# "Hey kids, I shrank all the dictionaries!" Zev bar-Lev, SDSU.

| Ordinary Big Dictionaries | +*magic* | ➜ | My one-Page Dictionary |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **אברא** | **ªabraª** | |
| | **כאדברה** | **Caªadabrah** *If you know Hebrew, do you recognize the meaning of this Kabbalistic formula for **creative** magic?* | |
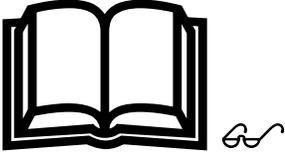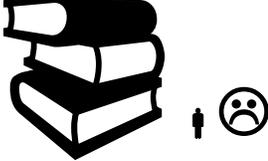
**Language teachers** often urge us to guess unknown word-meanings from context, rather than rushing to a dictionary. Mainstream linguistics implies that such guessing is all but impossible, **because word-meanings are "arbitrary":** how can you guess any word if (as they believe) it could mean anything at all?

## *My "-Magic-Letter Theory" disagrees.[1] :*

*it offers an explanation for*

**why words mean** what they mean. It hypothesizes[2] 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.*

| **1.** MagLets are clearest in Hebrew, where the first letter* of the 1words for 'SPIN' & 'DREIDEL' is a **circle**, an obvious **icon for 'Spin.'** | **2.** The uniquely tall letter  L  ל  means 'above, go-up, even God.' |
|---|---|
| 1. סביבון ○̲ס – ○̲ס̲וב – ○○ | 2. ☝ ✈ L, ל |

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