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Writing Wrongs:  
Losing it in the Translation.

Part 6 – Distinctions

By David Grossman

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Draft.

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## Losing it in the translation.

### Part 6 - Distinctions

*Losing It is*

A resource for tips, ideas, methods, and knowledge gleaned through a generation of work in translation and in teaching translation skills.

These selected topics

reflect a personal and Jewish approach to translation.

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## Hebrew-English Differences

### *Introduction*

Translators must be able to think simultaneously in both Hebrew and English. Any differences should be recognized automatically.

This may be compared to the situation of somebody who lives in Israel and the United States. Celsius is used in Israel, and Fahrenheit in the States. As soon as that person hears one temperature, he has a feeling for how warm or cold it is in the other scale. He can flow with the conversation without losing his train of thought, and without having to convert the scales.

Contrast that situation with the translator who would first calculate the difference, after first looking up whether he should divide by five and then multiply by nine and add 32 – or to subtract 32 – or should he multiply by nine and divide by five and then add or subtract the 32?

A translator who has to stop and think about each unfamiliar conversion, or each Hebrew or English word, will lose his train of thought. The translation will suffer when the words are not at his fingertips.

This section helps you distinguish between the way Hebrew speakers and English speakers think about various concepts. Internalizing the differences so that

they are automatic will help you translate them more easily.

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Your exercise for this article is as follows:



### *SENSEible translations*

Following is a sampler of the items you can find in the rest of this section.

- נאדנדה [Nadneda] means *both* swing and seesaw.
- *Schpachtel* is the same for the tool and the action.
- Body language.
  - Baby tilts his head to mean No
  - Raising fingers to mean Wait
  - Clicking the tongue to mean No
- Wrong translations which they taught us in school
  - *Quiz* is not *hachtava*, q.v.
    - It is different from *dictation*
    - It may be the same as בוהן Bochan
  - *Naughty* is not *shovav*
  - *Maximum* is not maximum
  - *Nervous* is not *atzbani* (although both are related to nerves)
  - *Hymn* is not hymnon (anthem)
- Shortened terms
  - *Kav 5* could be 5, 15, 25, 35...
  - Shoe sizes - 4 could be 24, 34, 44
- Blurring distinctions over time

- הכתבה [Hachtava] is now the same as בוזון [Bochan]; it is not necessarily equal to quiz
- Bus terms - האוטובוס ריק - HaOtobus Rayk means *either* there's still room on the bus, or there are seats available
  - See also Bus Numbers *supra*
- Vague blurring of concepts: לא איכפת לי [Lo ichpat li]
  - I don't care [indifference] *or* concern: I don't mind (I would like to have/do it)
  - Even further blurring: לא איכפת לי could mean, "Don't mind if I do"
- Objects
  - כרטיס - Kartis
    - Apparently, Hebrew speakers see an entrance ticket as a card
    - The emphasis may be more on the *paper* than on its value
- Action. סיכומים [Sicumim]
  - "To make a long story short"
  - Do Israelis ever take notes?
- Bad Hebrew (although not Translation issues *per se*)
  - Leaflets for הפגנת ענק
  - אני ילך – is it now acceptable Hebrew?
- Teenagers
  - Thirteen in English; Eleven in Hebrew.
  - Perhaps this is why an Israeli teenager starts acting weird earlier
- Questions grate on English speakers' ears and sound impolite (and sometimes impolite to

Hebrew speakers as well). With the author's permission, they might be translated as statements.

- Phony or rhetorical questions: את לא מתביישת – [at lo mitbayeshet] you should be ashamed of yourself; it should not be translated as a question
- מה אני אעשה עם זה - Mah Ani E'eseh im zeh instead of "Please tell me what to do with this" or "I can't help it"
- Similarly, in תנ"ך:
  - ויאמר המן בלבו למי יחפוץ המלך לעשות יקר יותר ממני - Vayomer Haman belibo – Lemi yachpotz hamelech laasot yekar yoter mimeni.
  - Phony/rhetorical
    - השומר אחי אנוכי? [Hashomer achi anochi] should be "I am NOT my brother's keeper," despite the accepted translation.
- Opposites and reversals.
  - Animals
    - Pony tail is kookoo, but bangs are פוני – Pony.
    - Two ponytails are קוקיות – kookiot (Hebrew is sensible)
    - They turn into pigtails in plural (English is strange).

---

<sup>1</sup> אסתר ו'.

<sup>2</sup> בראשית ד'.

- אוזני חמור [Oznei chamor] = dog-eared document
- לוי חום הייה [Haya li chom] I had a cold
  - I had a fever is less popular but accepted)
- הסלמה [Haslama] escalation
  - Languages have different feelings
  - Hebrew feels like going down, unless you think about יעקב סולם
- Maximum – at least (but it could also be “at most.”)
- תצמה סיני [Tzama sinit] – French braid. Not a true opposite, but a different country
- חבל על הזמן – [Chaval al hazman] where the meaning is the same and also the opposite of that which would be accepted
- Curtailed and partial phrases
  - אני לא יכולה כבר [Ani lo yecholah kvar] I can't cope; I can't handle it
  - הייבא לא תהיהדי [Hi lo tehiyeh hayom] זהעד שהם אישרו את [Ad shehem ishru et zeh]: it took them a long time to approve it
- Words which are difficult to translate into English or Hebrew because they are too general/specific in the source language.
  - Examples: כלים [Kellim]: Tools? Utensils? Nothing fits properly.
  - מסגרת [Misgeret]: School? Setting?
- Ridiculous Hebrew terms
  - וזימל בטעם תפפט [Petel Betaam Tapuzim]

- שיש מפורמיקה [Shayish Miiformica] (don't try to translate those!)
- Words that are translated incorrectly in Hebrew or English:
  - שלישי [Shlish] – semester
  - משולש [Meshulash] – adapter for two *or* three plugs
  - מקסימום [Maksimum] – at least
- English active voice vs Hebrew passive
  - English: Israel shot down Patriot missiles
  - Hebrew: ריוטנורו טילי פט – Nuru teelay Patriot.
- Wedding terms. Find equivalents for the following.
  - English concept of “engagement” is different from Hebrew, and still different from Talmud
  - Erusin, Chatuna, Kiddushin, Sheva Brachot, shidduch, badecken, baal simcha, chadar yichud, bachur, bachura.

Furthermore, English is not consistent, and there are many differences between British/American usage.

- English illnesses: The flu; A cold; just fever without an article.
- British / American differences: going to the hospital in American but just going to hospital in British.

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## *10 and 12*

In January 2006, the Hebrew Translating forum had a lively discussion about the use of "tens" in English as a translation of "treisar" in Hebrew.

According to precise translation form, dozens should be translated as "treisarim," and "asarot" should be translated as tens. However, this is not necessarily a feasible translation. After all, people around the world typically use "dozens" in English. They use "tens" only in specific and rare cases.

Similarly, the common Hebrew term is "asarot." "Treisarim" is not used on common speech or writing. True, dozens of eggs in Hebrew might be called "treisarim," but eggs are usually sold in trays of 30.

In fact, both "asarot" and "dozens" are imprecise. When referring to precise numbers, three "dozen" would be translated with a number, "36."

The Hebrew and the English terms are semantically equivalent, although not linguistically equivalent.

Translators should try to make a document sound as if it was written in the target language, without giving hints that it is translated.

## Variations

These issues accept the fact that people realize that dozen is different from ten. Thus, a legal translation might require the use of "treisar." We may thus question whether idiomatic accuracy is more important than numerical accuracy.

The baker's dozen, dirty dozen, and the long/short/metric/imperial/American ton/tonne all reflect the different types of pints, gallons, pounds, ounces, and drams that used to be standard.

## Exceptions

The exception for dozens would be in the case of years, which are "decades."

## Related terms

"Scores" is difficult to translate into Hebrew.

"Tens" may sound natural with large, approximate numbers, as in "tens of thousands of people were made homeless by the war" and not "\*dozens of thousands..."

Another option, "myriad," has a literary or poetic register. People are more likely to say "tens of thousands" of people than a myriad of people.

"Revava" may justify the use of "myriad," since it has a poetic ring.

"Asarot alafim" can demand "tens of thousands" rather than "Revava," depending on the cultural context.

"Rivevot alfei" can be myriad, but "alfei revava" (Genesis 24:60) has been rendered "thousands of ten thousand", which is the equivalent of tens of millions.

### **Dictionaries and resources**

Oxford Wordfinder uses *scores* for "asarot" when discussing people and letters.

Yisrael Lazar's Hebrew-English Dictionary uses "asarot" for dozens. That dictionary relegates Treisar to specific measurements, such as eggs and rolls, but not for people.

The Bar Ilan University Translation Department recommends using "dozens" for "asarot."

Various publishers, including Ha'aretz English edition and Ma'ariv International, use "Asarot" as "dozens."

"Tens" often appears in English-language Israeli newspapers and publications, and it is irritating to read it. This can be avoided by using the word "dozens" in indirect speech: "Mr Soandso said that..."

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### *About*

Translators are required to think in two languages *simultaneously*. This is sometimes difficult, and the correct word may remain on the tip of his tongue. We can reduce the impact of this problem by practicing these Hebrew-English differences in advance - before we actually sit down to translate. This is more than a simple exercise. It is a way to assure that the secondary word will be available when we need it.

This series of articles about Hebrew-English differences assumes that Hebrew and English represent different cultures, and that people think differently in each of the cultures. Any good translation will have to reflect these differences.

Send the author<sup>3</sup> your own discoveries of Hebrew-English differences. If selected, the submission will be credited with your name.

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<sup>3</sup> Tzafun | Contact | Author



## Attacks

Draft.

### Bite

- Used for both animals and bugs
  - Chayot noshchot – חיות נושכות
  - Charakim oktzim – עוקצים חרקים

David Grossman.

### Sting

- Bees sting: Devorah oketzet – עוקצת דבורה
- Mosquito bite: okitzat yatush – עקיצת יתוש

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/grossmantranslation/HEDiff | Attacks



## Backup-Delete

Sicumim<sup>4</sup>

Summarize<sup>5</sup>

Notes<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Action

<sup>5</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Action

Bite<sup>7</sup>

Bugs<sup>8</sup>

Chayot<sup>9</sup>

Neshicha<sup>10</sup>

Sting<sup>11</sup>

Oketz<sup>12</sup>

Hachtava<sup>13</sup>

Quiz<sup>14</sup>

Bochan<sup>15</sup>

Nadneda<sup>16</sup>

Swing<sup>17</sup>

Seesaw<sup>18</sup>

Schpachtel<sup>19</sup>

Lo Ichpat Li<sup>20</sup>

I don't care<sup>21</sup>

I don't mind<sup>22</sup>

I would like have/do it<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Action

<sup>7</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Attacks

<sup>8</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Attacks

<sup>9</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Attacks

<sup>10</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Attacks

<sup>11</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Attacks

<sup>12</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Attacks

<sup>13</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>14</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>15</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>16</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>17</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>18</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>19</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>20</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>21</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>22</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>23</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

Don't mind if I do<sup>24</sup>

Levazbez<sup>25</sup>

Waste<sup>26</sup>

Spend<sup>27</sup>

Chatzi<sup>28</sup>

Chetzi<sup>29</sup>

Half<sup>30</sup>

lachtzot et hakvish<sup>31</sup>

Vayhi bachatzki/Kachatzki-halayla<sup>32</sup>

Shneihem<sup>33</sup>

Both of them<sup>34</sup>

Two of them<sup>35</sup>

Kol<sup>36</sup>

Any<sup>37</sup>

All<sup>38</sup>

Hi tzricha laledet kol yom<sup>39</sup>

She has to give birth every day<sup>40</sup>

Tzarich<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>25</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>26</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>27</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>28</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>29</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>30</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>31</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>32</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>33</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>34</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>35</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>36</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>37</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>38</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>39</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>40</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

Body language<sup>42</sup>

No<sup>43</sup>

Wait<sup>44</sup>

HaAutobus raik<sup>45</sup>

Chikiti sha'ah la'autobus<sup>46</sup>

Computer keyboard punctuation<sup>47</sup>

Computer Autotext arrows<sup>48</sup>

Zeh lo funktzia<sup>49</sup>

Ata lo funktzia<sup>50</sup>

Al Hapanim<sup>51</sup>

Prakim<sup>52</sup>

Habayit Halavan<sup>53</sup>

El Alhambra<sup>54</sup>

The Hatikva<sup>55</sup>

Hageshem Lo Pasak<sup>56</sup>

Ain li koach<sup>57</sup>

My feet hurt<sup>58</sup>

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41 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

42 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | BodyLang

43 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | BodyLang

44 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | BodyLang

45 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Bus

46 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Bus

47 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Computer

48 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Computer

49 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Direct

50 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Direct

51 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Direct

52 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Direct

53 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Direct

54 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Duplication

55 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Duplication

56 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Exaggeration

57 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Feeling

58 Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Feeling

My feet are tired<sup>59</sup>

I'm tired<sup>60</sup>

Subtle<sup>61</sup>

Foolish names<sup>62</sup>

Homely stores<sup>63</sup>

Moron<sup>64</sup>

Beauty Free<sup>65</sup>

Girl/boyfriend differences<sup>66</sup>

Acquaintance<sup>67</sup>

Member<sup>68</sup>

Chaver<sup>69</sup>

Makkar<sup>70</sup>

Yaddid<sup>71</sup>

See Tours Bus Company<sup>72</sup>

Turtle wax<sup>73</sup>

Baal Peh<sup>74</sup>

Orally<sup>75</sup>

By heart<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Feeling

<sup>60</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Feeling

<sup>61</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Feeling

<sup>62</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Foolish

<sup>63</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Foolish

<sup>64</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Foolish

<sup>65</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Foolish

<sup>66</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Friend

<sup>67</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Friend

<sup>68</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Friend

<sup>69</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Friend

<sup>70</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Friend

<sup>71</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Friend

<sup>72</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Good

<sup>73</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Good

<sup>74</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Hearing

<sup>75</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Hearing

Shirim<sup>77</sup>

Song<sup>78</sup>

Poem<sup>79</sup>

English distinction - even beyond the melody<sup>80</sup>

Entrance ticket<sup>81</sup>

We're fully booked<sup>82</sup>

No room/space/ticket available<sup>83</sup>

Book him<sup>84</sup>

La'atzor<sup>85</sup>

Throw the book at him<sup>86</sup>

To arrest someone<sup>87</sup>

Bookkeeping<sup>88</sup>

Hanhalat Cheshbonot<sup>89</sup>

Bookmaker<sup>90</sup>

A person who takes bets<sup>91</sup>

Let's hit the books<sup>92</sup>

Neshev Lilmod<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Hearing

<sup>77</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Hearing

<sup>78</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Hearing

<sup>79</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Hearing

<sup>80</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Hearing

<sup>81</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>82</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>83</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>84</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>85</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>86</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>87</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>88</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>89</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>90</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>91</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>92</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>93</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

Zip/unzip<sup>94</sup>

Button/unbutton<sup>95</sup>

Snap/unsnap<sup>96</sup>

Open/close doors and containers<sup>97</sup>

Velcro (unclear)<sup>98</sup>

Lin'ol na'alayim To put on shoes<sup>99</sup>

Do or undo things (this helps us avoid the effort of finding the correct word<sup>100</sup>

Light: Turn it off (cut the light in Southern United States)<sup>101</sup>

Light: Turn it on (Hit the light in Southern United States)<sup>102</sup>

Light: Turn/Switch on/off switches or devices (British English)<sup>103</sup>

Chaval Al Hazman<sup>104</sup>

Chalash and Vayachalosh Yehoshua<sup>105</sup>

Necheshalim and Mechushal<sup>106</sup>

Chet and Lechateh<sup>107</sup>

Levareich<sup>108</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opening

<sup>95</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opening

<sup>96</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opening

<sup>97</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opening

<sup>98</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opening

<sup>99</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opening

<sup>100</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opening

<sup>101</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opening

<sup>102</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opening

<sup>103</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opening

<sup>104</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>105</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>106</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>107</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>108</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

Sanctions<sup>109</sup>

Lo Ichpat Li<sup>110</sup>

Haya Li Chom<sup>111</sup>

Haslama<sup>112</sup>

Maximum<sup>113</sup>

Ponytails<sup>114</sup>

Kookoo<sup>115</sup>

Bangs<sup>116</sup>

Pony<sup>117</sup>

Kookiot<sup>118</sup>

*pigtails* in plural (English is strange)<sup>119</sup>

heresh [het-resch-shin] = deaf<sup>120</sup>

hif'il has two opposite meanings<sup>121</sup>

heherish<sup>122</sup>

French "ne...rien"<sup>123</sup>

Yiddish "Ich kennNISHT machen GOORNISHT"<sup>124</sup>

Ramah<sup>125</sup>

Ramat Hagolan<sup>126</sup>

<sup>109</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>110</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>111</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>112</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>113</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>114</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>115</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>116</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>117</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>118</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>119</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>120</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>121</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>122</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>123</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>124</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>125</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

Seret beramah gevohah; Ramah chamesh bemischak  
hamachshev<sup>127</sup>

Soos verochvo rama vayam<sup>128</sup>

Lesharesh, lehashrish<sup>129</sup>

Lesharesh et middat hakaas<sup>130</sup>

Mishpachat Cohen hishtarsha bayishuv<sup>131</sup>

Lechapess<sup>132</sup>

Chapess et hasefer<sup>133</sup>

Lechapess al menat limtzo<sup>134</sup>

Look for, in order to discover<sup>135</sup>

Costume; a "false" covering<sup>136</sup>

Ligmol<sup>137</sup>

Eich uchal ligmol lecha be'ad zeh<sup>138</sup>

To return a favor (to strengthen a contact)<sup>139</sup>

Amit<sup>140</sup>

Liglol, legolel<sup>141</sup>

Liglol et hamegillah<sup>142</sup>

Hazaken hechel legolel et sipur chayyav<sup>143</sup>

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<sup>126</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>127</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>128</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>129</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>130</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>131</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>132</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>133</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>134</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>135</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>136</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>137</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>138</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>139</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>140</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>141</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>142</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

Arum<sup>144</sup>

Hecherish<sup>145</sup>

Mercaz Pedagogi<sup>146</sup>

Kfar Saba/Sava<sup>147</sup>

Hocus Pocus<sup>148</sup>

Phenomenon<sup>149</sup>

Mayor Laguardia's name<sup>150</sup>

Avraham Lincollen<sup>151</sup>

The Reading electrical power station<sup>152</sup>

Sujest<sup>153</sup>

Draft.

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*Blurring*

reserved.

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<sup>143</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>144</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>145</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>146</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Pronunciation

<sup>147</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Pronunciation

<sup>148</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Pronunciation

<sup>149</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Pronunciation

<sup>150</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Pronunciation

<sup>151</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Pronunciation

<sup>152</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Pronunciation

<sup>153</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Pronunciation

**הכתבה - Hachtava**

- Previous meaning: a classroom dictation. That is still its literal meaning
- Blurred meaning: any quiz. That used to be *bochan*

**נדנדה - Nadneda**

- Double meaning: swing and seesaw
- Blurs the visual and specific difference between them

**Schpachtel**

- This German word is used for the tool as well as the action. This results in several problematic issues:

- It takes longer to make a point
- It requires the use of hands in order to explain
- It creates difficulties when translating on paper

**לא איכפת לי - Lo Ichpat Li**

- I don't care *or*
- I don't mind *or*
- I would like to have/do it

"Don't mind if I do" may be the nearest English expression

**לבזבז - Levazbez**

- Could mean either spend or waste
- Blurring of sensible vs. foolish expenditure

### חצי - Chatzi, chetzi

- In English, "half" is a precise term
- In Hebrew, "chatzi" or "chetzi" could be either precise or it could mean "part".

Does this come from the concept of "lachtzot et hakvish?"

Is it related to "Vayhi bachatzi/kachatzi halayla?"

### שניהם - Shneihem

- Both of them
- Two of them

### כל - Kol

- Any? All?

Hi tzricha laledet kol yom - יומהיא צריכה ללדת כל -  
She *has* to give birth *every* day

### צריך - Tzarich

See the preceding entry

### סיכום - Sicumim: "to make a long story short"

- Speakers of Hebrew never take notes
- Speakers of Hebrew blur both meanings
- Speakers of English distinguish between summarizing and taking notes

**למדוד - Limdod**

- Speakers of English distinguish between measuring and trying on
- Speakers of Hebrew don't distinguish between measuring, whether the clothes are on the person or off the person

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***Body Language***

**No**

- Israeli babies tilt head
- Tilt is apparently related to location (Israel) rather than parents
- Adult Israelis click their tongue

**Wait**

- Fingers upraised  
Israeli cultural difference, irrelevant of location
- Hand out, with palm facing the other person  
English speakers express a desire to wait, in body language

## I don't want to

- Israeli children shrug one shoulder
- Children from some other Western countries shrug both shoulders
  - It takes time for people coming to Israel to get used to the shrugging of the shoulder

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*Bus*

האוטובוס ריק

[HaAutobus rek]

- There is still some room on the bus
- There are some seats available
- There is room for one or two more people to squeeze in
- There *would* be room if the people standing would move to the rear

חכיתי שעה לאוטובוס

[Chikiti sha'ah laAutobus]

- Precision in time is not a real issue
- The speaker did not necessarily wait a full hour
- The speaker may not have looked at a watch

## Bus numbers

When there is a limited number of buses that is discussed, Speakers of Hebrew tend to drop the first digit of the bus number, i.e., a 35 would be called 5 and 34 would be called 4. "Did the 4 pass yet?"

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Keyword: Transportation/Bus

David Grossman.

## Computer

This section deals with the linguistic and keyboard differences between Hebrew computing and English computing. See the computing<sup>154</sup> website or join the Jewish Computing<sup>155</sup> forum for a full study of the technical differences between Hebrew and English computing.

## Punctuation

- It does not matter which is "correct." Punctuation is different in both languages
- No justification - certain things should be standardized

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<sup>154</sup> GrossmanComputers

<sup>155</sup> OurJewishGroups | IHCL



- Unlike most concepts, that either stay in the original language, or change completely

על הפנים

[Al Hapanim]

Draft.

- Humorously translated as "on zeh faces"
  - Real meaning: a terrible experience
- On the other hand, *a gevaldeh zach* could be either good or bad

פרקים

[Prakim]

David Grossman.

- The rain will fall to chapters today
- Wash your fingers up to the third chapter on Yom Kippur
- What is on the chapter for this meeting?
- Real meaning: all three concepts. The translator needs to be fluent with both languages in order to translate properly

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### *Don't*

Some words mean more than their literal meaning, and thus should not be translated:

#### **Aramaic**

- Davka דױקא

#### **Hebrew**

- Kvar כבר
- Chutzpah. This word has some possibilities in English, including *effrontery*, *brazenness*, *shameless boldness*, *gall*, *nerve*, and *temerity*. However, it is best left in Hebrew.

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### *Duplication*

Sometimes we say the same same thing twice twice in another language. Here are some examples:

- El Alhambra
  - The definite articles is already built into the Arabic name
- The Hatikva

- The definite article is already built into the title of the Israeli National Anthem

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*English*

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- Adjacent to<sup>156</sup>
- As a convenience<sup>157</sup>
- At least<sup>158</sup>
- At most<sup>159</sup>
- Azure<sup>160</sup>
- Bangs<sup>161</sup>
- Beating around the bush<sup>162</sup>
- Boning a chicken (is the bone put into the chicken or removed from it?)<sup>163</sup>
- Boycott<sup>164</sup>
- Brain drain<sup>165</sup>

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156	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Space
157	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
158	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Strange
159	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Strange
160	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Sight
161	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
162	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
163	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
164	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
165	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers

- Button/unbutton<sup>166</sup>
- Cottage<sup>167</sup>
- Damascus Gate<sup>168</sup>
- Déjà vu<sup>169</sup>
- Do or undo things (this helps us avoid the effort of finding the correct word)<sup>170</sup>
- Don't bug me<sup>171</sup>
- Driving me out of my skull<sup>172</sup>
- Flammable and inflammable (they both burn)<sup>173</sup>
- French fries<sup>174</sup>
- French "ne...rien"<sup>175</sup>
- Fun<sup>176</sup>
- Galilee Panhandle<sup>177</sup>
- Hocus Pocus<sup>178</sup>
- Hold your horses<sup>179</sup>
- Hymn<sup>180</sup>
- Ice scraper<sup>181</sup>
- I feel sad<sup>182</sup>

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166	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opening
167	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Sight
168	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Strange
169	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
170	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opening
171	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
172	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
173	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
174	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Sight
175	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
176	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
177	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Strange
178	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Pronunciation
179	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
180	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wrong
181	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Untranslatables
182	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wrong

- I will go<sup>183</sup>
- It's all downhill from here<sup>184</sup>
- It's driving me up the wall<sup>185</sup>
- It's eating my heart out<sup>186</sup>
- It's killing me<sup>187</sup>
- It's a pain in the neck<sup>188</sup>
- Just hanging around<sup>189</sup>
- Keep out of my hair!<sup>190</sup>
- Kfar Saba/Sava<sup>191</sup>
- Kookiot<sup>192</sup>
- Light: Turn it off (cut the light in Southern United States)<sup>193</sup>
- Light: Turn it on (Hit the light in Southern United States)<sup>194</sup>
- Light: Turn/Switch on/off switches or devices (British English)<sup>195</sup>
- Like (as compared to love)<sup>196</sup>
- Look for, in order to discover<sup>197</sup>
- Man, I ain't got no bread<sup>198</sup>

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183	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wrong
184	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
185	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
186	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
187	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
188	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
189	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
190	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
191	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Pronunciation
192	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
193	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opening
194	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opening
195	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opening
196	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
197	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite

- Marriage<sup>199</sup>
- Maximum<sup>200</sup>
- Mayor Laguardia's name<sup>201</sup>
- Naughty<sup>202</sup>
- Near<sup>203</sup>
- Nervous<sup>204</sup>
- Next to<sup>205</sup>
- Op. cit.<sup>206</sup>
- Open/close doors and containers<sup>207</sup>
- Phenomenon<sup>208</sup>
- Pigtails in plural (English is strange)<sup>209</sup>
- Ponytails<sup>210</sup>
- Potato chips<sup>211</sup>
- Radiation and irradiation<sup>212</sup>
- Sanctions<sup>213</sup>
- Saturday<sup>214</sup>
- Shoeing a horse<sup>215</sup>

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198	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
199	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wedding
200	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
201	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Pronunciation
202	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wrong
203	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Space
204	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wrong
205	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Space
206	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
207	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opening
208	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Pronunciation
209	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
210	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
211	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Sight
212	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
213	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
214	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
215	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite

- Shoe size 4<sup>216</sup>
- Sitting on pins and needles<sup>217</sup>
- Snap/unsnap<sup>218</sup>
- Speak of the Devil!<sup>219</sup>
- Stoning a garden<sup>220</sup>
- Suggest<sup>221</sup>
- The Reading electrical power station<sup>222</sup>
- They missed the boat<sup>223</sup>
- Tip of the iceberg<sup>224</sup>
- To my sadness<sup>225</sup>
- To return a favor (to strengthen a contact)<sup>226</sup>
- To try on<sup>227</sup>
- Unfortunately<sup>228</sup>
- Velero<sup>229</sup>
- Villa<sup>230</sup>
- Wedding<sup>231</sup>
- You're pulling my leg<sup>232</sup>

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216	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Short
217	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
218	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opening
219	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
220	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
221	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Pronunciation
222	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Pronunciation
223	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Strange
224	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Strange
225	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wrong
226	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
227	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Action
228	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wrong
229	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opening
230	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Sight
231	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wedding
232	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers

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### ***Exaggeration***

Speakers of Hebrew tend to exaggerate more than speakers of English.

This can be demonstrated by Rabbinic literature. The number 300 sometimes indicated an unspecified large amount. As an example, the Altar in the Temple could hold 300 *kor* of ashes. Researchers have determined that this amount is greater than the capacity of the Altar, and commentators explain that the number is an exaggeration.

Students may want to search for additional examples of exaggeration.

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/grossmantranslation/HEDiff | Exaggeration



## *Feeling*

### אין לי כוח - Ein li koach

English complaints are more specific

- Different from "my feet hurt"
- Different from "my feet are tired"
- Different from "I'm tired"

### Subtle

- The concept of subtlety does not exist in Hebrew
- It may be untranslatable<sup>233</sup>

### דוגרי

- Arguably the opposite of subtle
- Does not have a translation either
- ...For the same reason

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<sup>233</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Untranslatables

## Fun expressions

Expressions that are translated literally sound silly in the target language. Here are several examples:

### Hebrew to English

- מדברים על המשיח - Speak of the Devil!
- לשבת על קוצים - Sitting on pins and needles
- על אחת כמה וכמה - All the more so
- בעצם היום ההוא - In the bone of that day
- מה פתאום - What suddenly
- על הפנים - On ze faces
- לצפה את חותמו - Coin his nose
- הטביע את חותמו - He coined his beak
- ברוכים הנמצאים - Blessed are the existing
- לא תפוזים...ולא בטיח - No oranges and no "batich"

### English to Hebrew

- קפוץ לאגם - Jump in the lake
- מסיע אותי לשגעון - Drive me crazy
- זה הורג אותי - It's killing me
- זה הורג את הלב שלי החוצה - It's eating my heart out
  - However, it could be אוכל את הלב?
- זה כאב בעורף - It's a pain in the neck
- לשבת על קוצים - Sitting on pins and needles
- החזק את סוסך - Hold your horses
- מסיע אותי מחוץ - Driving me out of my skull
  - גולגולת שלי
- מסיע אותי לאורך הקיר - It's driving me up the wall
- אל תהיה זבוב איתי - Don't bug me
- איש, אנ'לא מחזיק בלחם - Man, I ain't got no bread

- You're pulling my leg - אתה מושך לי ברגל
- Speak of the Devil! - מדברים על המשיח
- Just hanging around - רק תולה מסביב
- It's all downhill from here - הכל מדרון מפה
- Beating around the bush - מכה מסביב לשיח
- Keep out of my hair! - תשמור מרחק מהשיער שלי
- Brain drain - שכל נקז
- Dumb down - להיטפש למטה

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Your exercise for this article is as follows:

David Grossman.

**Good**

Sometimes translators come up with very good parallel phrases in target languages. Here are several examples:

- טיולי שיא: See Tours bus company [*Tiyulei See*]
- Turtle wax: צב השעה Tzav ha-sha'ah (with an additional pun on (שעה-שעווה)

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Your exercise for this article is as follows:



## *Hearing*

- בעל פה [Baal Peh] – orally *or* by heart
  - Hebrew speakers make no distinction between the two concepts
- שירים [Shirim]
- Speakers of Hebrew: No distinction between song and poetry
- Speakers of English: Distinction - even beyond the melody
  - Some will argue that the distinction has been lost

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reserved.

## *Hebrew*

Although this file is named Hebrew, the words include various other languages as well. English words have a separate list.

The list is currently in the process of being alphabetized, and the transliteration is in the process of being edited. Please be patient.

א Aleph

- *Eza Keta*<sup>234</sup> - איזה קטע
- *Etzba HaGalil*<sup>235</sup>
- *Oznei Chamor*<sup>236</sup>
- *Echarnu Larakevet*<sup>237</sup>
- *Eza Bassa*<sup>238</sup>
- *Eich Uchal Ligmol Lecha Be'ad Zeh*<sup>239</sup>
- *Eim Shakulah*<sup>240</sup>
- *El Alhambra*<sup>241</sup>
- *Ad Sheheim Ishru Et Zeh*<sup>242</sup>
- *Ain Li Koach*<sup>243</sup>
- *Al Achat Kamah Vekamah*<sup>244</sup>
- *Al Hapanim*<sup>245</sup>
- *Amein*<sup>246</sup>
- *Amit*<sup>247</sup>
- *Ani Lo Yechola Kvar*<sup>248</sup>
- *Ani Yelech*<sup>249</sup>

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234	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Untranslatables
235	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
236	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Sight
237	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Strange
238	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Untranslatables
239	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
240	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
241	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Duplication
242	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Short
243	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Feeling
244	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
245	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Direct
246	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
247	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
248	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Short

- *Arum*<sup>250</sup>
- *At Lo Mitbayeshet*<sup>251</sup>
- *Ata Lo Funcktzia*<sup>252</sup>
- *Avraham Lincollen*<sup>253</sup>

ב Bet

- *[Ha]Bayit Halavan*<sup>254</sup>
- *B'al Peh*<sup>255</sup>
- *Baal Teshuvah*<sup>256</sup>
- *Bedi'eved, Bedi'avad*<sup>257</sup>
- *Bekeks Kidmi*<sup>258</sup>
- *Bochan*<sup>259</sup>

ג Gimel

- *Gil Harach*<sup>260</sup>
- *Gishmei Bracha*<sup>261</sup>

ד Dalet

- *Deshen*<sup>262</sup>

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<sup>249</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Wrong  
<sup>250</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite  
<sup>251</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Questions  
<sup>252</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Direct  
<sup>253</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Pronunciation  
<sup>254</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Direct  
<sup>255</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Hearing  
<sup>256</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers  
<sup>257</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers  
<sup>258</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Ridiculous  
<sup>259</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring  
<sup>260</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers  
<sup>261</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers

ה Heh

- *Hageshem Lo Pasak*<sup>263</sup>
- *Hachtava*<sup>264</sup>
- *Hanhalat Cheshbonot*<sup>265</sup>
- *Hashomer Achi Anochi*<sup>266</sup>
- *Haslama*<sup>267</sup>
- *Haslamah*<sup>268</sup>
- *Haya Li Chom*<sup>269</sup>
- *Haya li chom*<sup>270</sup>
- *Hazaken hechel legolel et sipur chayyav*<sup>271</sup>
- *Hecherish*<sup>272</sup>
- *Hecherish*<sup>273</sup>
- *הרש - Heresh [het-resh-shin] = deaf*<sup>274</sup>
- *Hi Lo Tihyeh Hayom*<sup>275</sup>
- *Hi Tzricha Laledet Kol Yom*<sup>276</sup>
- *Hif'il (has two opposite meanings)*<sup>277</sup>

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262	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
263	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Exaggeration
264	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Blurring
265	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Objects
266	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Questions
267	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
268	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Reversals
269	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
270	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Reversals
271	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
272	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
273	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
274	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
275	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Short
276	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Blurring

- *Himnon*<sup>278</sup>

## ו Vav

## ז Zayin

- *Zabasho*<sup>279</sup>
- *Zeh lo funktzia*<sup>280</sup>

## ח Chet

- *Chalash, Vayachalosh Yehoshua*<sup>281</sup>
- *Chapes-et Hasefer*<sup>282</sup>
- *Chassid*<sup>283</sup>
- *Chatuna (the ceremony)*<sup>284</sup>
- *Chatzi, Chetzi*<sup>285</sup>
- *Chaval Al Hazman*<sup>286</sup>
- *Chaver*<sup>287</sup>
- *Chaver or Chavera*<sup>288</sup>
- *Chayot*<sup>289</sup>

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<sup>277</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>278</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Wrong

<sup>279</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers

<sup>280</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Direct

<sup>281</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>282</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>283</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers

<sup>284</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Wedding

<sup>285</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>286</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>287</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Friend

<sup>288</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Relationships

- *Cheresh*<sup>290</sup>
- *Chet and Lechateh*<sup>291</sup>
- *Chetzi*<sup>292</sup>
- *Chikiti Sha'ah laAutobus*<sup>293</sup>
- *Chozer be'Teshuvah*<sup>294</sup>
- *Chuppah*<sup>295</sup>

ז Tet

- *Toharot*<sup>296</sup>
- *Takeh*<sup>297</sup>
- *Trissim LaChalonot*<sup>298</sup>

י Yod

- *Vayhi Bachatzi / Kachatzi Halayla*<sup>299</sup>
- *Villa*<sup>300</sup>
- *Yadid*<sup>301</sup>
- *Yedid*<sup>302</sup>

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289	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Attacks
290	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
291	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
292	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Blurring
293	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Bus
294	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
295	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
296	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
297	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
298	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
299	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Blurring
300	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Sight
301	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Friend
302	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Relationships

- *Yeshivat Hesder*<sup>303</sup>

## כ Kaf

- *Kachol*<sup>304</sup>
- *Kallah*<sup>305</sup>
- *Kasher*<sup>306</sup>
- *Kavanah Ba'tefillah*<sup>307</sup>
- *Kfar Saba / Sava*<sup>308</sup>

## ל Lamed

- *La'atzor*<sup>309</sup>
- *La'azazel*<sup>310</sup>
- *Lachtzot et hakyvish*<sup>311</sup>
- *Lechapes*<sup>312</sup>
- *Lechapes al menat limtzo*<sup>313</sup>
- *Lesharesh, lehashrish*<sup>314</sup>
- *Lesharesh et middat hakaas*<sup>315</sup>
- *Letza'ari*<sup>316</sup>

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<sup>303</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers

<sup>304</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Sight

<sup>305</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Relationships

<sup>306</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers

<sup>307</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers

<sup>308</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Pronunciation

<sup>309</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Objects

<sup>310</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers

<sup>311</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>312</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>313</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>314</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>315</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

- *Levareich*<sup>317</sup>
- *Levazbez*<sup>318</sup>
- *Lich'ora*<sup>319</sup>
- *Liglol; legolel*<sup>320</sup>
- *Liglol et hamegillah*<sup>321</sup>
- *Ligmol*<sup>322</sup>
- *לינעויל נעליים - Lin'ol Na'alayim - To put on shoes*<sup>323</sup>
- *Lo Dubim*<sup>324</sup>
- *Lo Ichpat Li*<sup>325</sup>
- *Lo Ichpat Li*<sup>326</sup>
- *Lo tapuzim*<sup>327</sup>
- *L'yad*<sup>328</sup>

## נ Mem

- *Ma ani e'eseh im zeh*<sup>329</sup>
- *למדוד Limdod*<sup>330</sup>
- *Mah pitom*<sup>331</sup>

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316	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wrong
317	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
318	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Blurring
319	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
320	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
321	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
322	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
323	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opening
324	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
325	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Blurring
326	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
327	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
328	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Space
329	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Questions
330	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Action

- *Makar*<sup>332</sup>
- *Makkar*<sup>333</sup>
- *Maron (French)*<sup>334</sup>
- *Maximum*<sup>335</sup>
- *Maximum*<sup>336</sup>
- *Maximum*<sup>337</sup>
- *Mercaz Pedagogi*<sup>338</sup>
- *Meshudach (the status)*<sup>339</sup>
- *Meuras (the status - not necessarily "engaged")*<sup>340</sup>
- *Mikveh*<sup>341</sup>
- *Mil'chatchila*<sup>342</sup>
- *Mishpachat Cohen Hishtarsha Bayishuv*<sup>343</sup>
- *Moshav*<sup>344</sup>
- *Muktzeh*<sup>345</sup>

נ Nun

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- *French "ne...rien"*<sup>346</sup>

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331	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
332	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Relationships
333	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Friend
334	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Sight
335	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
336	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Reversals
337	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Strange
338	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Pronunciation
339	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wedding
340	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wedding
341	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
342	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
343	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
344	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
345	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
346	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite

- *Nadneda*<sup>347</sup>
- *Necheshalim and Mechushal*<sup>348</sup>
- *Neshev Lilmod*<sup>349</sup>
- *Neshicha*<sup>350</sup>

▫ Samech

- *Samuch*<sup>351</sup>
- *Sicumim*<sup>352</sup>
- *Soos Verochvo Rama Vayam*<sup>353</sup>
- *Sukkot (the holiday)*<sup>354</sup>
- *Kipah Serugah*<sup>355</sup>

▫ Ayin

- *Oketz*<sup>356</sup>
- *Atzbani*<sup>357</sup>
- *Olami*<sup>358</sup>
- *Eruv Tavshilin*<sup>359</sup>

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<sup>347</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Blurring
<sup>348</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
<sup>349</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Objects
<sup>350</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Attacks
<sup>351</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Space
<sup>352</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Action
<sup>353</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
<sup>354</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
<sup>355</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers
<sup>356</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Attacks
<sup>357</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Wrong
<sup>358</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Opposite
<sup>359</sup>	Writing Wrongs	Losing It	HEDiff	Stumpers

פּ Peh

- *Perachim Veshoshanim*<sup>360</sup>
- *Petel Betaam Tapuzim*<sup>361</sup>
- *Ploni*<sup>362</sup>
- *Pony*<sup>363</sup>
- *Pony (hair style)*<sup>364</sup>
- *Prakim*<sup>365</sup>

צ Tzadi

- *Chips*<sup>366</sup>
- *Tzama Sinit*<sup>367</sup>
- *Tzarich*<sup>368</sup>
- *Shaar Shechem*<sup>369</sup>

ק Kuf

- *Kav 5*<sup>370</sup>
- *Kibbutz*<sup>371</sup>
- *Kibbutz Galuyot*<sup>372</sup>

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<sup>360</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Sight
<sup>361</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Ridiculous
<sup>362</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Stumpers
<sup>363</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Opposite
<sup>364</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Reversals
<sup>365</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Direct
<sup>366</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Sight
<sup>367</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Reverslas
<sup>368</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Blurring
<sup>369</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Strange
<sup>370</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Short
<sup>371</sup> Writing Wrongs		Losing It		HEDiff		Stumpers

- *Cottage*<sup>373</sup>
- *Kol*<sup>374</sup>
- *Kookiyot*<sup>375</sup>
- *Kookiyot*<sup>376</sup>
- *Kookoo*<sup>377</sup>
- *Kookoo*<sup>378</sup>
- *Kvell*<sup>379</sup>

Draft.

ר Resh

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- *HaAutobus Raik*<sup>380</sup>
- *Ramah*<sup>381</sup>

David Grossman.

ש Shin

- *Shayish MiFormica*<sup>382</sup>
- *Shepp Naches*<sup>383</sup>
- *Schpachtel*<sup>384</sup>
- *Shirim*<sup>385</sup>

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- |                |                |  |           |  |        |  |                 |
|----------------|----------------|--|-----------|--|--------|--|-----------------|
| <sup>372</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Stumpers        |
| <sup>373</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Sight           |
| <sup>374</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Blurring        |
| <sup>375</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Opposite        |
| <sup>376</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Reversals       |
| <sup>377</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Opposite        |
| <sup>378</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Reversals       |
| <sup>379</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Untranslatables |
| <sup>380</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Bus             |
| <sup>381</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Opposite        |
| <sup>382</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Ridiculous      |
| <sup>383</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Untranslatables |
| <sup>384</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Blurring        |
| <sup>385</sup> | Writing Wrongs |  | Losing It |  | HEDiff |  | Hearing         |

- *Shneihem*<sup>386</sup>
- *Shomer Shabbat*<sup>387</sup>
- *Shoresh*<sup>388</sup>
- *Shovav*<sup>389</sup>

ת Tav

- *Tchelet*<sup>390</sup>
- *Tefillin*<sup>391</sup>
- *The HaTikva*<sup>392</sup>
- *Tikun Olam*<sup>393</sup>

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Your exercise for this article is as follows:

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Keyword: Hebrew

**Multiple**

reserved.

The following items were submitted by Heftsia, 5765:

- Ramah רמה

<sup>386</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Blurring

<sup>387</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers

<sup>388</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

<sup>389</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Wrong

<sup>390</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Sight

<sup>391</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers

<sup>392</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Duplication

<sup>393</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Stumpers

- Highland (Ramat Hagolan) שטח גיאוגרפי מוגבה מסביבתו Shetach geographi moogbah mesvivato  
or
- Level of difficulty (Seret beramah gevohah; Ramah chamesh bemischak hamachshev) עליתי לרמה חמש במשחק המחשב. זה סרט ברמה גבוהה
- Throw [zarak] [Soos verochvo ramavayam] זרק, השליך. סוס ורוכבו רמה בים Lechapes לחפש
- Look for, in order to discover (look for, in order to discover): "חפש את הספר" Chapes et hasefer
- Costume; a "false" covering: לחפש מלשון תחפושת, לכסות חבר בחזות "מזוייפת". לחפש אותו למרדכי
- Ligmol לגמול
- To return a favor (to strengthen a contact): Eich uchal ligmol lecha be'ad zeh איך אוכל לגמול לך בעד זה?
- To wean a child, to remove a dependency on drugs (to break a contact)
- Amit עמית
  - Friend (like the Spanish amigo)
  - Enemy; the opposition in imut הצד השני Hatzad hasheni be'imut בעימות
- Liglol; legolel לגלול/לגולל
  - To gather or bring together: Liglol et hamegillah לגלול את המגילה

- To scatter, distribute. Hazaken hechel legolel et sipur chayyav הזקן החל לגולל את סיפור חייו
- Arum ערום
  - Exposed. Lo latet latinok latzet arum meha'ambatya, hu yitkarer לא לתת לתינוק לצאת ערום מהאמבטיה, הוא "יתקרר!"
  - Chasof, meurtal מעורטל
  - Sly, covering true intentions: Vehanachash arum mikol chayat hasedeh והנחש ערום מכל חיית השדה
  - Armuni, metuchem, mechaseh et kavanotav ha'amitiyot ארמוני, מתוחכם, מכסה את כוונותיו האמיתיות

**Book**

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These "book" words cannot be translated directly or literally:

Source: Noa, 5765

- We're fully booked (מלא עד אפס מקום)  
No room/space/ticket available  
Not related to books
- Book him  
לעצור La'atzor
- Throw the book at him  
To arrest someone

- Bookkeeping  
הנהלת חשבונות Hanhalat Cheshbonot
- Bookmaker  
A person who takes bets, סוכן הימורים Sochen himurim  
Has nothing to do with books
- Let's hit the books  
נשב ללמוד Neshev Lilmod

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### *Objects*

#### **Entrance ticket**

- Some Hebrew speakers may see an entrance ticket as a card  
As a result, the emphasis may be more on the paper than on its value

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## **Opening**

People open things differently in different languages. Whereas in English there is a limited way of saying how to open or close something, in Hebrew there are separate words for different items that are to be opened or closed. In English you would just say a word for opening it, and add a negative suffix to close it.

### **English**

- Zip/unzip
- Button/unbutton
- Snap/unsnap
- Open/close doors and containers
- Velcro (how do we remove the velcro? Do we *unvelcro* it?)
- Tie/untie

### **Hebrew**

- לנעול נעלים Lin'ol na'alayim To put on shoes.  
There is a special word for putting on shoes, and the general "put on" isn't used.

### **Either language**

- Do or undo things (this helps us avoid the effort of finding the correct word)

## English from different locations

- Turn it off (cut the light in Southern United States)
- Turn it on (Hit the light in Southern United States)
- Turn/Switch on/off switches or devices (British English)

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/grossmantranslation/HEDiff | Opening

*Opposite*

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זה לעומת זה  
- קהלת ג' י"ד

Some words mean the same as their opposites<sup>394</sup>:

## Opposites in the same language

Biblical verses

- חלש - ויחלוש יהושע - Chalash and Vayachalosh Yehoshua
- פ' חזקתי לפסוק "ותקע כף ירך יעקב" (בראשית לב/כה) לשתי מליצות בנין "...יש דברים ובפתרונם מתהפכים

<sup>394</sup> <http://www.geocities.com/GrossmanPsych/Opposite/Intro>

וסתירה כגון זה. - " (ויעקב תקע את אהלו בהר" (בראשית)  
- " ותקע כף ירך יעקב" (כאן) לא/כה) -

- Ve'asita sirotav lidshano To remove garbage  
lidshano To remove garbage  
(והרים את הקשן (ויקרא יג)  
- Ve'harim et ha-dashan
- " (תהלים פ"י) " - ושרש שרשיה" - to improve the roots -  
Ve'tashresh sharsh'e'ha  
" (תהלים נב/ז) " - ושרשך מארץ חיים" - to uproot -  
Ve'sharshecha me'ere'tz chayyim
- חטא לחטא - Chet and Lechateh
- לברך - To bless; also used as a euphemism for cursing - Le'vareich

Modern Hebrew and slang

- חבל על הזמן - Chaval-Al Hazman - (is it worth spending time on this item?)
- נחשלים-מחושל - Necheshalim and Mechushal
- "heresh" [het-resch-shin] = deaf
  - The hif'il form of the word has two opposite meanings:
    - To be inaudible or silent
    - To deafen or to make a loud noise
  - Reflection or consideration: "heherish"  
החריש
    - To be inaudible; to be silent
    - To deafen, to make a loud noise.

English

- Flammable and inflammable (they both burn)
- Radiation and irradiation

- Boning a chicken (is the bone put into the chicken or removed from it?)
- Shoeing a horse
- Stoning a garden
- "My cup is full" vs. "my plate is full"
  - Note that "my cup runneth over" has a different meaning

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### Opposites in English and Hebrew

David Grossman.

- Olami עולמי Out of this world (but also לא מהעולם הזה)
  - Note that “outa sight” has a different meaning
- Sanctions
- לא איכפת לי - Lo Ichpat Li - I don't care and Yes, I would appreciate it (or I would like some)
- חום היה לי Haya Li Chom = I had a *cold* (although I had a fever is also acceptable)
- הסלמה Haslama = escalation. (Different feeling: Haslama feels like going *down* unless you think about יעקב סולם Jacob's ladder)
- מקסימום Maximum
  - Maximum: at least
  - However, it could be translated “at most”

### Hair terms

- *Pony* tails are Kookoo, but
  - Bangs are Pony
- Two ponytails are Kookiot (Hebrew is sensible)

- They turn into *pigtails* in plural (English is strange)
- צמה סיניט – French braid [tzamah sinit]
- *See also* sight<sup>395</sup>

**Double negatives:**

- French "ne...rien"
- Yiddish "Ich kennNISHT machen GOORNISHT"

**Aramaic**

- Aderaba: To the contrary; All the more so

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Your exercise for this article is as follows:

***Pronunciation***

**מרכז פדגוגי**

- *See* Mercaz Pedagogi
- Say Mercazia Pedagogit

**סעודה שלישיית**

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<sup>395</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Sight

- See סעודה שלישיית  
◦ Say Shalishidis
- See Mishloach Manot  
◦ Say Shalach Manos
- See Talitot  
◦ Say Taleisim
- See Shabbatot  
◦ Say Shabbosim
- See Kvarim  
◦ Say Kvaros

**כפר סבא**

- Pronounced on Israel radio with four variations
- מלעיל/מלרע and Saba/Sava

**בג"ד-כפ"ת [beged-kefet] in the beginning of a word**

- Hocus Pocus is "corrected" to Hocus Focus, since the origin is not Hebrew

**Corrections**

- Mayor Laguardia's name is pronounced Lagardia. This may come from the pronunciation of "guard." However, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia of New York pronounced his own name as LaGwardya
- The location called Castel comes from the world castle. There used to be a castle there.

- Lincoln is corrected to Lincollen. Every letter is pronounced in Hebrew. His full name is Avraham Lincollen, of course. You mean he wasn't Jewish?
- The Reading electrical power station is corrected to Reeding. Of course, the 300-mile-long Reading Railroad in Pennsylvania is pronounced Redding
- Israeli children are taught to say Suggest for Suggest. Forget the fact that they are not taught phonetics. Any pronouncing dictionary will show that it should be pronounced sug-jest
- A photography store is sometimes called Poto, because the פ in the beginning of a word should have a װיך.

### **Wrong pronunciations taught in school**

There are so many of them that they warrant a separate section<sup>396</sup>

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### ***Questions***

Many questions grate on the ear of the English speaker (and also ears of some Hebrew speakers). With the

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<sup>396</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Wrong

author's permission, we might translate such questions as statements.

את לא מתביישת

At lo mitbayeshet

- Phony or rhetorical question
- Should not be translated as a question.
- Translate as "you should be ashamed of yourself"

השומר אחי אנכי

Hashomer achi anochi

- Phony or rhetorical question
- Accepted translation, "Am I my brother's keeper?" is not applicable in standard English
- Translate as "I am NOT my brother's keeper"

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Your exercise for this article is as follows:



## *Relationships*

### **Friendship**

- Friend could be casual relationship with either gender in English
- חבר or חברה [*chaver or chaverah*] refer to a close relationship
- No real word for casual acquaintance in Hebrew: ידיד, מכר, yedid, makkar

כלה

Kallah

- Bride
- Could mean daughter-in-law
- The meaning is determined based on context

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### *Ridiculous words*

Some names and phrases are just silly. This may occur when words that have a specific meaning are used for the general group that they represent.

## Food

- פטל בטעם תפוזים – Petel betaam tapuzim – Orange-flavored raspberry drink  
What flavor is the drink?

## Housewares

- שיש מפורמייקה – Shayish MiFormica – Marble counter made of formica  
Is that a slab of Formica or is it a slab of marble?

## Objects

- בקאקס קידמי – Bekeks Kidmi – front back-axle  
The axle connecting the rear wheels is called a *bekeks* – short for "back axle." The front axle is therefore called the *bekeks kidmi*.

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## Short

My wife was in labor  
when she began to shout,  
"Shouldn't!

Wouldn't!  
Couldn't!  
CAN'T!"

Me: "Doctor,  
what's wrong with my wife!"  
Doctor: "It's perfectly normal,  
She's just having  
her contractions."

## Draft. Curtailed and partial phrases

- אני לא יכולה כבר – Ani lo yechola kvar
  - I can't cope
  - I can't handle it
- היא לא תהיה היום – Hi lo tihyeh hayom
  - She will not come today
- עד שהם אשרו את זה – Ad sheheim ishru et zeh
  - It took them a long time to approve this

## Concatenations and contractions

- Israeli bus<sup>397</sup> terms  
Kav 5 could be 5, 15, 25, or 35
- Shoe sizes  
Size 4 could be 24, 34, or 44

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<sup>397</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Bus

## *Sight*

People who speak Hebrew see things differently from those who speak English.

A cottage in Hebrew could (sometimes) be a two-floor apartment in a building, whereas it is a standalone building in English

A villa in Hebrew is a small bungalow, whereas in English it is a luxurious home

A redhead in English has hair that is quite clearly at one end of the color scale. In Hebrew, a Gingi could range nearly from blond with a tint of red to a perfect red heifer.

Those who speak English do not make strong distinctions between different kinds of flowers; in Hebrew there is sometimes a distinction between פרחים ושושנים *Perachim Veshoshanim*.

- See potato chips, say "chips" - but then it's understood in Hebrew as french fries
- אוזני חמור Oznei Chamor = dog-eared document
- עור פיל Or Pil = Thick skinned

## **Colors**

A French color that is not seen by speakers of either Hebrew or English

- Maron – like tan or brown
- Not like English maroon

## Blue

- Speakers of Hebrew see colors that are not noticed or visible in English
- Speakers of English do not make a conscious distinction between the different hues of blue
  - Hebrew: *Kachol* and *tchelet* are two distinct colors
  - English: Weak distinction between light blue and dark blue
    - English word azure or cyan is used very rarely

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## Space

- ליד – L'yad (אני אעבור ליד הבית שלך) – ani aavor leyad habayit shelach). Does that mean near? Next to? Adjacent to? Samooch?

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*Strange differences*

- Tip of the iceberg
- Galilee Panhandle
- איחרו לרכבת - They missed the boat [icharu larakevet]
- שער שכם - Damascus Gate [Sha'ar Shchem]
- מקסימום - At least (sometimes means at most) [maximum]

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Your exercise for this article is as follows:

[/grossmantranslation/HEDiff](#) | Strange



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*Transliteration*

The great thing

about standards  
is that  
there are so many of them  
to choose from.  
- Andrew S. Tanenbaum

There is likely to be a need for transliterated materials for a long time to come.

- The world needs transliteration in order to help those who cannot read text that is written in a foreign language
- The world needs transliteration for a language such as Hebrew on the Internet, because not all computers can handle Hebrew on their screens.

The Yiddish Forum<sup>398</sup> discussions take place with transliterated material. Many frustrated Yiddishists try to argue for a "correct" or "acceptable" way of transliterating. Nothing seems to work.

Several formal, governmental, quasi-governmental, and private institutions, such as YIVO and ASTM, have attempted to set standards for the way in which transliterated text is to be written. Perhaps some people should follow those standards.

However, there are *several* standards. This leads to heated discussions or arguments, in which among those who use differing standards - or those who use no standards at all.

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<sup>398</sup> Unity Groups | Jewish | 1YiddishForum

Now, standards are unquestionably A Good Thing - up to a point. It is certainly not worth getting excited if somebody else does not follow your proposed standard, or if they do not follow any standard at all.

However, let's keep this issue in perspective. We're talking about transliteration. People do not really have to transliterate things the way *you* want them to be transliterated. Any other way of writing that is understandable should also be satisfactory.

There is no justification for expending unnecessary energy on arguments because things are not transliterated the way that you believe is right.

The topic is not important enough.

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***Just different...***

למדוד – *limdod* – to try on

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## *Untranslatables*

Over the course of time every translator comes across words that are acceptable in one language but not in the other<sup>399</sup>. You can choose the name that you like:

- Some purists call these terms lexical voids
- Since many of these terms *do* exist in the secondary language (although it may require some effort to translate them) perhaps they should be called *stumpers*
- This web page is called *untranslatables*. Some will argue against that term as well, since the words can be translated, albeit with certain limitations:
  - It is generally necessary to use many words to express the concept in the target language
  - The translated concept generally loses the original flow or ring
- There is no reason to argue over this terminology. Let's study the concept.

Translators must deal with issues of terminology all the time. Despite the inherent problems, the resulting translation must reflect the feeling, idea, meaning, tone,

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<sup>399</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | TT | Untranslatables

and level of the original. This can often be difficult, when one language doesn't even have a word that would reflect the proper register or style in the second language.

Translators like to give the example of the "fact" that in Alaska there are over thirty words to reflect the concept of snow. The Alaskans live in snow all the time so they have determined ways to explain the different kinds of snow. Those living in warmer climates do not make that distinction and call every starry-shaped wintertime flake "snow." Perhaps that reflects a paucity of the other languages; more likely it is a function of reality, reflecting the fact that such a word has never been deemed necessary in other languages.

A list of my favorite Hebrew-English untranslatables follows in this article and the next installments. Feel free to contact<sup>400</sup> the author with suggestions reflecting other untranslatables. You may also try to recommend a possible equivalent word in English.

## English

- Ice scraper (doesn't exist in Israel)
- Déjà vu
- Fun (a Hebrew word, not Arabic)
- As a convenience
- Like (as compared to love)
- Boycott

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<sup>400</sup> Tzafun | Contact | Instructor

- Op. cit.
- Saturday
- Subtle

## Expressions

Draft.

## Hebrew

- דוגרי [dugri]
- איזה בסה [eze Bassa]
- איזה קטע [eze Keta]
- מה פתאום [mah pitom]
- "טהרות" [taharot]
- על אחת כמה וכמה [al achat kamah vechamah]
- ערוב תבשילין [eruv tavshilin]
- חרש, שוטה, וקטן [cheresh, shoteh, vekatan]
- כפה סרוגה [kippah srugah] - Does not necessarily have anything to do with a skullcap. (Well, it does fit the contours of the skull, as opposed to hats that stick out with brims or feathers).
- בעל תשובה [baal teshuvah] - (Repentant sinner?)
- שומר שבת [shomer Shabbat]
- תריסים (להלונות) [trissim lachalonot]
- ישיבת הסדר [Yeshivat Hesder]
- כוונה (בתפילה) [kavanah batfillah]
- פלוני אלמוני [ploni almoni]
- אם שכולה [eim shakulah]
- לא דובים ולא יער [lo dubim velo yaar]
- גיל הרך [gil harach]
- תקון עולם [tikun olam]

- גשמי ברכה [gishmei beracha]
- מושב [moshav]
- קיבוץ [kibbutz]
- חסיד [chassid]
- אמן [amen]
- כשר [kasher]
- מוקצה [muktzeh]
- תפילין [tefillin]
- מקוה [mikveh]
- סוכות (החג) [Sukkot (the holiday)]
- חופה [chuppah]
- מלכתחילה [milechatchilah]
- לכאורה [lich'orah]
- בדיעבד [bedieved]
- מטפלת [metapelet]
- זבשו"ו [zabasho] (slang)
- אצבע הגליל [Etzbah haGalil] Galilee Panhandle:  
thus, אצבע = panhandle!
- קבוץ גלויות [kibbutz galuyot] - (ingathering of the  
exiles?)
- דווקה [Davka]
- ראשי פרקים [Rashei Perakim]

## Yiddish

- Kvell (=vicarious pleasure?)
- Shepp naches
- Oy
- Nu
- Nash/nosh

- Shnorr
- Kvetsh
- Tzimes
- Takke (Isn't that nice? Imagine that?)
- Eppis (How about that - with a trace of amazement? Something? Somewhat?)

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Keyword: Linguistics, Translation

David Grossman.

### *Wedding*

Different people use different terms to mean the same thing:

- חתונה [Chatuna] (the ceremony)
- משודך [Meshudach] (the status)
- מאורס [Meuras] (the status - not necessarily "engaged")
- Confusion between terms:
  - Wedding, marriage

Parashat Tetze, נערה מאורסה naara meorasa: Status today is part way through chupa, while reading the ktuba

In Biblical times the girl was bought (מאורסה); she waited a year, and was then taken into the groom's home

Today the אירוסין takes place during the חופה or during the signing of the document

משידוכים means that the couple agreed to marry. However, they have not yet signed a document. Also called באים בברית שידוכין. The status changes to מאורסים with the first glass of wine, and is then followed by קדושין.

Hebrew differentiates among חתונה, נשואין, חיי נשואין.

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*Wrong*

Teachers sometimes explain things to their students incorrectly. In some cases, all of the Israeli elementary and high school teachers seem to get together in order to spread an incorrect explanation to an entire generation of students. Here are some examples of wrong translations that are taught in school:

- Naughty is not שובב [shovav]
- Maximum<sup>401</sup> is not מקסימום [maximum]
- Nervous is not עצבני [atzbani]
- Hymn is not המנון [himnon]

<sup>401</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite

Some other words are not wrong, but they are used in an *imprecise* manner:

- לצערי [letza'ari] is not "to my sadness" or "I feel sad"
- "Unfortunately" has nothing to do with good or bad fortune

Some incorrect terms have become "acceptable" in Modern Hebrew:

- אני ילך Ani Yelech for I will go

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### **A story**

Some translators have an immediate feel of things from both languages and they can understand confusing things that people say and realize that they are listening to something that had interference from a different language and it is a wonderful feeling to be able to interpret what the author really meant because of translation. Here's an example of a silly story that I made up to illustrate how each phrase was created while

thinking about the secondary language and I created an entire silly story with it as a result.

The story itself illustrates the way that some the mind of some translators works. It's the way that my mind works at any rate and it may be the way your mind will work also after reading this story and this part of the book.

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Written in Hebrew and translated by David  
Grossman

Part I: Translation

David Grossman.

An occupation that was, מעשה שהיה כך היה:

thus it was:

I was walking with a man הלכתי עם אדם  
from the southern part of מדרום הארץ  
the earth

that had horns on the skin אשר קרנו עור פניו  
of his face  
and his chapter was nice. ופרקו נאה.

He had returned with an הוא חזר בתשובה  
answer

and now priested as a ועכשיו כיהן כרב  
rabbi

In a house of the בבית כנסת.  
Knesset.

He was a prayer-shawl הוא היה טלית שכולה תכלת.  
that was entirely light-  
blue.

I didn't check his fringes, לא בדקתי את ציציותיו,

אבל בד

and belted his belt, וחגר חגורו,  
I knew in big ידעתי בגדול  
that he was a tough man שהוא גבר לענין,  
of context, ואם לומר את האמת  
and if to say the truth to לאמיתה,  
its truth, היה משהו משהו,  
something something, משכמו ומעלה.  
from his shoulders and  
up.

I found out that he was a גליתי שהוא סופר סת"ם  
plain writer. התיבות שלו היו ברורות  
His arks were clear למרות שאיטר יד ימינו,  
even though his right לא עם הארץ,  
hand was bound, גומל חסדים  
That he was not a nation  
of the earth, לבקרים,  
One who recovers from ובדרך כלל ילד טוב ירושלים,  
the addiction of  
lovingkindness אשר עשה דברים על הצד  
To the mornings, הטוב ביותר,  
And usually a good boy ולא חצי חצי.  
Jerusalem, כאשר הלכנו יחד  
who did things on the ליד רחוב רחובות הבוכרים,  
most good side,  
and not half half.

PARA As we walked  
near the street of the  
streets of the Bucharian  
people,  
we followed the sign that עקבנו אחר השלט אשר

warned us, הזהיר אותנו,  
in moon-blessing letters, באותיות קדוש לבנה,  
to "please keep on the "נא לשמור על הנקיון,"  
clean,"

but the path was narrow. אבל השביל היה צר.  
In the hour between the בשעת בין הערביים,  
evenings,

we met a stork פגשנו חסידה  
whose stomach was אשר כריסה בין שיניה,  
between her teeth,  
and we explained our והסברנו לה פנים.  
faces to her.

We didn't know what to לא ידענו מה לעשות,  
do,

since the situation was כי המצב היה  
on the faces, על הפנים,  
in other words, from her כלומר, ממנה והלאה,  
and continuing,

because there was no כי לא היה רווח,  
profit, ולא יכולנו לעבור  
and we couldn't pass  
each other

because he this, כי הוא זה,  
because she had a כי היה לה גיוק בראש,  
cockroach in her head,  
and her owner isn't. ובעלה איננו.

All of them were in silent. כולם היו בשקט.  
When the time was a כאשר הזמן פג

premature baby, והגיעו מים עד נפש,  
and the waters reached  
the soul,

and after we juiced all the ולאחר שמיצינו את כל



owing  
embers of his family  
and he completed the  
prayers of praise on  
them.

ת משפחתו  
והוא גמר עליהם את ההלל.

PARA "What is heard?"  
he asked the waiter.

"מה נשמע",  
הוא שאל את המלצר.

"What is the condition?"

"מה המצב?"

But it was impossible to  
hear

אבל אי אפשר היה לשמוע

when the mess was  
celebrating

כאשר הבלגן חוגג

in the restaurant.

במסעדה.

PARA "What suddenly,"

"מה פתאום",

I brought out the throat to  
him,

הוצאתי את הגרון אליו,

"I asked for a dish of  
smaller bigness

"ביקשתי גודל צלחת קטן  
יותר

of heavy,

של כבד,

nuclei,

גרעינים,

and a difficult egg."

וביצה קשה."

The waiter thumbtacked a  
look on me:

המלצר נעץ בי מבט:

"Are you trying to sew me  
a carry-case?"

"ברצונך לתפור לי תיק?"

Do not get dressed on  
me.

אל תתלבש עלי.

What, are you a head in  
the wall?

מה, אתה ראש בקיר?

I'll explain

אסביר

on the edge of the fork,"  
the waiter

על קצה המזלג,"  
המלצר

explained the faces  
with pleasant direction.

"The food fell to me  
from the the casket."

"Which paragraph."  
we exclaimed with one  
mouth.

"Do not sell me individual  
noodles."

I answered  
Sharp and smooth

But my friend mentioned

the name of a bus that is  
not affiliated with the

Egged Cooperative  
for his palm of merit.

In the bone,  
I knew

that I had placed my  
money on the horns of a  
deer.

PARA My friend turned to  
me.

"Are you prepared and  
cash?

What else is on the  
chapter?

It's light and material  
that we should have  
rejected your suggestion,  
and therefore now,  
on one, how many and

הסביר פנים  
בנחת רוח.

"האוכל נפל לי  
מהארון."

"איזה קטע,"  
צעקנו פה אחד.

"אל תמכור לי לוקשים",

עניתי

חד וחלק.

אבל חברי דן אותו

לכף זכות.

בעצם,

ידעתי

ששמתי את כספי על קרן  
הצבי.

חברי פנה אלי,

"האם אתה מוכן ומזומן?"

מה עוד יש על הפרק?

קל וחומר

שהיינו צריכים לדחות את  
ההצעה שלך,

ולכן עכשיו

על אחת כמה וכמה

how many  
should we descend into                      עלינו לרדת לתוך דבריך  
your things  
and then to continue to                      ואז להמשיך לסדר היום."  
the order of the day?"  
PARA "It is something to                      "חס וחלילה,"  
care for and desecrate as  
it goes around and  
around,"  
I read.                      קראתי  
"I'm all prayer                      "כולי תפילה  
that it will work out                      שישתדר  
and that it will come out                      ושיצא לפועל."  
to verb."  
Then I filled my mouth                      ואז מלאתי פי מיס.  
with water.  
PARA "Stamp,"                      "בול,"  
He replied end end.                      הוא ענה סוף סוף.  
There is.                      "יש."  
"We shall live and we                      "נחיה ונראה.  
shall see.  
Nose on mouth of yes,                      אף על פי כן  
it is to investigate each                      יש לבדוק את כל נושא  
issue  
for its own body,                      לגופו,  
and to keep a small                      ולשמור על ראש קטן."  
head."

Draft.

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## Other languages

The words in this section on differences between Hebrew and English<sup>402</sup> are indexed in three locations: Hebrew<sup>403</sup> terms; English<sup>404</sup> terms; and the present page, with terms from other languages.

### Yiddish

- Yiddish "Ich kenn NISHT machen GOORNISHT"<sup>405</sup>

### Aramaic

- Aderaba (Opposite page)

### Arabic

- El Alhambra (Duplication page)

Are you required to read this webpage for a course? Do *NOT* print out the article. It is copyrighted.

Your exercise for this article is as follows:



<sup>402</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Intro

<sup>403</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Hebrew

<sup>404</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | English

<sup>405</sup> Writing Wrongs | Losing It | HEDiff | Opposite