

## Some “False Friends”: Words that look the same in Hebrew and Aramaic but have quite different meanings

Aramaic	meaning	Hebrew meaning
דבר	to lead, guide	to speak : Noun forms parallel to the Hebrew noun דְּבַר are found in Jewish Aramaic texts. The cognate to the common Aramaic usage is found in both Hebrew and Aramaic in the word מְדַבֵּר, “desert” < the place where one leads one’s flock.
מצוי	to be able	מצא to find
איש, איניש	person, someone	man
שכח, אשכח	to find, be able	to forget
הרג	to cogitate	to kill
הדם	limb, organ	הדום footstool
שמר	to let loose	to guard : the actual Aramaic cognate of this common Hebrew verb is the T stem: אסתמר : “to be careful”
עמד	to immerse	to stand still