

## Abbott & Costello Learn Hebrew

(adapted from: <http://biblical-studies.ca/blog/wp/2006/09/12/dr-seuss-learns-greek>)

- Abbott:** I see you're here for your Hebrew lesson.
- Costello:** I'm ready to learn.
- Abbott:** Now, the first thing you must understand is that Hebrew and English have many words which sound alike, but they do not mean the same thing.
- Costello:** Sure, I understand.
- Abbott:** Fine. Let's start with **הוּא**
- Costello:** You.
- Abbott:** No, **הוּא**
- Costello:** Fine, we'll start with you.
- Abbott:** No, we'll start with **הוּא**
- Costello:** Okay, have it your way.
- Abbott:** Now, **הוּא** is *who*.
- Costello:** You is Abbott.
- Abbott:** No, no, no. **הוּא** is *who*.
- Costello:** You is Abbott.
- Abbott:** You don't understand.
- Costello:** I don't understand? Did you just say me is who?
- Abbott:** Yes I did. **הוּא** is *who*.
- Costello:** You is Abbott.
- Abbott:** No, you misunderstand what I am saying. Tell me about **הוּא**
- Costello:** Well, you're a nice enough guy.
- Abbott:** No, no. Tell me about **הוּא**!
- Costello:** Who?
- Abbott:** Precisely.
- Costello:** Precisely what?
- Abbott:** Precisely *who*.
- Costello:** It's precisely whom!
- Abbott:** No, **הוּא** is *who*.
- Costello:** Don't start that again—go on to something else.
- Abbott:** All right. **הוּא** is *he*.
- Costello:** Who is he?
- Abbott:** Yes.
- Costello:** I don't know. Who is he?
- Abbott:** Sure you do. You just said it.
- Costello:** I just said what?
- Abbott:** **הוּא** is *he*.
- Costello:** Who is he?
- Abbott:** Precisely.
- Costello:** Again with the precisely! Precisely who?
- Abbott:** No, precisely *he*.
- Costello:** Precisely he? Who is he?
- Abbott:** Precisely!
- Costello:** And what *about me*?
- Abbott:** *Who*
- Costello:** me, me, me!
- Abbott:** *Who, who, who!*
- Costello:** What are you, an owl? *Me! Who is me?*
- Abbott:** No, **הוּא** is *he!*
- Costello:** I don't know, *maybe he is me!*
- Abbott:** No, **היא** is *she!*
- Costello:** (states at Abbott) Do his parents know about this?
- Abbott:** About what?
- Costello:** About her!
- Abbott:** What about her?
- Costello:** *That she is he!*
- Abbott:** No, you've got it wrong - **היא** is *she!*
- Costello:** Then who is he?
- Abbott:** Precisely!
- Costello:** Who?
- Abbott:** *He!*
- Costello:** Me?
- Abbott:** *Who!*
- Costello:** He?
- Abbott:** *She!*
- Costello:** Who is she?
- Abbott:** No, **הוּא** is *he*.
- Costello:** I don't care who is he, I want to know who is she?
- Abbott:** No, that's not right.
- Costello:** How can it not be right? I said it. I was standing here when I said it, and I know me.
- Abbott:** *Who.*

**Costello:** Who?  
**Abbott:** Precisely!  
**Costello:** Me! Me is that he you are talking about! He is me!  
**Abbott:** No, **אִי** is *she*!  
**Costello:** Wait a Minute, wait a minute!  
 I'm trying to learn a little Hebrew, and now I can't even speak English. Let me review.  
**Abbott:** Go ahead.  
**Costello:** Now first You want to know *me* is *who*.  
**Abbott:** Correct.  
**Costello:** And then you say *who* is he.  
**Abbott:** Absolutely.  
**Costello:** And then you tell me *he* is she.  
**Abbott:** Precisely!  
**Costello:** Now look at this logically. If *me* is *who*, and *who* is *he*, and *he* is *she*, don't it stand to reason that *me* is *she*?  
**Abbott:** No, **אִי**?  
**Costello:** She!  
**Abbott:** That is **אִי**!  
**Costello:** Who is he?  
**Abbott:** Precisely!  
**Costello:** I have just about had it. You have me confused I want to go home. You know what I want? Ma!  
**Abbott:** *What?*  
**Costello:** I said *Ma*.  
**Abbott:** *What?*  
**Costello:** What are you, deaf? I want *Ma*!  
**Abbott:** *What?!?*  
**Costello:** Not *what*, *who*!  
**Abbott:** **אִי**  
**Costello:** Not *he*! *Ma* is not *he*!  
**Abbott:** Of course not! **אִי** is *he*!  
**Costello:** I don't know. I don't know. I don't care. I don't care *who* is *he*, *he* is *she*, *me* is *who*, *ma* is *what*. I just want to go home now and play with my dog.  
**Abbott:** *Fish*.

**אִי** is *he*, **אִי** is *she*, **מִי** is *who*, **מַה** is *what*, and **דָּג** is *fish*.

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