

# English for Yeshivahs

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## Preface

To get along in life, especially for your education, it is very important to be able to express yourself well. This is known as communication. No matter how much you know about something, without proper communication, you may find this crippling.

The medium by which we communicate is language. There are hundreds of languages in today's world. Each language has its own vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, accents, etc. Some even use symbols which depict scenes and objects.

Now, why should we learn English? There are two reasons:

- 1.) It is the official language of the country in many places around the world, including here in the United States and most of Canada.
- 2.) In order to communicate internationally, imagine trying to learn over 100 languages! Few, if any of us, can do that. So, an effort was made to develop a language that can be used internationally.

In 1887, a Jewish ophthalmologist from Poland, "L. L. Zamenhoff," published the first book of his newly-constructed language, "Esperanto," which means "one who hopes." This language actually gained millions of people speaking this language worldwide.

However, the language that eventually won over most of the world as the international language was English.

In order to live a Jewish life properly, proper chinuch is of paramount importance. You could pick up any book that teaches the English language. However, in today's day and age, many of us are vulnerable to influences, some which are very much against our cherished Torah values. Secular learning books tend to have such ideas (in stories, narratives, opinions, etc.), which if we expose our children (even adults) to this, can have a negative effect.

Therefore, we have developed an English curriculum which will teach the language, without compromising Torah hashkafos. Although, this work should not be used as a substitute for a real teacher, we hope you will find this to be an invaluable reference and guide.

Shmuel Asher  
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We classify words by the way they function in sentences. Some words describe people and objects, others are action words, some connect one word to another, and some do other tasks.

The way words are used is known as: “Parts of speech.” There are, primarily, eight terms, which describe the function of a word. They are the *noun*, *pronoun*, *adjective*, *verb*, *adverb*, *preposition*, *conjunction*, and *interjection*.

## The Noun:

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A noun is a word that names a *person*, *place*, *thing*, or *idea*. Here are some examples:

Person – Rav Weiss, Morah Zeitz, Shimon, Mommy, Tatti

Place – Shul, Eretz Yisroel, mikvah, Bais Yackov, Beis Midrash, Yeshiva, house, park

Thing – sefer, gelt, toy, kugel, kippa, hat, dress, bagel, spoon, bike, car, bus

Idea – Chessed, Rachamim, Tzedaka, taavah, midos, appetite, length, weight

The name of a quality (like “Chessed”) is just as much a noun as the name of anything that has size, shape or weight (like a Tzedaka box).

### Exercise 1 (Answers on page 8):

There are 19 nouns in the following paragraph. List them in order, and place before each the number of the sentence. If a noun is used more than once, list it each time it appears.

Paragraph:

- 1.) Learning Torah brings you closer to Hashem. It also sharpens your mind, and can make you into a great chacham.
- 2.) In fact, even some foreign countries agree that this kind of study can make a student wise. In South-Korea, they want their students studying the Talmud.
- 3.) However, even though there is chochma by the goyim, there is no Torah.
- 4.) Yes, studying Torah will make even a goy smart.
- 5.) But, this will not make them want to serve Hashem.
- 6.) Only a Yid has a Neshama (the “Pintele Yid”), that makes it possible for him to do this.

Exercise 2 (Answers on page 8):

How many nouns can you find in the following paragraph? Make a list of them on your paper. After the number of the sentence where you find them, list all the nouns. Capitalized names of more than one word are a single noun (e.g. “Shlomo Chaim Weiss” is one noun).

1.) Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon, famously known as the Rambam, or “Maimonides,” was born in 1135, in Cordova, Spain. 2.) He was so brilliant and diligent that he became one of the greatest of Rishonim. 3.) While very young, his family ran away to the Northern part of Spain. 4.) This was because, where they lived, under tolerant Muslim rule, was conquered by another Muslim sect, the fanatical and murderous Almohads. 5.) A few years later they moved to Morocco, then Eretz Yisroel, and finally the Rambam settled down with his family in Egypt. 6.) After his brother’s death in a shipwreck, the task of supporting, both, his own and his brother’s family fell on the Rambam. 7.) After pursuing a career in medicine, he became so proficient that the ruler of Egypt, the Sultan, appointed him to be his personal physician. 8.) His responsibilities demanded that he work from early morning to past midnight. 9.) Despite his intensive work schedule, he was still able to compile some of the greatest works of Torah. 10.) Among these are: Mishneh Torah, Perush HaMishnayos, Sefer HaMitzvos, Moreh Nevuchim, and Iggeres Teiman. 11.) Being a great physician, he prescribed a diet and lifestyle, which he guarantees will prevent you from ever getting sick and enable you to live to a ripe old age, unless you have a weak constitution or die suddenly from some other cause. 12.) This included: eating only when hungry, eating to just under full, not delaying responding to the call of nature, getting 8 hours of sleep, etc. 13.) The Rambam died in 1204, and was greatly mourned by Jews and non-Jews.

## The proper noun and the common noun:

A *proper noun* refers to a particular person, place, or thing, and begins with a capital letter. A *common noun* names a class of nouns.

Here are some examples:

	<u>Proper Noun</u>	<u>Common Noun</u>
Person:	Shmuel	name
	Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon	Rabbi
	Rebbetzin Schwartz	Rebbetzin
	Cantor Rosenblatt	cantor or singer
Place:	Yerushalayim	city
	Eretz Yisroel	country
	Dead Sea	sea
Thing:	Avraham's Tent	tent
	Ari Halberstam Bridge*	bridge

(\* Named after him, when he was murdered by a terrorist on the Brooklyn Bridge)

## The compound noun:

Another type of noun we must mention is the "compound noun." These are two or more words which make only ONE noun. Some are single words - known as a "closed compound noun," some are separate words - known as an "open compound noun," and others have hypens ("-").

Examples:

Closed (single word):	candlelight
Open (separate words):	chicken soup
Hyphen:	mother-in-law

## Exercise 3 (Answers on page 8):

The following words are compound nouns. Circle the right answer, if it is closed, open or hyphenated.

- |                  |           |         |               |
|------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| 1.) Grandmother  | A. Closed | B. Open | C. Hyphenated |
| 2.) Nitty-gritty | A. Closed | B. Open | C. Hyphenated |
| 3.) Life Span    | A. Closed | B. Open | C. Hyphenated |
| 4.) Anybody      | A. Closed | B. Open | C. Hyphenated |
| 5.) Well-being   | A. Closed | B. Open | C. Hyphenated |
| 6.) School Year  | A. Closed | B. Open | C. Hyphenated |
| 7.) Courtyard    | A. Closed | B. Open | C. Hyphenated |
| 8.) In-depth     | A. Closed | B. Open | C. Hyphenated |

Exercise 4 (Answers on page 9):

\*

The possible answers are numerous. Regard the answers we provide in the answers section as examples.

The following are common nouns. Write a proper noun after the number which has the common noun. \* Example: 1.) sea 2.) sage

1.) Dead Sea 2.) Hillel HaZaken

1.) Prophet

1.)

2.) Shofet

2.)

3.) building

3.)

4.) Rabbi

4.)

5.) Rebbetzin

5.)

6.) singer

6.)

7.) lake

7.)

8.) city

8.)

9.) country

9.)

10.) doctor

10.)

11.) poet

11.)

12.) Talmudist

12.)

13.) chassid

13.)

14.) kever

14.)

15.) ocean

15.)

16.) song

16.)

## The pronoun:

A pronoun is a special word used in place of a noun. Remember that a noun names a person, place, thing or idea. Well, a pronoun can be used in place of **any** person, place, thing or idea.

### Example:

Reuven went to Shul with *his* mamme and tatte. *They* were happy that *he* liked *it*, and participated in the davening.

See how **his** and **he** are used in place of Reuven, **they** is in place of “Mamme” and “tatte,” and **it** in place of “Shul.”

These pronouns are **personal** pronouns. There are three ways that personal pronouns are expressed. They are 1.) first person 2.) second person and 3.) third person.

### Examples:

	First <u>person</u>	Second <u>person</u>	Third <u>person</u>
Singular:	I my mine me	you your yours	he his him she her hers it
Plural:	we our ours us	you your yours	they their theirs them

Other pronouns are as follows:

**Demonstrative** pronouns, which specify a noun -

This, that, these, those

**Interrogative** pronouns, which ask a question -

What, which, who, whose, whom

**Indefinite** pronouns, which are not specific to any person or thing -

All, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, more, must, much, neither, nobody, none, no one, one, other, several, some, somebody, someone, such

**Reflexive** pronouns, refers to self –

oneself	yourself	himself
myself		herself
		itself
ourselves	yourselves	themselves

Exercise 5 (Answers on page 9):

(Underline the pronouns in the two paragraphs, below)

On Chol HaMoed, we love this time because more of it is spent with our families. We also do fun activities like going to parks, amusement centers, Jewish performances and other attractions. There are many Frum Jewish entertainers who do a wonderful job dazzling children with their funny and incredible antics. Many also love the scare and thrill of a roller coaster ride.

But, we don't just keep it to ourselves. It is important to touch some hearts by reaching out to our brethren, who, through no fault of their own, find it hard to join in on the Chag. So, we go to places like hospitals, nursing homes, malls, offices, homes, even street corners, etc. in order to offer Yidden an opportunity to do the Mitzvos we enjoy. This could be letting them bentch lulav and esrog, inviting them into our Sukkas, giving them Matza (preferably Shmurah), etc. One patient at a hospital started crying, when I came into his room with a lulav and esrog. He exclaimed, "I haven't done this in 30 years!"

## Answers

### Exercise 1:

Torah -1, Hashem - 1, mind - 1, chacham - 1,  
countries - 2, study - 2, student -2, South-Korea -2, students -2, Talmud -2,  
chochma - 3, goyim -3, Torah - 3  
Torah - 4, goy - 4  
Hashem - 5  
Yid - 6, Neshama - 6. Yid - 6

### Exercise 2:

There are 47 nouns -

- 1.) Moshe Ben Maimon, Rambam, Maimonides, [ Cordova, Spain - one noun ]
- 2.) Rishonim
- 3.) family, Spain
- 4.) Muslim rule, Muslim sect, Almohads
- 5.) years, Morocco, Eretz Yisroel, Rambam, family, Egypt
- 6.) death , shipwreck, task, family, Rambam
- 7.) career, medicine, ruler of Egypt, the Sultan, physician
- 8.) responsibilities, morning, midnight
- 9.) schedule, works of Torah
- 10.) Mishneh Torah, Perush HaMishnayos, Sefer HaMitzvos, Moreh Nevuchim, Iggeres Teiman
- 11.) physician, diet, lifestyle, age, constitution, cause
- 12.) nature, sleep
- 13.) Rambam, Jews, non-Jews

### Exercise 3:

- 1.) A      2.) C      3.) B      4.) A      5.) C      6.) B      7.) A      8.) C

#### Exercise 4:

- 1.) Avraham, Yitzchak, Yackov, Moshe Rabenu, Aaron, Yehoshua, Eli, Shmuel, David HaMelech, Shlomo HaMelech, Eliyahu, Yirmiyahu, Sara, Miriam, Devorah, Esther
- 2.) Ehud, Gideon, Devorah, Shimshon, Eli, Shmuel
- 3.) Any names of schools (e.g. “Beis Avraham”, “ Beis Sarah”), shuls, batei Midrashim , office buildings (e.g. “Empire State Building”), etc.
- 4.) Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon, Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki
- 5.) Rebbetzin Yungreis, Rebbetzin Heller
- 6.) Mordechai Ben David, Avraham Fried, Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt
- 7.) Kinneret, Lake Michigan, Lake Okeechobee
- 8.) Yerushalayim, Bnei Brak, New York City, Chicago, Miami
- 9.) Eretz Yisroel, United States of America, Canada, Russia
- 10.) Rambam, Ramban, Dr. Weiss, Dr. Schwartz
- 11.) Yehuda Halevi, Rabbi Amnon
- 12.) Rabbi Yehudah, Rava, Abbbaye, Rashi, Rabbenu Tam, Rambam, Rashbam, Raavad, Rosh, Rif, Ran, Gra
- 13.) Rabbi Yisroel Baal Shem Tov, Maggid of Mezeritch, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, Rabbi Yoel Teitelbaum
- 14.) Rochel, Rabbi Akiva, Rambam, Arizal, Rabbi Nachman – in Uman
- 15.) Atlantic, Pacific, Indian
- 16.) Unesanneh Tokef, Lecha Dodi, Anim Zmiros, Siman Tov, Maoz Tzur

#### Exercise 5:

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