

Suggested Questions and Tasks for Chevruta

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Translation

Look for the root of a word.
Use the relevant dictionaries e.g. BDB,
Jastrow.
Give a few translations and discuss
which one is correct.

When you see something interesting/unusual

What do you notice here?

When what your chevruta is saying is unclear to you

Please expand on your idea.
I don't really understand that. Please
explain it another way.
I don't really understand that. Please
give me an example.

When you want to make sure that you and your chevruta are being thorough in your reading and understanding and true to the text

What do you mean when you say X?
What in the text makes you say that?
How did you arrive at that idea?
What other ways are there of
understanding X?

How could I defend the position taken
by this text, commentator?
What leads this commentator to
understand the text as s/he does?

When you are surprised by what a text is saying or are stuck or bored

What do you suppose the text is going
to say next?
How else could the text have
continued?

Summarizing

Let's summarize.
What can we conclude from all the
information we have so far?
Repeat what the other is saying and
check in if your understanding is
correct. Then swap roles.

How is this similar to what we have
learned in other classes?
What themes does this text have that
we have seen elsewhere?
How is this different to what we have
learned in other classes?
What themes does this text have
which you did not expect?

When you disagree with your chevruta or the text

Some people say X. What do you
think?
What do you like about this text?
What do you find problematic in this
text?
I feel very strongly that X. Please
share with me what you think and how
it is similar/different. What do you think
about my statement?
Let's argue this out!