

Lesson #3:

Hebrew meaning of the word "Arev"

Topic Areas: Israel at War, Jewish values,
Hebrew Language

Grade Level: Grades 7-9

Abstract:

Using "Think-Pair-Share," students will explore the Hebrew word "Arev" which appears in the famous expression "Kol Yisrael Arevim ze be ze." This lesson can be connected to Yom Kippur which is a day in which we ask forgiveness in the plural because we are all mutually responsible for each others' sins.

Lesson Goals:



knowledge



skills



values

1. Students will understand that all Hebrew words are comprised of a root word or shoresh.
2. Students will understand the meaning of the word "arev" in this expression.

Lesson Plan:

1. **Introduction:** Write the words "Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh B'Zeh" on the board. Circle the word 'Arevim' and clarify if students already know that this word is usually translated as responsible or accountable.
2. **Ask** students to identify its three letter root word ערב and have them write on a piece of paper as many words they can think of in Hebrew with this root. Ask them to also think of different meanings. After they have come up with an individual list, have them collaborate with a partner, and then have the entire class share all their words.
3. None of these words seem to be related to the meaning of the word in our expression. The source of our sentence is in the Talmud and the meaning of the word arev is "guarantor"- a person who promises to pay back another's loan if the other fails to do so. This is still its meaning in modern Hebrew (like when you sign on an apartment); its also the word for bail.
See example in Bereshit 43:9 - Judah promises that he will be a "surety" or a "guarantor" that Benjamin will return. So the best translation of our verse is that every Jew is "held responsible like a surety" for another Jew. It means more than just responsible - it is a commitment to act as if I were you. There has to be trust a reliability to be a "guarantor."
4. **Look** back at the list of possible meanings of the root word "arev." As an exit ticket, as students to suggest how the meaning of arev as "responsible/accountable" might be related to its meaning as "mixed up/combined."



Example answer: Our identities and our destinies are "mixed up" together. Responsibility comes from each Jew identifying with his fellow Jews and mingles his identity with theirs.

For Teacher:

evening	ערב חג/ויהי ערב/ערבית
arabs/arabic	ערבים/ערבית
west	מערב/מערב
mixed	תערובת, מעורב/להתערב
eiruv	ערוב
willow	ערבה
desert	ערבה
crow	עורב
to make a bet	להתערב
pleasant, sweet	ערב, קולך ערב

והערב נא ה' אלהינו את דברי תורתך
בפינו ובפיות עמך בית ישראל.

בראשית 43:9

אֲנִי אֶעְרְבֶנּוּ מִיָּדִי תִּבְקָשׁנוּ אִם לֹא הִבִּיאֲתוּ אֵלַיךְ וְהִצַּגְתִּיו לְפָנֶיךָ וְחָטְאתִי לָךְ כָּל־הַיָּמִים

סנהדרין כ"ז:

כל ישראל נקראו נפש אחת... ואם חטא אחד מהם **כלם ערבים זה בזה**. למה הדבר דומה לבני אדם שהיו באין בספינה נטל אחד מקדח והתחיל קודח תחתיו א"ל שוטה אתה קודח תחתך והמים נכנסין וכולן אבודין, כך נפש כי תחטא.

