

Hebrew Loanwords Around the World

Jewish Malayalam

Jewish Malayalam incorporates Hebrew loanwords from sacred texts in compound verbs. For example, the compound verb for 'died' is *śālōm-ā.yi.té* which comes from the Hebrew word *shalom* **שָׁלוֹם** 'peace.'

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Benadamlik

בִּנְאָדָאמְלִיק

This Ladino word is a result of fusion between Hebrew and Turkish. **Ben adam**, literally “son of man,” means “person” in Hebrew. The Turkish suffix **-lik** refers to “a quality.” **Benadamlik** means humanness, acquiring in some contexts the religious or moral connotations of righteousness and positive character.

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EXPLORE: Hebrew Use in English and Beyond (25 min total)

Fasting in Ladino

תענית

Ladino-speaking Sephardic Jews call Yom Kippur **dia de kipur** (day of atonement) or simply **kipur**. The pre-fast meal at the start of the holiday is known as **tomar tanit**, which means 'to take the fast.' The break-the-fast meal is called **kortar (el) tanit**, which literally means 'to cut the fast.' Both phrases combine Romance-based verbs with the rabbinic Hebrew word for fast, תענית, which appears in Ladino as **tani**, **tanid**, **tanit**, and **taanit**. The solitreo rendering of the word (shown above) follows the Hebrew orthography, even though Ladino speakers often drop or change the final "tav."

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Toilet Euphemism

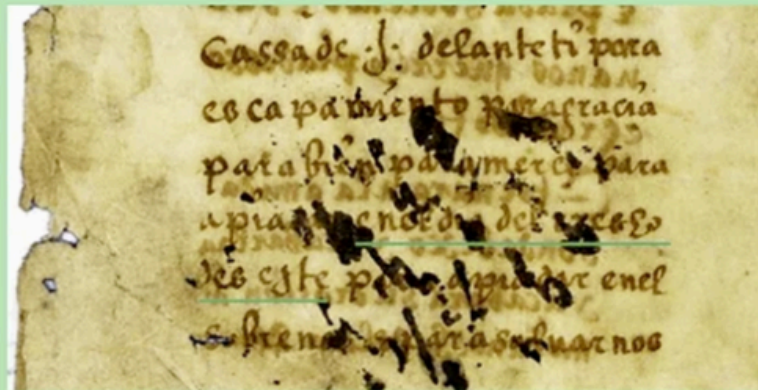
The word *macom* from the Hebrew מקום *maqom* 'place' is used as a euphemism for 'toilet' in several Judeo-Italian dialects.



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EXPLORE: Hebrew Use in English and Beyond (25 min total)

A Spanish Siddur in the Cairo Geniza



A Geniza page from a roughly 16th-century Spanish translation of the siddur (prayerbook) includes the prayer "Ya'ale ve-Yavo," which is added to the liturgy on festivals and Rosh Chodesh (the first day of the month).

The underlined phrase says **en el dia del rreshodes este**, "on this Rosh Chodesh day." **Reshodes** combines two Hebrew words (**ראש** - head, and **חודש** - month) into one Judeo-Spanish word. The prayer expresses hope for several divine attributes:
gracia, bien, merce, and apiadar
(grace, well-being, loving-kindness, and compassion).

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Shabbat shalom!	<i>Yasher koach!</i> You did a great job in the school play!
We don't eat <i>chametz</i> during <i>Pesach</i> . At the <i>seder</i> , we read from the <i>haggadah</i> .	At camp, we eat with our <i>madrichim</i> in the <i>chadar ochel</i> .
After we say <i>kiddush</i> , we drink the wine and then we make <i>Ha-motzi</i> and eat the <i>challah</i> .	She's pregnant? <i>B'sha'a tova!</i>
Please put your <i>siddurim</i> on the shelf before you leave.	We call our teacher <i>Morah</i> Debbie.

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