the horizontal line as that wooden stick. Before using it, the doctor always asks you to **say "aaaaaa"**:

  - **"e" Vowel Marker –** Like “a”, the “e” vowel has several forms, but we can simplify it as well:

    תֶ תֵ תֱ

    Like "a", here there is also a commonality to simplify things: **If you see 2 dots side by side, the sound is always "e".** These look like a pair of eyes. But we want something more memorable for "e", so instead let's imagine **elephant eyes:**

We recommend going back to the word מתן on the previous page and seeing whether you can read both versions of it now, before moving on to the exercise below:

Lesson 2 Exercise

Hebrew	Transliteration	English	Hebrew
נָמִת	Namit	Minet	מִנָּת
מִמָּן		Nitam	
נִתָּן		Tenim	
נָתָם		Nimen	
תָּמָן		Maten	
מָתַן		Tenet	
מָנָתָם		Tamiten	
נָתְמָן		Netamim	
תָּמַנָן		Nitiman	
מָמָנָם		Temitam	
תָּנָמַם		Manetit	
מָנְתָּמָן		Nematimanen	
נָתָּמָנָם		Taminenatem	

Check yourself on the next page for the solution.

Lesson 2 Exercise - Solution

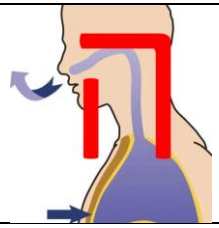
Hebrew	Transliteration	English	Hebrew
נָמִת	Namit	Minet	מִנָּת
מִמֶּן	Mimen	Nitam	נִתָּם
נִתֶּן	Niten	Tenim	תֶּנִם
נָתִם	Natim	Nimen	נִמֶּן
תָּמִן	Tamin	Maten	מָתֶּן
מָתַן	Matan	Tenet	תֶּנֶּת
מֶנָּתֶם	Menatem	Tamiten	תַּמִּתֶּן
נָתִמֶּן	Natimen	Netamim	נֶתָּמִם
תֶּמַנֶּן	Temanen	Nitiman	נִתִּמַן
מָמֶּנִם	Mamenim	Temitam	תֶּמִּתַּם
תֶּנֶמַם	Tanemam	Manetit	מָנֶּתִת
מֶנִתֶּמִן	Manitemin	Nematimanen	נֶּמָתִמַּנֶּן
נֶּתֶמָּנִם	Netemanim	Taminenatem	תַּמִּנֶּנָּתֶם

Lesson 3 Summary – Vowel Letters א, ה, י

NOTE: Because this lesson has a lot of critical pronunciation, this summary sheet is limited in scope. We HIGHLY recommend going through the video lesson.

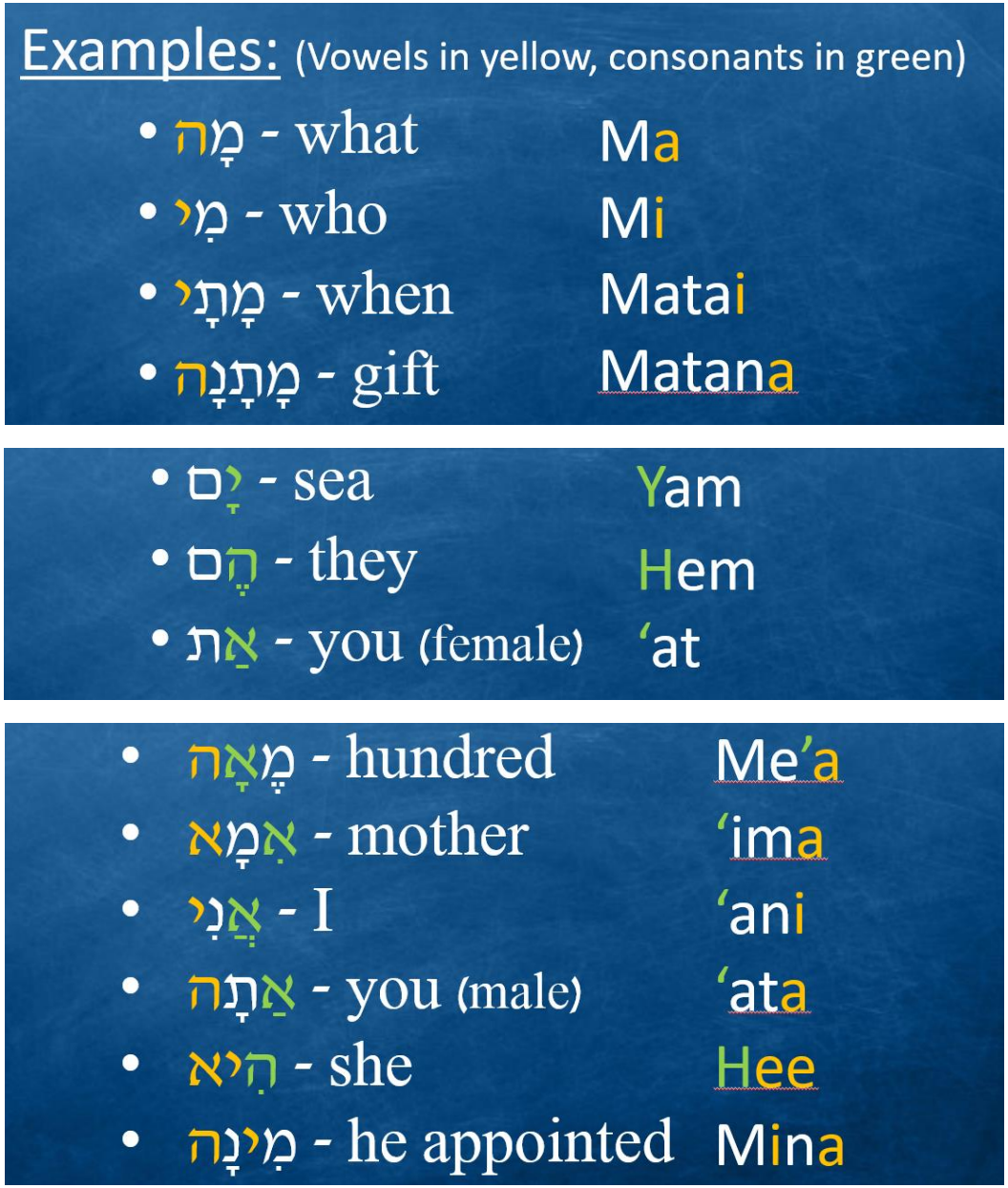
- **"Double Duty" Letters – Letters that are both vowels and consonants.**

  We said last lesson that letters are consonants and Nikkud are vowels. However, there are 4 letters in Hebrew that can serve as either vowels or consonants. You can tell when these letters are vowels instead of consonants when **they don't have vowel markers underneath them.** Here are the 3 letters and what they sound like when they are consonants compared to when they are vowels:

Letter	Consonant	Vowel	Association	Image
י	Y	I	Itsy Bitsy Letter	
א	Restart word (See video lesson) Marked with an apostrophe: ' Example: me'et = מֶאֶת	Based on previous letter's vowel marker.	Albatross/Eagle (see video for explanation)	
ה	H	Based on previous letter's vowel marker.	Looks like an open throat, allowing you to breath out, which produces the "h" sound.	

Something to note about א: It is usually badly taught as being the equivalent of the letter A in English. While this is true historically in terms of both letters having the same origin (and are both the first letter in their respective alphabets), it does nothing to help you understand how to use א, as א can be any vowel – a, e, i, o, u. It is by no means beholden to "a" in any particular way. If you've been taught this way before, I suggest trying to override that with this lesson. Hebrew and א would make a LOT more sense if you do.

Look at the following examples from the course to notice the difference between these letters as consonants compared to vowels (once again, we highly advise watching the video lesson):



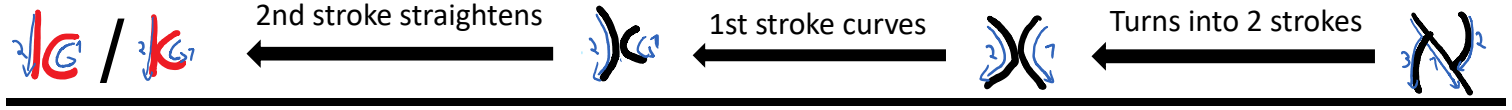
Optional: Lesson 3 Handwriting

Practice writing the new letters. When there's more than one way to write the letter, all options are provided.

NOTE: › is half the size of a normal letter.

	י
	I/Y
	ה
	H
	א
	Restart / British T

How the script versions developed to make handwriting easier:

Script		Block	Sound
׳		י	I/Y
ה		ה	H
א		א	Restart

You may practice writing the cursive letters below. When there's more than one way to write the letter, all options are provided.

	ו
	I/Y
	ה
	H
	כ
	Restart / British T

Lesson 3 Vocabulary

In the full course, each lesson after lesson 3 has a vocabulary sheet attached to it, as well as exercises utilizing the latest and past vocabulary. The full course also has vocabulary study recommendations and will soon have digitalized vocabulary and vocabulary practice.

How the vocabulary sheet is structured

1. For each word, the stress (the part you emphasize when speaking) is going to be marked in bold. For example: **נָתַן** has the תַן marked in bold. This means that the word is read as naTAN, so "tan" is the part that is stressed. If it was **נָתַן**, it would have been read as NAtan, with the beginning being the part that is emphasized. The digitalized version of the vocabulary will also include native audio recordings for each word.
2. The words are divided by category for ease of use – Nouns, Verbs, etc.
3. Many words include a "Notes" section, which can have many different kinds of information, some of it important and some of it for flavor or to help you memorize the words. The parts that aren't important are surrounded with [] – such notes are strictly optional.
4. These vocab sheets are meant to be referenced in the future as well, and so include things not yet discussed, which are greyed out. You don't have to pay attention to these, they will only be relevant when we learn the relevant information about them. For now, all you need are the white cells: The Hebrew word, its English translation and Notes. The full meaning and implications of Root, Pattern, etc. will become clearer as you progress through the full course. Sometimes notes will refer to one of the greyed out categories, but such notes can be safely ignored until you learn the topic to which they refer.
5. For gender, M refers to **M**asculine words, and F refers to **F**eminine words. However, until **Chapter 2 Lesson 4**, feel free to ignore gender for nouns that don't refer to people and are obvious (for example, "mother" is obviously feminine, "he" is obviously masculine, "she" is obviously feminine, etc. Likewise with names for men and women respectively).

Vocabulary Sheet

Nouns (things, places, people, etc.)

Hebrew	English	Notes	Gender	Plural	Root	Pattern
יָם	Sea		M	יָמִים	ימם	
יַיִן	Wine	The similarity to English is not a coincidence; [The plural form, like "wines", is rare.]	M	יֵינוֹת		קָטִל
מַיִם	Water	Treated as plural.	M		מים	קָטִל
מֵאָה	Hundred		F		מאה	
מַתָּנָה	Gift, present	[Related to the verb for giving (נָתַן).]	F	מַתָּנוֹת	נתנ	מָקְטָלָה

Pronouns (I, you, he, she, etc.)

Hebrew	English	Notes	Gender
אֲנִי	I	First person singular pronoun. Can be used for both males and females.	Both
אַתָּה	You (one male)	Hebrew separates "you" into 4 words, divided by number and gender. All 4 begin the same way, with "אַת". This sound similarity can help you remember which pronouns are 2nd person (2nd person=variations of "you"). The regular plural is used for either all males or mixed groups, and the all-female plural is used only when the entire group is female.	M
אַת	You (one female)		F
אַתֶּם	you (plural)		M/Mixed
אַתֶּן	you (female plural)		F
הִיא	She	Notice all 3rd person pronouns (he/she/they – person who isn't present in the conversation) begin with the letter ה. This will also be true of "he" once we learn it. This can help you remember which pronouns are in the 3rd person. The regular "they" is used for either all males or mixed groups, and the female "they" is used only when the entire group is female.	F
הֵם	They		M/Mixed
הֵן	They (female plural)		F

Verbs (actions)

Hebrew	English	Notes	Root	Pattern
נָתַן	(he) gave	Follows a 3rd person single male (he) noun. For example: "Matan Gave", "the boy gave" or "he gave", but not "Tammy gave" (because Tammy is female) or "I gave" (because I is 1st person, not 3rd). [This is also the first name "Nathan".]	נתנ	פָּעַל

Other

Hebrew	English	Notes
מִי	who?	Question Words. How to use these will be explained in Lesson 4, in the full course.
מָה	what?	
מָתַי	When?	
הַיי	Hi	Loan word from English.

Vocabulary Exercise

Part 1: Write each vocabulary word using English letters (see examples). Afterwards, write its meaning.

Try learning the words before doing this exercise, and to not look at the vocab sheet while doing the exercise. Only look at the vocab and correct your work once you are done.

	Sound	Meaning
יָם	Yam	Sea
אֲנִי	‘ani	I
נָתַן	Natan	(he) gave
הִיא		
מַיִם		
הֵן		
מָאָה		
מִי		
אַתָּן		
הֵם		
אַתֶּם		
מַתָּנָה		
מָה		
מָתַי		
אַת		
יַיִן		
אַתָּה		

Part 2: Write each vocabulary word using Hebrew letters (see examples). Afterwards, write its meaning.

	Hebrew Letters	Meaning
Mi	מִי	Who?
Hi (“hee”)	הִיא	She
Yayin	יַיִן	Wine
Matana		
Yam		
‘ani		
Hen		
‘ata		
‘aten		
‘atem		
Hem		
‘at		
Me’a		
Mayim		
Natan		
Ma		

Vocabulary Exercise - Solution

Part 1:

	Sound	Meaning
יָם	Yam	Sea
אֲנִי	‘ani	I
נָתַן	Natan	(he) gave
הִיא	Hi (“hee”, not “hai”)	She
מַיִם	Mayim	water
הֵן	Hen	They (all-female)
מְאָה	Me’a	Hundred (100)
מִי	Mi	Who?
אַתֶּן	‘aten	You (plural all-female)
הֵם	Hem	They (plural)
אַתֶּם	‘atem	You (plural)
מַתָּנָה	Matana	Gift, present
מָה	Ma	What?
מָתַי	Matai	When?
אַת	‘at	You (single female)
יַיִן	Yayin	Wine
אַתָּה	‘ata	You (single male)

Part 2:

	Hebrew Letters	Meaning
Mi	מִי	Who?
Hi (“hee”)	הִיא	She
Yayin	יַיִן	Wine
Matana	מַתָּנָה	Gift, present
Yam	יָם	Sea
‘ani	אֲנִי	I
Hen	הֵן	They (all-female)
‘ata	אַתָּה	You (single male)
‘aten	אַתֶּן	You (plural all-female)
‘atem	אַתֶּם	You (plural)
Hem	הֵם	They (plural)
‘at	אַת	You (single female)
Me’a	מֵאָה	Hundred (100)
Mayim	מַיִם	water
Natan	נָתַן	(he) gave
Ma	מָה	What?