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YESHIVISH REID

You might have gotten into a conversation with someone speaking English only to find out that you didn't understand every fifth word that they said. Or you might have gone to a new yeshiva that is dripping with grease, or perhaps you just simply enjoy hockin' around. Whatever the case you probably have or will confront the Yeshivish language at some point in your life. To this end we have tried to help you approach your next interaction with more confidence.

Yeshivish is a language derived from English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Aramaic. Crafted in American yeshivos and spoken primarily as a vernacular by Orthodox male students in American yeshivos in and outside of America. Valued for its preciseness as its vocabulary is gleaned from the most befitting word in each of the four languages, it provides a much broader and more specific lexicon. In other words, Yeshivish is the *shprach* of *buchrim* from *Americanisher* Yeshivos which is *geshmak* because it's always *punkt* what you wanna say.

We've compiled a list of commonly used Yeshivish words. Using the words does not necessarily make you more frum but it will make you sound more Yeshivish. Yeshivish guys out there might ask, "Why do we need such a list since the words are *poshut*". Well it might interest you to know that there are lots of people out there who don't know what you're talking about.

Aderaba - אדרבא Interj. To the contrary; By all means; "Do I like Sushi...?! *Aderaba* it's my favorite food." similar to farkert

Ain fal - איינפאל N. An ingenious idea, Inspiration; "Yoili puts beer in his cholent.... what an *ain fal*!" Yiddish for fall in, meaning a great idea that fell into your head.....you know like the lightbulb kind:

Akitzur - אקיצור Adv. In short, in summary; "Akitzur, if you think we shouldn't continue learning together I'll find someone else." Also Bekitzur

Al Kol Ponim - על כל פנים In any case; Often pronounced "akupoonim"; "*Akupoonim*, I'm going back to America for pesach so I might as well leave on Rosh Choidesh"

Arein'geton - אריין-געטאָן Involved. "My Chavrusa is so arein'geton in shidduchim he never shows up for night seder."

Azoi - אזוי like so "I told him he should where his hat azoi, unless he wants to look like a harry."

B'etzem - בעצם in actuality. "B'etzem he's an out-e-towner but he fier zichs like hes from Flatbush."

Ba-vust - באַוואוסט Adj. Well known, Famous; "It's *bavust* that Lipa is the king of Modern Chassidic music."

Bleib - בלייב remain "Even after the shiur the Sugya bleibs shver"

Ch'mein - איך מיין I think "Ch'mein az I'm gonna go to Uman for rusheshuneh."

Chap-Arein - כאפ-אריין Utilize/seize the moment "If you want to finish the mesechta by Pesach, you're gonna have to chap-arein

Chashuv - חשוב Adj. Noteworthy, Important; "He's truly very *chashuv*... everywhere he goes people want to give him *sholem*."

Chiddish - חידוש N. A new understanding, A Talmudic revelation; "Yesterday I thought of such a *chiddish* that I'm sure you never heard of it in your life."

Ein Hochi Nami - אין הויכנמי It's true/another way to say you're right; "*Ein hochi nami*, anyone can daven Kabbolas Shabbos but Yanki does it the best."

Eisen - אייזן iron, solid. "Lipa's new Cd is mamesh Eisen"



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Emmes'n - אמת'ן in truth. "Emmes'n, I don't really care where we eat as long as they have a feste chulent."

Epis - עפיס A little bit, any kind of; "The host asked if he had.... epis a vort. He replied "Ya I have epis tsu zogn"

Fargin - פארגין to not begrudge, "I fargin him even though he did me a groise avleh."

Farkert - פארקערט Quite the Contrary; "No! not like that I'm saying Farkert."

Farshtey - פארשטיי To understand; "I sat in the Roshesheevas shiur for two months and didn't farshtey a single word." Often pronounced fah-shtey

Feir Zich - פיר זיך to behave in a certain manner, "He fier ziched like he was drunk on Purim even though he hadn't touched a bottle the whole day."

Fest(eh) - פעסט(ע) Very good; "His wife makes a feste chulent."

Gahng - גאנג approach "I mamesh didn't understand the rebbe's gahng on the Sugya"

Geferlach - געפערליך very bad "I had to call the shadchan and cancel the date because I had a geferlach headache."

Geoinis - גאויניס Wisdom; "From the chaburahs he gives, you can chop a glimpse of his geoinis."

Geshikt - געשיקט Put together; "With the Ferragamo belt and the yamikeh from Eichler's, Doiv Ber really looks geshikt."

Geshmak - געשמאק Delightful; "I love going to rebbe's house for Shabbos, the food is always so geshmak."

Gevaldig - געוואלדיג Extraordinary; "Engaged to the Roshesheevas daughter?... Gevaldig!"

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Gor - גאר very Usually goes along with an adjective such as shver (difficult). "The roshesheevas shiur klali was gor shver"

Gor shver - גאר שווער "Gor" very "Shver" Difficult; "It's gor shver to get an appointment with the Rebbeh, but my cousin knows his gabbai."

Gradeh - גראדע As a matter of fact; "Gradeh, the guy who took my davening jacket is the guy who's always giving everybody else mussar."

Heimish - היימיש Homely feeling "The restaurant was so heimish, I mamesh thought my grandmother was going to come out of the kitchen and serve us the food."

Hokkin - האקין Ask incessantly, talking about the news; "I wanted to learn but my chavrusa was too busy hokkin about last nights mach'ah in Kikar Shabbos." the latest hok:

Intersant - אינטרסאנט interesting. Sometimes preceded by zeiyer (very). "The rebbe's tish bekeshe is zeiyer intersant." Also as a response in a conversation. "So I have a new idea that's gonna make me millions" "hmmm intersant."

Ken Zein - קען זיין It is possible. Could-be/ Maybe, "I told the mashgiach, Ken zein my roommate will be at Shachris this morning."

Kroom - קרום Crooked "He is so kroom that he holds it's not a mitzvah to have Thursday night Chulnt"

Lechoirah - לכאורה Seemingly; "Lechoirah if he's asking you for money, you could use mayser gelt."

Meshunedik - משונעדיק Extraordinary. "My Rosh yeshiva is a meshunedik'e iluy."

Mima-naf-shach - ממה נפשך Either way; scene at restaurant when your roommates mother takes out the chevra for dinner "Monafshach she's paying for it, I might

as well order the groyse feste steak. And besides how often do I go to a restaurant anyway." Also pronounced Monafshach.

Mimeila - ממיילא Automatically; "Just go to Eretz Yisroel for a year and mimeila you'll shtark out." (major misconception)

Mistomah - מיסתמא Most likely; "Mistomah if I buy two bowls of chulent I'll get a better price."

Mudneh - מודנע Strange "That guy started losing his hair and he put on a mudneh toupee"

Nish a hin nisht a hehr - נישט א הין נישט א הער neither here nor there "Hey, why is that Brisker dancing on top of that van? "He's probably nisht a hin nisht aher"

Ois gehalten - אויס געהאלטען trustworthy, esteemed "

Ois-mentch - אויס מענטש Lost his mind "After trying to marry off his seventh daughter he's takkeh Ois-mentch."

Oy'chet - אויכעט Also "Can you ask your host if I can come oy'chet."

Poshut - פשוט Simple; "It's so poshut even I understood it."

Punkt- פונקט Exactly; "That's not punkt what I'm saying, but you got the gist of it."

S'felt - סיפעלט it lacks "The belt is very nice uber s'felt a Ferragamo emblem."

S'pas'nisht - סיפאס נישט it is not appropriate "S'past'nisht for a guy as chashuv as me to learn in that yeshiva."

Shpitz - שפיץ Top of the line, Sharp; "The Rov always buys a shpitz esrog."

Shprach - שפראך Mode of speech; "Our math teacher could never understand us cause he didn't farshthey yeshivishe shprach."

Shtam - שטאם Originate Question "Where are you from?" Answer "Ich (I) Shtam from Brooklyn."

Shtark - שטארק Solid, "Yeshivish people



never say shtark.” Ever since I started wearing my white shirt and black pants I became so shtark”

Shteig - שטייג To work your way up; “Ever since he joined the Vaad Chizuk he really started to shteig.”

Shtel - שטעל give out “He made a geshmake Shulem Zucher but he didn’t shtel any Fiddich.”

Shtoltz - שטולץ proud, pride “A Ferragamo belt, freshly pressed pants pointy shoes”

Svorah - סברא reasoning, “the svorah the rebbe said in shiur cleared up the whole sugyah.”

Takeh - טאקע In actuality; “I know it sounds funny but the cholent is takeh more geshmak on Tuesday.”

Teef - טיף Deep. “His vort was so teef that he didn’t even understand it.”

Too oif - טו אויף To accomplish “How does he think he’s gonna Too-oif anything this year if he came to Israel with an ipod.”

Tut-zich - טוט-זיך Doing, sometimes used in a greeting as in Vos Tutzich (what’s doing?) or as a noun (doer) “Leiby is such a tut-zich he has an Ipod, Blackberry and a Beeper on his belt.”

Uber - אובער But, however: “I want to learn uber my chavrusah’s still Shlufin”

Vosertzich - וואס-הערט-זיך what is going on? As a greeting “Hey, Vosertzich” “not much, vosertzich mit du”

Vosisneyes - וואס איז נייעס what’s new. Usually used as a greeting or to continue a conversation

Wah’you - short for “where are you...?” “Wah’you learning this coming zman”

Yenem - יענעם the other guy “Yenem is making a feste Shoolem Zoocher this Shabbos”

Zicher - זיכער for sure “I’m zicher going to Lakewood next zman so I could be out of the freezer by Succos

JEWISH TAPE TRIVIA

A tribute to some of the greatest producers of Jewish Classics, Abie Rotenberg, Shmuel Kunda z”l and Torahvision. If you can answer these questions Kol Hakavod. If you can’t or you have no idea what this section is about Chaval you don’t know what you’re missing.

- When Zaidy Was Young 1-2 (WZWy1) (WZWy2)
- Wheres Zaidy? (WZ)
- Marvelous Midos Machine (MMM1 -MMM2-MMM3-MMM4)
- The Talking Coins (TTC)
- The Purim Story (TPS)

1. What does Dizzy find in the glove compartment of the MMM? (MMM1)
2. What was Zaidy’s name? What was his cousins name? (WZWy)
3. What is the name of the plant that makes the anti-invisible spray? (MMM2)
4. Who discovered the fish in the Himmelstiens bath? (WZWy)



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