

500 Basic Hebrew Words

(See also German version: „Hebräisch – Grundwortschatz“)

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(This list contains the 500 most frequent and most important words of the Old Testament / Hebrew Bible and is intended to help you keeping up your Hebrew. The transcription follows the rules of ZAW).

אָב	'āb	father
אָבֵד	'bd	Q. perish; Pi., Hi. ruin
אָבָה	'bh	be willing
אָבֶן	'æbæn	stone
אָדוֹן	'ādōn	master, lord
אֲדֹנָי	' ^a dōnāy	lord
אָדָם	'ādām	man, mankind, people
אֲדָמָה	' ^a dāmā	(arable) soil
אָהֵב	'hb	like, love
אֹהֶל	'ohæl	tent
אוֹ	'ō	or
אוֹר	'ōr	shine, light up
אוֹרֵךְ	'ōr	light
אוֹת	'ōt	sign
אָז	'āz	then
אָזֶן	'ozæn	ear
אָח	'āḥ	brother
אָחָד	'æḥād	one
אָחוֹת	'aḥōt	sister
אֲחֵר	'aḥēr	another, different
אֲחֵרִית	'aḥar	later on, afterwards
אַחֲרָיִם	'aḥ ^a rê	after
אַחֲרֵי	'aḥ ^a rît	end, behind, issue, the future
אֵיב	'oyēb	enemy

אֵיל	'ayil	ram
אֵין / אֵינִי	'ayin / 'ēn	is not, non existence, nothing
אִישׁ	'îs	man
אֶךָ	'ak	only
אָכַל	'kl	eat
אֶל	'æl	towards
אֵל	'al	not
אֱלֹהִים	'ēl	god
אֵלֶּה	'ellæ	these
אֱלֹהִים	' ^æ lō ^a h	god
אֱלֹהִים	' ^æ lōhîm	god, gods
אֶלֶף	'ælæf	thousand
אִם	'im	if
אִמִּי	'ēm	mother
אִמָּה	'āmā	(maid), servant
אִמָּה	'ammā	forearm, cubit
אִמּוֹנָה	' ^æ mûnā	faithfulness, trustworthiness
אָמַר	'mr	say
אִמְנָת	' ^æ mæt	faithfulness
אֲנִי	' ^a nî	I
אֲנֹכִי	'anokî	I
אָסַף	'sf	gather (food), collect
אֶף	'af	also, even
אֶף	'af	nose, anger
אַרְבַּע / אַרְבַּעַת	'arba' / 'arbā'ā	four
אַרְבָּעִים	'arbā'im	forty
אָרוֹן	' ^a rôn	chest, ark of the covenant
אֶרֶץ	'æræṣ	ground, country, territory, the earth
אָרַר	'rr	curse
אֵשׁ	'ēš	fire
אִשָּׁה	'iššā	woman

אֲשֶׁר	'šær	relative clause
אֵת	'et	together with, along with
אֵת	'et	accusative particle
אַתָּה	'attā	you (sg.)
אַתֶּם	'attæm	you (pl.)
בְּ	b [°]	in, at, because of, by way of
בְּגָד	bægæd	garment, covering
לְבַד/בַּד	bad/l [°] bad	part/apart, alone, only
בְּהֵמָה	b [°] hēmā	cattle, animals
בוא	bô'	Q. enter, come to Hi bring (conduct, lead) in
בוֹר	bôr	cistern, water pit
בחר	bħr	choose, elect
בטח	bṭħ	be reliant, trust
בין	byn	Q., Hi. to understand
בין	ben	between
בית	bayit	house
בכה	bkh	weep
בְּכֹר	b [°] kor	first-born
בְּלִי/בְּלִיתִי	b [°] lî/biltî	without
בְּמָה	bāmā	hill, high-place, place of worship
בֵּן	ben	son
בנה	bnh	build
בַּעַד	ba'ad	for, for the benefit of
בָּקָר	bāqār	cattle
בֹּקֶר	boqær	morning
בקש	bqš	seek
ברא	br'	create (god exclusively)
בְּרִית	b [°] rît	covenant, arrangement
ברך	brk	Pi. bless

בְּרָכָה	b [°] rākā	blessing
בָּשָׂר	bāsār	flesh
בַּת	bat	daughter
גאל	g'l	redeem
גבה	gbh	be high/tall, be exalted
גְּבוּל	g [°] bûl	boundary, territory
גִּבּוֹר	gibbôr	hero, fighter
גָּדוֹל	gādôl	great
גדל	gdl	be, become great/strong
גוי	gôy	people, nation
גַּי/גַּיָּא	gaj'/gē	valley
גַּם	gam	also
גֵּר	gēr	sojourner
גרש	grš	drive out
דבק	dbq	cling, cleave to
דבר	dbr	speak
דָּבָר	dābār	word, matter, affair
דְּבַשׁ	d [°] baš	honey
דור	dôr	generation
דָּם	dām	blood
דֶּרֶךְ	dæræk	way, road
דרש	drš	seek, inquire of
הַ	h-	the (definite article)
הִ	h ^a -	interrogative particle
הוא	hû'	he
היא	hî'	she
היה	hyh	occur, happen
הַיְכָל	hêkāl	palace, temple
הלך	hlk	go

הלל	hll	Pi. praise
הֵמָּה/הֵם	hem(mā)	they
הֵן/הִנֵּה	hen/hinne	behold!
הַר	har	mountain(s)
הרג	hrg	kill
הרה	hrh	be, become pregnant
וְ	w ^e	and
זֹאת	zōt	this (sg. f.)
זבח	zbḥ	to sacrifice, slaughter
זְבַח	zəbaḥ	(communion) sacrifice
זֶה	zə	this (sg. m.)
זָהָב	zāhāb	gold
זכר	zkr	remember, call to mind
זנה	znh	be unfaithful, commit fornication
זעק/צעק	z ^ʿ q/s ^ʿ q	cry out, call for help
זָקֵן	zqn/zāqēn	be old, grow old
זֶרַע	zəraʿ	seed, descendant(s)
חַג/חָג	ḥāg/ḥag	feast
חָדָשׁ	ḥādāš	new
□ □ חֹדֶשׁ	ḥodəš	(new) moon, month
חוה	ḥwh (cf. ḥyh)	Hišt. honor, adore
חוֹמָה	ḥômā	wall
חוּץ	ḥûṣ	outside, street
חזה	ḥzh	see, behold
חזק	ḥzq	Q. grow strong, firm Hi. seize, take hold of
חֲזָק	ḥāzāq	firm, strong
חטא	ḥt ^ʿ	miss, offend, commit a sin

חַטָּאת/חַטֻּאת	ḥet/ḥattāt	offence, sin
חַי	ḥay	alive, living
חיה	ḥyh	be alive
חַיִּים	ḥayyim	life
חַיִל	ḥayil	faculty, power
חכם	ḥkm	be wise
חָכָם	ḥākām	wise
חֻכְמָה	ḥōkmā	wisdom
חֲלוֹם	ḥ ^a lôm	dream
חלם	ḥlm	to dream
חֵמָה	ḥēmā	rage, wrath
חַמֵּשׁ/חַמִּשָּׁה	ḥāmēš/ ḥ ^a mišša	five
חַמִּשִּׁים	ḥ ^a miššim	fifty
חֵן	ḥēn	favour, grace
חנה	ḥnh	encamp
חנן	ḥnn	to favour
חֶסֶד	ḥəsəd	kindness, solidarity
חָפֵץ	ḥfš/ḥāfēš	take pleasure in, take care of
חֲצִי	ḥ ^a šî	half
חֶצֶר	ḥāšēr	court
חֻק/חֻקָה	ḥoq/ḥuqqā	regulation, prescription
חֶרֶב	ḥərəb	(short) sword
חָרַשׁ	ḥrš	to plough
חָרָשׁ	ḥrš	Q. be deaf Hi. be silent
טוֹב/יָטִב	ṭōb/yṭb	be good, be pleasant
טוֹב	ṭōb	good
יָאֵר	y ^e ʿor	river (mostly: Nile)
יבש	ybs	dry up, wither
יָד	yād	hand, power

ידה	ydh	Hi. praise
ידע	yd'	(get to) know
יום	yôm	day
יין	yayin	wine
יכל	ykl	be able, have it in one's power
ילד	yld	Q. bear, Hi. procreate
יֶלֶד	yælæd	child
ים	yām	sea
יָמִין	yāmîn	right hand, the right side
יסף	ysf	Q., Hi. add, continue
יעץ	y's̄	advise, counsel
יצא	yš'	Q. go out, come forth Hi. cause to go forth, bring forth
יצק	yšq	pour out
יצר	yšr	form, shape
ירא	yr'	to fear
ירֵאָה	yir'ā	fear, reverence
ירד	yrd	descend, go down
ירש	yrš	Q. take possession of, inherit Hi. drive away
יש	yēš	existence, there is, it exists
ישב	yšb	sit, dwell
ישנֵה	y'sū'ā	(acts of) help
ישע	yš'	help, save
ישָׁר	yāšār	straight, right, upright
יתר	ytr	Ni. remain, Hi. leave over
כ	k ^e	as
כָּבֵד	kbd	Q. be heavy, weighty Pi. honour
כְּבוֹד	kābôd	splendour
כֶּבֶשׂ	kæbæs	lamb, young ram

כה	ko	thus
כהֵן	kohēn	priest
כּוֹן	kûn	Ni. be firm, be established Hi. make ready, prepare
כֹּחַ	ko ^a ḥ	strength, power
כי	kî	therefore, because
כֹּל/כָּל-	kol/kōl	the whole, all
כלה	klh	Q. be completed, cease Pi. bring to an end, finish
כֵּלִי	k ^e lî	vessel
כֵּן	ken	thus
כַּנָּף	kānāf	wing
כִּסֵּי	kissē'	throne
כסה	ksh	Pi. cover
כֶּסֶף	kæsæf	silver (the metal)
כַּף	kaf	palm, flat of the hand
כפר	kpr	Pi. make expiation
כרת	krt	Q. cut off, make a covenant Hi. cut off, destroy
כתב	ktb	write
ל	l ^e	for, concerning
לא	lō'	not
לֵב/לֵבָב	lēb/lēbāb	heart
לחם	lḥm	Ni. fight
לֶחֶם	læḥæm	bread
לַיְלָה	laylā	night
לכד	lkd	catch, seize
למד	lmd	learn
לְמַעַן	l ^e ma'an	with regard to, for the sake of
לקח	lqḥ	take
לְשׁוֹן	lāšôn	tongue, language

מְאֹד	m ^o od	very
מֵאָה	me ^ʾ ā	hundred
מָאָס	m ^ʾ s	reject, despise
מָגֵן	māgēn	shield
מִגְרָשׁ	migrāš	pasture-ground
מִדְבָּר	midbār	wilderness
מָה	mā	what?
מוֹעֵד	mo ^ʾ ēd	appointed time
מוֹת	mût	Q. die, Hi. kill
מוֹת	mawæt	death
מִזְבֵּחַ	mizbe ^a ḥ	altar
מִזְמוֹר	mizmôr	song, psalm
מַחֲנֶה	mah ^a næ	encampment
מַטֵּה	maṭṭæ	staff, rod, tribe
מִי	mî	who?
מַיִם	mayim	water, waters
מָכַר	mkr	sell
מָלֵא	ml ^ʾ	be full, be accomplished
מַלְאָךְ	mal ^ʾ āk	messenger, angel
מִלְאָכָה	m ^o lā ^ʾ kā	sending, labour, work
מִלְחָמָה	milḥāmā	fight, battle
מָלַט/פָּלַט	mlt/plṭ	Ni. save oneself, escape Pi. save
מָלַךְ	mlk	be king, to reign
מֶלֶךְ	mælæk	king
מַלְכוּת	malkût	royal power, reign
מַמְלָכָה	mamlākā	kingdom, dominion
מִן	min	from, off
מִנְחָה	minḥā	gift, present
מִסְפָּר	mispār	number
מְעַט	m ^e ʿaṭ	few, a little
מֵעַל	ma ^ʾ al	on the top of, above

מֵעַן	ma ^ʾ an	for the sake of, in order that
מַעֲשֵׂה	ma ^ʾ ʕsæ	deed
מָצָא	mš ^ʾ	find
מִצָּה	maššā	unleavened bread
מִצְוָה	mišwā	commandment(s)
מְקוֹם	māqôm	place
מַרְאֵה	mar ^ʾ æ	appearance
מִשָּׂא	maššā ^ʾ	burden, utterance
מָשַׁח	mšḥ	anoint
מִשִּׁיחַ	māšī ^a ḥ	anointed
מִשְׁכָּן	miškān	dwelling-place
מִשַּׁל	mšl	rule
מִשָּׁל	māšāl	proverbial saying
מִשְׁפָּחָה	mišpāḥā	(larger) family, clan
מִשְׁפָּט	mišpaṭ	(legal) decision, justice
נָא	na ^ʾ	now! come!
נְאֻם	n ^e um	utterance (of god)
נִאֵף	n ^ʾ f	commit adultery
נָבִיא	nābī ^ʾ	prophet
נֶגֶב	nægæb	south, the south-country
נָגַד	ngd	Hi. make known, report, tell
נֶגַד	nægæd	in front of
נָגַע	ng ^ʿ	touch, hurt a person
נָגַשׁ	ngš	Q., Ni. draw near, approach Hi. bring, bring near
נָדַר	ndr	vow
נְהָר	nāhār	river
נוּחַ	nû ^a ḥ	rest
נוּס	nûs	flee
נַחַל	naḥal	wadi, torrent
נַחֲלָה	naḥ ^a lā	hereditary property

נַחְנוּ	naḥnû	we
נְחֹשֶׁת	neḥošæt	copper, bronze
נָתַח	nṯh	Q. extend, incline Hi. recline, bend
נָכַח	nkh	strike, smite
נָסַח	nsh	Pi. test, try
נָסַע	nsʿ	set out, journey
נָעַר	naʿar	lad, young boy, servant
נַעֲרָה	naʿrā	young girl, maid
נָפַל	nfl	fall
נַפְשׁ	næfæš	soul, living being, person
נָצַל	nšl	Hi. tear away, deliver
נָשָׂא	nśʾ	bear, carry
נָשִׂיא	nāšîʾ	deputy, chief
נָשַׁק	nšq	kiss
נָתַן	ntn	give
נָתַץ	ntš	tear down, destroy
סָבַב	sbb	turn, be round about, march around
סָבִיב	sābîb	all around
סוּס	sûs	horse
סוּר	sûr	Q. turn side, Hi. remove
סָפַר	sfr	Q. count, Ni. be counted Pi. tell
סֵפֶר	sefær	book
עָבַד	ʿbd	serve, work
עֶבֶד	ʿæbæd	servant, slave
עֲבָדָה	ʿ ^a bōdā	work, labour, service
עָבַר	ʿbr	pass by, go over
עֵבֶר	ʿebær	the region beyond/opposite
עִבְרִי	ʿibrî	Hebrew

עַד	ʿad	until
עֵד	ʿēd	witness
עֵדָה	ʿēdā	gathering, congregation
עוֹד	ʿôd	still, once more, again
עוֹלָם	ʿôlām	eternity
עוֹן	ʿāwôn	sin, guilt
עוֹף	ʿof	fly
עוֹף	ʿof	flying creatures, bird
עֹז	ʿoz	power, strength
עֹזַב	ʿzb	leave, abandon
עֵין	ʿayin	eye, spring
עִיר	ʿîr	town, city
עַל-	ʿal	upon, above, against
עָלָה	ʿlh	Q. go up, ascend, Hi. bring, lead up, offer sacrifices
עֹלָה	ʿôlā	(whole burnt-) offering
עֲלִיּוֹן	ʿælyôn	the upper, the highest
עָם	ʿam	people
עִם	ʿim	(together) with
עָמַד	ʿmd	stand
עַמּוּד	ʿammûd	pillar, column
I עָנָה	ʿnh	answer, hear, grant
II עָנָה	ʿnh	Q. be downcast, afflicted Pi. humiliate, do violence
עָנִי	ʿāni	poor, humble
עֲנִי	ʿ ^o nî	poverty, affliction
עָנָן	ʿānān	cloud
עָפָר	ʿāfār	dust
עֵץ	ʿēš	tree(s)
עֲצָם	ʿæšæm	bone, being
עֶרֶב	ʿæræb	evening
עָשָׂה	ʿšh	make, manufacture

עֶשְׂרֵה / עֶשְׂרִי	ʿæsær/ʿāsārā	ten
עֶשְׂרִים	ʿæsřîm	twenty
עֵת	ʿet	time
עַתָּה	ʿattā	now
פָּדָה	pdh	buy (off), ransom, redeem
פֶּה	pæ	mouth
פָּלַט / מָלַט	plt/mlt	Q. escape, Pi. save
פָּלַל	pll	Hitp. pray
פָּן	pæn	lest
פָּנָה	Pnh	turn toward a direction
פָּנִים	pānîm	face, surface
פָּעַל	pʿl	make, do
פָּעַם	paʿam	step, occurrence, time
פָּקַד	pqd	go to see, take care of
פָּר	par	young bull
פְּרִי	pʿrî	fruit
פָּשַׁע	pšʿ	rebel, revolt against
פְּשָׁע	pæšaʿ	rebellion, revolt,
פָּתַח	pth	open
פְּתִיחַ	pætaḥ	opening, entrance
צֶאֱן	ṣôn	small cattle
צָבָא	ṣābā	host
צַדִּיק	ṣaddîq	righteous
צַדִּק	ṣdq	be in the right, be just
צַדִּיקָה / צַדִּיק	ṣædæq/ṣedāqā	righteousness
צִוָּה	ṣwh	Pi. to command
צוּר	ṣûr	rock
צָעַק	ṣʿq	cry, call (to aid)
צָפוֹן	ṣāfôn	north
צָפַן	ṣfn	hide

קָבַץ	qbs	Q., Pi. collect, assemble
קָבַר	qbr	bury
קָדוֹשׁ	qādôš	holy
קָדָם	qædæm	in front, bygone days, east
קָדַשׁ	qdš	Q. be holy, Pi., Hi. consecrate
קִדְשׁ	qodæš	holiness, holy place
קָהַל	qhl	Ni. assemble, Hi. call together
קָהָל	qāhāl	assembly, convocation of the people
קוּה	qwh	Pi. hope, wait for
קוֹל	qôl	sound, voice
קוּם	qûm	arise, last
קָטַן / קָטוֹן	qtñ/qaṭon	be insignificant, small
קָטַר	qṭr	Pi. send sacrifices up in smoke
קָלַל	qll	Q. be slight, Pi. curse
קָנָה	qnh	acquire, buy, create
קָצִיר	qāšîr	harvest of grains
קָרָא	qrʾ	call
קָרַב	qrb	Q. approach, Hi. offer
קָרֵב	qæræb	the inward part (of body), in the midst
קָרְבָּן	qōrbān	offering, gift
קָרַה	qrh	meet, occur
קָרֹב	qārôb	near
קָשַׁת	qæšæt	bow
רָאָה	rʾh	Q. see, Ni. be seen, show oneself, appear, Hi. show
רֹאשׁ	rôš	head, summit, upper end
רֵאשׁוֹן	rîʾšôn	the first (position)
רֵאשִׁית	rēʾšît	beginning, the first, choicest
רַב	rab	much, many

רַב	rob	multitude
רַבֵּב	rbb	be, become many, much
רַבָּה	rbh	Q. become many Hi. make many
רֶגֶל	rægæl	foot
רָדַף	rdf	pursue, persecute
רוּחַ	rû ^{ah}	wind, breath, spirit
רוּם	rûm	be high above, be exalted
רוֹחַב	roḥab	breadth
רַחַם	rḥm	Pi. have compassion
רַחֵק	rḥq	be far, become far
רִיב	rîb	dispute, conduct a (legal) case
רִיב	rib	dispute, case of law, lawsuit
רֶכֶב	rækæb	vehicle, chariot
רָע	ra ^ʿ	bad, evil
רֵעַ	re ^{ac}	fellow, companion, friend
רָעַב	rā ^ʿ āb	hunger, famine
רָעָה	r ^ʿ h	pasture, tend
רָעָה	rā ^ʿ ā	evil, misery, trouble
רָעַע	r ^{ʿʿ}	be bad, do evil
רַק	raq	only
רָשַׁע	rš ^ʿ	be, become guilty, act wickedly
רָשָׁע	rāšā ^ʿ	being wrong, guilty, impious
שָׂדֵה	śādæ	open field
שָׂם	śîm	set, put, put down
שָׂכַל	śkl	Hi. understand, have success, prosper
שְׂמֹאל	ś ^o mō ^ʿ l	the left side, left
שָׂמַח	śmḥ	rejoice
שְׂמֵחָה	śimḥā	joy, gladness
שָׂנֵא	śn ^ʿ /śānē ^ʿ	hate

שָׂפָה	śāfā	lip, shore, bank
שָׂר	śar	official, chief, leader
שָׂרַף	śrf	burn
שֶׁ	šæ	relative particle
שָׂאֵל	š ^ʿ l	ask, inquire
שְׂאוֹל	š ^o ʾôl	underworld, realm of dead
שֶׁבַע/שֶׁבְעָה	šæba ^ʿ /šib ^ʿ ā	seven
שֶׁבַעִים	šib ^ʿ îm	seventy
שֶׁבֶט	šebæt	rod, staff
שָׁבַע	šb ^ʿ	Ni. swear
שָׁבַר	šbr	break (in pieces)
שַׁבָּת	šabbāt	Sabbath
שׁוּב	šûb	Q. turn back, turn around Hi. bring back
שׁוֹר	šôr	bull, ox, steer
שַׁחַט	šḥṭ	slaughter
שַׁחַת	šḥt	Hi. spoil, ruin
שָׁיר	šîr	sing
שִׁיר	šîr	song
שָׁכַב	škb	lie down
שָׁכַח	škh	forget
שָׁכַן	škn	settle down to abide, live in
שָׁלוֹם	šālôm	peace
שָׁלַח	šlh	send
שֻׁלְחָן	šulḥān	table
שָׁלַךְ	šlk	Hi. throw
שָׁלֵם	šlm	intact, complete
שָׁלוֹשׁ/שְׁלֹשָׁה	šālōš/š ^o lōšā	three
שָׁלִישִׁי	š ^o lišî	the third
שָׁלְשִׁים	š ^o lōšîm	thirty
שֵׁם	šēm	name

שָׁם	šām	there
שָׂמַד	šmd	Hi. exterminate, Ni. be destroyed, exterminated
שָׁמָּה	šammā	thither, (as far as) there
שָׁמַיִם	šamayim	heaven
שֶׁמֶן	šæmæn	oil (of olives)
שְׁמוֹנֶה/שְׁמוֹנָה	š [°] monæ/š [°] monā	eight
שָׁמַע	šm ^ʿ	hear
שָׁמַר	šmr	keep, watch over, retain
שֶׁמֶשׁ	šæmæš	sun
שֵׁן	šen	tooth
שָׁנָה	šānā	year
שֵׁנִי	šēnî	the second
שְׁתַּיִם/שְׁנַיִם	š [°] tayim/š [°] nayim	two
שַׁעַר	ša ^ʿ ar	gate
שִׁפְחָה	šifḥā	maid-servant
שֹׁפֵט	šft	judge
שָׁפַךְ	šfk	pour out
שֶׁקֶל	šæqæl	shekel
שֶׁקֶר	šæqær	lie, deception
שֵׁשׁ/שֶׁשׁ	šeš/šišša	six
שָׁתָה	šth	Q. drink, Hi. to water
תְּהוֹם	t [°] hôm	the primaeval ocean
תְּהִלָּה	t [°] hillā	glory, praise
תְּוֹךְ	tawæk	the midst
תּוֹעֵבָה	tô ^ʿ ebā	abomination
תּוֹרָה	tôrā	instruction
תַּחַת	taḥat	under, instead of
תָּמִיד	tamîd	continually, regular
תָּמִים	tamîm	complete, blameless
תָּמַם	tmm	be complete

תֵּב	t ^ʿ b	Pi. be abhorred
תְּפִלָּה	tefillā	prayer
תִּפְס	tfš	capture
תְּרוּמָה	t [°] rûmā	tribute, contribution
תֵּשַׁע / תִּשְׁעָה	těsa ^ʿ /tiš ^ʿ a	nine

This list of basic Hebrew words is intended to help you keeping up or to brush up your Hebrew.

The list is arranged alphabetically, still you may figure out word-families (קום - מקום, פלל - הפלה etc.) or groups like the numbers or pronouns.

If you find errors or have suggestions, please send me an email. Thank you for the feedback which has been sent so far.
