

# Elementary Biblical Hebrew

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## Academic Credit Points

2 KP (3 ECTS)

## Prerequisites

None

## Approved by

Methodological Commission (August, 2021)

## Course author and Lecturer

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## Content

This study course introduces students to the basics of Biblical Hebrew. First students are introduced with the Hebrew alphabet, vowels, and marks used in the Hebrew Bible. Basics of grammar include: nouns, adjectives, pronouns, prepositions, word pairs, and numbers, as well as verbs according to action and mood. Some short texts from Old Testament for reading and translation are incorporated.

## Aims

- To provide students with basic knowledge in Old Testament Hebrew grammar and vocabulary.
- To provide students with the ability to read basic texts in Old Testament Hebrew (i.e., Genesis and Exodus) using a dictionary and a grammar.
- To provide students with basic awareness of the difficulties of translating the Bible.

## Learning Outcomes

### ***Knowledge and Understanding***

*After successfully finishing the study course students will be able to:*

- show basic understanding of grammatical terminology and concepts;
- demonstrate understanding of basic Hebrew grammar;
- recall the meaning of the most often used words in the Old Testament.

### ***Assessment***

Exercises  
Examination

### ***Skills and Abilities***

*After successfully finishing the study course students will be able to:*

- read Biblical Hebrew aloud in a proper way;
- parse various word forms;

Exercises  
Examination

**Competencies**

*After successfully finishing the study course students will be able to: Pēc veiksmīgas studiju kursa apgūšanas, studenti spēs:*

- translate simple passages of OT Hebrew

Examination

**FULL-TIME STUDIES**

**Lesson Plan**

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Ac. hours 45 min.</i>
1 The Alphabet. The Vowels. The Sheva. Dagesh.	4
2 Nouns and Verbs: Masculine, Feminine, Plural	4
3 The Perfect Tense.	2
4 The Direct Object.	2
5 Word Pairs: Singular, Plural	4
6 The Imperfect Tense. Drop Letter Imperfects	6
7 Sentences Without Verbs	2
8 Adjective	2
9 Possessive endings: Singular Nouns.	4
10 Prepositions with Pronoun Endings	2
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>32</i>

**Individual study plan**

	Individual studies	Hours
1	Exercises: regular home-work of various grammatical exercises	24
2	Training of translation skills	24
	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>48</i>

**Assessment**

	Learning Outcomes			% of the final score
	Knowledge	Skills	Competencies	
Exercises	+	+		50
Examination	+	+	+	50

## Readings

### *Mandatory Readings*

1. Simon, Ethelyn, Irene Resnikoff, and Linda Motzkin. *The First Hebrew Primer*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. EKS Publishing, 1992.
2. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967/77.  
<https://www.academic-bible.com/en/online-bibles/biblia-hebraica-stuttgartensia-bhs>

### *Additional Readings*

1. Pratico, Gary D., Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Zondervan, 2001.
2. Cohn-Sherbok, Dan. *Biblical Hebrew for Beginners*. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1996.
3. Brown F., Driver S., Briggs C., *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, Complete and Unabridged Electronic Edition (Biblesoft, 2006). Accessed 8 September 2020 at <https://biblehub.com/hebrew>
4. Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: Brill, 2000.
5. Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd, 1973.
6. <https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Grammar/grammar.html#loaded>
7. *Bible Hub*. Online Parallel Bible Project, 2021. <https://biblehub.com/>