

a  
**RADICAL  
YIDDISH**

**pocket dictionary**

**אַ ראַדיקאַל יידיש  
קעשענע-  
ווערטערבוך**

**MADE BY A JEWISH, ANTIFASCIST,  
ANTIZIONIST LESBIAN  
(WHO IS NOT A YIDDISH EXPERT)**

# MENSCH

[men(t)sh] | מענטש

(n.) a person of great integrity and honor; "a stand-up guy"

From the old Germanic word "mensch," meaning "person"

Examples, used in a sentence:

"Leslie Feinberg dedicated hir life to transgender activism, labor organizing, and Palestinian liberation. What a mensch!"

"Will you be a mensch and share my mutual aid fund with others?"

# KVETCH

[k-vehch] | קוועטש

(v.) to complain; to gripe

From the Germanic root "quetschen," meaning "to crush"

Examples, used in a sentence:

"All she does is kvetch about the weather."

"If we never kvetch about anything, how are we supposed to know what needs fixing?"

the  
**BUND**

[buhnd] or [boond] | דער בונד

(n.) Referring to the Jewish Labour Bund, a Jewish socialist political party and organization that operated in Eastern Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Not to be confused with the the German American Bund, which was a 1930s Nazi organization.

Members of the Bund were called Bundists.

Example, used in a sentence:

“The Bund largely opposed Zionism, seeing it as another form of nationalism that could only oppose socialist interests.”

# DOIKAYT

[doh-ih-kite] or [doy-kite] | דױקײַט

(n.) hereness; an embracing of diasporism

The philosophy that Jews have a right to live wherever they are, and a duty to work together to battle all forms of oppression, including antisemitism.

Examples, used in a sentence:

“Doikayt opposes dortkayt, or thereness, which is represented by the Zionist push for mass migration to Palestine.”

“Bundist proponents of doikayt lived by the motto: ‘Here where we live is our home[land].’”

**MIR VERN ZEY  
IBERLEBN!**

[meer vell-en zay ee-ber-leh-ben]

**מיר וועלן זיי איבערלעבן!**

(phrase) We will outlive them!

Originated as a protest song sung by Polish Jews in the face of Nazi violence. A powerful slogan often used by progressive Jews against all forms of antisemitism.

Also used by some antizionist Jews in reference to the idea that Judaism will outlive Zionism.

**LOMIR ZIKH  
ORGANIZIRN!**

[lo-meer zeeek or-gah-nih-zeer-in]

**לאָמיר זיך אָרגאַניזירן!**

(phrase) Let us organize!

A great call to action for all socialists, labor organizers, and antifascists.

Bernard Weinstein, a Jewish, socialist, union-organizing immigrant to the US, was known by this motto in the late nineteenth century:

**“Shvester un brider!**

**Lomir zikh organizirn!”**

(Sisters and brothers! Let us organize!)



DISCLAIMER: I am not a Yiddish expert, nor do I claim to be. I'm just a Jewish, antifascist, antizionist lesbian with hopes of learning more Yiddish.

Many Zionist forces have demonized Yiddish, Ladino, and other Jewish diaspora languages in favor of only speaking/teaching Hebrew.

To negate these languages' importance, or to consider them "dirty" languages, or less valid than Hebrew, is rooted in classism/elitism, and erases the memories of so many of those who came before us.