

Question 39: Watch that cow

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Modern Hebrew is spoken by over 9 million people worldwide, though mainly in Israel. Based on Biblical Hebrew that hadn't been spoken for 2,000 years, it is the best example of a dead language being revived. Consider the following eleven sentences in (transliterated) modern Hebrew together with their translations. Note that š, ħ and ʔ are consonants.

<i>haparah šomeret al hajeled</i>	The cow watches the boy.
<i>haparot šamru al hajaldah</i>	The cows watched the girl.
<i>hajaldah hatovah katva et hasefer hazeh</i>	The good girl wrote this book.
<i>hasaħken hagadol šomer al hajeladim</i>	The big actor watches the boys.
<i>hajaldah hazot kotevet et hasefarim hagadolim</i>	This girl writes the big books.
<i>hajaldot hatovot šomrot al haseħkanim</i>	The good girls watch the actors.
<i>hakelabim šomrim al hamalħah hazot</i>	The dogs watch this queen.
<i>ħatul katon šamar al haʔaħbar</i>	A small cat watched the mouse.
<i>hajm katvu miktav ʔaroħ lasaħken</i>	They wrote a long letter to the actor.
<i>saħkanot kotvot neʔumim tovim</i>	Actresses write good speeches.
<i>hu katav et haʔagadah lamalħah</i>	He wrote the story for the queen.

D1. Translate the following into Hebrew:

- (a) A queen writes long stories for the actors.
- (b) This king watched the good cats.
- (c) The small girl watched this actress.
- (d) The good dog wrote long letters for the queens.
- (e) They write a good speech for the kings.
- (f) He writes the letter to the mice.

D2. Explain the features of Hebrew grammar seen in these examples.