



Art



Street Smarts

Say goodbye to tedious Hebrew classes and sign up for one of Guy Sharett's tours that teach vocabulary through graffiti and street signs / **Orna Gattegno Schneid**

A group of people gather in front of a graffitied wall in the Florentin neighborhood of south Tel Aviv, around a man holding a dry-erase board with a Hebrew word scrawled across it. Enthusiastically, he explains the word's root and significance, simultaneously offering a peek into the culture of Tel Aviv and Israel as a whole.

Welcome to the coolest grammar lesson you've ever gotten. Anyone who has ever studied Hebrew as a second language knows it's no mean feat. Hour after hour of

Last year, Sharett offered a tour of the protest tent camp and the slogans around it

memorizing roots and tenses at ulpan will leave even the most diligent student worn out. Linguist and Hebrew teacher Guy Sharett couldn't agree more, which fueled him to come up with a totally new type of Hebrew class. About a year ago, at the height of the social-justice protests in Israel, Sharett noticed that

many of his Hebrew students couldn't understand the signs and slogans that were an inseparable part of the protest and couldn't interpret what was going on around them. He decided to offer Hebrew tours of the tent camp that sprung up on Tel Aviv's Rothschild Boulevard as part of the protest, and advertised the venture on Facebook. On the syllabus: those signs and slogans that touted social change. "I was shocked by the number of people who signed up," Sharett recalls. "Foreign students from all over the world, diplomats and journalists answered the ad and the first Hebrew-

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Walk and talk
On Guy Sharett's graffiti tour