



Lesson 3: Please

בבקשה

LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In today's lesson, we'll look at the word "Please," which will be very important when you need to ask for something.

In Hebrew, "Please" is "Bevakasha".

The easiest way to use "Please," is to point at something while saying "Bevakasha", but let's try to build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression, "This, please," which in Hebrew is "Aze bevakasha". In English, "this" comes before "please." In Hebrew, the order is the same. So we have "Aze bevakasha".

Let's look at the word for "this." In Hebrew, "this" is "Aze".

Looking at the word for "this" warrants a look at the word for "that," which is "Ahu". The phrase "That please," is "Ahu bevakasha".

Please remember that in Israel it is also a little rude to point at things, and especially at people. If it is necessary to point to something in order to explain better what one wants, then it is accepted. However, pointing in the direction of someone and especially to a person's face is a very aggressive stance. Furthermore, when pointing it is better to have one's arm, hand, and finger pointing in a relaxed way. Pointing with a stiff finger may seem intimidating.

As we saw in lesson 1, in Hebrew, there are different ways to say, "I thank you" depending on the gender of the speaker and listener. If a man is speaking, "I thank you" is "Ani mode lecha".

If a woman is speaking, "I thank you" is "Ani moda lach".

In both cases, we use the first word "Ani" ("I") to make the phrase formal.

PHRASES

Hebrew	Romanization	English
בבקשה	Bevakasha.	Please.
אני מודה לך	Ani mode lecha.	Please. (male speaker, formal)
אני מודה לך	Ani moda lach.	Please. (female speaker, formal)

Hebrew	Romanization	English
הזה בבקשה	Aze bevakasha.	This please.
ההוא בבקשה	Ahu bevakasha.	That please.

QUICK TIP

A final use for the word “Bevakasha,” is when you give permission to someone to do something. In Israel for instance, if you were a teacher and one of your students asked you if he could be excused to the washroom, you could answer “Bevakasha” to give him permission to go.