BIBLICAL HEBREW · GRADE 7 · AGES 12–13

Grade 7 Biblical Hebrew

First edition | 5 units | 10 lessons · one quarter | Hebrew from the Leningrad Codex

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 7 Biblical Hebrew is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 30–40 minutes a week.

The student learns how Hebrew builds words from three-letter roots, then the Qal perfect for completed action (he kept, I have chosen), the story form that carries Bible narrative (vayyomer, and he said; vayehi, and it came to pass), and the wish form yehi, let there be.

Then the student reads the first day of creation, Genesis 1:3–5, and the seventh day, Genesis 2:1–3, in the Hebrew of the Leningrad Codex, parsing every verb.

> Every lesson has a short video, most under ten minutes, from Hebrew teaching channels approved for School Launch: Aleph with Beth (a free Christian Biblical Hebrew course with songs and easy Bible stories) and Daily Dose of Hebrew (two-minute verse readings by seminary professors), with a few single videos from Biblingo and BibleProject. The Daily Dose verse videos are made for adults; in the younger grades they are marked as the parent's video. Every lesson works without the video. Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

Who it is for

Written for students in grade 7 (about ages 12–13) who read independently. No earlier Hebrew is needed: the course reviews the letters and builds from there, though a student who has done earlier grades will feel at home. A parent or teacher reads along, joins the reading practice and checks the practice answers with the key. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards, pencil and household things.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 30–40 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the teaching and the picture study (in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the Hebrew notebook. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice, the game and reading aloud: the student reads the week's Hebrew out loud to the family.
2. **Read it out loud every day.** Hebrew is learned by reading it aloud, a few minutes a day. Open every session by reading the alphabet, the vowel chart and the verses learned so far. Five minutes of cheerful reading beats an hour of silent staring.
3. **Story, then how Hebrew works, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud or read by the student. *The story* tells what happened; *How Hebrew works* explains the pattern; *Read it out loud* gives the sounds. After each paragraph, ask the student to tell it back.
4. **Flashcards.** Every lesson adds new letters, signs or words. Make a flashcard for each one: Hebrew on the front, the sounds and meaning on the back.
5. **The Hebrew notebook.** Use any notebook for the whole quarter: letter charts, vowel charts, copywork and translations. Write Hebrew from the right edge of the line. Date every page.
6. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (25 points), which may be done orally, and a unit challenge. Keep the challenge work in a folder.
7. **Right to left.** Hebrew is written and read from right to left, so a Hebrew book opens from what an English reader calls the back. Every Hebrew word in these lessons is set right to left; when the child writes, start at the right edge of the line.

8. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 40 letters, signs and words. Unit 1: שָׁמַר (shamar), עָבַד (‘avad), עֶבֶד (‘eved), שֹׁמֵר (shomer), מֶלֶךְ (malakh), מַמְלָכָה (mamlakhah), קָדוֹשׁ (qadosh), גּוֹי (goy). Unit 2: הָלַךְ (halakh), עָמַד (‘amad), יָשַׁב (yashav), אַשְׁרֵי (ashrei), בָּחַרְתִּי (vacharti), צָפַנְתִּי (tsafanti), זָכַר (zakhar), כָּתַב (katav). Unit 3: וַיֹּאמֶר (vayyomer), וַיְהִי (vayehi), הִנֵּנִי (hinneni), וַיִּקְרָא (vayyiqra), יְהִי (yehi), חַסְדְּךָ (chasdekha), עָלֵינוּ (aleinu), מְבֹרָךְ (mevorakh). Unit 4: וַיַּבְדֵּל (vayyavdel), וַיַּרְא (vayyar), בֵּין (bein), הָאוֹר (ha’or), קָרָא (qara), עֶרֶב (‘erev), בֹּקֶר (voqer), אֶחָד (echad). Unit 5: וַיְכֻלּוּ (vayekhullu), וַיְכַל (vayekhal), וַיִּשְׁבֹּת (vayyishbot), מְלַאכְתּוֹ (melakhto), וַיְבָרֶךְ (vayvarekh), וַיְקַדֵּשׁ (vayqaddesh), שָׁבַת (shavat), שַׁבָּת (shabbat).
9. **Printables.** Each lesson has a one-page worksheet, and the answers are in a separate key for the parent. Each unit review also has a printable key.
10. **The Hebrew Bible.** Hebrew verses are quoted from the Westminster Leningrad Codex, the public-domain electronic text of the Leningrad Codex, the oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew Old Testament, copied around A.D. 1008. It is the Hebrew text the King James translators’ Old Testament comes from (the Masoretic text), in its oldest complete copy. In the elementary grades the verses are shown with their vowel points but without the small cantillation marks (the musical accents), which would crowd a beginner’s page; Biblical Hebrew I shows them in full. Hebrew verse numbers sometimes differ from English ones; every verse here is chosen so that the numbers match. God’s own name, written with four letters (יהוה), is printed LORD in capitals in the King James; Jewish readers have long said Adonai (“Lord”) in its place, and this course does the same. The English verse is always the King James Version, quoted exactly.

Scope and sequence

UNIT 1 · WEEKS 1–2

Roots

Most Hebrew words grow from a three-letter root. The LORD God put the man in the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it; Israel was called to be a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

1.1 The Three-Letter Root

1.2 Word Families: King and Holy

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

The Perfect: What Was Done

The Qal perfect, the verb form for completed action, with its endings for he, she, they, I, you and we. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly; I have chosen the way of truth. With Antonello da Messina's Saint Jerome in His Study.

2.1 He, She, They: The Perfect

2.2 I, You, We: The Perfect

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

And He Said: The Story Verb

The verb form that tells Bible stories (vayyomer, and he said; vayehi, and it came to pass) and the wish form yehi, let there be. And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham; Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us. With Rembrandt's Sacrifice of Isaac.

3.1 Vayyomer: And He Said

3.2 Yehi: Let There Be

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

Let There Be Light: Genesis 1:3–5

Reading the first day of creation verb by verb. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light; And God called the light Day … And the evening and the morning were the first day. With Michelangelo's Separation of Light from Darkness.

4.1 Let There Be Light: Genesis 1:3–4

4.2 Evening and Morning: Genesis 1:5

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

The Seventh Day: Genesis 2:1–3

Reading the end of the creation week: Thus the heavens and the earth were finished; God ended his work and rested on the seventh day; God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it. With Rembrandt's Moses with the Ten Commandments.

5.1 Finished: Genesis 2:1–2

5.2 Blessed and Sanctified: Genesis 2:3

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 The Three-Letter Root: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 reading practice, video and activity (root finder) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet *Three sessions a week of 30–40 minutes. On the other days, read the week's Hebrew words and verse aloud for five minutes.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 Word Families: King and Holy: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 reading practice, video and activity (family tree of a root) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (root trees)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 He, She, They: The Perfect: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 reading practice, video and activity (two ways path) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 I, You, We: The Perfect: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 reading practice, video and activity (my choices chart) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (perfect chart)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Vayyomer: And He Said: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 reading practice, video and activity (story-verb chain) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Yehi: Let There Be: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 reading practice, video and activity (prayer card) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (story strip)

WEEK	PLAN
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Let There Be Light: Genesis 1:3–4: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 reading practice, video and activity (light and dark flip book) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Evening and Morning: Genesis 1:5: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 reading practice, video and activity (evening-to-evening clock) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (day one page)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Finished: Genesis 2:1–2: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 reading practice, video and activity (seven-day calendar) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Blessed and Sanctified: Genesis 2:3: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 reading practice, video and activity (sabbath candle card) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (creation week scroll)

Materials

Hebrew notebook (any notebook)

One for the quarter: charts, copywork and translations.

Index cards and a box, bag or ring to keep them

For the flashcard deck that grows every lesson.

Pencil, colored pencils and a fine-tip marker

For letter charts, vowel charts and lettering.

Scissors, glue, tape and some poster board or taped printer paper

For the unit challenges.

Grading

Grades come mostly from the daily work: reading aloud, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the practice, because a language is learned by steady, honest repetition. A student who reads Hebrew out loud faithfully, keeps a neat notebook and corrects his or her own practice earns full credit.

PART	%
Reading aloud and flashcards	**30**
Hebrew notebook (dated pages, charts, copywork)	**25**
Practice (corrected with the answer key)	**15**
Unit reviews	**15**
Unit challenges	**15**

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: repeat the reading drills and practice with help.

- A reading answer is right when every consonant and vowel is sounded; small differences of accent are fine.
- Unit reviews may be done orally for a student who writes slowly; the parent writes down the answers.
- Hebrew handwriting is graded on clear letter shapes written right to left, not on beauty.

A note to parents

You do not need to know Hebrew to teach this course. Every letter, vowel and word has its sounds written out, and every answer is in the answer key. Learn alongside your child, quiz each other with the flashcards, and let your child catch your mistakes.

Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Why Biblical Hebrew? Because it is the language of most of the Old Testament, the Scriptures Jesus read and quoted. A student who can read even a little Hebrew sees with his or her own eyes the words behind the English Bible: In the beginning God created, and The LORD is my shepherd.

This is a course in the Hebrew of the Bible, not in modern politics. The stories are the stories of Scripture and of the faithful scribes, scholars and translators who copied and handed down the Hebrew text, told cheerfully and honestly.

UNIT 1

Roots

Lesson 1.1 teaches the three-letter root (ש־מ־ר keep, ע־ב־ד serve, till), with Genesis 2:15 and Rosa Bonheur's Ploughing in the Nivernais.

Lesson 1.2 teaches word families (מֶלֶךְ, מַלְכָּה, מַמְלָכָה; קָדוֹשׁ, קֹדֶשׁ), with Exodus 19:6.

PREREQUISITES

- Grade 6 Biblical Hebrew: nouns, adjectives, pronouns, construct and suffixes.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can find the three root letters in a word.
- ☐ I can group words into families by their root.
- ☐ I can guess the meaning of a new word from its root.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**The Three-Letter Root**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
1.2	**Word Families: King and Holy**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 1 review

The student writes or answers aloud. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**

   Find the root: מִשְׁמֶרֶת שֹׁמֵר

2. **5 pts**

   Find the root: מַמְלָכָה מַלְכָּה

3. **5 pts**

   Translate: קָדוֹשׁ and קֹדֶשׁ

4. **5 pts**

   Say Genesis 2:15 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. ש־מ־ר (keep, guard).
2. מ־ל־ך (reign, be king).
3. holy; holiness (a holy thing).
4. And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: ROOT TREES

Draw three trees. Write a root in the trunk of each (ש־מ־ר, מ־ל־ך, ק־ד־ש) and at least four Bible words from that root on the branches, with their meanings and one verse reference for each.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student reads every word.
Grammar	Each word is on the right tree.
Translation	Meanings and references are correct.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 1 · ROOTS · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.1 The Three-Letter Root

OBJECTIVES

- Explain what a root is.
- Find the root letters in a word.
- Read Genesis 2:15.

> **Warm-up.** Think of English words that share a family: “write, writer, written, writing.” The core “writ” stays. Hebrew builds almost every word this way, from three letters.

WATCH

Genesis 2:15

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:13

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3sFm1mJbCM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; in Genesis 2:15 listen for le'ovdah ulshomrah, to dress it and to keep it.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 2:15 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

BACKUP VIDEO

Easy Story 59 - On the Day You Eat of the Tree - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 8:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLtLD7CkkBI

Aleph with Beth's Easy Story 59, On the Day You Eat of the Tree (Genesis 2), told in simple Biblical Hebrew (8:06).

KEY TERMS

root

The three consonants that carry a word's basic meaning, e.g. שׁ־מ־ר keep, guard.

pattern

The vowels and extra letters wrapped around a root: שָׁמַר he kept, שֹׁמֵר keeper, מִשְׁמֶרֶת charge, watch.

lexicon form

Dictionaries list verbs by their root (in the form "he did"), so finding the root is the key to looking a word up.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

שָׁמַר

shamar

shah-MAHR

verb

he kept, guarded

עָבַד

‘avad

ah-VAHD

verb

he served, tilled

עֶבֶד

‘eved

EH-ved

noun

servant

שֹׁמֵר

shomer

shoh-MAYR

participle

keeper, one who keeps

CORE IDEAS

The story. Before there was any sin, God gave Adam work: And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. Work is not a punishment; it is part of how God made us. The two verbs mean to serve or till the ground and to guard it.

How Hebrew works. Look past the prefixes, suffixes and vowels to find three consonants. לְעָבְדָהּ: le- (to) + ע־ב־ד + -ah (it) = to serve it, to till it. וּלְשָׁמְרָהּ: u- (and) + le- + ש־מ־ר + -ah = and to keep it. From ע־ב־ד also come עֶבֶד servant and עֲבֹדָה work, service.

Tips. Prefix letters are often א, ת, נ, י, ו, ה, מ and the prepositions ב ל כ; suffixes are the endings you learned in Grade 6. What is left, usually three letters, is the root: שֹׁמֵר → ש־מ־ר.

PICTURE STUDY



Ploughing in the Nivernais, Rosa Bonheur, 1849 · Oil on canvas · Musée d'Orsay, Paris

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Rosa Bonheur was one of the most famous painters of animals in the 1800s. The French government ordered this painting from her. It honors the slow, patient work of farming, the work God first gave Adam: to till the ground.

Look closely

- Count the oxen.
- What is the farmer holding?
- What does freshly ploughed earth look like?
- Is this hard work or easy work?

Talk about it

1. How is ploughing like serving (‘avad) the ground?
2. Why do you think God gave Adam work before sin entered the world?

ACTIVITY

Root finder

Make a “root finder” card with a window that hides prefixes and suffixes.

You will need

- Card stock
- Scissors
- Word strips

Steps

1. Cut a window in a card just wide enough to show three letters.
2. Write words on strips: לְעָבְדָהּ, וּלְשָׁמְרָהּ, שֹׁמֵר, עָבָד, מִשְׁמֶרֶת.
3. Slide each strip behind the window to frame its root.
4. Write the root and meaning.

Tips

- Not every root letter stays visible; some weak letters drop out. Start with these regular ones.

Check your work

☐ I found all five roots.

☐ I can say the meaning of each.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy five words and write their roots: לְעָבְדָהּ, וּלְשָׁמְרָהּ, שֹׁמֵר, עָבָד, מִשְׁמֶרֶת.

> **From history.** Psalm 121:4 uses the same root: Behold, he that keepeth (shomer) Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find the root of לְעָבְדָהּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. Take off le- (to) at the front.
2. Take off -ah (it, her) at the end.

Answer: ע־ב־ד: to serve, to till.

Example 2. Find the root of שֹׁמֵר

▼ **Show solution**

1. No prefix or suffix.
2. The holem and tsere are the pattern “one who does.”

Answer: ש־מ־ר: keeper (one who keeps).

PRACTICE

1. Easy How many letters do most Hebrew roots have?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Three.

2. Easy Root of שָׁמַר?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ש־מ־ר.

3. Easy Translate: עֶבֶד

   ▼ **Show answer**

   servant.

4. Medium Root of מִשְׁמֶרֶת?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ש־מ־ר.

5. Medium Translate: שֹׁמֵר

▼ **Show answer**

keeper, one who keeps.

6. Hard Say Genesis 2:15 in English.

▼ **Show answer**

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Counting a prefix like מ or ל as a root letter.
- Forgetting that the same root can make nouns and verbs.

> **Make it a game · Root rummy.** Make cards of Hebrew words from three roots (ש־מ־ר, ע־ב־ד, מ־ל־ך), four words each. Deal and play rummy: collect a family of three words with the same root, read them, and lay them down.

> **Scripture.** "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." (Genesis 2:15, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> בְּגַן־עֵדֶן לְעָבְדָהּ וּלְשָׁמְרָהּ
>
> Find le'ovdah ulshomrah, to dress it and to keep it. Underline the roots ע־ב־ד and ש־מ־ר.

UNIT 1 · ROOTS · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.2 Word Families: King and Holy

OBJECTIVES

- Group words into families by root.
- Learn the families of מ־ל־ך and ק־ד־ש.
- Read Exodus 19:6.

> **Warm-up.** How many words can you make from “king”? Kingdom, kingly, kingship … Hebrew does even more with three letters.

WATCH

Easy Story 2 - Israel Asks for a King - יִשְׂרָאֵל שֹׁאֵל מֶלֶךְ

Aleph with Beth · 4:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=indDOdcK4Aw

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; tally every word you hear from the root מ־ל־ך.

Note: Aleph with Beth’s Easy Story 2, Israel Asks for a King (yisra’el sho’el melekh), in simple Biblical Hebrew (4:06): count the words from מ־ל־ך.

BACKUP VIDEO

Easy Story 30 - Solomon Asks for Wisdom - שְׁלֹמֹה שָׁאַל חָכְמָה

Aleph with Beth · 3:45

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRXyhEAcU_0

Aleph with Beth’s Easy Story 30, Solomon Asks for Wisdom, in simple Biblical Hebrew (3:45).

KEY TERMS

מ־ל־ך family

מֶלֶךְ king, מָלַךְ he reigned, מַלְכָּה queen, מַמְלָכָה kingdom.

ק־ד־ש family

קָדוֹשׁ holy, קֹדֶשׁ holiness, a holy thing, וַיְקַדֵּשׁ and he sanctified.

גּוֹי goy

A nation (plural goyim).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

מָלַךְ *malakh* **mah-LAHKH** verb he reigned, was king	**מַמְלָכָה** *mamlakhah* **mahm-lah-KHAH** noun, feminine kingdom
קָדוֹשׁ *qadosh* **kah-DOHSH** adjective holy	**גּוֹי** *goy* **GOY** noun nation

CORE IDEAS

The story. At Mount Sinai God told Moses to say to Israel: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. Israel was to show the world what God is like. Peter gives the same calling to the church: ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation (1 Peter 2:9).

How Hebrew works. Same root, different patterns: מֶלֶךְ melekh (king), מָלַךְ malakh (he reigned), מַלְכָּה malkah (queen), מַמְלָכָה mamlakhah (kingdom: the prefix מ often makes a place or thing). In Exodus 19:6 the construct form is מַמְלֶכֶת כֹּהֲנִים a kingdom of priests.

Holy. קָדוֹשׁ qadosh means set apart for God. קֹדֶשׁ qodesh is holiness or a holy thing; the קֹדֶשׁ הַקָּדָשִׁים most holy place is “the holy of holies.” In Genesis 2:3 God וַיְקַדֵּשׁ sanctified, set apart, the seventh day.

ACTIVITY

Family tree of a root

Draw a family tree for the root מ־ל־ך.

You will need

- Large paper
- Markers

Steps

1. Write מ־ל־ך in the trunk.
2. On branches write מֶלֶךְ, מַלְכָּה, מַמְלָכָה with meanings and a little picture.
3. Add a second tree for ק־ד־ש.

Tips

- Circle the root letters in each word.

Check your work

☐ My trees have four words each.

☐ I circled every root letter.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Write the four מ־ל־ך words and three ק־ד־ש words with meanings.

> **From history.** Isaiah heard the seraphim cry Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts (Isaiah 6:3), qadosh three times over. Revelation 4:8 echoes the same song.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: מַמְלֶכֶת כֹּהֲנִים

▼ **Show solution**

1. mamlekhet = kingdom of (construct; root מ־ל־ך).
2. kohanim = priests (-im plural).

Answer: a kingdom of priests.

Example 2. Translate: וְגוֹי קָדוֹשׁ

▼ **Show solution**

1. ve- = and; goy = nation.
2. qadosh = holy (adjective after the noun).

Answer: and a holy nation.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: מֶלֶךְ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   king.

2. Easy Translate: מַלְכָּה

   ▼ **Show answer**

   queen.

3. Easy Translate: קָדוֹשׁ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   holy.

4. Medium Root of מַמְלָכָה?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   מ־ל־ך.

5. Medium What does qadosh mean at its root?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Set apart (for God).

6. Hard Say Exodus 19:6 in English (first sentence).

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Taking the מ of מַמְלָכָה as a root letter.
- Thinking "holy" means only "very good." It means set apart for God.

> **Make it a game · Family reunion.** Write 12 words from three roots on cards and scatter them. On "go," players race to gather one complete family and read it with meanings.

> **Scripture.** "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." (Exodus 19:6, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> מַמְלֶכֶת כֹּהֲנִים וְגוֹי קָדוֹשׁ
>
> Find mamlekhet kohanim, a kingdom of priests (a construct chain), and goy qadosh, an holy nation (noun + adjective).

UNIT 2

The Perfect: What Was Done

Lesson 2.1 teaches the perfect for he, she and they (שָׁמַר, שָׁמְרָה, שָׁמְרוּ), with Psalm 1:1 and Antonello's Saint Jerome.

Lesson 2.2 teaches the perfect for I, you and we (שָׁמַרְתִּי, שָׁמַרְתָּ, שָׁמַרְנוּ), with Psalm 119:30.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1: roots.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can conjugate שָׁמַר in the Qal perfect.
- ☐ I can find the person (I, you, he …) from the ending.
- ☐ I can translate a perfect verb.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**He, She, They: The Perfect**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
2.2	**I, You, We: The Perfect**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 2 review

The student writes or answers aloud. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Translate: שָׁמְרוּ שָׁמְרָה שָׁמַר
2. **5 pts**
   Translate: שָׁמַרְנוּ שָׁמַרְתָּ שָׁמַרְתְּי
3. **5 pts**
   Translate: בָּחָרְתְּי
4. **5 pts**
   Say Psalm 1:1 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. he kept, she kept, they kept.
2. I kept, you (m.) kept, we kept.
3. I have chosen.
4. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: PERFECT CHART

Make a full chart of the Qal perfect of שָׁמַר (nine forms) and of one more regular verb (כָּתַב, write, or זָכַר, remember). Color the endings. Below, copy Psalm 1:1 and Psalm 119:30 in Hebrew and mark each perfect verb.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student reads all the forms.
Grammar	The endings are correct and colored.
Translation	The verses are translated.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 2 · THE PERFECT: WHAT WAS DONE · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.1 He, She, They: The Perfect

OBJECTIVES

- Read the perfect forms for he, she, they.
- Explain what “perfect” means.
- Read Psalm 1:1.

Warm-up. Say three things you did yesterday: “I walked, I ate, I read.” Those actions are done. Hebrew has a verb form for completed action: the perfect.

WATCH

Psalm 1:1 - Biblical Hebrew

Biblingo: Learn the Biblical Languages · 0:44

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7PxsPA_3is

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; play Psalm 1:1 twice and say each perfect verb with the reader.

Note: Biblingo reads Psalm 1:1 aloud in Biblical Hebrew with the text on screen (0:44): listen for halakh, amad, yashav.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 1:2 - Biblical Hebrew

Biblingo: Learn the Biblical Languages · 0:26

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8pUB1Qx2Tc

Biblingo reads Psalm 1:2 aloud in Biblical Hebrew with the text on screen (0:26).

KEY TERMS

perfect

The verb form for a whole, completed action: usually English past (he kept, he has kept).

person, gender, number

Shown by the ending: שָׁמַר he (no ending), שָׁמְרָה she (-ah), שָׁמְרוּ they (-u).

Qal

The simple, basic pattern of the verb. Most verbs you meet first are Qal.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

הָלַךְ *halakh* **hah-LAHKH** verb he walked, went	עָמַד *ʻamad* **ah-MAHD** verb he stood
יָשַׁב *yashav* **yah-SHAHV** verb he sat, dwelt	אַשְׁרֵי *ashrei* **ahsh-RAY** interjection blessed (is), happy (is)

CORE IDEAS

The story. Psalm 1 opens the whole book of Psalms with two ways: the way of the righteous and the way of the ungodly. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

How Hebrew works. The Qal perfect for "he" is the bare root with qamets and patach: שָׁמַר shamar, he kept. "She" adds -ah: שָׁמְרָה. "They" adds -u: שָׁמְרוּ. The perfect sees an action as complete.

In Psalm 1:1. הָלַךְ walked, עָמָד stood, יָשָׁב sat: three perfects for "he." The KJV says "walketh, standeth, sitteth" because the psalm describes how the blessed man always lives. Translating tense from Hebrew to English takes judgment.

PICTURE STUDY



Saint Jerome in His Study, Antonello da Messina, about 1474 · Oil on lime wood · National Gallery, London

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Jerome (about 347–420) learned Hebrew from Jewish teachers in Bethlehem so that he could translate the Old Testament into Latin from the Hebrew itself. His Latin Bible, the Vulgate, was read in the Western church for a thousand years. Psalm 1 pictures the man who meditates on God's law day and night; Jerome spent his life doing just that.

Look closely

- What is Jerome doing?
- Find the lion. (Legend said Jerome pulled a thorn from a lion's paw.)
- Find the birds on the step.
- What can you see through the windows?

Talk about it

1. Why did Jerome think it mattered to translate from the Hebrew?
2. How is Jerome like the man in Psalm 1:2?

ACTIVITY

Two ways path

Draw the two ways of Psalm 1 with perfect verbs.

You will need

- Large paper
- Markers

Steps

1. Draw a path that splits in two.
2. On the bad path, draw a man walking, standing and sitting with the wicked; label יָשַׁב, עָמַד, הָלַךְ with לֹא (not) in front.
3. On the good path, draw a tree by water (Psalm 1:3).
4. Write אַשְׁרֵי־הָאִישׁ (blessed is the man) at the top.

Tips

- Each verb is a “he” perfect.

Check your work

- ☐ My picture has three labeled verbs.
- ☐ I can translate each.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Write the he/she/they perfect of שָׁמַר, הָלַךְ and יָשַׁב.

> **From history.** Psalm 1 and Psalm 2 together form the doorway to the Psalms: Psalm 1 begins with “blessed” and Psalm 2 ends with “blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: לֹא הָלַךְ

▼ **Show solution**

1. lo = not.
2. halakh = he walked (Qal perfect, he).

Answer: he did not walk (KJV: walketh not).

Example 2. Translate: שָׁמְרוּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. root ש־מ־ר.
2. -u = they.

Answer: they kept.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: שָׁמַר

   ▼ **Show answer**

   he kept.

2. Easy Translate: שָׁמְרָה

   ▼ **Show answer**

   she kept.

3. Easy What ending means “they” in the perfect?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   -u (וּ).

4. Medium Translate: יָשַׁב

   ▼ **Show answer**

   he sat, dwelt.

5. Medium Why does the KJV say “walketh” for halakh?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The psalm describes the blessed man’s habit; English uses the present.

6. Hard Say Psalm 1:1 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking the perfect always means past. It means complete; context decides the English tense.
- Missing the -ah or -u ending.

> **Make it a game · Ending toss.** Make three cups labeled ∅ (he), ־ָה (she), ־וּ (they). The parent says “she kept,” “they sat,” “he walked”; toss a coin into the right cup and say the Hebrew.

> **Scripture.** “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” (Psalm 1:1, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> אַשְׁרֵי הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא הָלַךְ בַּעֲצַת רְשָׁעִים
>
> Find the three perfects: halakh (walked), amad (stood), yashav (sat), each with lo, not.

UNIT 2 · THE PERFECT: WHAT WAS DONE · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 I, You, We: The Perfect

OBJECTIVES

- Read the perfect forms for I, you and we.
- Find the person from the ending.

- Read Psalm 119:30.

> **Warm-up.** Finish the sentence: “Today I have chosen to …” Choices matter. Psalm 119:30 says, I have chosen the way of truth.

WATCH

Psalm 119:30

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHKqcoBHcrA

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; listen for vacharti, I have chosen, and tsafanti, I have hid.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:30 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:11

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:32

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrTnZ1RNJ3A

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:11 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

-ti

I: שָׁמַרְתִּי I kept.

-ta / -t

You (m.) / you (f.): שָׁמַרְתָּ, שָׁמַרְתְּ.

-nu / -tem

We / you (pl.): שָׁמַרְנוּ, שְׁמַרְתֶּם.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of

the shewa.

בָּחָרְתִּי *vacharti* **vah-KHAR-tee** verb I have chosen	**צָפַנְתִּי** *tsafanti* **tsah-FAHN-tee** verb I have hid
זָכַר *zakhar* **zah-KHAHR** verb he remembered	**כָּתַב** *katav* **kah-TAHV** verb he wrote

CORE IDEAS

The story. The writer of Psalm 119 loved God's word. In verse 30 he says: I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me. Faith is not only a feeling; it is a choice to walk God's way and keep His word in front of us.

How Hebrew works. The full Qal perfect of שָׁמַר: he שָׁמַר, she שָׁמְרָה, you (m.) שָׁמַרְתָּ, you (f.) שָׁמַרְתְּ, I שָׁמַרְתִּי, they שָׁמְרוּ, you (pl.) שְׁמַרְתֶּם, we שָׁמַרְנוּ. The endings look like the pronouns: -ti (ani), -ta (attah), -nu (anachnu).

In Psalm 119. בָּחָרְתִּי I have chosen (root ב־ח־ר); צָפַנְתִּי I have hid (Psalm 119:11, root צ־פ־ן). Psalm 119 is full of "I" perfects.

ACTIVITY

My choices chart

Make a chart of “I” perfects from Psalm 119.

You will need

- Paper
- Markers

Steps

1. Write בָּחַרְתִּי (I have chosen, 119:30) and צָפַנְתִּי (I have hid, 119:11) at the top.
2. Below, write the full perfect of שָׁמַר in a table.
3. Color the endings to match the pronouns: -ti/ani, -ta/attah, -nu/anachnu.

Tips

- The ending -ti always means “I.”

Check your work

☐ My chart has all nine forms.

☐ I matched endings to pronouns.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Write the nine Qal perfect forms of שָׁמַר with English.

> **From history.** Hebrew grammarians name verbs by the “he” perfect, so dictionaries list שָׁמַר, not “to keep.”

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: שָׁמַרְנוּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. root ש־מ־ר.
2. -nu = we (like anachnu).

Answer: we kept.

Example 2. Translate: בָּחָרְתִּי

▼ **Show solution**

1. root ב־ח־ר, choose.
2. -ti = I.

Answer: I have chosen.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Which ending means “I”?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   -ti (תִּי).

2. Easy Translate: שָׁמַרְתְּ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   you (m.) kept.

3. Easy Translate: שָׁמַרְנוּ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   we kept.

4. Medium Translate: זָכַרְתִּי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   I remembered.

5. Medium Translate: כָּתַבְתָּ

▼ **Show answer**

you wrote.

6. Hard Say Psalm 119:30 in English.

▼ **Show answer**

I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Confusing -ta (you, m.) and -ti (I).
- Forgetting that שָׂמְרְתָּם shortens its first vowel.

> **Make it a game · Conjugation race.** Call a pronoun (אֲנִי, אַתָּה, הִיא, אֲנַחְנוּ ...) and a root (ש־מ־ר, כ־ת־ב, ז־כ־ר). The first to write the correct perfect wins the round.

> **Scripture.** "I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me." (Psalm 119:30, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> דֶּרֶךְ־אֱמוּנָה בָּחָרְתִּי מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ שִׁוִּיתִי׃
>
> Find derekh-emunah vacharti, the way of truth I have chosen. The object comes first for emphasis; vacharti ends in -ti, I.

UNIT 3

And He Said: The Story Verb

Lesson 3.1 teaches the story form (vav-consecutive): וַיֹּאמֶר, וַיְהִי, וַיַּרְא, with Genesis 22:1 and Rembrandt.

Lesson 3.2 teaches יְהִי, let there be, with Psalm 33:22 and Psalm 113:2.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can spot a story verb by וַ + doubling.
- ☐ I can translate וַיֹּאמֶר, וַיְהִי, וַיַּרְא, וַיִּקְרָא.
- ☐ I can translate יְהִי as "let there be" or "let … be."

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**Vayyomer: And He Said**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
3.2	**Yehi: Let There Be**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 3 review

The student writes or answers aloud. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Translate: וַיֹּאמֶר and וַיְהִי
2. **5 pts**
   Translate: וַיַּרְא and וַיִּקְרָא
3. **5 pts**
   Translate: יְהִי אוֹר
4. **5 pts**
   Say Genesis 22:1 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. and he said; and it was (and it came to pass).
2. and he saw; and he called.
3. Let there be light.
4. And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

> Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: STORY STRIP

Make a comic strip of Genesis 22:1–13 in six panels. In each panel's caption, use at least one story verb in Hebrew (וַיֹּאמֶר, וַיֵּלֶךְ, וַיַּרְא, וַיִּקְרָא …) with its English.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student reads every caption.
Grammar	The story verbs are spelled and parsed correctly.
Translation	The captions follow the Bible text.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 3 · AND HE SAID: THE STORY VERB · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.1 Vayyomer: And He Said

OBJECTIVES

- Spot a story verb by וַ + doubled letter.
- Translate the most common story verbs.
- Read Genesis 22:1.

> **Warm-up.** How do fairy tales start? "Once upon a time …" and then "and then … and then …" Bible stories move forward with one special verb form, again and again.

WATCH

Easy Story 43 - Abraham and His Son - אַבְרָהָם וּבְנוֹ

Aleph with Beth · 8:01

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXishmLJ5Ok

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; tally every “and he said.”

Note: Aleph with Beth’s Easy Story 43, Abraham and His Son (Genesis 22), in simple Biblical Hebrew (8:01): count every vayyomer.

BACKUP VIDEO

Easy Story 53 - Abimelech Returns Sarah to Abraham - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 3:35

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2t8fINngSds

Aleph with Beth’s Easy Story 53, Abimelech Returns Sarah to Abraham, in simple Biblical Hebrew (3:35).

KEY TERMS

story form (vav-consecutive)

וַ + a doubled prefix letter + the verb:

וַיֹּאמֶר vayyomer, and he said. It moves a story forward in past time.

וַיְהִי vayehi

And it was; and it came to pass.

הִנֵּנִי hinneni

Here I am (behold me): hinneh + -ni.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

וַיֹּאמֶר

vayyomer

vai-YOH-mer

verb, story form

and he said

וַיְהִי

vayehi

vai-HEE

verb, story form

and it was, and it came to pass

הִנֵּנִי

hinneni

heen-NAY-nee

particle with suffix

here I am

וַיִּקְרָא

vayyiqra

vai-yeek-RAH

verb, story form

and he called

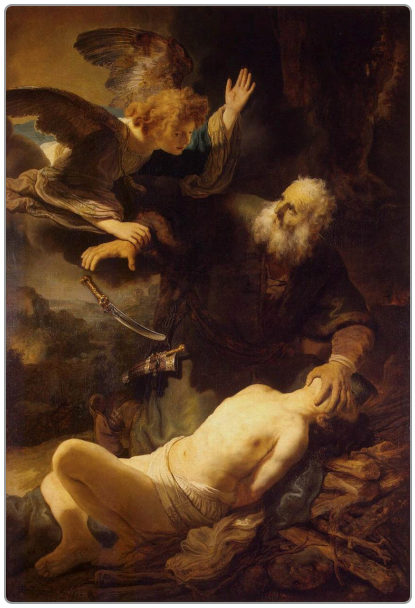
CORE IDEAS

The story. And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. “Tempt” in the KJV means test. Abraham did not argue; he answered hinneni, here I am, ready to obey. Hebrews 11:19 says Abraham believed God was able to raise Isaac even from the dead.

How Hebrew works. Bible stories chain verbs in the story form: וַיֹּאמֶר and he said, וַיַּרְא and he saw, וַיִּקְרָא and he called, וַיֵּלֶךְ and he went. Look for וַ with a patach and a dagesh in the next letter (except before alef, which cannot double: וָאֹמַר and I said).

Vayehi. וַיְהִי (root ה־י־ה, be) often opens a new scene: And it came to pass. It appears hundreds of times. Genesis 22:1 has vayehi once and vayyomer twice.

PICTURE STUDY



The Sacrifice of Isaac, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1635 · Oil on canvas · Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Rembrandt shows the instant of Genesis 22:11–12, when the angel of the LORD called from heaven, Lay not thine hand upon the lad. The falling knife is frozen in midair. Christians have long seen Isaac, the beloved son carrying the wood up the hill, as a picture of Christ carrying His cross.

Look closely

- Find the knife. Where is it?
- What is the angel doing with his hand?
- Look at Abraham's face. How does he feel?
- What is Isaac lying on?

Talk about it

1. Why does Rembrandt cover Isaac's face with Abraham's hand?
2. What did God provide in Isaac's place (Genesis 22:13)?

ACTIVITY

Story-verb chain

Make a paper chain of the story verbs in Genesis 22.

You will need

- Paper strips
- Tape
- A marker
- A Bible

Steps

1. Read Genesis 22:1–13 in English.
2. For each action, write the Hebrew story verb on a strip: וַיַּשְׁכֵּם, וַיֹּאמֶר, וַיְהִי (and he rose early), וַיַּרְא, וַיִּקָּרָא, וַיֵּלֶךְ.
3. Link them in order and read the chain.

Tips

- Every link starts with וַ.

Check your work

☐ My chain has six links in order.

☐ I can translate each.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy six story verbs with meanings. Circle the doubled letter after וַ in each.

> **From history.** The same answer, hinneni, here I am, is given by Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:4), by Samuel as a boy (1 Samuel 3:4) and by Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8, Here am I; send me).

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו

▼ **Show solution**

1. vayyomer = and he said (story form, root א־מ־ר).
2. elav = unto him (el + suffix).

Answer: and he said unto him.

Example 2. Translate: וַיַּרְא

▼ **Show solution**

1. vay- = story form.
2. root ר־א־ה, see (the final he drops).

Answer: and he saw.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: וַיֹּאמֶר

   ▼ **Show answer**

   and he said.

2. Easy Translate: וַיְהִי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   and it came to pass.

3. Easy Translate: הִנֵּנִי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   here I am.

4. Medium Translate: וַיִּקְרָא

   ▼ **Show answer**

   and he called.

5. Medium How do you spot a story verb?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   וַ with patach + a doubled prefix letter.

6. Hard Say Genesis 22:1 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading וַ as plain “and” + a verb in the future. With the doubling it is past narration.
- Missing that “tempt” in the KJV means “test.”

> **Make it a game · Hinneni!.** The leader calls a player’s name. The player must answer הִנֵּנִי and then say a story verb in Hebrew with its meaning. Too slow or wrong, and you are out until the next round.

> **Scripture.** “And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.” (Genesis 22:1, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> וַיְהִי אַחַר הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְהָאֱלֹהִים נִסָּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּנִי
>
> Find vayehi, vayyomer (twice) and hinneni. The verse is a little story by itself.

UNIT 3 · AND HE SAID: THE STORY VERB · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.2 Yehi: Let There Be

OBJECTIVES

- Translate יְהִי as “let there be” or “let … be.”
- Tell יְהִי from וַיְהִי.
- Read Psalm 33:22.

> **Warm-up.** How do you ask politely for something to happen? “May it rain,” “Let us go.” Hebrew has a short verb form for wishes and commands to a third person.

WATCH

Hebrew Worship - 113 תְּהַלִּים - Psalm 113 - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 5:34

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KUx9Sbc0CM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; sing yehi shem Adonai mevorakh.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 113 in Biblical Hebrew (5:34): yehi shem Adonai mevorakh, blessed be the name of the LORD (113:2).

BACKUP VIDEO

Easy Story 3 - The Creation Story

Aleph with Beth · 4:50

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjVzrsHOgUM

Aleph with Beth’s Easy Story 3, the creation story, in simple Biblical Hebrew (4:50): listen for yehi, let there be.

KEY TERMS

jussive

A short verb form for a wish or command to “him,” “her” or “it”: יְהִי let there be, let it be.

וַיְהִי vs יְהִי

yehi: let there be (a wish). vayehi: and there was (the story form).

חַסְדְּךָ chasdekha

Thy mercy, thy steadfast love: chesed + -kha.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

יְהִי

yehi

yeh-HEE

verb, jussive

let there be, let it be

חַסְדְּךָ

chasdekha

khahs-deh-KHAH

noun with suffix

thy mercy

עָלֵינוּ

aleinu

ah-LAY-noo

preposition with suffix

upon us

מְבֹרָךְ

mevorakh

meh-voh-RAHKH

participle

blessed

CORE IDEAS

The story. Psalm 33 praises the God who made the heavens by His word. It ends with a prayer: Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee. The God who said “let there be light” is the one we ask to let His mercy be on us.

How Hebrew works. יְהִי yehi (root ה־י־ה) means let there be, or let … be, or may … be: יְהִי אוֹר let there be light; יְהִי־חַסְדְּךָ let thy mercy be; יְהִי שֵׁם יְהוָה מְבֹרָךְ blessed be the name of the LORD (Psalm 113:2).

Wish and story side by side. Genesis 1:3 has both: יְהִי אוֹר let there be light (the command) וַיְהִי־אוֹר and there was light (the story). What God commands happens.

ACTIVITY

Prayer card

Make a prayer card with yehi phrases.

You will need

- Card stock
- Markers

Steps

1. Write יְהִי־חַסְדְּךָ יְהוָה עָלֵינוּ (Psalm 33:22) at the top.
2. Add יְהִי שֵׁם יְהוָה מְבֹרָךְ (Psalm 113:2).
3. Translate both on the back.
4. Use the card at family prayer this week.

Tips

- Copy the maqqef in יְהִי־חַסְדְּךָ.

Check your work

☐ My card has two verses.

☐ I can explain yehi.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy יְהִי אוֹר, וַיְהִי־אוֹר, יְהִי־חַסְדְּךָ. Translate each and explain the difference.

> **From history.** The Latin for “let there be light” is fiat lux. A “fiat” in English is still an order that makes something happen.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: יְהִי־חַסְדְּךָ יְהוָה עָלֵינוּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. yehi = let … be.
2. chasdekha = thy mercy; the Name = O LORD; aleinu = upon us.

Answer: Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us.

Example 2. Wish or story? וַיְהִי־אוֹר

▼ **Show solution**

1. וַ + yehi.
2. The story form.

Answer: Story: and there was light.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: יְהִי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   let there be, let it be.

2. Easy Translate: יְהִי אוֹר

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Let there be light.

3. Easy Translate: חַסְדְּךָ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   thy mercy.

4. Medium Translate: עָלֵינוּ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   upon us.

5. **Medium** What is the difference between yehi and vayehi?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   yehi is a wish or command (let there be); vayehi is the story form (and there was).

6. **Hard** Say Psalm 33:22 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Translating every yehi as “there was.”
- Missing the suffix -kha on chasdekha.

> **Make it a game · Let there be!.** One player is the “narrator.” Another says a yehi command (יְהִי אוֹר, יְהִי מַיִם, יְהִי לַיְלָה); the narrator must answer with the story form (וַיְהִי אוֹר …) and act it out.

> **Scripture.** “Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.” (Psalm 33:22, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> יְהִי־חַסְדְּךָ יְהוָה עָלֵינוּ
>
> Find yehi-chasdekha, let thy mercy be, and aleinu, upon us.

UNIT 4

Let There Be Light: Genesis 1:3–5

Lesson 4.1 reads Genesis 1:3–4 (vayyomer, yehi, vayehi, vayyar, vayyavdel), with Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel panel.

Lesson 4.2 reads Genesis 1:5 (vayyiqra, qara, vayehi-erev vayehi-voqer, yom echad).

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can read Genesis 1:3–5 aloud in Hebrew.
- ☐ I can parse each verb: form and root.
- ☐ I can explain why the KJV says “first day” for yom echad.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**Let There Be Light: Genesis 1:3–4**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
4.2	**Evening and Morning: Genesis 1:5**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 4 review

The student reads, parses and translates. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Read Genesis 1:3 aloud and translate.
2. **5 pts**
   Parse וַיַּבְדֵּל
3. **5 pts**
   Translate: וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר
4. **5 pts**
   What does יוֹם אֶחָד literally mean?

ANSWER KEY

1. vayyomer Elohim yehi or vayehi-or: And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
2. story form, root ב־ד־ל: and he divided.
3. and there was evening and there was morning (KJV: and the evening and the morning were).
4. day one (KJV: the first day).

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: DAY ONE PAGE

Make an illuminated page of Genesis 1:3–5 in Hebrew, with the KJV beside it. Mark every story verb in gold, the jussive yehi in blue, and the perfect qara in green. Add a parsing table: verb, form, root, meaning.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student reads all three verses aloud.
Grammar	Every verb is parsed correctly.
Translation	The translation matches the KJV.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 4 · LET THERE BE LIGHT: GENESIS 1:3–5 · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.1 Let There Be Light: Genesis 1:3–4

OBJECTIVES

- Read Genesis 1:3–4 aloud.
- Parse vayyomer, yehi, vayehi, vayyar, vayyavdel.
- Explain command and fulfillment.

> **Warm-up.** Switch off the lights. Say “let there be light” and switch them on. Your hand did the work. When God spoke, His word alone did it.

WATCH

Genesis 1:3

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VsWZMeD5wA

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; read along with each verse twice.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 1:3 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

BACKUP VIDEO

Genesis 1:4

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:04

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dAINJcfHcY

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 1:4 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

וַיַּבְדֵּל vayyavdel

And he divided (root ב־ד־ל, separate).

בֵּין … וּבֵין bein … u-vein

Between … and (between).

command and fulfillment

God commands (yehi) and the story reports it done (vayehi). Genesis 1 repeats this pattern day by day.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of

the shewa.

וַיַּבְדֵּל *vayyavdel* **vai-yahv-DAYL** verb, story form and he divided	וַיַּרְא *vayyar* **vai-YAHR** verb, story form and he saw
בֵּין *bein* **BAYN** preposition between	הָאוֹר *ha'or* **hah-OHR** noun with the article the light

CORE IDEAS

The story. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. Paul writes that the same God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness has shined in our hearts (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Read and parse.

> וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי־אוֹר׃

vayyomer (story, א־מ־ר, and he said) Elohim; yehi (jussive, ה־י־ה, let there be) or; vayehi (story, ה־י־ה, and there was) or.

> וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאוֹר כִּי־טוֹב

vayyar (story, ר־א־ה, and he saw); et marks the object; ki-tov, that it was good.

Verse 4 ends וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאוֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ׃: and God divided between the light and between the darkness. Hebrew repeats "between"; English says it once.

PICTURE STUDY



The Separation of Light from Darkness (detail), Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1511 · Fresco · Sistine Chapel, Vatican City

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Michelangelo painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling from 1508 to 1512, standing on scaffolding with his head bent back. The scenes run from the creation to Noah. This panel, painted last though it stands first in the story, shows God dividing the light from the darkness on the first day.

Look closely

- Where are God's hands?
- Which part of the picture is light and which is dark?
- Is God standing, sitting or flying?
- What colors did Michelangelo use for the robe?

Talk about it

1. How did Michelangelo show God's power without words?
2. Why might Michelangelo look up at a ceiling for four years to paint this?

ACTIVITY

Light and dark flip book

Make a flip book of Genesis 1:3–4.

You will need

- Small paper squares
- A stapler
- Pencils

Steps

1. On the first page, draw darkness and write וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים.
2. Next pages: יְהִי אוֹר; light bursting; וַיְהִי־אוֹר.
3. Last pages: וַיַּבְדֵּל: a line between light and dark.
4. Staple and flip.

Tips

- Copy each verb exactly.

Check your work

☐ My book has five pages.

☐ I can parse each verb.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Genesis 1:3 and make a parsing table: verb, form, root, meaning.

> **From history.** Light appears on day 1, but the sun on day 4. Christians from the early church onward have noted that the light comes from God before any lamp in the sky.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Parse: וַיַּ֫רְא

▼ **Show solution**

1. vay- + doubled yod: story form.
2. root ר־א־ה (see); the final he has dropped off.

Answer: story form of ר־א־ה: and he saw.

Example 2. Parse: יְהִ֫י

▼ **Show solution**

1. No וַ in front.
2. root ה־י־ה; short form for a wish or command.

Answer: jussive of ה־י־ה: let there be.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: וַיֹּ֫אמֶר אֱלֹהִ֫ים

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And God said.

2. Easy Translate: וַיְהִי־אוֹר

   ▼ **Show answer**

   and there was light.

3. Easy Root of וַיַּבְדֵּל?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ב־ד־ל.

4. Medium Translate: כִּי־טוֹב

   ▼ **Show answer**

   that it was good.

5. Medium Why does Hebrew say “between” twice?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   That is how Hebrew says “between X and Y”: bein X u-vein Y.

6. Hard Say Genesis 1:3–4 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading yehi as a story verb.
- Missing the et before ha’or (object marker).

> **Make it a game · Parse it!.** Make verb cards from Genesis 1:3–5. Draw one; say its form (story, jussive, perfect), root and meaning. Two points for all three.

> **Scripture.** “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” (Genesis 1:3, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי־אוֹר׃
>
> Read the whole verse and name each verb: vayyomer (story), yehi (jussive), vayehi (story).

UNIT 4 · LET THERE BE LIGHT: GENESIS 1:3–5 · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.2 Evening and Morning: Genesis 1:5

OBJECTIVES

- Read Genesis 1:5 aloud.
- Parse vayyiqra and qara.
- Explain yom echad.

> **Warm-up.** When does your day begin: at midnight, at sunrise? In the Bible, a day begins at evening. Genesis 1:5 shows why.

WATCH

Genesis 1:5

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:07

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLYb3LnZB4I

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; compare the endings of day 1 (1:5) and day 6 (1:31).

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 1:5 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

BACKUP VIDEO

Genesis 1:31

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 1:58

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLHbTFIWNl0

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 1:31 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

קָרָא qara

He called (Qal perfect, root ק־ר־א).

וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר

And there was evening and there was morning.

יוֹם אֶחָד yom echad

Day one (KJV: the first day).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

קָרָא

qara

kah-RAH

verb

he called

עֶרֶב

‘erev

EH-rev

noun

evening

בֹּקֶר

voqer

VOH-ker

noun

morning

אֶחָד

echad

eh-KHAHD

number

one

CORE IDEAS

The story. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. God names the light and the darkness: He rules both. The Sabbath and feasts of Israel began at evening because of this verse.

Read and parse. וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לָאוֹר יוֹם and God called (story form of ק־ר־א) the light (la- = to the) Day; וְלַחֹשֶׁךְ קָרָא לָיְלָה and the darkness he called (perfect of ק־ר־א) Night. The story form changes to the perfect when the object comes first: a common Hebrew pattern.

Day one. יוֹם אֶחָד uses the number one, not “first.” Days 2–6 use “second,” “third” and so on. The KJV smooths this to “the first day.”

ACTIVITY

Evening-to-evening clock

Make a 24-hour clock that starts at sunset.

You will need

- A paper plate
- Markers
- A paper arrow and brad

Steps

1. Mark the top “evening” (עֶרֶב) and the bottom “morning” (בֹּקֶר).
2. Color the evening half dark and the morning half light.
3. Write וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם אֶחָד around the edge.
4. Move the arrow through one Bible day.

Tips

- The day starts at the top: evening.

Check your work

☐ My clock is labeled.

☐ I can explain why a Bible day starts at evening.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Genesis 1:5. Parse vayyiqra and qara and translate the verse.

> **From history.** Jewish families still begin the Sabbath at sunset on Friday, following “evening and morning.”

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: וְלַחֹשֶׁךְ קָרָא לָיְלָה

▼ **Show solution**

1. ve- = and; la- = to the; choshekh = darkness.
2. qara = he called (perfect); laylah = night.

Answer: and the darkness he called Night.

Example 2. Why קָרָא and not וַיִּקְרָא here?

▼ **Show solution**

1. The object (the darkness) comes before the verb.
2. A story verb must come first in its clause, so the perfect is used.

Answer: Because the object is put first for emphasis.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: עֶרֶב

   ▼ **Show answer**

   evening.

2. Easy Translate: בֹּקֶר

   ▼ **Show answer**

   morning.

3. Easy Translate: אֶחָד

   ▼ **Show answer**

   one.

4. Medium Parse: וַיִּקְרָא

   ▼ **Show answer**

   story form, root ק־ר־א: and he called.

5. Medium When does a Bible day begin?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   At evening.

6. Hard Say Genesis 1:5 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking qara and vayyiqra are different verbs. Same root, different forms.
- Translating yom echad as "one day" in the sense of "someday."

> **Make it a game · Story or perfect?.** Read Genesis 1:1–5 in Hebrew. Each time you meet a verb, stand up for a story form and sit for a perfect or jussive.

> **Scripture.** "And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." (Genesis 1:5, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> וַיִּקְרָ֨א אֱלֹהִ֜ים לָאוֹר֙ יוֹם֙ וְלַחֹ֣שֶׁךְ קָ֔רָא לָ֖יְלָה וַיְהִי־עֶ֥רֶב וַיְהִי־בֹ֖קֶר יוֹם אֶחָֽד׃
>
> Find vayyiqra (story form) and qara (perfect) of the same root, then vayehi-erev vayehi-voqer yom echad.

UNIT 5

The Seventh Day: Genesis 2:1–3

Lesson 5.1 reads Genesis 2:1–2 (vayekhullu, vayekhal, vayyishbot), with Rembrandt's Moses.

Lesson 5.2 reads Genesis 2:3 (vayvarekh, vayqaddesh, shavat) and reviews the quarter.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can read Genesis 2:1–3 aloud in Hebrew.
- ☐ I can parse each story verb.
- ☐ I can explain the link between shavat and Sabbath.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**Finished: Genesis 2:1–2**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
5.2	**Blessed and Sanctified: Genesis 2:3**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 5 review

The student reads, parses and translates. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Translate: וַיְכֻלּוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ
2. **5 pts**
   Parse וַיִּשְׁבֹּת
3. **5 pts**
   Translate: וַיְבָרֶךְ and וַיְקַדֵּשׁ
4. **5 pts**
   Say Genesis 2:3 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished.
2. story form, root שׁ־ב־ת: and he rested.
3. and he blessed; and he sanctified.
4. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: CREATION WEEK SCROLL

Make a scroll with the Hebrew of Genesis 1:3, 1:5 and 2:1–3 and the KJV beside them. Parse every story verb in a table at the end (verb, root, meaning), and write a paragraph on why God rested.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student reads all five verses aloud.
Grammar	Every story verb is parsed.
Translation	The paragraph uses the Bible text accurately.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 5 · THE SEVENTH DAY: GENESIS 2:1–3 · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.1 Finished: Genesis 2:1–2

OBJECTIVES

- Read Genesis 2:1–2 aloud.
- Parse vayekhullu, vayekhal, vayyishbot.
- Find the repeated phrases.

Warm-up. Think of a big project you finished. How did it feel to step back and say “done”? Genesis 2 begins with God’s work finished.

WATCH

Genesis 2:1

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:03

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pR4CS4M4x9Q

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; read along and listen for bayyom hashshevi‘i twice.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 2:1 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

BACKUP VIDEO

Genesis 2:2

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k20b8jMlOQ

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 2:2 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

וַיְכֻלּוּ vayekhullu

And they were finished (a passive story form, root כ־ל־ה).

מְלַאכְתּוֹ melakhto

His work (melakhah + -o).

הַשְּׁבִיעִי hashshevi‘i

The seventh.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

וַיְכֻלּוּ

vayekhullu

vai-khool-LOO

verb, story form

and they were finished

וַיְכַל

vayekhal

vai-KHAHL

verb, story form

and he finished

וַיִּשְׁבֹּת

vayyishbot

vai-yeesh-BOHT

verb, story form

and he rested

מְלַאכְתּוֹ

melakhto

meh-lahkh-TOH

noun with suffix

his work

CORE IDEAS

The story. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. God did not rest because He was tired (Isaiah 40:28). He stopped because the work was complete and good.

Read and parse. וַיְכֻלּוּ and they were finished (story form, passive, plural); וַיְכַל and he finished (story form, root כ־ל־ה); וַיִּשְׁבֹּת and he rested, ceased (story form, root ש־ב־ת).

Repetition. Verse 2 says בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי on the seventh day twice and מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה his work which he had made twice. Hebrew repeats to stress: the work is done.

PICTURE STUDY



Moses with the Ten Commandments, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1659 · Oil on canvas · Gemäldegalerie, Berlin

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

The fourth commandment on those tablets points straight back to Genesis 2: Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy … For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day (Exodus 20:8, 11). Rembrandt painted real Hebrew letters on the lower tablet.

Look closely

- How is Moses holding the tablets?
- Can you see Hebrew letters?
- What is Moses' face like?
- What is behind him?

Talk about it

1. Is Moses about to show the tablets or to break them? Read Exodus 32:19.
2. Why does the fourth commandment point back to creation?

ACTIVITY

Seven-day calendar

Make a creation-week calendar with Hebrew labels.

You will need

- Paper
- Markers

Steps

1. Draw seven boxes.
2. Write the Hebrew day names from Genesis 1: יוֹם אֶחָד, יוֹם שֵׁנִי, יוֹם שְׁלִישִׁי, יוֹם רְבִיעִי, יוֹם חֲמִישִׁי, יוֹם הַשִּׁשִּׁי, הַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי.
3. Draw each day's work; leave the seventh box for rest.

Tips

- The seventh day has the article: הַשְּׁבִיעִי.

Check your work

☐ My calendar has seven days.

☐ I can read each label.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Genesis 2:1–2 in Hebrew. Underline the repeated phrases and parse the three story verbs.

> **From history.** Genesis 2:1–3 has 35 Hebrew words (counting words joined by a maqqef separately, as is traditional: 5 × 7), and the phrase "the seventh day" appears three times; many readers have noted how the passage is built around seven.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי

▼ **Show solution**

1. vayekhal = and he finished (story form).
2. bayyom = on the day (be + ha); hashshevi‘i = the seventh.

Answer: And on the seventh day God ended (finished).

Example 2. Translate: וַיִּשְׁבֹּת

▼ **Show solution**

1. vay- = story form.
2. root ש־ב־ת = cease, rest.

Answer: and he rested.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: הַשְּׁבִיעִי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   the seventh.

2. Easy Translate: מְלַאכְתּוֹ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   his work.

3. Easy Root of וַיִּשְׁבֹּת?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ש־ב־ת.

4. Medium Which phrases repeat in Genesis 2:2?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   on the seventh day; his work which he had made.

5. Medium Did God rest because He was tired?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   No: He ceased because His work was finished (Isaiah 40:28).

6. Hard Say Genesis 2:1–2 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading vayekhullu as active (“they finished”). It is passive: were finished.
- Missing the article in bayyom (be + ha).

> **Make it a game · Seven claps.** Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 in English as a family. Every time someone hears “and God said,” clap once; every time “seventh” appears, clap seven times.

> **Scripture.** “And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.” (Genesis 2:2, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּשְׁבֹּת בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מִכָּל־מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה׃
>
> Find vayekhal and vayyishbot, two story verbs, and the twice-repeated bayyom hashshevi‘i.

5.2 Blessed and Sanctified: Genesis 2:3

OBJECTIVES

- Read Genesis 2:3 aloud.
- Parse vayvarekh, vayqaddesh, shavat.
- Review the quarter: roots, perfect, story form, jussive.

> **Warm-up.** What makes a day special for your family: a birthday, Christmas, the Lord's Day? God made one day special at the very beginning.

WATCH

Genesis 2:3

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:40

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdKv-J_VOoY

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; read along twice.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 2:3 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

וַיְבָרֶךְ vayvarekh

And he blessed (root ב־ר־ך).

וַיְקַדֵּשׁ vayqaddesh

And he sanctified, set apart (root ק־ד־ש).

שָׁבַת shavat

He rested, ceased (Qal perfect): the root of "Sabbath."

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

וַיְבָרֶךְ

vayvarekh

vai-vah-REKH

verb, story form

and he blessed

וַיְקַדֵּשׁ

vayqaddesh

vai-kahd-DAYSH

verb, story form

and he sanctified

שָׁבַת

shavat

shah-VAHT

verb

he rested, ceased

שַׁבָּת

shabbat

shahb-BAHT

noun

sabbath

CORE IDEAS

The story. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. God made a rhythm of six days of work and one of rest. Jesus said, The sabbath was made for man (Mark 2:27), and Christians gather on the first day of the week, the day of His resurrection.

Read and parse. וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי and God blessed the seventh day (story form of ב־ר־ך); וַיְקַדֵּשׁ אֹתוֹ and sanctified it (story form of ק־ד־ש; oto = it); כִּי בוֹ שָׁבַת because in it he rested (bo = in it; shavat = perfect).

Quarter review. Roots: ב־ר־ך, ק־ד־ש, ש־ב־ת, ב־ר־א, ע־ש־ה. The perfect: שָׁבַת, בָּרָא. The story form: וַיְבָרֶךְ, וַיְקַדֵּשׁ. From the root ש־ב־ת comes שַׁבָּת Sabbath.

ACTIVITY

Sabbath candle card

Make a card for the Lord's Day with Genesis 2:3.

You will need

- Card stock
- Gold marker
- Colored pencils

Steps

1. Write וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי in gold across the top.
2. Draw a table set for a family meal.
3. Inside, copy the KJV of Genesis 2:3 and Mark 2:27.

Tips

- Copy the maqqef in אֶת־יוֹם.

Check your work

☐ My card has the Hebrew and the KJV.

☐ I can parse vayvarekh.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Genesis 2:3. Parse vayvarekh, vayqaddesh, shavat and bara.

> **From history.** The seven-day week is used all over the world today, though it does not fit neatly into the movements of the sun or moon. Jews and Christians trace it to Genesis.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: וַיְקַדֵּשׁ אֹתוֹ

▼ **Show solution**

1. vayqaddesh = and he sanctified (story form, ק־ד־ש).
2. oto = it (et + -o).

Answer: and sanctified it.

Example 2. Translate: כִּי בוֹ שָׁבַת

▼ **Show solution**

1. ki = because; bo = in it (be + -o).
2. shavat = he rested (perfect).

Answer: because in it he had rested.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: וַיְבָרֶךְ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   and he blessed.

2. Easy Root of שַׁבָּת?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ש־ב־ת.

3. Easy Translate: אֹתוֹ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   it, him.

4. Medium Parse: וַיְקַדֵּשׁ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   story form, root ק־ד־ש: and he sanctified.

5. **Medium** Name two roots from Genesis 2:3 that you met in Unit 1.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ק־ד־ש (holy) and ע־ש־ה or ב־ר־א.

6. **Hard** Say Genesis 2:3 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading bo (in it) as bo (come). Context decides.
- Missing that shavat is a perfect, not a story form.

> **Make it a game · Grade 7 grammar bingo.** Make a bingo card with roots and forms: ש־ב־ת, ק־ד־ש, ב־ר־ך, story form, perfect, jussive, “I” ending, “we” ending, construct. The parent reads a Hebrew word from Genesis 1:1–2:3; cover what it shows.

> **Scripture.** “And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.” (Genesis 2:3, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיְקַדֵּשׁ אֹתוֹ כִּי בוֹ שָׁבַת מִכָּל־מְלַאכְתּוֹ
> אֲשֶׁר־בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים לַעֲשׂוֹת׃
>
> Find vayyarekh and vayqaddesh (story forms), shavat (perfect) and bara (perfect).