

I. Four sections to this class

1. Reading

Bl'n, not more than 10 pages reading per homework. Sorry. It's English. You have to read. You're responsible for what we read for the full semester. (That's two quarters.)

2. Writing

Yes. You have to write, too. In class and out of class. I'll give out a writing notebook.

3. Spelling and Vocabulary

10 to 20 words per week. You're responsible for these for the rest of the year. And if I teach you in a future year, you're responsible for these then too.

Also included are words that are confused with each other, such as who and whom, me and I, its and it's, accept and except, farglesnoop and frandlestich.

4. Grammar

Parts of speech – nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.
Punctuation
Clauses, phrases, sentence structure.

II. Classroom

Participation

I keep track of all participation. It's not a point per participation, but the participations add up. On your report card, I add up those participations and they definitely add points to your report cards.

Notes

You are responsible for everything we discuss in class. If I write it on the board, it'll show up on a test. Class discussion is part of class. I don't necessarily write every word I say on the board.

If you miss a class, you need to make up the work. Ask a friend. Beg, borrow, or steal (ok, don't steal) their notes.

Pens and Notebooks

You **must** have a pen and notebook in class.

You need a notebook for taking class notes, as above. Please get a loose leaf binder with four sections, so a) when I give out handouts or articles I usually hole-punch them and you save them in a loose leaf, and b) I can take home your writing without having to carry your entire notebook.

Sharing

Not everyone wants to share. Rule: You *can't never* share all year. You all have to share sometimes. And sometimes, you'll all have to share. If there's something you write that you absolutely don't want to share out loud, please tell me and I'll respect that.

Middos tovos

Reading and writing is about expressing something inside of you. Some guys are more comfortable with that, some guys are "no way!" You all need to promise, b'li neder of course, to not use what someone says or writes against them.

For example, if someone says in an English exercise that their favorite flower is a rose, to make fun of that anywhere, ever, is a tremendous aveirah, because not only are you a) hurting someone outright, you're b) causing that person to lose trust in others, and causing damage to anyone else in the class who will c) either not want to share or d) not be able to learn or e) get more aveiros and so on.

So you should all basically promise (or agree or something) to keep the lo saaseh of not embarrassing someone, which could possibly be yehoreig v'al yaavor anyway!

Bathroom

Class is 38 minutes. Bathroom visits should be extremely rare. Go before or go after. If it becomes a bad habit, we'll be forced to limit it.

III. Homeworks, Quizzes, and Tests

Yes, you must take tests and quizzes and do homework. Tests count more, but homeworks and quizzes count towards your grade. If you miss a quiz or test, you need to make it up the first day you get back. If you are late handing in a homework, it will cost you 3 points per day.

Vocab / Spelling test (almost) every Monday, first seven minutes of class.

Other tests will be announced ahead of time.

Quizzes will happen frequently, and *I do not announce them beforehand*. They will usually happen the first five minutes of class. If you walk in late, you do not get extra time for your quiz.

Quizzes might cover the previous night's reading assignment, the work we covered the day (or the few days) before, or anything else I feel you should know.