



Hebrew Games and Activities

Tornado: Choose 4 or 5 vocabulary words. Assign each student a vocabulary word. The students sit in a circle with one standing in the middle. The student in the middle calls out one of the vocabulary words. All of the students who have that word (and the student in the middle) scramble to find new seats. A new student is left to be in the middle.

Snap Clap: Each student is assigned a word (or a Hebrew letter for younger students). Place each student's word card visibly in front of him/her. Sitting in a circle, establish a slap knees, clap, snap right hand, snap left hand rhythm. Students repeat their own word on the slap-clap, then their own word on the first snap followed by another student's word on the second snap. It becomes that student's turn.

Word Tree: As your class learns a word, write it on a flower or leaf and add it to a word tree. Practice reading the words each week.

Spud: Children stand in a circle with vocabulary words cards attached to their clothes or worn around their necks. One student calls out a word on another student's card and throws the ball to that student. Children are "out" if they don't catch the ball, don't recognize their word, or throw the ball too wildly.

Word Puzzles: Cut vocabulary cards into two piece puzzles dividing each word in half. Put all the first halves of words in one pile and all of the second halves of words in another pile. A student takes one card from each pile. If they match, the student keeps the word. If they don't, the pieces are placed back in the piles.

Concentration: Play this classic game with two sets of vocabulary cards. Spread out the 10-20 cards face down. At his or her turn, a player flips over two cards and reads the words aloud. If they match, the player keeps the pair. If they do not, they are flipped back upside down.

Bean Bag Toss: Tape off a large grid on the floor, and tape a vocabulary card into each space. Students take turns tossing a beanbag into the grid and reading the word the on which in lands.

Mixed Media: To practice writing Hebrew letters, allow students to experiment with tracing their fingers through sand in a box or shaving cream on their desks, arranging fish gravel, writing with glue, and tracing sandpaper letters with their fingers.

Dice Roll: Print two copies of a dice template from the internet. On one, write 6 Hebrew letters; on the other, write 6 Hebrew vowels. Students roll the dice, position the vowel under the letter and read the resulting combination.



Fly Swatter: Write 10 or more words on the board. Two students hold fly swatters in their hands. When you call out a word, the first student to swat it gets a point for his or her team.

Duck, Duck, Goose: Use this familiar game for teaching any set of word pairs.

Human Bingo: Divide the class into two teams, and give each student a vocabulary card. When you show a picture or say a word, the student with that vocabulary card sits down. At the end of the game, the team with the most students sitting wins.

Hebrew Volleyball: String a volleyball or badminton net across your room using masking tape to attach it to the wall. With one team on either side, players hit a balloon back and forth over a net. Before a player can hit the ball, he or she must call out a Hebrew vocabulary word, or the next letter of the aleph bet (starting with aleph).

Charades: Students act out vocabulary words. All guesses must be in Hebrew.

Scavenger Hunt: Hide 25 items throughout your classroom. Give each group a slightly different list of 15 items to find with the list written only in Hebrew. The items may be vocabulary words, or the students might look them up in a dictionary.

Picture Dictionary: Create aleph-bet dictionaries using die-cuts or clip art to illustrate each letter with a picture from the synagogue, an animal, a food, or other familiar Hebrew word.

Gus on The Go: Hebrew for Kids Digital App: Play on your iPad in class. This 5 star app teaches numbers, colors, shapes, and more. \$3.99