

500 Basic Hebrew Words

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

© Siegfried Kreuzer www.kreuzer-siegfried.de

(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).

אב	'āb	father
אבד	'bd	Q. perish; Pi., Hi. ruin
אבה	'bh	be willing
אבן	'æbæn	stone
אדון	'ādōn	master, lord
אדני	' ^a dōnāy	lord
אדם	'ādām	man, mankind, people
אדמה	' ^a dāmā	(arable) soil
אהב	'hb	like, love
אהל	'ohæl	tent
אור	'ōr	shine, light up
אור	'ōr	light
אות	'ōt	sign
אז	'āz	then
אזן	'ozæn	ear
אח	'āḥ	brother
אחד	'æḥād	one
אחות	'aḥōt	sister
אחר	'aḥar	later on, afterwards
אחר	'aḥēr	another, different
אחרי	'aḥ ^a rê	after
אחריית	'ah ^a rît	end, behind, issue, the future
איב	'oyēb	enemy
איל	'ayil	ram

אין/אין	'ayin / 'ēn	is not, non existence, nothing
איש	'îs	man
אך	'ak	only
אכל	'kl	eat
אל	'æl	towards
אל	'al	not
אל	'ēl	god
אלה	'ellæ	these
אלוה	' ^æ lō ^a h	god
אלהים	' ^æ lōhîm	god, gods
אלף	'alæf	thousand
אם	'im	if
אם	'ēm	mother
אמה	'āmā	(maid), servant
אמה	'ammā	forearm, cubit
אמונה	' ^æ mûnā	faithfulness, trustworthiness
אמר	'mr	say
אמת	' ^æ mæt	faithfulness
אני	' ^a nî	I
אנכי	'anokî	I
אסף	'sf	gather (food), collect
אף	'af	also, even
אף	'af	nose, anger
ארבע / ארבעה	'arba ^ˆ / 'arbā ^ˆ ā	four
ארבעים	'arbā ^ˆ îm	forty
ארון	' ^a rôn	chest, ark of the covenant
ארץ	'æraeʃ	ground, country, territory, the earth
ארר	'rr	curse
אש	'ēš	fire
אשה	'iʃšā	woman
אשר	' ^a šær	relative clause

אֵת	'et	together with, along with
אֵת	'et	accusative particle
אַתָּה	'attā	you (sg.)
אַתֶּם	'attaem	you (pl.)
בְּ	b ^e	in, at, because of, by way of
בְּגָד	bægæd	garment, covering
בַּד (לְ)	(l ^o)bad	to be alone, only
בְּהֵמָה	b ^e hēmā	cattle, animals
בֹּא	bô'	Q. enter, come to Hi bring (conduct, lead) in
בּוֹר	bôr	cistern, water pit
בַּחַר	bħr	choose, elect
בַּטַּח	bṭħ	be reliant, trust
בֵּין	byn	Q., Hi. to understand
בֵּין	ben	between
בַּיִת	bayit	house
בָּכָה	bkh	weep
בְּכֹר	b ^e kor	first-born
בְּלִי/בְּלִיָּה	b ^e lî/biltî	without
בְּמָה	bama	hill, high-place, place of worship
בֵּן	ben	son
בָּנָה	bnh	build
בְּעַד	ba'ad	for, for the benefit of
בְּקָר	bqr	cattle
בֹּקֶר	boqær	morning
בִּקֵּשׁ	bqš	seek
בָּרָא	br'	create (god exclusively)
בְּרִית	b ^e rît	covenant, arrangement
בֵּרַךְ	brk	Pi. bless
בְּרָכָה	b ^e rākā	blessing

בָּשָׂר	bāsār	flesh
בַּת	bat	daughter
גָּאֵל	g'l	redeem
גָּבַהּ	gbh	be high/tall, be exalted
גְּבוּל	g ^e bûl	boundary, territory
גִּבּוֹר	gibbôr	hero, fighter
גָּדוֹל	gādôl	great
גָּדַל	gdl	be, become great/strong
גּוֹי	gôy	people, nation
גַּי'א	gay'	valley
גַּם	gam	also
גֵּר	gēr	sojourner
גָּרַשׁ	grš	drive out
דָּבַק	dbq	cling, cleave to
דָּבַר	dbr	speak
דָּבָר	dābār	word, matter, affair
דְּבַשׁ	d ^e baš	honey
דּוֹר	dôr	generation
דָּם	dām	blood
דֶּרֶךְ	dæræk	way, road
דָּרַשׁ	drš	seek, inquire of
הַ	h-	the (definite article)
הֲ	h ^a -	interrogative particle
הוּא	hû'	he
הִיא	hî'	she
הִיָּה	hyh	occur, happen
הַיְכָל	hêkāl	palace, temple
הֵלֵךְ	hlk	go
הֵלַל	hll	Pi. praise

הֵמָּה/הֵם	hem(mā)	they
הֵן/הִנֵּה	hen/hinne	behold!
הַר	har	mountain(s)
הָרַג	hrg	kill
הָרָה	hrh	be, become pregnant
וְ	w ^e	and
זֹאת	zōt	this (sg. f.)
זָבַח	zbḥ	to sacrifice, slaughter
זִבְחָה	zəbaḥ	(communion) sacrifice
זֶה	zæ	this (sg. m.)
זָהָב	zāhāb	gold
זָכַר	zkr	remember, call to mind
זָנָה	znh	be unfaithful, commit fornication
זָעַק/צָעַק	z ^ʿ q/ṣ ^ʿ q	cry out, call for help
זָקֵן	zqn/zāqēn	be old, grow old
זָרַע	zæra ^ʿ	seed, descendant(s)
חָג/חָגַג	ḥāg/ḥag	feast
חָדָשׁ	ḥādāš	new
חֹדֶשׁ	ḥodæš	(new) moon, month
חוּה	ḥwh	Hišt. honor, adore
חוֹמָה	ḥômā	wall
חוּץ	ḥûṣ	outside, street
חָזַה	ḥzh	see, behold
חָזַק	ḥzq	Q. grow strong, firm Hi. seize, take hold of
חָזָק	ḥāzāq	firm, strong
חָטָא	ḥt ^ʿ	miss, offend, commit a sin
חַטָּאת/חַטֵּאת	ḥet/ḥattāt	offence, sin
חַי	ḥay	alive, living

חַיָּה	ḥyh	be alive
חַיִּים	ḥayyim	life
חַיִל	ḥayil	faculty, power
חָכַם	ḥkm	be wise
חָכָם	ḥākām	wise
חֻכְמָה	ḥōkmā	wisdom
חֲלוֹם	ḥ ^a lôm	dream
חָלַם	ḥlm	to dream
חִמָּה	ḥēmā	rage, wrath
חַמֵּשׁ/חַמִּשָּׁה	ḥāmēš/ ḥ ^a mišša	five
חַמִּשִּׁים	ḥ ^a miššim	fifty
חֵן	ḥēn	favour, grace
חָנָה	ḥnh	encamp
חָנַן	ḥnn	to favour
חָסַד	ḥæsəd	prove loyal, solidarity
חָפֵץ	ḥfṣ/ḥāfēṣ	take pleasure in, take care off
חֲצִי	ḥ ^a šî	half
חֲצֵר	ḥāšēr	court
חֻק/חֻקָּה	ḥoq/ḥuqqā	regulation, prescription
חֶרֶב	ḥæræb	(short) sword
חָרַשׁ	ḥrš	to plough
חָרָשׁ	ḥrš	Q. be deaf Hi. be silent
טוֹב/יָטַב	ṭōb/yṭb	be good, be pleasant
טוֹב	ṭōb	good
יָאֵר	y ^e ʿor	river (mostly: Nile)
יָבֵשׁ	ybš	dry up, wither
יָד	yād	hand, power
יָדָה	ydh	Hi. praise
יָדַע	yd ^ʿ	(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'š	advise, give an advise
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
ישוע	y ^e sū ^{ac}	(acts of) help
ישע	yš'	help, save
יָשָׁר	yāšār	straight, right, upright
יתר	ytr	Ni. remain, Hi. leave over
כ	k ^e	as
כָּבֵד	kbd	Q. be heavy, weighty Pi. honour
כָּבוֹד	kābôd	splendour
כֶּבֶשׂ	kæbæs	lamb, young ram
כה	ko	thus
כהן	kohēn	priest

כּוּן	kûn	Ni. be firm, be established Hi. make ready, prepare
כֹּחַ	ko ^{ah}	strength, power
כי	kî	therefore, because
כָּל/כֻּלָּ-	kol/kôl	the whole, all
כלה	klh	Q. be completed, cease Pi. bring to an end, finish
כֶּלִי	k ^e lî	vessel
כֵּן	ken	thus
כַּנָּף	kānāf	wing
כִּסֵּא	kissē'	throne
כסה	ksh	Pi. cover
כֶּסֶף	kæsæf	silver (the metal)
כף	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
לקח	lqḥ	take
לָשׁוֹן	lāšôn	tongue, language
מְאֹד	m ^e 'od	very
מֵאָה	me'ā	hundred
מאס	m's	reject, despise

מָגֵן	māgēn	shield
מִגְרָשׁ	migrāš	pasture-ground
מִדְבָּר	midbār	wilderness
מָה	mā	what?
מוֹעֵד	mo‘ēd	appointed time
מוֹת	mût	Q. die, Hi. kill
מוֹת	mawæt	death
מִזְבֵּחַ	mizb ^e aḥ	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’	be full, be accomplished
מַלְאָךְ	mal’āk	messenger, angel
מַלְאָכָה	m ^e lā’kā	sending, labour, work
מִלְחָמָה	milḥāmā	fight, battle
מִלְטָא/פִּלְטָא	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 c aṭ	few, a little
מֵעַל	ma’al	on the top of, above
מֵעַן	ma’an	for the sake of, in order that
מַעֲשֵׂה	ma ^a šæ	deed
מָצָא	mš’	find

מַצָּה	maššā	unleavened bread
מִצְוָה	mišwā	commandment(s)
מָקוֹם	māqôm	place
מַרְאֵה	mar’æ	appearance
מַשָּׂא	maššā’	burden, utterance
מָשַׁח	mšḥ	anoint
מְשֻׁחַ	māšī ^a ḥ	anointed
מִשְׁכָּן	miškān	dwelling-place
מִשַּׁל	mšl	rule
מִשְׁאָל	māšāl	proverbial saying
מִשְׁפָּחָה	mišpāḥā	(larger) family, clan
מִשְׁפָּט	mišpaṭ	(legal) decision, justice
נָא	na’	now! come!
נְאֻם	n ^e ’um	utterance (of god)
נִאֵף	n’f	commit adultery
נְבִיא	nābī’	prophet
נֶגֶב	nægæb	south, the south-country
נִגַּד	ngd	Hi. make known, report, tell
נֶגַד	nægæd	in front of
נָגַע	ng’	touch, hurt a person
נִגַּשׁ	ngš	Q., Ni. draw near, approach Hi. bring, bring near
נִדַּר	ndr	vow
נְהַר	nāhār	river
נוּחַ	nû ^a ḥ	rest
נוּס	nûs	flee
נַחַל	nāḥāl	wadi, torrent
נַחֲלָה	naḥ ^a lā	hereditary property
נַחְנוּ	naḥnû	we
נְחֹשֶׁת	neḥōšæt	copper, bronze
נָתַח	nṭḥ	Q. extend, incline

		Hi. recline, bend
נכה	nkh	strike, smite
נסה	nsh	Pi. test, try
נסע	nsʿ	set out, journey
נער	naʿar	lad, young boy, servant
נערה	naʿārā	young girl, maid
נפל	nfl	fall
נפש	næfæš	soul, living being, person
נצל	nšl	Hi. tear away, deliver
נשא	nšʿ	bear, carry
נשיא	nāšîʾ	deputy, chief
נשק	nšq	kiss
נתן	ntn	give
נתן	ntš	tear down, destroy
סבב	sbb	turn, be round about, march around
סָבִיב	sābîb	all around
סוס	sûs	horse
סור	sûr	Q. turn side, Hi. remove
ספר	sfr	Q. count, Ni. be counted Pi. tell
סֵפֶר	sefær	book
עבד	ʿbd	serve, work
עֶבֶד	ʿæbæd	servant, slave
עֲבָדָה	ʿaḇdā	work, labour, service
עבר	ʿbr	pass by, go over
עֵבֶר	ʿebær	the region beyond/opposite
עִבְרִי	ʿibrî	Hebrew
עד	ʿēd	witness
עדה	ʿēdā	gathering, congregation

עוד	ʿôd	still, once more, again
עוֹלָם	ʿôlām	eternity
עוֹן	ʿāwôn	sin, guilt
עוף	ʿof	fly
עוף	ʿof	flying creatures, bird
עז	ʿoz	power, strength
עזב	ʿzb	leave, abandon
עין	ʿayin	eye, spring
עיר	ʿîr	town, city
על-	ʿal	upon, above, against
עלה	ʿlh	Q. go up, ascend, Hi. bring, lead up, offer sacrifices
עֹלָה	ʿôlā	(whole burnt-) offering
עֲלִיּוֹן	ʿælyôn	the upper, the highest
עם	ʿam	people
עם	ʿim	(together) with
עמד	ʿmd	stand
עמוד	ʿammûd	pillar, column
I ענה	ʿnh	answer, hear, grant
II ענה	ʿnh	Q. be downcast, afflicted Pi. humiliate, do violence
עָנִי	ʿāni	poor, humble
עֲנִי	ʿoḇnî	poverty, affliction
עָנָן	ʿānān	cloud
עָפָר	ʿāfār	dust
עֵץ	ʿēš	tree(s)
עֶצֶם	ʿæšæm	bone, being
עֶרֶב	ʿæræb	evening
עשה	ʿšh	make, manufacture
עֶשְׂרֵה/עֶשְׂרֵה	ʿæsær/ʿašara	ten
עֶשְׂרִים	ʿæsřîm	twenty
עת	ʿēt	time

עָטָה	ʿattā	now
פָּדָה	pdh	buy (off), ransom, redeem
פֶּה	pæ	mouth
מַלֵּט / פִּלְטָה	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
פַּעַם	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	pṯḥ	open
פְּתִיחַ	pætaḥ	opening, entrance
צֶאֱן	ṣôn	small cattle
צָבָא	ṣābā	host
צַדִּיק	ṣaddîq	righteous
צַדִּק	ṣdq	be in the right, be just
צַדִּיקָה / צֶדֶק	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	qādōš	holy
קִדְמָה	qædæm	in front, bygone days, east
קִדְשׁ	qdš	Q. be holy, Pi., Hi. consecrate
קִדְשׁוֹת	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
קָטוֹן / קָטוֹן	qtn/qaton	be insignificant, small
קָטַר	qtr	Pi. send sacrifices up in smoke
קָלַל	qll	Q. be slight, Pi. curse
קָנָה	qnh	acquire, buy, create
קִצִּיר	qāšîr	harvest of grains
קָרָא	qrʾ	call
קָרַב	qrb	Q. approach, Hi. offer
קִרְבֵּי	qæræb	the inward part (of body), in the midst
קִרְבָּן	qörbān	offering, gift
קָרַה	qrh	meet, occur
קָרוֹב	qārôb	near
קָשַׁט	qæšæt	bow
רָאָה	rʾh	Q. see, Ni. be seen, show oneself, appear, Hi. show
רֹאשׁ	rōš	head, summit, upper end
רֵאשִׁוֹן	rîʾšôn	the first (position)
רֵאשִׁית	rēʾšît	beginning, the first, choicest
רַב	rab	much, many
רֹב	rob	multitude
רַבִּב	rbb	be, become many, much
רַבָּה	rbh	Q. become many

		Hi. make many
רַגַל	rægæl	foot
רָדַף	rdf	pursue, persecute
רוּחַ	rûḥ	wind, breath, spirit
רוּם	rûm	be high above, be exalted
רוֹחַב	roḥab	breadth
רַחַם	rḥm	Pi. have compassion
רָחַק	rḥq	be far, become far
רִיב	rîb	dispute, conduct a (legal) case
רִיב	rib	dispute, case of law, lawsuit
רֶכֶב	rækæb	vehicle, chariot
רָע	raʿ	bad, evil
רֵעַ	re ^{aʿ}	fellow, companion, friend
רָעַב	raʿab	hunger, famine
רָעָה	rʿh	pasture, tend
רָעָה	raʿā	evil, misery, trouble
רָעַע	rʿʿ	be bad, do evil
רַק	raq	only
רָשַׁע	ršʿ	be, become guilty, act wickedly
רָשָׁע	rāšāʿ	being wrong, guilty, impious
שָׂדֵה	śādæ	open field
שָׂם	śîm	set, put, put down
שָׂכַל	śkl	Hi. understand, have success, prosper
שְׂמֹאל	śʿmōʿl	the left side, left
שָׂמַח	śmḥ	rejoice
שִׂמְחָה	śimḥa	joy, gladness
שָׂנֵה	śnʾ/śānēʾ	hate
שָׂפָה	śāfā	lip, shore, bank
שָׂר	śar	official, chief, leader

שָׂרַף	śrf	burn
שֵׁ	šæ	relative particle
שָׂאֵל	šʿl	ask, inquire
שְׂאוֹל	šʿōl	underworld, realm of dead
שִׁבְעָה/שִׁבְעָה	šæbaʿ/šibʿā	seven
שִׁבְעִים	šibʿîm	seventy
שִׁבְטָה	šebæt	rod, staff
שָׁבַע	šbʿ	Ni. swear
שָׁבַר	šbr	break (in pieces)
שַׁבָּת	šabbat	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
שִׁלְחָן	šulḥān	table
שָׁלַךְ	šlk	Hi. throw
שָׁלֵם	šlm	intact, complete
שָׁלוֹשׁ/שְׁלוֹשָׁה	šālōš/šʿlōšā	three
שָׁלִישִׁי	šʿlišî	the third
שָׁלִישִׁים	šʿlišîm	thirty
שֵׁם	šēm	name
שָׁם	šām	there
שָׁמַד	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 ^e monæ/š ^e monā	eight
שָׁמַע	šm ^ʿ	hear
שָׁמַר	šmr	keep, watch over, retain
שֶׁמֶשׁ	šæmæš	sun
שֵׁן	šen	tooth
שָׁנָה	šānā	year
שֵׁנִי	šenī	the second
שְׁתַּיִם / שְׁנַיִם	š ^e tayim/š ^e nayim	two
שַׁעַר	ša ^ʿ ar	gate
שִׁפְחָה	šifhā	maid-servant
שֹׁפֵט	šft	judge
שָׁפַךְ	šfk	pour out
שֶׁקֶל	šæqæl	shekel
שָׁקַר	šæqær	lie, deception
שֵׁשׁ / שֶׁשׁ	šeš/šišša	six
שָׁתָה	šth	Q. drink, Hi. to water
תְּהוֹם	t ^e hôm	the primaeval ocean
תְּהִלָּה	t ^e hillā	glory, praise
תּוֹךְ	tawæk	the midst
תּוֹעֵבָה	tô ^ʿ ebā	abomination
תּוֹרָה	tôrā	instruction
תַּחַת	taḥat	under, instead of
תָּמִיד	tamid	continually, regular
תָּמִים	tamîm	complete, blameless
תָּמַם	tmm	be complete
תֵּבַעַב	t ^ʿ b	Pi. be abhorred
תְּפִלָּה	tefillā	prayer

תִּפְסַח	tfš	capture
תְּרוּמָה	t ^e 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 - תפלה etc.) or groups like the numbers or pronouns.

If you find errors or have suggestions, please send me an email.
