



Mish Mash LETTERS Mash

Educator Guide

Produced by Jewish Interactive
in partnership with the Michael Goulston Educational Foundation

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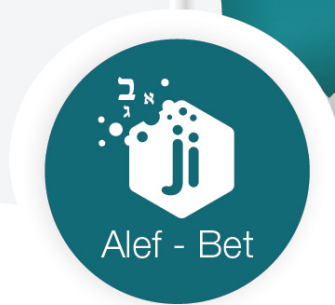


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About the Michael Goulston Educational Foundation

In 1957 when Michael Goulston z"l came to the Leo Baeck College aged 26 to study for the Rabbinate he had no Hebrew at all. He did not even know the Alef Bet and I had the privilege of teaching him the Alef Bet. In 1968 Rabbi Michael Goulston was appointed assistant Rabbi at West London Synagogue (where Rabbi Hugo Gryn z"l was Senior Rabbi) and we renewed our friendship. Tragically Michael died in 1972 but in his years at West London Synagogue he had great foresight and was using a 2-inch Ampex video tape machine to make educational video programs!

Immediately after his death, the Michael Goulston Educational Foundation was formed to continue his work and we published a number of audiovisual programs.

In 2012, upset by the fact that so many of our children (even those starting their Bar/BatMitzvah program) did not even know all the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, I had the idea to create a series of videos for 5/6 year olds in which there would be a story about each letter.

Two years later, in February 2014 (still searching for an organization that had the capability to do this and importantly shared my vision), I came across Jewish Interactive and went to meet their CEO, Chana Kanzen who was immediately excited by the idea as she had already written a number of stories for the same reason. In addition to make it more fun, singing as well as games and puzzles with words which would be associated with each letter would be introduced as this would improve the learning experience enormously.

So at the beginning of 2017 Jewish Interactive started working on the Alef-Bet project which has now come to fruition – 60 years after my teaching Michael the Alef Bet!

The hope now is that 5/6 year old children who complete the Ji Alef-Bet series will then have the basis on which to take the next step in their Hebrew learning. We intend to continue this partnership and develop more fun digital Hebrew learning programs

Edward Gold



This Educator Guide accompanies the course **Mish Mash Letters** in Ji Tap that can be found at <https://www.jitap.net/store/course/150/>

Other courses in this series:



Ji Alef-Bet Stage 1 (US)
<https://www.jitap.net/store/course/66/>



Ji Alef-Bet Stage 1 (UK)
<https://www.jitap.net/store/course/75/>



Alef-Bet Stage 2
<https://www.jitap.net/store/course/149/>



Mish Mash

LETTERS

Educator Guide Course Overview



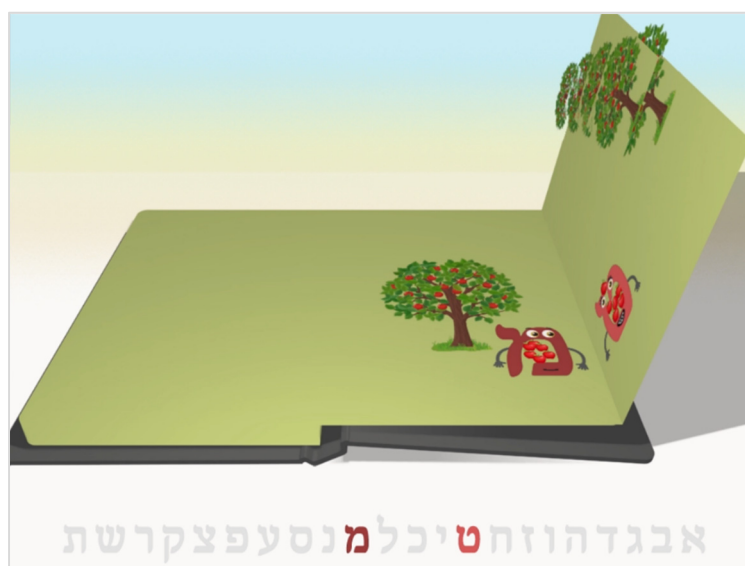
Rationale

Welcome to the magical pop-up book of Hebrew Mish Mash letters!

This Mish Mash series is designed as a remedial course to help students who confuse the similarly-shaped letters in the Hebrew alphabet. The stories emphasize the differences between the letters, and the exercises that follow the story provide practice in recognizing and discriminating between the commonly confused letters.

We chose to continue the idea of the pop-up book from the first Ji Alef-Bet series. However, this book folds out, so that we can easily compare the letters that present difficulty to the child.

The stories and instructions are in English as this course was designed not only for 'Sunday' schools and cheders, but for families with young children, whose parents do not necessarily know Hebrew.



Note: The course has been designed as a remedial course. Teachers can assign any of the lessons in any order, depending on which pair of letters is confusing the child. The default playlist goes in order of the first letter of the pairs.



Lesson Structure

Every one of the Mish Mash lessons follows the same structure, allowing the young child to know what to expect in each section. Each lesson is dedicated to the set of letters that are being compared to help the child learn the differences between the letters.

To get the children used to reading in Hebrew from right to left, the menu starts on the top right, with small arrows indicating the flow. We used voiceover in Hebrew, to slowly introduce these menu items.



Animation

The biggest, most colorful item in the menu is the button to activate the animation of the story telling of the differences between the letters that are commonly confused.



Let's Read (בואו נקרא)

We present a series of letters from the set of letters being compared so that the child can practice identifying the letters and sounds. This section enables the child to work out the sound of the letter with the vowel underneath, and then to check independently whether they are correct or not, by tapping the letter to hear the sound.

Note: We use an image of Kivi showing where to start sounding the words, from right to left.



Let's Learn Words (בואו נלמד מילים)

This section introduces Hebrew words that contain the letters that are being compared. We have tried to use words from the Tanach wherever possible so that the child's vocab of biblical words is gradually being built.



Let's Play (בואו נשחק)

In order to further encourage children's letter discrimination, the puzzles in this series involve sorting letters or differentiating letters.



Summary (סיכום)

This is a summary screen presenting the main differences between the letters. On most of them, users can tap each letter and hear what makes that letter unique.



Let's Continue (בואו נמשיך)

The learner can decide that they want to continue to the next section or to the next lesson.

Note: For all letters it is advised to have several classroom or home activities to go alongside the interactive lesson. Magnetic letters, drawing in the sand/shaving foam, making letters with your bodies. The more kinesthetic activities that are linked with the digital experience - the better!



Mish Mash
LETTERS

Educator Guide
Lesson by Lesson

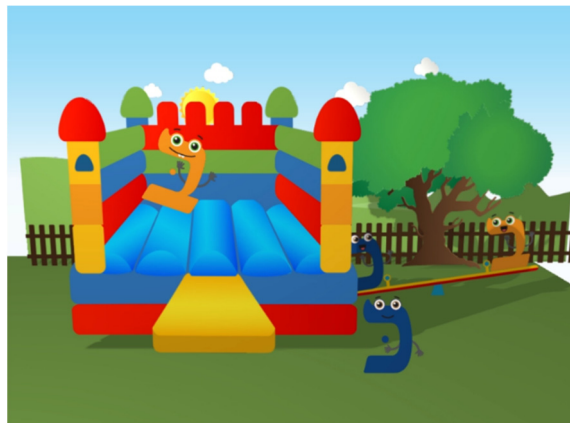


Bet-Kaf

Story

Bet and Kaf, Vet and Chaf are in a playground. Bet is jumping happily on the bouncy house. Kaf is having a problem bouncing. Bet explains that he leans back and uses his tail as the spring to bounce. That's when they discover that Bet has a tail and Kaf does not, so she can't bounce!

We play on the alliteration of **B**et can bounce, **K**af can't.



Tips

Point out the similarity in shape between the two letters. They are identical, apart from the fact that Bet has the extra bit that we call a 'tail'.

Summary

***B**et can **b**ounce.*

***K**af can't!*

Vocabulary words: Bet and Kaf



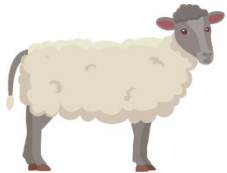
Cry

בוכה



First fruits

בכורים



Sheep

כבש



Dog

כלב



Hat

כובע



Honor

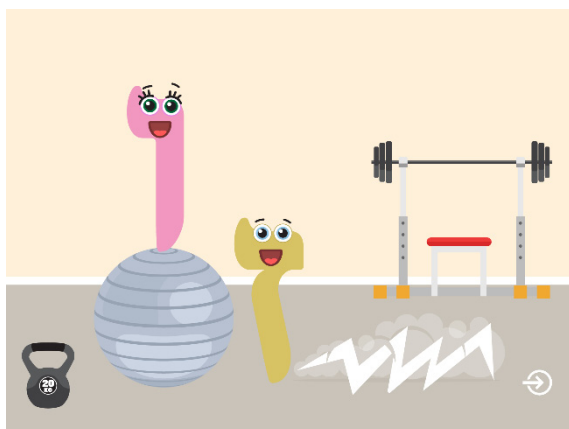
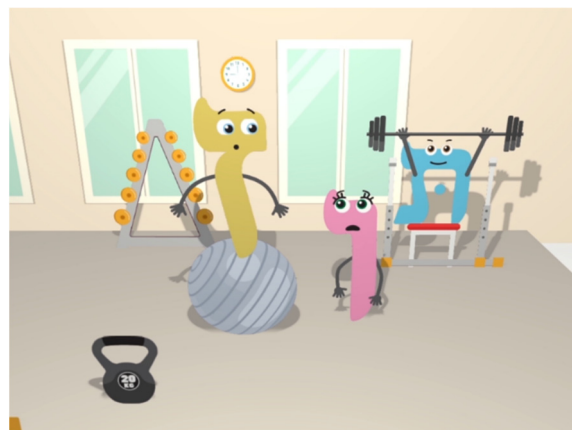
כבוד



Vav -Zayin

Story

Vav and Zayin are in the gym. Zayin is trying unsuccessfully to balance on a ball, while Vav is running around and complaining. They discuss how they really need to do these exercises, but they are not enjoying them. They then decide to change places, and Zayin zigs and zags, loving it. Vav balances on the ball easily because the shape is straight up and down, excellent for balance. Both are now happier!



Tips

Point out the different shapes: Vav is straight up and down, which is an excellent shape to balance. Zayin is like a zig zag, and runs in zigs and zags.

Summary

*Vav is straight up and down and can balance very well.
Zayin zigs and zags.*

Vocabulary words: Vav and Zayin



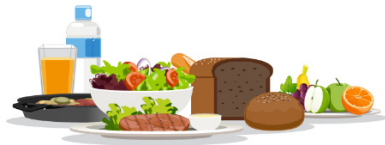
Silver and gold

כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב



Mezuzah

מְזוּזָה



Food

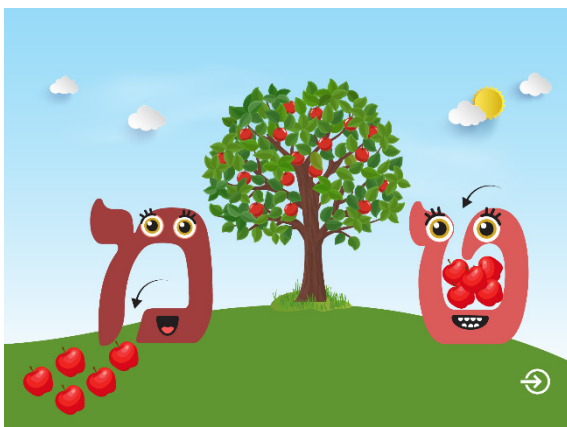
מָזוֹן



Tet and Mem

Story

Tet and Mem are on their way to school, carrying apples for Rosh Hashanah. Mem's apples spill out, making a mess. They compare what each one has – eyes, hands, etc. Then Tet says that there is this neat hole at the top, and Tet points out that Mem has a hole at the bottom – that's why the apples fell out!



Tips

Emphasize with alliteration that **Mem** makes a **m**ess with the apples because **Mem** has a hole at the bottom**mmmm**, while **Tet** has a hole at the **top**.

Summary

*Tet has a hole at the **top**.*

*Mem has a hole at the bottom**mmmm**.*

Vocabulary words: Tet and Mem



Bed

מֵטָה



Congratulations

מֵזַל טוֹב



Staff

מֵטָה



Down

מֵטָה



Rain

מָטָר

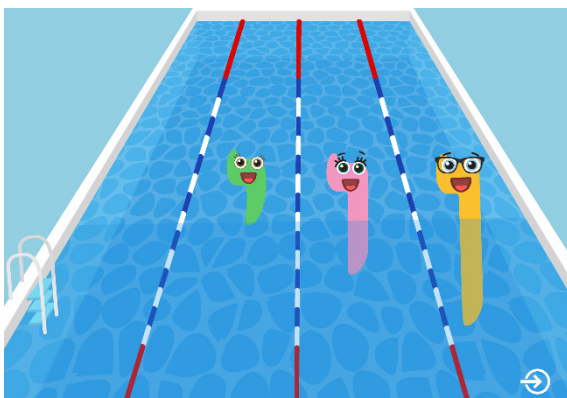
Note! We debated whether to include words that were so similar, but then decided that it was a good lesson to emphasize the importance of the vowel sounds to make different words.



Yud, Vav and Nun Sofit

Story

Yud, Vav and Nun Sofit are enjoying a swimming class, when Coach Kivi tells them to find a partner who is the same size so they can swim laps together. The three letters all think that they are the same, since the top is identical, but when they look below the surface, they see that they are different!



Summary

*It's great that we can all see eye-to-eye,
even if we don't match foot to foot!*

Remind students that Yud is 'teeny tiny' (from the first series).

Note: We use the name 'Nun Sofit' in this series, but you might be more comfortable using 'Final Nun'.

Vocabulary words: Yud, Vav and Nun Sofit



Wine

יין



Greece

יוון



Dove

יונה



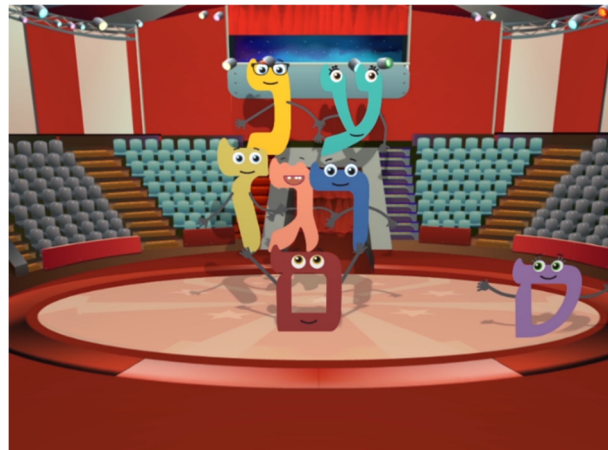
Samech and Mem Sofit

Story

Samech is the somersault champion at the circus, and Mem Sofit really wants to be a star too.

But Mem Sofit cannot roll easily, as it is more like a square, while Samech is rounded.

Samech finds a solution for Mem Sofit's stable, square base – as the base of the circus act when all the letters pile up an perform.



Summary

*Samech is rounded.
Mem Sofit has a solid base, just like a square.*

Vocabulary words: Samech and Mem Sofit



Siddurs

סִדְּרִים



Rocks

סִלְעִים



Books

סְפָרִים



He blocked

סָתֵם

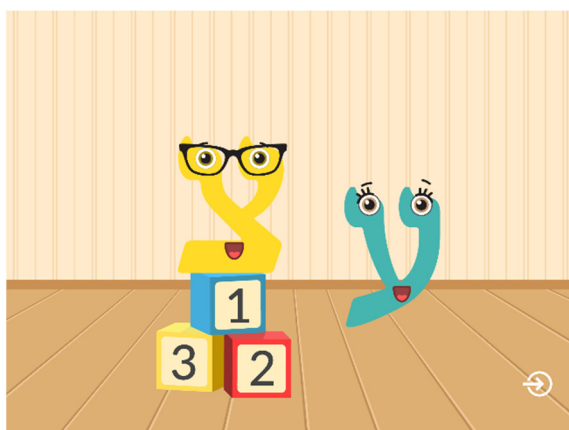


Ayin and Tzadi

Story

Ayin and Tsadi laugh together that people think they look alike. So they try to find all the differences between them so that nobody can confuse them:

- Tsadi is wider and Ayin is narrower
- Ayin wobbles on the curvy 'foot' while Tsadi is stable and flat on the ground
- Tsadi raises his arms in victory, and says that he is the 'tsampion'



Tips

Ain means eye. Emphasize that the distance from Ayin's eye to the meeting point is longer than the distance from Tsadi's eye to the middle.

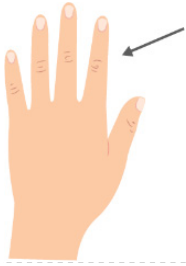
Make the students raise their arms in victory and shout :Tsadi is the 'Tsampion!'

Summary

Ayin has a curved base.

Tsadi is a 'tsampion' and has a stable base.

Vocabulary words: Ayin and Tsadi



Finger

אֶצְבֵּעַ



Trees

עֲצִים



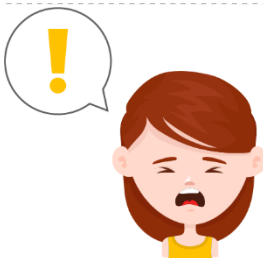
Advice

עֲצָה



Bone

עֲצָם



Cry

צֶעֱקָה



Credits

Director & Producer	Corinne Ossendryver
Art Director & Visual Concept	Rachel Silke
Graphic Designer	Jessica Hurwitz
Animator	King Bee Animation, London
Stories and Dialogs	Yael Zoldan
Sound Engineering	Mitch Clyman, Muso Studio, Jerusalem
Voices	Kivi: Mitch Clyman Letters: Amichai Kronenberg, Maayan Kronenberg
Educator Guide	Corinne Ossendryver, Rachel Silke & Jessica Hurwitz

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