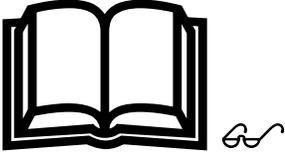
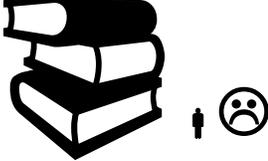


“Hey kids, I **shrank** all the dictionaries!” Zev bar-Lev, SDSU.

Ordinary Big Dictionaries	+magic	→	My one-Page Dictionary
	<p>אברה</p>	<p>^aabra^a</p> 	
	<p>כאדברה</p>	<p>Ca^aadabrah</p> <p><i>If you know Hebrew, do you recognize the meaning of this Kabbalistic formula for creative magic?</i></p>	

Language teachers often urge us to guess unknown word-meanings from context, rather than rushing to a dictionary. Mainstream linguistics implies that such guessing is all but impossible, **because word-meanings are “arbitrary”**: how can you guess any word if (as they believe) it could mean anything at all?

My “-Magic-Letter Theory” disagrees.¹ :

it offers an explanation for

why words mean what they mean. It hypothesizes² that the **first consonant-letter** of ANY WORD IN ANY LANGUAGE is itself a picture, an icon (an “eye-con”): **like gender-icons** on public restrooms, they “**fool the eye**” into filling in the larger context of meaning.) That is,

MagLets give a HELPFUL HINT about the whole word’s meaning.

<p>1. MagLets are clearest in Hebrew, where the first letter* of the 1 words for ‘SPIN’ & ‘DREIDEL’ is a circle, an OBVIOUS icon for ‘Spin.’</p>	<p>2. The uniquely tall letter <u>L</u>  means ‘above, go-up, even God.’</p>
<p>1. סוב—סביבון</p>	<p>2. </p>

¹ See languagebazaar.com & various articles listed there.

² My research began with 2 decades of study of dictionaries with the goal of broadening my Hebrew vocabulary as a new immigrant to Israel; it was then applied in two decades of teaching Hebrew in America. My textbooks (used in 2 universities, & high-school & private courses) are available at Cognella Academic Press. Only returning to my Hebrew class after a 4-month coma did I realize that my MagLets were **also applicable to English, Russian, Chinese & Japanese.**