

# Conversational Hebrew

## Lesson 1

*Welcome to "Conversational Hebrew - Lesson 1"*

Here you will learn how to hold your first conversation in Hebrew, I assume you have NO prior knowledge of the Hebrew language, so lay back, relax and read on. It would be a good idea if you get yourself a small notebook and a pencil to accompany you throughout the lessons, a coffee is optional... Let's begin...

Imagine yourself on a trip to Israel, meeting a guy in the hotel lobby at downtown Ramat Gan. Let's see how you guys are going to communicate.

But before we start, let me first introduce you to the city where you are now... Ramat Gan!. A picture is worth a thousand words, right? Here are 3000 words to begin with:



Ramat Gan skyline.



Ramat Gan Twin Towers



Ramat Gan panoramic view

*Welcome to Ramat Gan...*

### The Target Dialogue:

Let's assume you are Adam and the guy's name is Eliad. (Oops, almost forgotten! Hebrew, as you probably know, goes from right to left)..

**Adam:** shalom. ma shlomcha?

**אדם:** שלום. מה שלומך?

**Eliad:** shlomi tov, toda raba. uma shlomcha?

**אליעד:** שלומי טוב, תודה רבה. ומה שלומך?

**Adam:** tov, todah. ma shemcha?

**אדם:** טוב, תודה. מה שמך?

**Eliad:** shmi eliad. ve-atta?

**אליעד:** שמי אליעד. ואתה?

**Adam:** shmi adam. na'im me-od, eliad.

**אדם:** שמי אדם. נעים מאד, אליעד

**Eliad:** na-im me-od. lehitraot, adam.

**אליעד:** נעים מאד. להתראות, אדם

## Translation:

**Adam:** Hello, how are you?

**Eliad:** I am good, thanks. And you?

**Adam:** Good, thanks. What's your name?

**Eliad:** My name is Eliad, and you?

**Adam:** My name is Adam. It's a pleasure, Eliad.

**Eliad:** It's a pleasure. Goodbye, Adam.

## Vocabulary and explanation:

Adam: shalom. ma shlomcha?		אדם: שלום מה שלומך ?
Hello	shalom	שלום
What	ma	מה
Your	cha	ך
Your peace	shlomcha	שלומך
How are you?	ma shlomcha?	מה שלומך ?

*Note: As you probably have noticed, Israelis/Hebrew speakers tend to use the word "peace" very often, they say "peace" instead of our "hello" and even use "what is your peace?" as their special way to ask each other how they are doing.*

Eliad: shlomi tov, toda raba. uma shlomcha?		אליעד: שלומי טוב, תודה רבה. ומה ? שלום
My	ee	י
My peace / My state	shlomi	שלומי
Good	tov	טוב
I am good / I am fine	shlomi tov	שלומי טוב
Thanks	toda	תודה
Many	raba	רבה
Many thanks	toda raba	תודה רבה
And	u	ו
And how are you?	uma shlomcha?	ומה שלומך?

**Note:** Needless to say, you can say only "toda" to say thanks, "raba" is just an addition to show that you are more thankful than just "toda" alone. Just like we do in English "thank you" and "thank you very much". Nothing big!

One more note here. the "u" that we used here as "and" sometimes is pronounced as "ve". We will encounter it later on.

<b>Adam:</b> tov, todah. ma shemcha?		<b>אדם:</b> טוב, תודה מה שמך ?
Name	shem	שם
Your name	shemcha	שמך

<b>Eliad:</b> shmi eliad. ve-atta?		<b>אליעד:</b> שמי אליעד. ואתה ?
My name	shemi	שמי
My name is Eliad	Shemi eliad	שמי אליעד
You	atta	אתה
And you	ve-atta	ואתה

<b>Adam:</b> shmi adam. na'im me-od, eliad.		<b>אדם:</b> שמי אדם נעים מאד, אליעד.
Much pleasure	na-im me-od	נעים מאד

<b>Eliad:</b> na-im me-od. lehitraot, adam.		<b>אליעד:</b> נעים מאד. להתראות, אדם.
Goodbye	lehitraot	להתראות

Israelis use "shalom" for saying both hello and goodbye, however, there are a few other phrases that are common today. One of them is here "lehitraot" which could mean literally "till the next seeing".

## PLEASE NOTE THAT...

Unlike English, Hebrew does differentiate between male and female when they are being talked to. Basically for now, let's know that the words "shlomcha" and "shemcha" that Adam and Eliad just exchanged, would be "shlomech" and "shmech" if they were female. Plus, "atta" will simply be "at".

Don't stress yourself over that now, in our next lesson, Eliad is going to introduce Adam to Meriam, a friend of his, and we will use the female version then. So let's leave it for now.

I just wanted to let you know so you can be careful not to use these forms to your female friends, if you want to practice or show off the little Hebrew that you just learned, **which is absolutely fine! You are doing a great job!** Let's move on to some exercises and worksheets.

## Exercises and worksheets

You might find it challenging to deal with all these alien alphabets, please take the time to study the conversation first and the “1.3 *Optional Worksheets*” below (Next page).

### 1.1 Drill: You take the part of Adam:

אדם : ..... ?  
אליעד : שלומי טוב, תודה רבה ומה שלומך ?  
אדם : ..... ?  
עלגד : שמי אליעד, ואתה ?  
אדם : .....  
אליעד : נעים מאד. להתראות, אדם

### 1.2 Drill: You take the part of Eliad:

אדם : שלום מה שלומך ?  
אליעד : ..... ?  
אדם : טוב, תודה מה שמך ?  
אליעד : ..... ?  
אדם : שמי אדם נעים מאד, אליעד  
אליעד : .....

### 1.3 Build words out of these letter, and sentences out of the words. Then translate.

A) ל - ש - ם - ו

.....

B) ש - ם

.....

C) טוב - שלומי

.....

D) - ? שמך - מה

.....

E) ? - מה - שלומך

.....

F) אדם - שמי

.....

G) מאד - נעים

.....





