

KOL YISRAEL: THE PRAYERS OF OUR PEOPLE - FAQ'S

Q. What is *Kol Yisrael*?

A. *Kol Yisrael* is a three-level Hebrew prayer program that works wherever students may be—in class, at home, or in front of a computer—because it seamlessly combines book-based lessons with computer learning activities. A CD comes bound into every book. Students use the book in class, then practice their new skills at home using the software.

Q. What will students learn in *Kol Yisrael*?

A. *Kol Yisrael 1* introduces students to the key blessings and prayers that help them comfortably practice Jewish home rituals, such as reciting Shabbat and holiday blessings, and singing Mah Nishtanah. *Kol Yisrael 2* includes the opening prayers in the Shabbat morning service and the Amidah. *Kol Yisrael 3* presents the Shabbat morning Torah service and concluding prayers.

Kol Yisrael motivates students to use the software at home—creating additional practice time and opportunities—with the most up-to-date learning tools, such as “Clues to Cyberspace,” online video games, and interactive readings. Students can even choose whether to hear the prayers read aloud in American or Israeli accents!

Kol Yisrael teaches students how to *read* the prayers. And, using kid-friendly language, it introduces students to the *meaning* of the prayers, helping them develop a *deeper understanding* of why we pray and what prayer can do for each of us.

After completing the three levels of *Kol Yisrael*, students will enter their b'nai mitzvah year with confidence, fluency, and a true understanding of the prayers. [See](#) a complete list of the prayers.

Q. What preparation do students need before *Kol Yisrael*?

A. *Kol Yisrael* is designed for 3rd–4th graders who have finished any Hebrew primer, including *Alef Bet Quest*, *Shalom Uvrachah*, or *Derech Binah*. A quick decoding review at the beginning of the year, using books such as *The Back-to-School Hebrew Reading Refresher*, will help your students warm up before starting *Kol Yisrael*. To get all the benefits of *Kol Yisrael*, students should have access to a computer with an Internet connection; *Kol Yisrael* is both PC- and Mac-compatible.

Q. How do the book and software work together?

A. Every lesson is *completely integrated*: the computer games and activities directly reinforce each text-based exercise, and the text provides clues to help students increase their scores in the companion computer games thus motivating them to practice at home on the computer. Using the computer, students not only learn to read from a page—they will be able to *hear* the Hebrew read aloud in an American or an Israeli accent, which will help rapidly develop fluent and accurate decoding.

Q. I'm happy with my current Hebrew program. Why switch to *Kol Yisrael*?

A. You know best what works in your own school, and each school's circumstances are different. You might consider *Kol Yisrael* if you want to extend your Hebrew class time and you think your students would improve their performance if they practiced their Hebrew at home. The computer games and exercises are so effective in enticing students to study Hebrew at home that it's like sending each student home with a personal Hebrew tutor.

Q. How will I know whether my students are using the *Kol Yisrael* software at home?

A. It's easy—you have three options for determining how students are doing with the *Kol Yisrael* software, ranging from high-tech to low-tech:

(1) When a student completes one of the computer-based activities in *Kol Yisrael*, his or her results are summarized and recorded automatically in our database, and are available to you on our *Kol Yisrael* web site. You can check their progress at any time by clicking on the blue "Assessment" button at the bottom of the Behrman House home page, www.behrmanhouse.com, and looking up your particular class;

(2) Students can email lesson summaries directly to their teacher right from the *Kol Yisrael* software; or

(3) You can ask students to print out a hard copy of each lesson summary as they complete it, and bring it with them to class; you can even have parents sign the lesson summary sheet. For a full explanation of assessment in *Kol Yisrael*, visit www.KolYisrael.net and watch the segment called "Assessment" in the online tutorial "How to Use *Alef Bet Quest* and *Kol Yisrael*."

Q. How will I explain the *Kol Yisrael* computer games and exercises to my teachers and students?

A. That's easy too. Visit www.KolYisrael.net for a 9-minute, easy-to-follow online tutorial. You will also find a separate online tour of the software—consisting of a reading activity and two video games—that you can show students, parents at Back-to-School or orientation events, and your school's education committee to help explain your Hebrew plans to them. The *Kol Yisrael* Teacher's Editions give complete, step-by-step instructions for introducing the software in class for the first time.

Q. I haven't used software in my class before. What if I'm nervous?

A. The computer-based games and exercises in *Kol Yisrael* begin automatically and they are completely self-explanatory. The only thing you will need to know is the unique serial number assigned to your class. All students in your class will sign on for the first time using that serial number and their own user name and password. The class serial number identifies all the members of a particular class, allowing the *Kol Yisrael* database to keep track of their performance as a group and allowing you and your teachers to easily identify the members of the class in the database.

The Teacher's Editions also explain each computer-based activity and provide the answers to the clues your students will be seeking in the book—the clues that help them win bonus points in the computer activities. They also offer tips for keeping track of individual students' user names and passwords, and using the software's assessment features. You can watch the online tutorial at www.KolYisrael.net for step-by-step instructions on how to use the software.

Q. What if a student loses the CD, or needs to use a different computer?

A. Any student can [download a second copy of the software FREE](#).

Q. What if I have trouble using the software?

A. We offer technical support and answers to any questions during business hours (Eastern Time) at 800-221-2755, or by email to customersupport@behrmanhouse.com. Please write KOL YISRAEL QUESTION in the subject line. We will respond to email questions within one business day.