

עברית עברית  
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AMITEI IVRIT

# לפֶּרֶק תְּפִלוֹת עִבְרִיּוֹת

*LIFAREK TEFILOT IVRIOT*  
**UNPACKING TEFILA HEBREW**

## GOALS:

This program is designed to focus participants on Hebrew that comes from tefillah, Jewish tradition, liturgy and make connections and create meaning with modern Hebrew usage.

## Age Range: 8+

Materials: Massive butcher paper- (big enough for all participants to have space around it), Individual papers, markers, tape. At least one of the Unpacking Hebrew pages [LINK](#).

Select a prayer in Hebrew, some recommendations include V'Ahavta, Shema, Birkot Hashachar, Aleinu, etc.)The first part of this activity will focus on this ritual Hebrew at the center of the page.

Write out the blessing onto the butcher paper in Hebrew and transliteration. (Don't yet add the translation).

1. Cut the butcher paper into a large puzzle before the program begins
2. Have the students assemble the puzzle pieces, and then tape them together
3. Ask participants to add their comments to the butcher paper according to these prompts:
  1. Add a smile to words you understand.
  2. Add a question mark to words you don't understand or don't know.
  3. Add a "plus" sign to words you hear in additional prayers, blessings, or even in modern Hebrew.
  4. Add your thoughts and comments on how this blessing or phrase makes you feel when you hear it.
4. Now share with the group the related Unpacking Hebrew page. (set up similar to a page of Talmud) and show participants the connections between traditional and modern Hebrew. The print out pages will include the translation.
5. Continue the discussion:
  1. Is it important for us to understand the Hebrew of our prayers or that we hear in more traditional spaces?
  2. Which of the modern words did people know?
  3. What do they think about the fact that commonly used modern Hebrew words can be taken from the tfilla or other Jewish spaces and used for non-religious purposes?
  4. Are there prayers or traditional Jewish phrases you would like to understand better?
  5. Why do you think we say this in our prayer service?
  6. How does it feel to say this in Hebrew when you understand or don't understand it?
  7. Do you say this outside of prayer services?
  8. How would YOU translate this prayer into modern day English?
  9. What's an alternative way to translate this Hebrew?

***Start with what participants know:***

Materials: Massive butcher paper - (big enough for all participants to have space around it), Individual papers, markers, tape.

1. Begin by asking participants to come up with words they recognize and remember from tefilla, from common blessings, or from any other Jewish setting.
2. As participants suggest words, the Fellow chooses the traditional Hebrew words and writes them on the large butcher paper in Hebrew and in transliteration. (Don't translate them at this point)
3. Once you've gathered enough words, have the participants add their comments directly on the butcher paper while giving them these prompts:
  - a) Which of these words do you hear most often?
  - b) In what context do you hear this word? Where else do we hear it?
  - c) What does it mean? What is the translation and what meaning does it convey?
  - d) What feeling does it evoke?
  - e) If someone said this word NOT in tefilla or in another traditionally Jewish setting, would you recognize it?
2. Do you know any other forms of this word?
4. After participants have added their comments, open a discussion:
  1. Is it important for us to understand the Hebrew of our prayers or that we hear in more traditional spaces?
  2. Are there words in commonly used modern Hebrew that are taken from the tefilla or other Jewish spaces?
  3. Are there prayers or traditional Jewish phrases you would like to understand better?
  4. Why do you think we say this?
  5. How does it feel to say this in Hebrew when you understand or don't understand?
  6. Do you say this outside of this space?
  7. How would YOU translate this prayer into English?
  8. What's an alternative way to translate this Hebrew?
  9. Finish by going through the words and clarifying their pronunciation in Hebrew and their translation into English. Add the translations to the butcher paper.

\*\* Optional: Ask your participants to create a word cloud based on the most commonly heard words from their original list (when participants are suggesting words, take a "vote" and ask who has heard or knows each of the words that the group came up with!)

Additional words you could discuss with your group:

Traditional Word or Phrase		Modern	
Seder, sidur	סִדּוּר	Beseder; lesader	בְּסִדּוּר / לְסִדּוּר
Mazal tov	מָזַל טוֹב	mazal	מָזַל
Torah	תּוֹרָה	moreh/morah	מּוֹרֶה/מּוֹרָה
Sefer	סֵפֶר	sippur/lesaper	סִפּוּר / לְסַפֵּר
Havdalah	הַבְּדִילָה	lehavdil	לְהַבְדִּיל
Halachah	הַלְכָה	holech/et	הוֹלֵךְ/הוֹלֵכֶת
Aggadah	אַגְדָּה	lehagid	לְהַגִּיד
Seudah	סְעוּדָה	mis'adah	מִסְעָדָה
Shavuot	שָׁבוּעוֹת	shavua	שָׁבוּעַ
Teshuva	תְּשׁוּבָה	teshuva	תְּשׁוּבָה
Tzedaka	צְדָקָה	tzedek	צְדָקָה
Chevruta	חֲבֵרוּתָא	chaver	חֵבֵר
Parashah	פָּרָשָׁה	parshan/lefaresh	פָּרֵשׂ / לְפָרֵשׂ
Shalom	שָׁלוֹם	shalem, mushlam	שָׁלֵם, מוֹשְׁלָם
Shema (yisrael)	שְׁמַע (יִשְׂרָאֵל)	(ma) nishma	(מָה) נִשְׁמָה
Bakasha	בְּקָשָׁה	bivakasha	בְּבִקְשָׁה
Ve'ahavta	וְאַהֲבַתְּ	ohev/ohevet	אוֹהֵב/אוֹהֶבֶת
Chacham	חָכָם	chochmah	חֹכְמָה
Kavod	כְּבוֹד	kol hakavod	כָּל הַכְּבוֹד
Brit	בְּרִית	Artzot habrit	אַרְצוֹת הַבְּרִית
Shomer (shabbat)	שׁוֹמֵר (שַׁבָּת)	shomer (guard)	שׁוֹמֵר (שׁוֹמֵר)
Amen	אָמֵן	amin	אָמִין
Kabbalah	קַבָּלָה	kabbalah	קַבָּלָה
Masoret	מְסוֹרֶת	mesirots	מְסִירוֹת
Motzi	מוֹצֵיא	L'hotzi	לְהוֹצִיא

Machzor	מחזור	michzur	מִיחְזוֹר
birkat hamazon	בְּרַכַּת הַמָּזוֹן	mazon	מָזוֹן
Bar Mitzvah	בַּר מִצְוָה	mitzvah	מִצְוָה
Bat Mitzvah	בַּת מִצְוָה	mitzvah	מִצְוָה
Oneg	עוֹנֵג	taanug	תַּעֲנוּג
Shabbat	שַׁבָּת	lashevet	לְשֵׁבֶת
Chag Semeach	חַג שְׂמֵחַ	sameach	שְׂמֵחַ
Shana Tova	שָׁנָה טוֹבָה	shana	שָׁנָה
HaTikva	הַתִּקְוָה	tikva	תִּקְוָה
Amida	עֲמִידָה	omed	עוֹמֵד
Bracha (bless)	בְּרַכָּה	Bracha (congratulate)	בְּרַכָּה

## Introduction to V'Shamru

Here's an example of one prayer to break down with familiar words.

**Age range: 8+ (better for 10+)**

1. Cut the following sections into strips and give them to participants in an envelope with all of the strips that they will need
2. Start by attempting to place the sentences of V'shamru in the order in which they are sung.
  1. Look for key repeating words to try to figure out their definitions:
  2. Highlight or underline each of the following repeating words with a different color for each word. (יום, עשה/לעשות, עולם, שבת(ה), בני/בן)
  3. Based on cross-comparing these words with their translated sentences, what do you think each word means?
3. Based on the song V'Shamru, why do the Jewish people keep Shabbat?
4. There are two instances of numbers in this prayer. Circle the numbers you find.

The children of Israel shall keep the sabbath	v'shamru bnei yisrael	וְשָׁמְרוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-הַשַּׁבָּת
observing the sabbath	l'-a-sot et ha-sha-bat	לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת-הַשַּׁבָּת
throughout the ages as a covenant for all time.	l'-do-ro-tam b'-rit o-lam	לְדֹרֹתֶם בְּרִית עֹלָם
It shall be a sign for all time between Me and the people of Israel.	bei-ni u-vein b'-nei yis-ra-el, b'-nei yis-ra-el ot hi l'-o-lam	בֵּינִי וּבֵין בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֹת הוּא לְעֹלָם
For in six days Adonai made heaven and earth,	ki shei-shet ya-min, a-sah A-do-nai, et ha-sha-ma-yim v'-et ha-a-retz	כִּי-נִשְׁשַׁטַּת יְלֹמִים שֶׁשֶׁה יְהוָה אֶת-הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ
and on the seventh day He ceased from work and was refreshed.	u-va-yom hash-vi-i, sha-vat va-yi-na-fash.	וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי נָשְׁבַת וַיִּנָּפֵשׂ