

HOW TO GET AN **A** ON YOUR TEST

STRUCTURE OF THE TEST:

A typical test consists of 3 major sections:

1. a passage for listening or reading comprehension,
2. grammar exercises (verbs, syntax, prepositions, etc.),
3. communication (questions and answers, writing a dialogue or essay, translations, etc.).

GENERAL RULES:

- It's more effective to study for short periods of time (15-20 minutes), several times a day.
- Remember to practice verb conjugations, the pronouns, prepositions with pronoun suffixes, numbers, etc. Use the online recordings for that purpose.
- It's a good idea to study with a friend or in small groups. Language is a communicative thing. Studying in a group will allow you to ask and answer questions, tell things to each others, and monitor and correct each other.
- Do the review sheet for the unit. Checklists and review sheets (with answers) for each unit are available online and are extremely helpful.

READING/LISTENING COMPREHENSION:

The first section of the test is a passage for reading comprehension or listening comprehension. A passage for reading comprehension is a text on a topic related to the unit in question. It includes vocabulary and grammatical points from that unit as well as unknown elements. The passage is followed by questions similar to the ones you have had in your homework. Passages for listening comprehension are easier, shorter, and do not include as many unknown elements. The passage is read to you twice, and it is followed by questions in writing. The best way to prepare for that section is to listen again to all of the dialogues of the unit with and without the text.

VERBS:

Audio/visual recordings of the verbs of [Unit 1](#), [Unit 2](#), and [Unit 3](#) are available online. They are given in full conjugation, inc. translation. For later units use the [Verb Dictionary](#). Knowing a verb means knowing its meaning, the 4 forms of the present tense, and the infinitive (and later into the semester, also: the 10 forms of the past, the imperative, the future, and the gerund). On the test, you will be required to vocalize the verbs (use nikkud).

Go over the verb exercises in the book to see where you made mistakes (even careless mistakes), because you are likely to repeat the same mistakes!

Make it a habit to recite the full conjugation of the verb
(For example: הולכת - הולכים - הולכות / הלכת).

VOCABULARY:

Knowledge of vocabulary alone is not enough when you learn a language. But on the other hand, there is very little you can do without words, even if you understand the concepts.

Therefore it is extremely important that you know your vocabulary well.

Index cards is a very effective way to learn and practice the new vocabulary. Have a card for every word, with Hebrew on one side and the English translation on the other. It's best to make the cards as early as possible (when a new word is first introduced) and keep adding new cards to your stack as you go. The cards allow you to practice translation from Hebrew to English (easier) and from English to Hebrew (more challenging).

Your cards may also include information like:

- the part of speech (whether the word is a noun, verb, etc.),
- the gender of a noun,
- singular/plural forms,
- different verb conjugations.

SPELLING:

To improve your spelling you can:

- Go over your homework and analyze and correct your mistakes;
- Use the online recordings for dictation exercises: listen to a sentence, write it down, then compare what you wrote to the original text.

TRANSLATION:

The book does not include many translation exercises, but when you prepare for a test, translation (especially **into** Hebrew) is a very powerful tool.

Here is one very effective little exercise:

Pick a dialog from the book (or several sentences from one of the exercises) and translate it into English. Set it aside, and a few hours later translate it back into Hebrew and compare your translation to the original.

CONJUGATIONS ETC.:

Go [online](#) to practice the various forms of the following:

- [Pronouns](#) (אני, אתה, את)
- [Nouns with pronoun suffixes](#) (For example: שלומי, שלומך ; שמי, שמך)
- [Prepositions with pronoun suffixes](#) (For example: שלי, שלך, שלך)
- [Verb conjugations](#).