Johnstone, William, Iain McCafferty, and James D. Martin. *Computerised Introductory Hebrew Grammar*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1993, version 1.05. Full sound PC (disks 1, 2, 3 and 4), $69.95.

This innovative software is a tool for learning Hebrew grammar, mainly intended for the beginning level and, to a certain extent, the intermediate level. It comes in three different editions: (1) The non-sound edition comprising text only; (2) the basic-sound edition including sound for selected parts of the program; and (3) the full-sound edition which makes full use of digitally recorded sounds for Hebrew vocabularies (see **Figure 1**). The two last editions necessitate, of course, additional hardware requirements—a sound card and speakers. Versions are available for both the Macintosh and the PC (Windows only).

The program has five main sections. The first is composed of introductory lessons to Hebrew grammar, including the study of the alphabet, nouns, and verbs. A scrolling list acting like a topical index allows the user to
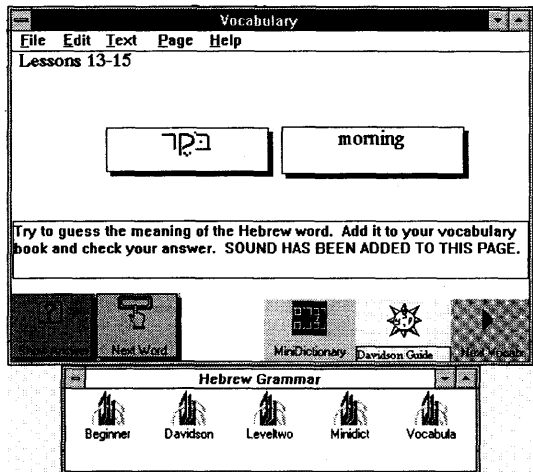

Figure 1. The Vocabulary Section with the Five Main Sections Listed at the Bottom.

jump from one lesson to another. This feature is common to all other sections. This section also includes tests and exercises.

The second section deals with more advanced grammatical concepts, such as syntactical rules, the principal parts of verb types, *binyanim* of verbal forms, and verbal suffixes. Here again the use of hypertext allows the user to move from one lesson to another or even from one section to another.

The third section consists of a mini-dictionary. It displays the words according to the alphabet letter selected, provides the English translation, and optionally, some comments. This is where the full-sound edition becomes very handy, because every word selected is spoken. With the integration of sound and texts, this educational tool breaks new ground in the study of the Hebrew language, because of its visual and auditory impact on the student. Besides, as does any multimedia educational package, it makes learning fun and exciting.

The fourth section simulates a vocabulary book, which includes all Hebrew vocabularies used at the different levels. It is basically a memorization tool and can be used as flash cards. One would have wished that this software would have included the possibility of expanding the vocabulary list. In the full-sound version, each word is spoken.

The last section of this software is a simulation of the grammar book by James Martin, *Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1993). The user can choose from a scrolling list that contains all the lessons. This section is structured in a way that necessitates the use of the printed book. After a recommended reading from the book, each lesson gives a brief summary of the grammatical rules, after which the student is given the choice of either jumping to the next lesson, learning and reviewing the vocabularies, or doing the exercise related to that specific lesson. Unfortunately, the exercises are not included in the software and the student has to refer to the printed book. The answers for the exercises, however, are provided.

The most obvious weaknesses of this software are three: (1) The installation is entirely manual and can become a tedious task for the uninitiated. With the proliferation of programming and utilities tools nowadays, one could hope that future versions will have an automated installation. (2) The interface is not only inconsistent at times, but lacks the three-dimensional effect common to Windows applications, making the interface display dull and unattractive. Most of the time, the rudimentary display does not permit one to distinguish between function buttons and window screen for text-display only. These remarks are even more significant since this software is a pedagogical tool. (3) A few bugs in the program still persist and need to be removed in future versions.

On the positive side, at any point in the program, the user can always access different sections with ease. For instance, the mini-dictionary is only "a button away." Each section ends with exercises and/or tests which make this program very useful. It even keeps track of points scored by the student while doing the exercises and corrects mistakes made.

Computerised Introductory Hebrew Grammar is a unique software that inaugurates a revolutionary approach to the study of Hebrew grammar. It is recommended for students who wish to learn Hebrew on their own. Its extensive use of hypertext makes it a very versatile tool. It has also been designed for use in a classroom setting, in which it would be most effective if accompanied by Martin's book. The authors of this software should be praised for pioneering in the field of joining multimedia technology to the study of biblical languages.

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