

school
Winter is Coming *Here!*



Photo: Amir Weissbein

Israel: A Primer

“small, but proud. The country”



The Hebrew Course

צ

- Semitic language
- Right-to-left
- No vowels
- Guttural sounds
- Gender specific forms for verbs, adjectives, numbers, you-name-it

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תודה

toh-DA

Thank you

תודה

toh-DA

Thank you

סליחה

sli-CHA

Sorry / excuse me

בבקשה

be - va - ka - SHA

please

Thank you תודה.

Sorry סליחה.

Please בבקשה.

In Arabic

Thank you -

شكرا SHUkran

Sorry-

أسمع لي ISmach-li

Please

من فضلك Min-FUDlac

Israelis - Rude, but Familial

- Everyone is your brother/sister (or father/mother, or brother/sister in law, uncle/aunt, etc.)

a-CHI (A-χ) / a-chot-I

- Complete strangers will call you pet names:

Motek/Matok (Sweetie)

Kapara,

Mami, (not "mommy")

Neshama

The All-Encompassing Word

Walla

וואלה

- "that is correct"
- "really? are you sure? How interesting."
- "really? Do you think so? Do you want to think again before you spout nonsense?"
- "You are right, I have never thought of that, I must now go and rethink my views on the matter"
- "you are giving my a rather strong headache, please stop talking"

Cursing

- Multi-Lingual - Russian, Romanian, Yiddish, Arabic, English, Hungarian, etc.
- Most English/western curse words are used in Hebrew, but usually aren't as bad as they are elsewhere, or mean something different.
- When really mad - most people will use Arabic curses:
'name of body part' + 'Family member/deity'

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Cursing



- The word "die" means "stop" or "enough"

Military Service

- Everyone (almost) has to serve.
- You may see a lot more weapons than you are used to (unless you are American)
- Rule of thumb:

What they actually did

What they say they did



Driving in Israel

Just Don't ... *

* unless you are Italian

If you insist - see chapter
about 'Cursing'



Note: parking on the
sidewalk is normal

Line ups/Queues in Israel

There aren't any!

Your greatest survival tool:

Your elbow

Don't be fooled by the little old ladies.

Despite all that's been said, most Israelis, Jewish and Arab, are warm outgoing people, who love to help you out (even if you don't need it)

so...

Welcome to Israel!