

בְּרֵאשִׁית

BIBLICAL HEBREW WITH MOREH EZRA

The Workbook

The exercises of the free lessons on paper, with the answers at the back

FREE EDITION

Before you start, Stages 1 and 2
and every bonus

morehezra.com
Edition of 22 November 2026 · 16 lessons

How to use this workbook

These are the course's exercises on paper, lesson by lesson, set out so you can answer them with a pencil. The lessons themselves, and Moreh Ezra's films, stay on the site. The answers are at the back.

Watch and read first

Each lesson here opens with its address on the site. Watch the film and read the lesson there, then come here to write.

Answer in pencil

Tick a letter, write the letter of each match on its line, write a word on the line. 4.3 is the third exercise of Lesson 4, B2.3 of the second bonus.

Check at the back

The answer key gives every answer, and a short reason where the lesson gives one. Try first, look second.

Come back later

Erase your answers and do a lesson's page again a week later, away from the screen. What you still know is what you have learned.

This free edition grows as new bonus lessons come out. Download it again from the Lessons page at morehezra.com for the newest edition.

This free edition is yours to print and to pass on as it is, free of charge: give it to anyone who wants to start. The workbook that comes with the full course holds the exercises of every lesson.

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Edition of 22 November 2026. Hebrew text of the Bible quoted from the Masoretic Text; the course's own translations unless stated.

Introduction

Why learn Biblical Hebrew?

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/0

2. How the course is built

0.1 From which lesson is everything written in transliteration first?

(a) Lesson 4
(b) Lesson 7
(c) Lesson 1

0.2 Which stage teaches what the verb forms really signal?

(a) Stage 1, Reading
(b) Stage 3, The verb system
(c) Stage 2, Building blocks

3. How to use this site

0.3 Where do you see your study time and finished lessons?

(a) My progress
(b) The music panel
(c) Flashcards

0.4 Do you need an account to learn?

(a) No, an account only keeps your progress on every device
(b) Yes, for every lesson

First words

Seventy words, nearly half the Hebrew Bible

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/seventy-words

1. Seven names

F.1 What is מִצְרַיִם Mitsrayim?

(a) Judah
(b) Jerusalem
(c) Egypt

F.2 Where God's name stands, what do readers say?

(a) Mosheh
(b) Elohim
(c) Adonai

2. The glue: sixteen small words

F.3 Match each small word with its meaning.

1	לֹא lo	a	not
2	מִן min	b	from
3	גַּם gam	c	there is not
4	אַיִן ein	d	also

F.4 What does אֵת et do in "God created et the heavens"?

(a) it means "the"
(b) it means "and"
(c) it marks the object and is not translated

F.5 Which word says "please do not", rather than stating "you will not"?

(a) לֹא lo
(b) כִּי ki
(c) אַל al

3. The people: nine words

F.6 Match each word with its meaning.

1	אָב av		a father
2	בֵּן ben		b son
3	מֶלֶךְ melekh		c king
4	כֹּהֵן kohen		d priest

F.7 Avi-melekh (Abimelech) is "my father is ...". Finish it in English.

_____

4. The pointing words: eleven

F.8 What does הִנֵּנִי hinneni mean?

(a) I am one
(b) here I am
(c) what is it?

F.9 Match each word with its meaning.

1	אֲנִי ani		a one
2	זֶה zeh		b this
3	כֹּל kol		c all
4	אֶחָד echad		d I

5. The world: fourteen words

F.10 Match each word with its meaning.

1	יוֹם yom	a	day
2	בַּיִת bayit	b	name
3	יָד yad	c	hand
4	שֵׁם shem	d	house

F.11 What does בֵּית לֶחֶם Bet-lechem (Bethlehem) mean?

(a) house of bread
(b) city of David
(c) house of God

F.12 דָּבָר davar means "word". What else does it mean?

_____

6. The verbs: twenty

F.13 Which is the commonest verb in the Hebrew Bible?

(a) הָלַךְ halakh, went
(b) אָמַר amar, said
(c) אָהַב ahav, loved

F.14 Match each verb with its meaning.

1	שָׁמַע shama	a	he saw
2	רָאָה ra'ah	b	he returned
3	נָתַן natan	c	he heard
4	שׁוּב shuv	d	he gave

F.15 What does אָכַל akhal mean? (Answer in English.)

_____

7. Two words together

F.16 What does אַתָּה הָאִישׁ attah ha-ish mean?

(a) the king's son
(b) I am he
(c) you are the man

F.17 Translate יוֹם אֶחָד yom echad.

_____

8. Whole verses

F.18 In Exodus 20:1, which word points at "all these words" and is not translated?

(a) לֵאמֹר lemor
(b) אֵת et
(c) אֱלֹהִים Elohim

F.19 Match each book with its Hebrew name.

1	Exodus	_____	a וַיִּקְרָא Vayyiqra
2	Leviticus	_____	b דְּבָרִים Devarim
3	Deuteronomy	_____	c שְׁמוֹת Shemot

Lesson 1

Six letters, five vowels

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/1

2. The six letters

1.1 Match each letter with its sound.

1	א	a	y
2	ר	b	sh
3	י	c	r
4	ת	d	t
5	שׁ	e	silent

1.2 Which is the letter bet?

(a) א
(b) ב
(c) ת
(d) ר

1.3 How do you read בּ (with the dot inside)?

(a) silent
(b) v
(c) b

3. The five vowels

1.4 Which sound is the vowel in בֵּ?

(a) i
(b) ə
(c) e
(d) a

1.5 Match each syllable with its reading.

1	בֵ	a	bē
2	בְ	b	bə
3	בֵי	c	bā
4	בֵּי	d	bi

1.6 What does hireq + yod (בִי) make?

(a) two syllables
(b) ay as in eye
(c) one long î

5. Exercises

1.7 Transliterate בָּא (he came)

1.8 Transliterate שָׁב (he returned)

1.9 Transliterate תֵּת (to give)

1.10 Transliterate רִיב (dispute)

1.11 Transliterate אִישׁ (man). The last letter has a dot; read it.

1.12 Write bat (daughter): ב with a dot, patach, ת

Signs to use: ְ ִ ֵ ֶ ַ ר י ת ב א ֹ ָ ש

1.13 Write 'āv (father): א with qamets, then ב without a dot

Signs to use: ב ר ַ י ְ ֵ א ִ ת ָ ש ֹ ֶ

Lesson 2

The whole first verse

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/2

1. Five new letters

2.1 Match each letter with its sound.

1	ה	a	ts
2	ל	b	m at the end of a word
3	מ	c	m
4	צ	d	l
5	ם	e	h

2.2 Which letter rises above the line?

(a) ו
(b) ל
(c) מ
(d) ה

2. Three new vowels

2.3 How is the vowel in בְּ read?

(a) a
(b) o
(c) i
(d) e

2.4 What is בֳּ (hateph segol)?

(a) a doubled letter
(b) a long o
(c) a very short e

3. Vav as a vowel helper

2.5 What does וְ mean at the start of a word?

(a) the
(b) in
(c) and

5. First look at syntax

2.6 What is the normal word order in Hebrew narrative?

(a) subject, verb, object
(b) verb, subject, object
(c) object, verb, subject

2.7 Why is the verb בָּרָא singular although אֱלֹהִים ends in -îm?

(a) the writer treats אֱלֹהִים as one subject
(b) the verb is a copying mistake
(c) Hebrew has no plural verbs

Exercises

2.8 In Genesis 1:1, which word is the subject?

(a) אֱלֹהִים
(b) בָּרָא
(c) הַשָּׁמַיִם

2.9 And which two words are the objects?

(a) בָּרָא and אֱלֹהִים
(b) הַשָּׁמַיִם and הָאָרֶץ
(c) בְּרֵאשִׁית and אֵת

2.10 Read הַמַּיִם (the article again; the dot in מ doubles it)

2.11 Read שְׁמוֹ (his name)

2.12 Why does אֶת not stand before אֱלֹהִים?

(a) it is the subject, not the object
(b) poetry leaves it out
(c) it is a name

2.13 Read לֹא (not)

2.14 Write מַיִם (water): מ with patach, י with hireq, then final ם

Signs to use: ל ◌ַ ה ◌ָ ◌ִ י ◌ּ ם מ ◌ֵ

Lesson 3

Let there be light

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/3

1. Four new letters

3.1 Match each letter with its sound.

1	ג		a g
2	ד		b p
3	כ		c d
4	פ		d f
5	ף		e k

2. The six "BeGaD KePhaT" letters

3.2 How is כ without a dot read?

(a) silent
(b) kh, like ch in loch
(c) k

3.3 Why is it בָּרָא with b, but אָב with v?

(a) they are different letters
(b) the dot is optional
(c) b starts the word; v comes right after a vowel

3. Two jobs for one dot: dagesh

3.4 What does the dot in שַׁבָּת do?

(a) it only makes b hard (dagesh lene)
(b) it doubles the b (dagesh forte)
(c) it is a vowel

4. Vav as a vowel

3.5 A vav with a dot on top and no other vowel is read

(a) ô
(b) v
(c) û

7. Syntax: the narrative chain

3.6 Which two words in Genesis 1:3 are wayyiqtol forms?

(a) יְהִי and אוֹר
(b) אֱלֹהִים and אוֹר
(c) וַיֹּאמֶר and וַיְהִי

Exercises

3.7 In דָּבָר, why does ד have a dot but ב does not?

(a) ד starts the word; ב comes after a vowel
(b) ד is doubled
(c) ב is never written with a dot

3.8 Is the dot in כִּי lene or forte?

(a) lene: it only makes כ hard
(b) forte: it doubles כ

3.9 Read הַיּוֹם (the day, today)

3.10 Read כָּל־הָאָרֶץ (all the earth). Before a maqaf, כָּל is read kol.

3.11 What does the וַ at the front of a wayyiqtol mark?

(a) a question
(b) the next step in the story
(c) the object

3.12 Write יוֹם (day): י, then ו with a dot on top, then final ם

Signs to use: ◌ֹ ו ◌ֵ ◌ּ ם ד ◌ַ י מ

Lesson 4

Roots and patterns

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/4

1. Three letters and a dot

4.1 Match each letter with its sound.

1	נ	a	ḥ (ch in loch)
2	חֵ	b	silent today
3	ע	c	s
4	שׂ	d	n

4.2 Which letter is ḥet, shut at the top?

(a) ת
(b) חֵ
(c) ה

4.3 Which of these can stand only at the end of a word?

(a) ן
(b) ו
(c) נ

4.4 Read רוּחַ (wind, spirit). The patach is said before the חֵ.

2. The root

4.5 What root do מֶלֶךְ mélekh, מַלְכָּה malkâ and מַמְלָכָה mamlākhâ share?

(a) M-L-K
(b) M-L-A
(c) L-K-M

3. The pattern

4.6 Match each pattern with the meaning it adds.

1	CāCaC	a	he did it
2	CōCēC	b	a thing
3	CéCeC	c	one who does it
4	maCCāCâ	d	the place or thing of the action

5. Why this matters for understanding the text

4.7 Why can't an English translation show the wordplay in Genesis 2:7?

(a) the verse has no verb
(b) man and ground share no root in English
(c) English has no word for ground

6. How to look for the root

4.8 To find the root of הַמֶּלֶךְ hammélekh, what do you strip first?

(a) the article ha-
(b) all the consonants
(c) the last letter

Exercises

4.9 What root do שָׁמַע šāma' (he heard) and שֹׁמֵעַ šōmēa' (hearing) share? Write it like Š-M-R.

4.10 Put the root Š-M-R into the pattern CōCēC.

4.11 And what does it mean?

(a) kingdom
(b) keeper, watchman
(c) he kept

4.12 K-T-B means writing. Using CāCaC, how do you say he wrote? (Remember: B after a vowel is said v.)

_____

4.13 In הַמֶּלֶךְ hammélekh (the king), which pattern is the word?

(a) CāCaC
(b) CéCeC
(c) CōCēC

4.14 Why might a translator add a footnote to the man in Genesis 2:7?

(a) to show that 'ādām and 'ădāmâ share a root
(b) because the Hebrew word is unclear
(c) because the verse is poetry

Lesson 5

The little words on the front

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/5

1. The last four letters

5.1 Match each letter with its sound.

1	ק	a	q (said k)
2	ז	b	t
3	ס	c	s
4	ט	d	z

5.2 Which letter is samekh, round and closed?

(a) ט
(b) ם
(c) ס

5.3 Which letter is zayin?

(a) ז
(b) ן
(c) ו

5.4 Read טוֹב (good). Type ṭ as t.

2. The article: ha- "the"

5.5 What does the article ha- do to the first letter of the noun?

(a) nothing
(b) it doubles it
(c) it softens it

3. "And": wə- (or û-)

5.6 When is "and" written û- instead of wə-?

(a) only at the start of a verse
(b) before b, m, p or a syllable with ə
(c) before every vowel

4. Three one-letter prepositions: bə-, lə-, kə-

5.7 Match each prefix with its meaning.

1	bə- _____	a	to, for
2	lə- _____	b	in, at, with
3	kə- _____	c	like, as

5. Preposition + article: the h disappears

5.8 What does בַּמֶּלֶךְ bammélekh mean?

(a) in the king
(b) in a king
(c) like a king

7. Reading with prefixes: Psalm 23:1

5.9 How many times does "from" appear in Genesis 12:1?

(a) one
(b) two
(c) three

8. The first day: Genesis 1:4 and 1:5

5.10 In לָאוֹר lā'ôr (Gen 1:5), where is the word "the"?

(a) in the letter ל
(b) hidden in the vowel ā under ל
(c) there is none

5.11 In וּבֵין ûvên (Gen 1:4), why is "and" written û- and not wə-?

(a) because of the article
(b) because בּ follows
(c) because it is the second "between"

5.12 Match the words of Genesis 1:5.

1	עֶרֶב 'érev	_____	a morning
2	בֹּקֶר bō´qer	_____	b night
3	לָיְלָה láylâ	_____	c evening
4	אֶחָד 'eḥād	_____	d one

Exercises

5.13 Peel וְהָאָרֶץ wəhā'āreṣ into its pieces.

(a) the + and + earth
(b) and + earth + the
(c) and + the + earth

5.14 What is the difference between בְּמֶלֶךְ bəmélekh and בַּמֶּלֶךְ bammélekh?

(a) in a king / in the king
(b) no difference
(c) in the king / in a king

5.15 Translate לַמֶּלֶךְ lammélekh.

_____

5.16 Translate כְּאָדָם kə'ādām.

_____

5.17 In וּבֵין ûvên (and between), what is û-?

(a) and, before b, m or p
(b) from
(c) the article

5.18 Why do some translations begin Genesis "When God began to create"?

(a) the Hebrew has no verb
(b) the first word is a name
(c) bərē'šît has no article vowel, so it can lead into the next clause

5.19 What does הַשֹּׁמֵר haššōmēr mean?

Bonus

What the translation loses

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/what-the-translation-loses

1. Chaos that rhymes

B1.1 In וָבֹהוּ wāvōhû, what is wā-?

(a) from
(b) the
(c) and

B1.2 How often does בֹּהוּ bōhû stand on its own in the Bible, without tōhû beside it?

(a) about twenty times
(b) never
(c) once

B1.3 Which word in Jeremiah 4:23 did you first meet in Genesis 1:3?

(a) רָאִיתִי rā'îtî (I looked)
(b) וְהִנֵּה wəhinnēh (and there)
(c) אוֹרָם 'ôrām (their light)

2. When does "the man" become Adam?

B1.4 What does הָאָדָם hā'ādām mean?

(a) the man
(b) to Adam
(c) Adam

B1.5 Which of these means "to the man"?

(a) לָאָדָם lā'ādām
(b) לְאָדָם lə'ādām

B1.6 Write lā'ādām (to the man): ל with qamets, א with qamets, ד with qamets, final ם

Signs to use: מ ל ם ָ ְ ַ א ד

_____

B1.7 Why can't the letters alone decide between "to Adam" and "to the man"?

- (a) the two words have different roots
- (b) the difference is only a vowel, and the vowels were added later
- (c) the verse has no verb

3. Man and woman: a pun English got lucky with

B1.8 Peel מֵאִישׁ mē'îš into its pieces.

- (a) the + man
- (b) and + man
- (c) from + man

B1.9 Why mē- and not mi- with doubling?

- (a) mi- is only for verbs
- (b) mē- means "the"
- (c) alef can't be doubled, so the vowel lengthens

B1.10 What does the plural נָשִׁים nāšîm (women) suggest about אִשָּׁה 'iššâ?

- (a) it comes from 'îš after all
- (b) the doubled š probably hides a lost n
- (c) it is not a Hebrew word

4. Babel: a pun, not a dictionary

B1.11 Which pattern is בָּלַל bālal (he confused)?

- (a) CéCeC: a thing
- (b) CāCaC: he did it
- (c) CōCēC: one who does it

B1.12 What did the Babylonians take their city's name to mean?

(a) confusion
(b) river city
(c) gate of god

B1.13 Peel וּמִשָּׁם ûmiššām. Match each piece with its meaning.

1	û-	a	and
2	mi-	b	there
3	שָׁם šām	c	from

B1.14 Does English babble come from Babel?

(a) yes: through Greek
(b) yes: it is the same word
(c) no: it imitates baby talk; the likeness is chance

See it yourself

B1.15 Peel וְהָאָדָם wəhā'ādām (Gen 4:1).

(a) and + the + man
(b) and + to + Adam
(c) from + the + man

B1.16 In וַיְהִי אָדָם wayḥî 'ādām (Gen 5:3), is 'ādām a name or the man?

(a) the man (it has the article)
(b) a name: Adam (no article)

B1.17 Translate לָאִישׁ lā'îš.

_____

B1.18 Isaiah says of the earth: לֹא־תֹהוּ בְרָאָהּ lō'-tōhû vərā'āh, he did not create it to be empty (Isa 45:18). Which root is in vərā'āh?

(a) B-R-' (creating)
(b) B-L-L (confusing)
(c) '-M-R (saying)

B1.19 In that verse the King James Version translates tōhû as "in vain", and another version as "a waste". Why do translations of tōhû differ so much?

(a) it is a name
(b) the Hebrew letters differ between Bibles
(c) it has no exact English match

Lesson 6

Nouns and the construct chain

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/6

1. Gender

6.1 Is מַלְכָּה malkâ (queen) masculine or feminine?

(a) masculine
(b) feminine

6.2 רוּחַ rûaḥ (spirit) has no ending. What gender is it?

(a) masculine
(b) feminine

2. Number

6.3 Match each ending with what it marks.

1	-îm	a	feminine plural
2	-ôt	b	dual (a pair)
3	-áyim	c	masculine plural

3. The construct chain: "X of Y"

6.4 What is the construct of בָּנִים bānîm (sons)?

(a) בֵּן ben
(b) בְּנֵי bənê
(c) בָּנוֹת bānôt

4. Who gets "the"?

6.5 What does בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ bêt hammélekh mean?

(a) the king's houses
(b) a house of a king
(c) the house of the king

Exercises

6.6 Gender and number: match each word.

1	תּוֹרוֹת tôrôt	a	feminine singular
2	בָּנִים bānîm	b	masculine plural
3	מַלְכָּה malkâ	c	feminine plural

6.7 Translate דְּבַר הַמֶּלֶךְ dəvar hammélekh.

6.8 Why is there no ha- on בֵּית bêt in בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ bêt hammélekh?

(a) the first noun of a chain never takes the article
(b) ha- is optional
(c) בֵּית bêt is a name

6.9 What does קֹדֶשׁ הַקָּדָשִׁים qōdeš haqqŏdāšîm mean?

(a) the most holy place
(b) a holy thing
(c) many holy things

6.10 "My holy mountain" is literally "the mountain of my holiness". Write the Hebrew in transliteration.

6.11 In נִשְׁמַת חַיִּים nišmat ḥayyîm, which word is in the construct?

(a) נִשְׁמַת nišmat
(b) חַיִּים ḥayyîm

Wrap-up

The whole alphabet

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/the-whole-alphabet

1. Twenty-two letters in order

W1.1 Which letter comes right after alef, bet, gimel, dalet?

(a) ז
(b) ח
(c) ו
(d) ה

W1.2 Match each letter with its final form.

1	כ	a	ך
2	מ	b	ם
3	נ	c	ף
4	פ	d	ן
5	צ	e	ץ

W1.3 Write נָתַן nātan (he gave): nun with qamets, tav with patach, then final nun

Signs to use: ן ט ַ ת ְ ָ נ

2. Letters that look alike

W1.4 Which letter is dalet?

(a) ך
(b) ר
(c) ד

W1.5 Which letter is ḥet, shut at the top?

(a) ה
(b) ת
(c) ח

W1.6 Match the letters that sound the same today.

1	ק	a	ת
2	ט	b	שׁ
3	ס	c	א
4	ע	d	פ

3. Letters from the throat

W1.7 Why is it הָאָרֶץ hā-'āreṣ, but הַשָּׁמַיִם haš-šāmáyim?

(a) אֶרֶץ is feminine
(b) the dagesh is optional
(c) א cannot be doubled, so the vowel of ha- grows longer

W1.8 Which letter is NOT a guttural (throat letter)?

(a) ע
(b) ח
(c) א
(d) ק

W1.9 In אֲשֶׁר 'ăšer (who, which), why does alef have a hateph instead of a plain shewa?

(a) it is a throat letter
(b) it is doubled
(c) it ends the word

4. Every vowel on one board

W1.10 In כָּל־ kol- (all of), the sign under כ is read

(a) o
(b) a
(c) ā

W1.11 Match each sign with its sound.

1	בְ	a	a
2	בִ	b	i
3	בֵ	c	o
4	בַ	d	u
5	בֻ	e	e

W1.12 In לָיְלָה láylâ (night), what does the last ה do?

(a) it doubles the lamed
(b) it is silent and marks a long â at the end
(c) it is said h

5. One dot, four jobs

W1.13 What does the dot in a final הּ (mappiq) tell you?

(a) the h is said; it often means "her" or "it"
(b) the הּ is doubled
(c) the הּ is silent

W1.14 In הַמַּיִם ham-máyim (the waters), what does the dot in מּ do?

(a) it makes m hard
(b) it is a vowel
(c) it doubles the m

W1.15 In רוּחַ rûaḥ (spirit), the dot in the vav is

(a) the vowel û
(b) a doubling
(c) a mappiq

6. Reading Genesis 1:31

W1.16 In אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר 'et-kol-'ăšer, which word has a qamets hatuf?

(a) כָּל
(b) אֶת
(c) אֲשֶׁר

W1.17 Read טוֹב מְאֹד (very good). Type ṭ as t.

_____

W1.18 In יוֹם הַשִּׁשִּׁי yôm haš-šiš-šî, why is the first shin doubled?

(a) it ends the word
(b) the article ha- doubles the next letter
(c) it is a throat letter

Exercises

W1.19 Which of these letters can stand only at the end of a word?

(a) ו
(b) ן
(c) ז
(d) נ

W1.20 Which letter is samekh?

(a) ע
(b) ס
(c) ט
(d) ם

W1.21 Read אֶחָד (one)

_____

W1.22 Read סֵפֶר (book)

W1.23 Which mark is hateph patach, the hurried a?

(a) אֱ

(b) אֲ

(c) אַ

(d) אָ

W1.24 Write טוֹב ṭôv (good): ṭet, vav with a dot on top, bet

Signs to use: ו כ ב ◌ּ ט ת ◌

Bonus

More than a soul

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/nefesh-more-than-a-soul

1. Genesis 2:7, word by word

B2.1 In לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה lənéfeš ḥayyâ, why does ḥayyâ end in -â?

(a) néfeš is feminine and the adjective agrees with it
(b) it is plural
(c) it means "my"

B2.2 What does וַיְהִי ... לְ wayhî ... lə- mean in Genesis 2:7?

(a) and he breathed
(b) and he became
(c) and he formed

B2.3 In Genesis 2:7, does the man receive a néfeš or become one?

(a) he becomes one
(b) he receives one
(c) the verse does not say

2. The same words for a fish

B2.4 In Genesis 1:20 and 1:24, who or what is a נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה néfeš ḥayyâ?

(a) the angels
(b) only the man
(c) the animals

B2.5 Why do many modern Bibles write "a living being" in Genesis 2:7?

(a) to match the same phrase used for the animals
(b) because néfeš never means soul
(c) because the Hebrew word is unclear

B2.6 נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה néfeš ḥayyâ stands six times in Genesis 1 and 2. How many of the six are the man?

(a) one
(b) all six
(c) three

3. A throat before a soul

B2.7 In Psalm 69:1, the waters have come up עַד־נָפֶשׁ 'ad-nāfeš. What does néfeš most likely mean here?

(a) neck, throat
(b) the psalmist's name
(c) soul in the later sense

B2.8 In Proverbs 27:7, what English word fits נֶפֶשׁ רְעֵבָה néfeš rə'ēvâ (a hungry néfeš) best?

(a) mind
(b) appetite
(c) ghost

B2.9 What does the verb וַיִּנָּפַשׁ wayyinnāfaš (Exod 31:17) mean?

(a) and he caught his breath
(b) and he died
(c) and he created a soul

B2.10 Why is the word written נָפֶשׁ nāfeš, with a long first vowel, at the end of Psalm 69:1?

(a) it is a different word
(b) it is the plural
(c) at a pause Hebrew stretches the vowel

4. Life, persons, and "me"

B2.11 In Genesis 46:27, "all the néfeš … seventy" means

(a) seventy persons
(b) seventy animals
(c) seventy souls of the dead

B2.12 What does נַפְשִׁי nafšî often mean?

(a) my self, me
(b) my throat only
(c) my ghost

B2.13 Why does Psalm 103:1 address the néfeš with a feminine command, בָּרֲכִי bārăkhî?

(a) it is a plural
(b) the psalmist is a woman
(c) néfeš is a feminine noun

What you just did

B2.14 Translate נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה néfeš ḥayyâ (as in Genesis 1:24).

_____

B2.15 Psalm 42:1 (42:2 in Hebrew Bibles): כֵּן נַפְשִׁי תַעֲרֹג אֵלֶיךָ אֱלֹהִים kēn nafšî ta'ărōg 'ēlêkhā 'ĕlōhîm, "so my néfeš longs for you, God". Which word means my néfeš?

(a) אֵלֶיךָ 'ēlêkhā
(b) נַפְשִׁי nafšî
(c) כֵּן kēn

B2.16 In Leviticus 17:11, בַּדָּם baddām means

(a) in the blood
(b) like the blood
(c) in a blood

B2.17 Match each verse with the best English for néfeš there.

1	Ps 69:1	a	appetite
2	Prov 27:7	b	myself
3	Gen 46:27	c	neck
4	Ps 103:1	d	persons

B2.18 Which pattern is נֶפֶשׁ néfeš?

(a) CāCaC: he did it
(b) CéCeC: a thing
(c) CōCēC: one who does it

Bonus

Wind, breath, spirit

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/wind-breath-spirit

1. Genesis 1:2, word by word

B3.1 In רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת rûaḥ 'ĕlōhîm məraḥéfet, how do you know that rûaḥ is feminine?

(a) it stands first
(b) it ends in -aḥ
(c) the participle that goes with it ends in -et

B3.2 Where else in the Bible does something מְרַחֶפֶת "hover" in this stem?

(a) an eagle over its young (Deut 32:11)
(b) a storm over the sea
(c) smoke over the mountain

B3.3 What does the grammar of Genesis 1:2 NOT tell you?

(a) that the action was going on
(b) whether to write "wind", "breath" or "Spirit"
(c) that the rûaḥ is God's

2. Wind

B3.4 לְרוּחַ הַיּוֹם lərûaḥ hayyôm (Gen 3:8): what is the rûaḥ here?

(a) the Spirit of God
(b) the breath of the man
(c) the breeze of the day

B3.5 The story says "a strong east rûaḥ" (Exod 14:21). How does the song say it (Exod 15:8)?

(a) "the rûaḥ of your nostrils"
(b) it does not mention it
(c) "the rûaḥ of the sea"

B3.6 Why does the King James Version write "side" for rûaḥ in Ezekiel 42?

(a) it is a misprint
(b) the four winds are the four directions, so a rûaḥ is also a side
(c) it is a different Hebrew word

3. Breath

B3.7 In Genesis 6:17 and 7:15, who has the רוּחַ חַיִּים rûaḥ ḥayyîm, "the rûaḥ of life"?

(a) all flesh that breathes, animals too
(b) only Noah
(c) only human beings

B3.8 Psalm 104:29-30 has rûaḥ twice. What does the King James Version do?

(a) it writes "wind" both times
(b) it leaves the word out
(c) it writes "breath" the first time and "spirit" the second

B3.9 בֹּאִי הָרוּחַ bōʾî hārûaḥ "Come, O rûaḥ" (Ezek 37:9). What does the -î of the command tell you?

(a) it is a wish, not a command
(b) several are spoken to
(c) the rûaḥ is spoken to as a "she"

B3.10 "There was no more rûaḥ in her" (1 Kgs 10:5). What happened to the Queen of Sheba?

(a) she died
(b) she grew angry
(c) it took her breath away

4. Temper, mind, spirit

B3.11 קְצַר רוּחַ qōṣer rûaḥ (Exod 6:9), word for word, is

(a) a strong wind
(b) shortness of breath
(c) a holy spirit

B3.12 Match each Hebrew phrase with the kind of person it describes.

1	קְצַר־רוּחַ qəṣar-rûaḥ	a	patient
2	אֶרֶךְ־רוּחַ 'érekh-rûaḥ	b	quick-tempered

B3.13 Who says the second רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים rûaḥ 'ĕlōhîm in the Bible (Gen 41:38)?

(a) Pharaoh, about Joseph
(b) Moses, about Joshua
(c) Jacob, about his sons

B3.14 Why is every capital S in "Spirit" a translator's decision?

(a) Hebrew has no capital letters
(b) the Hebrew word is always written large
(c) the old scrolls mark it in the margin

What you just did

B3.15 Match each verse with the best English for rûaḥ there.

1	Gen 3:8	a	spirits, courage
2	Gen 6:17	b	breeze
3	Exod 6:9	c	breath
4	Ezek 42:16	d	side

B3.16 Translate רוּחַ קָדִים rûaḥ qādîm (Exod 14:21).

B3.17 Which stem is מְרַחֶפֶת məraḥéfet?

(a) Qal
(b) Niphal
(c) Piel: a participle with mə-

B3.18 יִבָּרְאוּן yibbārē'ûn "they are created" (Ps 104:30). Which stem, and how can you tell?

(a) Qal: nothing is added
(b) Piel: the middle letter is doubled
(c) Niphal: the first root letter is doubled

Bonus

Steadfast love

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/steadfast-love

1. One word, many English words

B4.1 Match each Bible with its English for the refrain of Psalm 136.

1	King James Version	a	love
2	New American Standard Bible (1995)	b	steadfast love
3	English Standard Version	c	lovingkindness
4	New International Version	d	mercy
5	Christian Standard Bible	e	faithful love

B4.2 Why does English need so many words for חֶסֶד ḥésed?

(a) because the Hebrew word is spelled in many ways
(b) because the translators did not know the word
(c) because no single English word covers what the Hebrew word covers

B4.3 חַסְדּוֹ: ḥasdô What is on the end of the word here?

(a) "his"
(b) "my"
(c) "your"

2. Something one does

B4.4 Which verb goes with חֶסֶד ḥésed more than any other?

(a) "do"
(b) "say"
(c) "feel"

B4.5 Who does ḥésed with whom?

1	Ruth 1:8, Naomi's wish	a	the LORD, with Abraham
2	Ruth 1:8, the second half	b	the two young women, with the dead and with Naomi
3	Gen 24:12, the servant's prayer	c	the LORD, with the two young women

B4.6 עִמָּכֶם 'immākhem What does this word say?

(a) "from you"
(b) "to you"
(c) "with you"

3. The partner word

B4.7 חֶסֶד וֶאֱמֶת ḥésed we'ĕmet What is the partner of our word here?

(a) "goodness"
(b) "faithfulness, truth"
(c) "sacrifice"

B4.8 Which English word comes from the same root as וֶאֱמֶת we'ĕmet?

(a) "Eden"
(b) "Amen"
(c) "Hallel"

B4.9 In Psalm 23:6, what do goodness and ḥésed do, word for word?

(a) they forget me
(b) they pursue me
(c) they wait for me

4. Three steps in Ruth

B4.10 Match each step in Ruth with what the word does there.

1	Ruth 1:8	a	a deed: your last one is better than the first
2	Ruth 2:20	b	a wish: may the LORD do it with you
3	Ruth 3:10	c	a blessing: he has not left it off

B4.11 אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָזַב חַסְדּוֹ 'ăšer lō'-'āzav ḥasdô Whose ḥésed is it?

(a) Naomi's
(b) the Hebrew does not say: "who" can point to the LORD or to the man she blesses
(c) the LORD's, without any doubt

B4.12 חַסְדֵּךְ ḥasdēkh Who is said to have done ḥésed here?

(a) Ruth
(b) Naomi
(c) Boaz

5. The refrain

B4.13 How many times does Psalm 136 repeat its refrain? (a number)

_____

B4.14 כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ: kî lə'ôlām ḥasdô Which Hebrew word says "is" or "endures" here?

(a) לְעוֹלָם lə'ôlām
(b) none: the clause has no verb, and English supplies one
(c) כִּי kî

B4.15 כִּי חֶסֶד חָפַצְתִּי וְלֹא־זָבַח kî ḥésed ḥāfáṣtî wəlō'-zāvaḥ Which word stands in front of the verb?

(a) חֶסֶד ḥésed
(b) "I"
(c) "sacrifice"

6. Where "mercy" came from, and two relatives

B4.16 Which English word did Miles Coverdale build for חֶסֶד ḥésed in 1535?

(a) "lovingkindness"
(b) "mercy"
(c) "steadfast love"

B4.17 חֲסִידִֽים׃ ḥăsîdîm Who are they?

(a) the priests
(b) the enemies of the psalm
(c) the faithful ones, people marked by ḥésed

B4.18 הַחֲסִידָ֑ה haḥăsîdâ What is this relative of our word?

(a) a bird, the stork
(b) a city
(c) a tree

7. What the word holds

B4.19 What does each English word hear in ḥésed?

1	mercy	a	the bond
2	loyalty	b	both at once
3	steadfast love	c	the kindness

B4.20 Who does ḥésed in the Bible?

(a) only God
(b) God and people, and the same word serves for both
(c) only people

Exercises

B4.21 Match each Hebrew word with its meaning.

1	חֶסֶד ḥésed	a	stork
2	אֱמֶת ʾĕmet	b	loyal kindness, steadfast love
3	חָסִיד ḥāsîd	c	faithful one
4	חֲסִידָה ḥăsîdâ	d	faithfulness, truth

B4.22 Match each verse with its King James word for ḥésed.

1	Ruth 1:8	a	goodness
2	Exodus 34:6	b	kindly
3	Hosea 6:6	c	mercy, with "endureth for ever"
4	Psalm 136:1	d	mercy

B4.23 וַעֲשֵׂה־חֶסֶד עִם אֲדֹנִי אַבְרָהָם׃ wa'ăśê-ḥésed 'im 'ădōnî 'avrāhām Who prays these words?

(a) Abraham's servant
(b) Abraham
(c) Naomi

B4.24 הֵיטַבְתְּ חַסְדֵּךְ הָאַחֲרוֹן מִן־הָרִאשׁוֹן hêṭavt ḥasdēkh hā'aḥărôn min-hāri'šôn What does this line show about ḥésed?

(a) that only God does it
(b) that people do it too, and that it can be counted: a first and a last
(c) that it is a feeling and cannot be seen

B4.25 In how many chapters of Ruth does the word stand? (a number)

_____

Bonus

Glory is heavy

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/glory-is-heavy

1. One root, many words

B5.1 What does the root K-B-D mean at bottom?

(a) bright
(b) heavy
(c) high

B5.2 Genesis 13:2: וְאַבְרָם כָּבֵד מְאֹד wə'avrām kāvēd mə'ōd. Which sense fits?

(a) Abram was very rich
(b) Abram was very old
(c) Abram was very tired

B5.3 Which part of the body is spelled exactly like the word "heavy"?

(a) the hand
(b) the heart
(c) the liver

2. To honour is to give weight

B5.4 כַּבֵּד kabbēd (Exod 20:12), word for word:

(a) lift up
(b) make heavy: give weight to
(c) make bright

B5.5 What is the opposite of giving somebody weight?

(a) treating that person as light
(b) forgetting that person
(c) lifting that person up

B5.6 First Samuel 2:30. Match each Hebrew word with its meaning.

1	מְכַבְּדַי məkhabbəday		a I will honour
2	אֲכַבֵּד ʾăkhabbēd		b they will be light
3	יְקָלּוּ yēqāllû		c those who honour me

3. Exodus runs on one word

B5.7 One root, six stations. Match each verse with the English word the King James Version uses.

1	Exodus 4:10, the mouth of Moses		a glory
2	Exodus 9:3, the pestilence		b heavy
3	Exodus 14:4, at the sea		c grievous
4	Exodus 17:12, the hands of Moses		d slow
5	Exodus 33:18, on the mountain		e honoured

B5.8 דֶּבֶר כָּבֵד מְאֹד déver kāvēd məʾōd (Exod 9:3), word for word:

- (a) a very long pestilence
- (b) a very bright pestilence
- (c) a very heavy pestilence

B5.9 In וְאֶכָּבְדָה בְּפַרְעֹה wəʾikkāvədâ bəfarʿōh (Exod 14:4), who gets weight?

- (a) Moses
- (b) Pharaoh
- (c) God: "I will get weight through Pharaoh"

4. Pharaoh's heart

B5.10 How many different Hebrew verbs stand behind "harden" in the story of Pharaoh's heart?

- (a) three
- (b) one
- (c) seven

B5.11 Which of the three stands in Exodus 7:14, כָּבֵד לֵב פַּרְעֹה kāvēd lēv parʿōh?

- (a) be hard
- (b) be strong
- (c) be heavy

B5.12 Three verbs for one heart. Match each root with its meaning.

1	חזק Ḥ-Z-Q	_____	a be strong
2	כבד K-B-D	_____	b be hard
3	קשה Q-Š-H	_____	c be heavy

5. Old and heavy

B5.13 Translate the name אִי־כָבוֹד 'î-khāvôd (1 Sam 4:21).

_____

B5.14 First Samuel 4:18 says that Eli was זָקֵן ... וְכָבֵד zāqēn ... wəkhāvēd. Which word of the story does "heavy" echo?

(a) "honour": you honour your sons more than me
(b) "ark"
(c) "old"

6. Where the English word comes from

B5.15 Which Greek word did the old Greek translation choose for כָּבוֹד kāvôd?

(a) logos, "word"
(b) agape, "love"
(c) doxa, at first "opinion, reputation"

B5.16 Why does English need so many words for this one root?

(a) English has no single word that means heavy, rich, honoured and glorious
(b) the Hebrew has many different roots here
(c) the translators made mistakes

Exercises

B5.17 The new words. Match each with its meaning.

1	כָּבוֹד kāvôd	a	weight, honour, glory
2	כָּבֵד kāvēd	b	light
3	כַּבֵּד kabbēd	c	honour!
4	קַל qal	d	heavy

B5.18 One root, six English words. Match each Hebrew phrase with its word-for-word meaning.

1	כְּבַד־פֶּה khəvad-pê	a	the glory of God
2	כָּבֵד לֵב פַּרְעֹה kāvēd lēv par'ōh	b	Pharaoh's heart is heavy
3	כַּבֵּד kabbēd	c	give weight to
4	כְּבוֹד־אֵל kəvôd-'ēl	d	heavy of mouth

B5.19 Genesis 12:10 says the famine was כָּבֵד kāvēd. What does the King James Version write?

(a) grievous
(b) rich
(c) glorious

B5.20 Translate כָּבֵד kāvēd, as it is said of Eli in First Samuel 4:18.

B5.21 Moses says "Show me your כָּבוֹד kāvôd" (Exod 33:18). Which earlier words of Exodus does a Hebrew reader hear in it?

(a) the burning bush
(b) the names of the twelve tribes
(c) the heavy mouth, the heavy heart, the heavy plagues

Bonus

Not "law" but teaching

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/not-law-but-teaching

1. One word, one English word

B6.1 About how often does תּוֹרָה tôrâ stand in the Hebrew Bible?

(a) about 220 times
(b) about 2,000 times
(c) about 20 times

B6.2 תּוֹרַת אִמֶּךָ׃ tôrat 'immékhā Why does "the law of your mother" sound wrong in English?

(a) because the verse is about a father
(b) because the Hebrew word is in the plural
(c) because what a mother gives a child is not law

B6.3 Which English word does the King James Version use for תּוֹרָה tôrâ every time? (one word)

_____

2. The verb: to point the way

B6.4 What does the verb הוֹרָה hôrâ mean in its plainest use?

(a) to point out the way
(b) to punish
(c) to write down a law

B6.5 לְהוֹרֹת לְפָנָיו גֹּשְׁנָה ləhôrōt ləfānāyw gōšnâ What is Judah sent ahead to do?

(a) to read out a law in Goshen
(b) to show the way to Goshen
(c) to buy land in Goshen

B6.6 One root, three words. Match each with its meaning.

1	הוֹרָה hôrâ	a	what a teacher gives: teaching
2	מוֹרֶה môrê	b	to show the way, to teach
3	תּוֹרָה tôrâ	c	a teacher

B6.7 Which words stand around "teach" in Isaiah 2:3?

(a) "king", "throne", "judge"
(b) "write", "book", "read"
(c) "ways", "walk", "paths"

3. A mother's teaching

B6.8 תּוֹרַת אִמֶּךָ׃ tôrat 'immékhā What is the best English for these two words?

(a) "the anger of your mother"
(b) "the teaching of your mother"
(c) "the law of your mother"

B6.9 וְתוֹרַת־חֶסֶד wətôrat-ḥésed Which two words stand together here?

(a) "law" and "order"
(b) "teaching" and ḥésed, steadfast love
(c) "wisdom" and "tongue"

B6.10 In Proverbs 6:23 a commandment is a lamp. What is תּוֹרָה tôrâ?

(a) fire
(b) light
(c) a road

4. A priest's answer

B6.11 In Haggai 2:11, what is the prophet sent to get from the priests?

(a) a sacrifice
(b) a scroll of the five books
(c) an answer to a question: an instruction

B6.12 הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר יוֹרוּךְ hattôrâ 'ăšer yôrûkhā What does the Hebrew let you hear that "the law which they shall teach" does not?

- (a) that the noun and the verb are one root
- (b) that the law was written on stone
- (c) that the priests were angry

B6.13 זֹאת תּוֹרַת הָעֹלָה zōʾt tôrat hāʾōlâ How often does the word תּוֹרָה tôrâ stand in Leviticus? (a number)

_____

5. The Teaching

B6.14 וְזֹאת הַתּוֹרָה wəzōʾt hattôrâ What has been added to the word here?

- (a) the ending for "my"
- (b) the plural
- (c) the article: "the Teaching"

B6.15 Which books are called the Torah?

- (a) the Psalms
- (b) the five books from Genesis to Deuteronomy
- (c) all the books of the Hebrew Bible

B6.16 Why does "the Teaching" fit Genesis better than "the Law"?

- (a) Genesis never uses the word
- (b) Genesis has more laws than Leviticus
- (c) Genesis is nearly all story, and stories teach

6. Where "law" came from

B6.17 The word on its journey. Match each language with its word.

1	Hebrew _____	a	lex
2	Greek _____	b	tôrâ
3	Latin _____	c	law
4	English _____	d	nomos

B6.18 What does "law" keep of the Hebrew word, and what does it lose?

(a) it keeps the story and loses the commandments
(b) it keeps the commandments and loses the pointing of the way
(c) it keeps everything

7. Day and night

B6.19 יֶהְגֶּה yehgê What kind of word is this in Hebrew?

(a) a word for silent thought
(b) a word for writing
(c) a word for a low sound: a lion growls, a dove moans

B6.20 אֶהְגֶּה כַּיּוֹנָה 'ehgê kayyônâ Which animal makes this sound here?

(a) a horse
(b) a dove
(c) a lion

B6.21 יוֹמָם וָלָיְלָה׃ yômām wālāylâ Translate these two words. (four or five words)

_____

Exercises

B6.22 The new words. Match each with its meaning.

1	הָגָה hāgâ	_____	a commandment
2	חֵפֶץ ḥēfeṣ	_____	b murmur, growl
3	מִצְוָה miṣwâ	_____	c delight
4	יוֹמָם yômām	_____	d by day

B6.23 Whose teaching? Match each verse with the one who gives the תּוֹרָה tôrâ.

1	Proverbs 1:8	_____	a the priests
2	Proverbs 3:1	_____	b a father
3	Haggai 2:11	_____	c the LORD
4	Deuteronomy 4:44	_____	d a mother
5	Psalm 1:2	_____	e Moses

B6.24 From which root does תּוֹרָה tôrâ come?

(a) from Y-R-H: in the Hiphil, "show the way, teach"
(b) from a root that means "judge"
(c) from a root that means "bind"

B6.25 וַיּוֹרֵהוּ יְהוָה עֵץ wayyôrēhû [the LORD] 'ēṣ What did the LORD do?

(a) he gave Moses a law
(b) he showed Moses a piece of wood
(c) he sent Moses away

B6.26 מִצִּיּוֹן תֵּצֵא תּוֹרָה miṣṣiyyôn tēṣē' tôrâ What goes out from Zion?

(a) an army
(b) a river
(c) teaching

B6.27 The teacher of this course is called מוֹרֶה môrê. What does the word mean? (one word)

_____

B6.28 Which word of the fourth bonus leans on תּוֹרָה tôrâ in Proverbs 31:26?

(a) כָּבוֹד kāvôd "glory"
(b) רוּחַ rûaḥ "wind, spirit"
(c) חֶסֶד ḥésed "steadfast love"

B6.29 How was a text "meditated" in the world of the Psalms?

(a) silently, with closed eyes
(b) by speaking it half aloud, over and over
(c) by writing it out

Bonus

The sign in the scroll

Watch the film and read the lesson first: morehezra.com/lesson/the-sign-in-the-scroll

1. A fish, and no whale

B7.1 דָּג גָּדוֹל dāg gādôl Translate these two words. (three words)

B7.2 Where does the "whale" of English tradition come from?

(a) from the Latin Bible
(b) from the Hebrew word in Jonah
(c) from the Greek word kētos, "sea creature", as Matthew 12:40 was put into English

B7.3 What does the Hebrew word דָּג dāg mean?

(a) "sea monster"
(b) "fish", of any kind
(c) "whale"

2. A dove, son of Faithful

B7.4 What does the name יוֹנָה yônâ mean? (one word)

B7.5 Where else in the Bible is Jonah son of Amittai named?

(a) in Psalm 120
(b) in 2 Kings 14:25
(c) in Genesis 8

B7.6 From which word does the name Amittai come?

(a) from the word for "mother"
(b) from אֱמֶת 'ĕmet, "truth, faithfulness"
(c) from the word for "sea"

B7.7 כְּיוֹנָה פּוֹתָה kəyônâ fôtâ To what does Hosea compare his people?

- (a) to a great fish
- (b) to a wise dove
- (c) to a silly dove

3. The far end of the sea

B7.8 What did Tarshish stand for in the Bible?

- (a) the nearest harbour
- (b) the far end of the sea, the longest voyage there was
- (c) a city in the desert

B7.9 אַוַּת לְשֹׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים 'áḥat ləšālōš šānîm How often did the ships of Tarshish come home? Once in how many years? (a number)

4. The plant with no name

B7.10 How many times does the word קִיקָיוֹן qîqāyôn stand in the Bible? (a number)

B7.11 What did Jerome write for the plant in his Latin Bible?

- (a) "ivy"
- (b) "gourd"
- (c) "castor-oil plant"

B7.12 Why can nobody be sure what plant the קִיקָיוֹן qîqāyôn was?

- (a) the old translations all agree
- (b) the word stands in one chapter only, and the old translations disagree
- (c) the Hebrew word is missing from the manuscripts

5. Forty days, or three

B7.13 אַרְבָּעִים 'arbā'îm What number is this? (a number)

B7.14 What does the Greek Bible have in Jonah 3:4, where the Hebrew has "forty days"?

(a) "seven days"
(b) "three days"
(c) "forty years"

6. The scroll, and the sign

B7.15 Jonah is one of "the Twelve". What are the Twelve?

(a) twelve short books of prophets, written on one scroll
(b) twelve sailors on the ship
(c) twelve chapters of the book

B7.16 When is the book read aloud? Match each book with its day.

1	Ruth _____	a	the Feast of Weeks, at harvest time
2	Jonah _____	b	the afternoon of the Day of Atonement

B7.17 Where does the phrase "the sign of the prophet Jonah" come from?

(a) from Jonah 1
(b) from the Gospels
(c) from the book of Kings

7. What you just did

B7.18 Somebody tells you "the Bible says it was a whale". What is the first question to ask?

(a) "who painted it?"
(b) "in which language?"
(c) "how big was it?"

Exercises

B7.19 The new words. Match each with its meaning.

1	יוֹנָה yônâ	_____	a	prophet
2	נָבִיא nāvî'	_____	b	a fast-growing plant
3	קִיקָיוֹן qîqāyôn	_____	c	forty
4	אַרְבָּעִים 'arbā'îm	_____	d	dove

B7.20 Four Bibles, one fish. Match each with what it says.

1	the Hebrew of Jonah	a	"a great fish"
2	the Greek of Jonah	b	"a great sea creature"
3	the English of Jonah, 1611	c	"the whale's belly"
4	the English of Matthew 12:40, 1611	d	"a great fish", with the ordinary word for fish

B7.21 One plant, three names. Match each Bible with its word.

1	Greek	a	"a plant" or "a bush"
2	Jerome's Latin	b	ivy
3	many modern English Bibles	c	a gourd

B7.22 יוֹנָה בֶן־אֲמִתַּי הַנָּבִיא yônâ ven-'ămittay hannāvî' What does the book of Kings call Jonah?

(a) "the dove"
(b) "the prophet"
(c) "the sailor"

B7.23 Which of these words does not stand in the book of Jonah?

(a) דָּג dāg "fish"
(b) אוֹת 'ôt "sign"
(c) קִיקָיוֹן qîqāyôn

B7.24 Why does this course send you to the Hebrew?

(a) because every translation is somebody's reading of the text
(b) because Hebrew is easier than English
(c) because translations are useless

Answer key

Letters refer to the options as printed here; a short reason follows where the lesson gives one.

Introduction · Why learn Biblical Hebrew?

0.1 **a** Lesson 4

0.2 **b** Stage 3, The verb system

0.3 **a** My progress

0.4 **a** No, an account only keeps your progress on every device

First words · Seventy words, nearly half the Hebrew Bible

F.1 **c** Egypt

F.2 **c** Adonai
Adonai means "the Lord"; the name itself is not pronounced.

F.3 **1** a · **2** b · **3** d · **4** c

F.4 **c** it marks the object and is not translated

F.5 **c** אֵל al

F.6 **1** a · **2** b · **3** c · **4** d

F.7 **king** (also a king, the king)

F.8 **b** here I am

F.9 **1** d · **2** b · **3** c · **4** a

F.10 **1** a · **2** d · **3** c · **4** b

F.11 **a** house of bread

F.12 **thing** (also a thing, matter, a matter)

F.13 **b** אָמַר amar, said

F.14 **1** c · **2** a · **3** d · **4** b

F.15 **he ate** (also ate, eat, to eat)

F.16 **c** you are the man

F.17 **one day** (also a day, day one)

F.18 **b** אֵת et

F.19 **1** c · **2** a · **3** b

Lesson 1 · Six letters, five vowels

1.1 **1** e · **2** c · **3** a · **4** d · **5** b

1.2 **b** בּ
The open box on the left.

1.3 **c** b
With the dot it is b; without it, v.

1.4 **c** e
Two dots side by side, tsere, a long e.

1.5 **1** c · **2** d · **3** b · **4** a

1.6 **c** one long î
The yod is only a vowel helper here.

1.7 **bā** (also ba, baa)

1.8 **šāv** (also šav, shav, shāv, sav)

1.9 **tēt** (also tet, teet)

1.10 **rîv** (also riv, reev)

1.11 **'îš** (also îš, 'ish, ish, 'is, is, eesh)

1.12 בַּת

1.13 אָב

Lesson 2 · The whole first verse

2.1 **1** e · **2** d · **3** c · **4** a · **5** b

2.2 **b** ל

2.3 **b** o
Holem: one dot above, at the top left.

2.4 **c** a very short e

2.5 **c** and

2.6 **b** verb, subject, object

2.7 **a** the writer treats אֱלֹהִים as one subject

2.8 **a** אֱלֹהִים

2.9 **b** הַשָּׁמַיִם and הָאָרֶץ

2.10 **hammayim** (also ham-ma-yim, ham-mayim, hammaim)

2.11 **šəmô** (also shemo, shmo, shəmo, shamo)

2.12 **a** it is the subject, not the object
אֵת marks only the definite object.

2.13 **lō'** (also lo, lo')

2.14 מַיִם

Lesson 3 · Let there be light

3.1 **1** a · **2** c · **3** e · **4** b · **5** d

3.2 **b** kh, like ch in loch

3.3 **c** b starts the word; v comes right after a vowel

3.4 **b** it doubles the b (dagesh forte)
A full vowel comes right before it.

3.5 **a** ô

3.6 **c** וַיֹּאמֶר and וַיְהִי

3.7 **a** ד starts the word; בּ comes after a vowel

3.8 **a** lene: it only makes כּ hard
It stands at the start of the word.

3.9 **hayyôm** (also hayyom, hay-yom, haiyom)

3.10 **kol-hā'āreṣ** (also kol ha'arets, kol haarets, kol ha-arets, kol ha'ares, kolhaarets)

3.11 **b** the next step in the story

3.12 יוֹם

Lesson 4 · Roots and patterns

4.1 **1** d · **2** a · **3** b · **4** c

4.2 **b** זז

ה has a gap at the top left; ת has a foot.

4.3 **a** ן

Final nun, a straight stroke that drops below the line.

4.4 **rûaḥ** (also ruach, ruah, ru-ach, ru-ah, ruakh)

4.5 **a** M-L-K

4.6 **1** a · **2** c · **3** b · **4** d

4.7 **b** man and ground share no root in English

4.8 **a** the article ha-

4.9 **Š-M-'** (also sh-m-', s-m-', šm', shm')

4.10 **šōmēr** (also shomer, somer)

4.11 **b** keeper, watchman

4.12 **kātav** (also katav)

4.13 **b** CéCeC

4.14 **a** to show that 'ādām and 'ădāmâ share a root

Lesson 5 · The little words on the front

5.1 **1** a · **2** d · **3** c · **4** b

5.2 **c** ס

Final mem ם has corners. Round is s, square is m.

5.3 **a** ז

Vav ו has no hat, and final nun ן drops below the line.

5.4 **ṭôv** (also tov, tôv, tob, ṭov)

5.5 **b** it doubles it

5.6 **b** before b, m, p or a syllable with ə

5.7 **1** b · **2** a · **3** c

5.8 **a** in the king

The vowel a (and the doubling) carries the article.

5.9 **c** three

5.10 **b** hidden in the vowel ā under ל

lə- + ha- gives lā-; the h drops out and leaves its vowel.

5.11 **b** because בּ follows

5.12 **1** c · **2** a · **3** b · **4** d

5.13 **c** and + the + earth

5.14 **a** in a king / in the king

5.15 **to the king** (also for the king)

5.16 **like a man** (also as a man, like man, like a human)

5.17 **a** and, before b, m or p

5.18 **c** bərē'šît has no article vowel, so it can lead into the next clause

5.19 **the keeper** (also the watchman, the guard)

Bonus · What the translation loses

B1.1 **c** and

The same word as wə- and û-, in the form it takes before a stressed syllable.

B1.2 **b** never

It appears three times (Gen 1:2, Isa 34:11, Jer 4:23), always next to tōhû.

B1.3 **c** אוֹרָם 'ôrām (their light)

'ôr is light; -ām adds their.

B1.4 **a** the man

The article hā- makes it "the man"; a name takes no article.

B1.5 **a** לָאָדָם lā'ādām

lə- + ha- = lā-; the vowel carries the article (Lesson 5).

B1.6 לָאָדָם

B1.7 **b** the difference is only a vowel, and the vowels were added later

B1.8 **c** from + man

B1.9 **c** alef can't be doubled, so the vowel lengthens

B1.10 **b** the doubled š probably hides a lost n

B1.11 **b** CāCaC: he did it

B1.12 **c** gate of god

Akkadian bāb-ili; Genesis answers with a pun on bālal.

B1.13 **1** a · **2** c · **3** b

B1.14 **c** no: it imitates baby talk; the likeness is chance

B1.15 **a** and + the + man

B1.16 **b** a name: Adam (no article)

B1.17 **to the man** (also for the man)

lə- + ha- = lā-, and 'îš is man.

B1.18 **a** B-R-' (creating)

The verb of Genesis 1:1, with "it" on the end. Its b is soft (v) because a vowel comes right before it (Lesson 3).

B1.19 **c** it has no exact English match

Lesson 6 · Nouns and the construct chain

6.1 **b** feminine

6.2 **b** feminine

The lexicon tells you; the verb in Gen 1:2 agrees.

6.3 **1** c · **2** a · **3** b

6.4 **b** בְּנֵי bənê

6.5 **c** the house of the king

6.6 **1** c · **2** b · **3** a

6.7 **the word of the king** (also the king's word, the word of the king.)

6.8 **a** the first noun of a chain never takes the article

6.9 **a** the most holy place
"X of the Xs" is the Hebrew superlative.

6.10 **har qodšî** (also har qodshi, har kodshi)

6.11 **a** נִשְׁמַת nišmat
The feminine -â of nəšāmâ has become -at.

Wrap-up · The whole alphabet

W1.1 **d** ה

The first five are alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he.

W1.2 **1** a · **2** b · **3** d · **4** c · **5** e

W1.3 נָתַן

W1.4 **c** ד

A sharp corner at the top right. Resh ר is a smooth curve.

W1.5 **c** זז

W1.6 **1** d · **2** a · **3** b · **4** c

W1.7 **c** א cannot be doubled, so the vowel of ha- grows longer

W1.8 **d** ק

The gutturals are א ה ח ע, often with ר.

W1.9 **a** it is a throat letter

W1.10 **a** o
Qamets hatuf, in a closed syllable without stress.

W1.11 **1** d · **2** c · **3** e · **4** a · **5** b

W1.12 **b** it is silent and marks a long â at the end

W1.13 **a** the h is said; it often means "her" or "it"

W1.14 **c** it doubles the m
Dagesh forte, after the full vowel of the article.

W1.15 **a** the vowel û

W1.16 **a** כָּל

W1.17 **ṭôv məʾōd** (also tov meod, tov me'od, tov mod, tov məod, tov m'od)

W1.18 **b** the article ha- doubles the next letter

W1.19 **b** ן

W1.20 **b** ס
Round and closed. Final mem ם has corners.

W1.21 **ʾeḥād** (also echad, ehad, e-chad, ekhad, echād)

W1.22 **sēfer** (also sefer, se-fer)

W1.23 **d** אֲ
A patach with a shewa beside it.

W1.24 טוֹב

Bonus · More than a soul

B2.1 **a** néfeš is feminine and the adjective agrees with it

B2.2 **b** and he became
Literally "and he was to": Hebrew's way of saying "became".

B2.3 **a** he becomes one

B2.4 **c** the animals

B2.5 **a** to match the same phrase used for the animals

B2.6 **a** one
Genesis 2:7. The other five are animals: 1:20, 1:21, 1:24, 1:30 and 2:19.

B2.7 **a** neck, throat

B2.8 **b** appetite

B2.9 **a** and he caught his breath
The verb stands only three times: a servant's son (Exod 23:12), King David (2 Sam 16:14) and God (Exod 31:17).

B2.10 **c** at a pause Hebrew stretches the vowel

B2.11 **a** seventy persons

B2.12 **a** my self, me

B2.13 **c** néfeš is a feminine noun

B2.14 **living creature** (also a living creature, living being, a living being, living creatures, living beings, living soul, a living soul)

B2.15 **b** נַפְשִׁי nafšî

B2.16 **a** in the blood
bə- + ha- = ba-: the article hides in the vowel and the doubled d (Lesson 5).

B2.17 **1** c · **2** a · **3** d · **4** b

B2.18 **b** CéCeC: a thing

Bonus · Wind, breath, spirit

B3.1 **c** the participle that goes with it ends in -et

B3.2 **a** an eagle over its young (Deut 32:11)

B3.3 **b** whether to write "wind", "breath" or "Spirit"

B3.4 **c** the breeze of the day

B3.5 **a** "the rûaḥ of your nostrils"

B3.6 **b** the four winds are the four directions, so a rûaḥ is also a side

B3.7 **a** all flesh that breathes, animals too

B3.8 **c** it writes "breath" the first time and "spirit" the second

B3.9 **c** the rûaḥ is spoken to as a "she"

B3.10 **c** it took her breath away

B3.11 **b** shortness of breath

B3.12 **1** b · **2** a

B3.13 **a** Pharaoh, about Joseph

B3.14 **a** Hebrew has no capital letters

B3.15 **1** b · **2** c · **3** a · **4** d

B3.16 **east wind** (also an east wind, the east wind, wind from the east, a wind from the east, eastern wind)

B3.17 **c** Piel: a participle with mə-

B3.18 **c** Niphal: the first root letter is doubled

Bonus · Steadfast love

B4.1 **1** d · **2** c · **3** b · **4** a · **5** e

B4.2 **c** because no single English word covers what the Hebrew word covers

B4.3 **a** "his"

B4.4 **a** "do"

B4.5 **1** c · **2** b · **3** a

B4.6 **c** "with you"

B4.7 **b** "faithfulness, truth"

B4.8 **b** "Amen"

B4.9 **b** they pursue me

B4.10 **1** b · **2** c · **3** a

B4.11 **b** the Hebrew does not say: "who" can point to the LORD or to the man she blesses

B4.12 **a** Ruth

B4.13 26 (also twenty-six, twenty six)

B4.14 **b** none: the clause has no verb, and English supplies one

B4.15 **a** חֶסֶד ḥésed

B4.16 **a** "lovingkindness"

B4.17 **c** the faithful ones, people marked by ḥésed

B4.18 **a** a bird, the stork

B4.19 **1** c · **2** a · **3** b

B4.20 **b** God and people, and the same word serves for both

B4.21 **1** b · **2** d · **3** c · **4** a

B4.22 **1** b · **2** a · **3** d · **4** c

B4.23 **a** Abraham's servant

B4.24 **b** that people do it too, and that it can be counted: a first and a last

B4.25 3 (also three)

Bonus · Glory is heavy

B5.1 **b** heavy

B5.2 **a** Abram was very rich

B5.3 **c** the liver

B5.4 **b** make heavy: give weight to

B5.5 **a** treating that person as light

B5.6 **1** c · **2** a · **3** b

B5.7 **1** d · **2** c · **3** e · **4** b · **5** a

B5.8 **c** a very heavy pestilence

B5.9 **c** God: "I will get weight through Pharaoh"

B5.10 **a** three

B5.11 **c** be heavy

B5.12 **1** a · **2** c · **3** b

B5.13 **no glory** (also without glory, where is the glory, where is the glory?, there is no glory, not glory, inglorious)

B5.14 **a** "honour": you honour your sons more than me

B5.15 **c** doxa, at first "opinion, reputation"

B5.16 **a** English has no single word that means heavy, rich, honoured and glorious

B5.17 **1** a · **2** d · **3** c · **4** b

B5.18 **1** d · **2** b · **3** c · **4** a

B5.19 **a** grievous

B5.20 **heavy** (also he was heavy, and heavy)

B5.21 **c** the heavy mouth, the heavy heart, the heavy plagues

Bonus · Not "law" but teaching

B6.1 **a** about 220 times

B6.2 **c** because what a mother gives a child is not law

B6.3 law

B6.4 **a** to point out the way

B6.5 **b** to show the way to Goshen

B6.6 **1** b · **2** c · **3** a

B6.7 **c** "ways", "walk", "paths"

B6.8 **b** "the teaching of your mother"

B6.9 **b** "teaching" and ḥésed, steadfast love

B6.10 **b** light

B6.11 **c** an answer to a question: an instruction

B6.12 **a** that the noun and the verb are one root

B6.13 16 (also sixteen)

B6.14 **c** the article: "the Teaching"

B6.15 **b** the five books from Genesis to Deuteronomy

B6.16 **c** Genesis is nearly all story, and stories teach

B6.17 **1** b · **2** d · **3** a · **4** c

B6.18 **b** it keeps the commandments and loses the pointing of the way

B6.19 **c** a word for a low sound: a lion growls, a dove moans

B6.20 **b** a dove

B6.21 **day and night** (also by day and by night, by day and night, day and by night)

B6.22 **1** b · **2** c · **3** a · **4** d

B6.23 **1** d · **2** b · **3** a · **4** e · **5** c

B6.24 **a** from Y-R-H: in the Hiphil, "show the way, teach"

B6.25 **b** he showed Moses a piece of wood

B6.26 **c** teaching

B6.27 **teacher** (also a teacher, the teacher)

B6.28 **c** חֶסֶד ḥésed "steadfast love"

B6.29 **b** by speaking it half aloud, over and over

Bonus · The sign in the scroll

B7.1 **a great fish** (also a big fish, a large fish)

B7.2 **c** from the Greek word kētos, "sea creature", as Matthew 12:40 was put into English

B7.3 **b** "fish", of any kind

B7.4 **dove** (also a dove, pigeon)

B7.5 **b** in 2 Kings 14:25

B7.6 **b** from אֱמֶת 'ĕmet, "truth, faithfulness"

B7.7 **c** to a silly dove

B7.8 **b** the far end of the sea, the longest voyage there was

B7.9 3 (also three)

B7.10 5 (also five)

B7.11 **a** "ivy"

B7.12 **b** the word stands in one chapter only, and the old translations disagree

B7.13 40 (also forty)

B7.14 **b** "three days"

B7.15 **a** twelve short books of prophets, written on one scroll

B7.16 **1** a · **2** b

B7.17 **b** from the Gospels

B7.18 **b** "in which language?"

B7.19 **1** d · **2** a · **3** b · **4** c

B7.20 **1** d · **2** b · **3** a · **4** c

B7.21 **1** c · **2** b · **3** a

B7.22 **b** "the prophet"

B7.23 **b** אוֹת 'ôt "sign"

B7.24 **a** because every translation is somebody's reading of the text