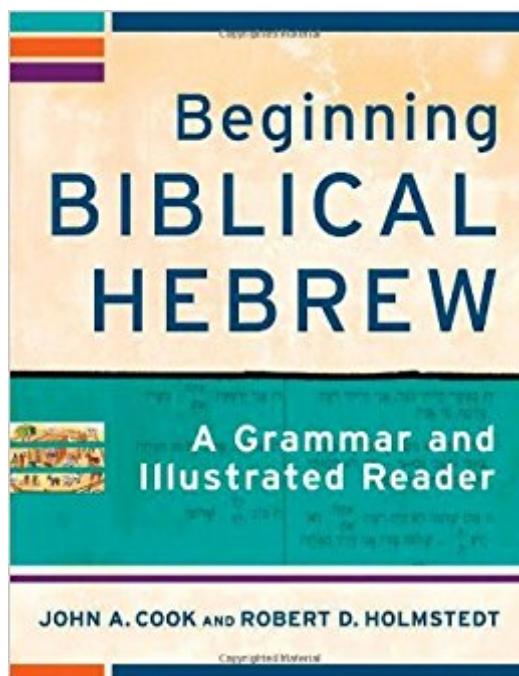The book was found

Beginning Biblical Hebrew: A Grammar And Illustrated Reader

Synopsis

This innovative textbook by two leading experts in Biblical Hebrew combines the best of traditional grammars, new insights into Hebrew linguistics, and a creative pedagogical approach. The material has been field tested and refined for more than a decade by the authors, who are actively engaged in Biblical Hebrew discussions and research.The book includes fifty brief grammar lessons with accompanying workbook-style exercises, appendixes providing more detailed explanations, and a full-color reader--bound at the back of the book for right-to-left reading--that incorporates comics, line drawings, and numerous exercises, all in Hebrew. This work offers a realistic approach to beginning Hebrew, helping students comprehend texts without overloading them with too much information, and it can be adapted to either one-semester or full-year courses.An accompanying website through Baker Academic's Textbook eSources offers helpful resources for students and professors. Resources for students include flash cards and audio files. Resources for professors include sample quizzes, sample exams, sample lesson plans, vocabulary cards, and a full-color printed instructor's manual.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John A. Cook (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison) is associate professor of Old Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of Wisconsin (Madison and Milwaukee campuses), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Wheaton College, and Grace College. Robert D. Holmstedt (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison) is associate professor of Near and Middle Eastern civilizations at the University

of Toronto in Toronto, Ontario. His primary research interest is the linguistic study of Northwest Semitic languages. Both authors are recognized experts in the Hebrew language.

There were quite a bit of mistakes that my class and professor found in this book. It is in it's early stages in publishing, so it could get better. We learned a lot in it, but the layout and organizing of material was just not practical and that was obvious to the class and the professor (From Cornerstone University). We will be changing books for the second semester of Hebrew.

If you're a seminary professor reading this review, for the sake of your students, look elsewhere for a better Biblical Hebrew textbook. Really, I know that this review will probably deter few people from buying this book, as most of those who do buy it only do so because their seminary professor requires it.I was required to buy this text for my Elementary Hebrew class in seminary, and was sorely disappointed in it. Being a student in the seminary at which one of the authors is employed, I know what our faculty are capable of producing in the way of course books for their own classes, and this misses the mark by a mile. Virtually no explanation of grammatical concepts or ideas is given in the book. Almost all actual Hebrew instruction is left to whatever class you may be taking. If you're trying to learn Hebrew on your own (kudos to you, BTW), you're out of luck. This really is more of a workbook than a textbook.What little instruction the book provides is inconsistent and unclear in several places. Paradigm verbs for the different binyanim (tenses, in laymen's terms) are different in different chapters, so the subtleties and nuances of the different grammatical constructions are lost on the average student, who would benefit from consistent use of a single paradigm verb (or two paradigm verbs like Greek has, when you're learning the -ÃƒÂ•Ã â and -ÃƒÅ Ã Â ÃƒÅ Ã Â conjugations), which would make those nuances more noticeable.

As a student and a teacher, I have used four different beginner-level Biblical Hebrew textbooks. By far, Cook and Holmstedt's "Beginning Biblical Hebrew" is my go-to source for beginners.The reason for this, in part, is the dual nature of the book. It not only is a grammar, but also an illustrated reader. The illustrated reader approaches language naturally, beginning with isolated vocabulary pertaining to home life (albeit a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age family life), and moving on to mock sentences that describe familiar biblical stories in terms and grammar appropriate for gradual stages of learning. As the student moves on in the course, the illustrated reader returns to the same stories, re-writing them with more challenging grammar and vocabulary. This learning does not occur in isolated lists, but rather in stories--the way people learn best--and illustrated ones at that. Despite

being a written language, such a style imitates as best as possible the natural, spoken-language learning of a child or an alien immersed in a foreign culture.The format of the grammar portion of the book is conducive to learning as well. Each chapter has exercises that incorporate the new material while reinforcing all previous material. After learning the basics of the written text (alphabet, vowel pointing, etc.), the student will move on to pronouns and nouns before getting an overview of verbs about 1/3 of the way through the book, and then going on to learn about each of the verb tenses, aspects, and moods. Such a style, again, imitates natural language learning, where infants begin with basic nouns and pronouns prior to forming complete sentences often speaking in only one tense, yet while getting an "overview" of all the tenses from people speaking around them. Further, each chapter is small, allowing students to work more quickly by digesting small amounts of material daily, rather than large amounts of material only once or twice a week.Another reason I prefer this book over others is Cook's unique approach to the basics of Biblical Hebrew sentence structure. His method of treating normal word order as Subject-Verb-Object, rather than Verb-Subject-Object provides not only a rule to follow, but also a plausible explanation for the exceptions to the rule. Other linguists who stick to the traditional perspective on word order can provide a plausible rule to follow, yet fail to provide plausible explanations for the exceptions to the rule.My reasons for giving this book a four-star review instead of a five-star review are twofold. First, there are some noticeable errors in the book, most typos, but some that would lead students--and some teachers--to confusion. Cook is already aware of these and is working on fixing them, but until they are in-print or in an included or freely available supplemental corrections sheet, this needs to be made known to potential buyers and students.Secondly, while I appreciate the reasons for designing this book as a workbook, I disagree with the decision not to have a hardback version available, which could have been used as a recurrent resource after completing the textbook. As it is now, the A4-sized paperback book intended as a workbook too easily becomes a consumable resource unable to be used recurrently. This is due, in part, the book's proneness to wear and tear, even after--sometimes even before--a single completion of the book.Still, overall, I highly recommend this book to all beginning students, and I would recommend the reader and the appendices to a number of intermediate students as well. It is the best beginner's book I have used, and ranks far above others I have seen but not used.

I loved the format of this book, and found it extremely useful, still use it as reference. It is not intended for self-study, so do not expect that from it. The lectures fill in the details, and the book provides the nuts and bolts of paradigms, etc.. The reading in the back builds from simple

vocabulary to more complex very effectively. I took the course on line from Asbury Theological Seminary and was able to do well in the course. This may have been in part due to the excellent professor, Jason Jackson, who was very thorough in his lectures and provided lots of additional reading and pronunciation resources as well as extra exercises and pre-test summary materials, as well as access to tutors. The book was the core and an excellent foundation if used properly.

Just what I needed, and at a great value!

Pick it up in one direction and it's a grammar workbook with a variety of activities to help reinforce the lesson. Flip it over and it's a reader with illustrated Bible stories and more user-friendly activities. In the middle, it has a comprehensive glossary and other study helps. We are using this in my seminary class, but I've also been able to work on my own with reasonable success. The only downside I've noted is that the text in the reader doesn't have enough space between lines for students to write notes as they are parsing and translating.

I am using it for a course that begins next week. I am impressed with just looking through it

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Handbook to Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar Complete English Grammar Rules: Examples, Exceptions, Exercises, and Everything You Need to Master Proper Grammar (The Farlex Grammar Book Book 1) Easy Italian Reader, Premium 2nd Edition: A Three-Part Text for Beginning Students (Easy Reader Series) The Pentateuch and Haftorahs: Hebrew Text English Translation and Commentary (English and Hebrew Edition) Conversational Hebrew Quick and Easy: The Most Innovative and Revolutionary Technique to Learn the Hebrew Language. For Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced Speakers