

# Biblical Hebrew 101

## *Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew*

### Lesson 9

### שְׁעוֹר ט

## Shevas, cont.



*Children have fun learning Hebrew with the puppet ‘Shalom!’*

“... and you are to teach them carefully to your children,” from the Shema Deut 6:7a CJB

### ***Continue learning the shevas***

- 9.01 Review dagesh kal & dagesh chazak
- 9.02 Review sheva Level 1 & Level 2
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- 9.04 Practice identifying the different levels of sheva
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- 9.06 Answers to 9.04
- 9.07 Review grammatical terms & definitions
- 9.08 Weekly Parasha: [www.RestoringTorah.org](http://www.RestoringTorah.org)

## 9.01 Review dagesh kal & dagesh chazak

### 1. Dagesh kal (דָּגֶשׁ קַל) is also called dagesh lene (or a weak dagesh)

- This dagesh is only found in these 6 letters: BeGeD KeFeT letters: בְּגָד כָּפֶת
  - When BeGeD KeFeT letter starts a word, it will have a dagesh.
  - Only three of the six change their sound with the addition of a dagesh chazak:
    - בּ (from ב to בּ)
    - כּ (from כ to כּ)
    - פּ (from פ to פּ)

### 2. Dagesh chazak (דָּגֶשׁ חָזָק) is also called dagesh forte (or dagesh strong)

- REMEMBER: A dagesh chazak is a dagesh when the dagesh is preceded by a vowel.
- A dagesh chazak doubles the consonant.
  - Examples of a vowel under a dagesh chazak:
    - דָּבָר = דָּבָר + בּ = pronounced: dahn-b**ehr** (note: dagesh in dalet is a dagesh kal because it is part of the בְּגָד כָּפֶת letters)
    - בְּמִדְבָּר = בְּמִדְבָּר + מְ + בּ = pronounced: bahm-meed-b**ahr** (note: dagesh in bet is a dagesh kal because it is part of the בְּגָד כָּפֶת letters)
    - הִגְדָּה = הִגְדָּה + גּ + הּ = pronounced: hahg-gah-d**ah**

### Grammar-made-simple: dagesh kal & dagesh chazak:

- When a BeGeD KeFeT letter begins a word, it has a dagesh kal.
- If any vowel (long or short) is in front of a dagesh, it is a dagesh chazak. Also the consonant will be doubled.

## 9.02 Review sheva level 1 & level 2 (refer to lesson 8)

Reminder the sheva can be either vocal or it can be silent.

There are various rules which determine whether the sheva is vocal (“eh”) or silent which we will discuss in this lesson.

- A vocal sheva is called sheva na** (שְׁוָא נָע). This sheva generally has a quick and an almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”.
- A silent sheva is called sheva nach** (שְׁוָא נָח).

### Level 1: when sheva is at the beginning of a word, it is vocal

| When the sheva is under the first letter of a word, that sheva is vocal. It is a sheva na (שְׁוָא נָע). This sheva generally has a quick & an almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”. |                                    |   |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Word  | Meaning                            | Transliteration   |
| שְׁמָע  | Shema                              | sheh-m <b>ah</b> (commonly pronounced: sh' <b>mah</b> ) |
| שְׁוָא  | sheva: one of the vowels in Hebrew | sheh-v <b>ah</b> (commonly pronounced: sh' <b>vah</b> ) |

**Level 2: when 2 shevas are consecutive, the 1<sup>st</sup> sheva is silent; & the 2<sup>nd</sup> sheva is vocal**

| When 2 Shevas are consecutive (in a row), the 1st is silent (אָ אֶשׁ) & 2nd is vocal (אֶ אֶשׁ).   |   |                        |
|---|---|------------------------|
| 1. The first of two consecutive shevas closes the syllable. The first sheva is silent (אָ אֶשׁ)<br>2. The second of 2 consecutive shevas is vocal (אֶ אֶשׁ) and has a quick “eh” sound. |   |                        |
| Word  | Meaning   | Transliteration        |
| אֶשׁרָצוּ   | they (3 <sup>rd</sup> person, masculine, plural) will swarm, teem, or bring forth abundantly (Gen 1:20) | yeesh-reh- <b>tsoo</b> |

**Grammar-made-simple: Levels 1 & 2 of the vocal sheva:**

- Level 1: If the sheva is under the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of the word, it is vocal.
- Level 2: If there are 2 shevas in a row (consecutive), then the 1<sup>st</sup> is silent & the 2<sup>nd</sup> is vocal.

“I’ve attempted to learn Hebrew several times; I really like the simple systematic approach the Coles have ... I’m learning Hebrew!” BB

**9.03 Introducing sheva level 3 & level 4**

**Level 3: when there is a long vowel in front of a sheva, the sheva is vocal.**

o Also, when a sheva is under a dagesh chazak, that sheva is vocal.

אֶמְךָ = אָ+מָ+ךָ = pronounced: ahm-meh-**chah**  
 כֹּלְכֶם = כֹּל+לָ+כֶם = pronounced: cool-leh-**chehm**

(Review Lesson 9.01: a dagesh chazak follows any vowel)

| When a sheva is under a dagesh chazak (אֶ אֶשׁ), the sheva is vocal (אֶ אֶשׁ). |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Word   | Meaning  | Transliteration  |
| כֹּלְכֶם   | all of you (2 <sup>nd</sup> person: you: masculine, plural)<br>Eg: כֹּלְכֶם = כֹּל+לָ+כֶם  | cool-leh- <b>chehm</b>   |
| אֶמְךָ   | your (2 <sup>nd</sup> person: you: masculine, singular) people (2Sam 7:24)                 | ahm-meh- <b>chah</b>   |
| הַשְּׁבִיעִי   | the seventh  | hahsh-sheh-vee- <b>ee</b> (commonly pronounced hahsh-shvee- <b>ee</b> )  |
| הַדְּבָרִים  | the words or things  | hahd-deh-vah- <b>reem</b> (commonly pronounced hahd-d’vah- <b>reem</b> ) |
| דְּבָרִים  | literally “words” (or “things”)<br>Also, it is the Hebrew name for the book of Deuteronomy | deh-vah- <b>reem</b> (commonly pronounced d’vah- <b>reem</b> )           |
| טַפְּכֶם   | your (2 <sup>nd</sup> person: you: masculine, plural) children (Dt 29:11)                  | tahp-peh- <b>chehm</b>   |
| קִדְּשָׁנוּ  | sanctifies us (from traditional Festival Candle Blessing)                                  | keed-deh- <b>shah</b> -noo   |

**Grammar-made-simple: dagesh chazak:**

- Reminder: it’s easy to recognize a dagesh chazak, because this dagesh follows a vowel – any vowel.

**Level 4: when a sheva follows a long vowel, it is vocal**

When a sheva follows a long vowel\*, it is vocal (שְׁוָא נָע).

\*Long vowels:

*kamats* קָמֶץ (◌ֶ) // *tsere* צִירֵי (◌ֵ) // *cholam* חוֹלָם (◌ֹ) // *cholam vav* חוֹלָם וּ (◌ֹּ) // *shurek* שׁוּרֶק (◌ֹּ)

PLUS, all diphthongs are long.

For example: הִיְתָה (In this word, note: the sheva immediately follows the chamatz, which is a long vowel. Therefore, the sheva is vocal. הִיְתָה is pronounced: hi-yeh-**tah**)

| Word        | Meaning   | Transliteration  |
|-------------|---|--|
| הִיְתָה     | it was (3 <sup>rd</sup> person: feminine, singular)   | hi-yeh- <b>tah</b> (commonly pronounced hi-ye- <b>tah</b> )            |
| לִבְּכֶךָ   | your heart (from the V'ahavta from the Shema, Dt 6:5) | leh-vah- <b>veh</b> -chah (commonly pronounced leh- <b>vahv</b> -chah) |
| כְּתֹבִים   | write (masculine, plural)                             | koh-teh- <b>veem</b> (commonly pronounced koht- <b>veem</b> )          |
| וּבְאֵלָתוֹ | and his oath  | oo-veh-ah-lah- <b>toh</b>  |

**Grammar-made-simple:** levels 3 & 4 of the vocal sheva:

1. Level 3: If the sheva is under a dagesh chazak, it is vocal.
2. Level 4: If the sheva follows a long vowel or a diphthong, it is vocal.

a. *kamats* קָמֶץ (◌ֶ) // *tsere* צִירֵי (◌ֵ) // *cholam* חוֹלָם (◌ֹ) // *cholam vav* חוֹלָם וּ (◌ֹּ) // *shurek* שׁוּרֶק (◌ֹּ)

**9.04 Practice identifying the different levels of shevas**

| Word           | Meaning  | Transliteration   | Type of sheva & why<br>(Answers are on 9.08)                          |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| 1) בְּיַד      | by hand of (by the hand of Moses, Dt 4:44; Num 9:23)                                   | beh- <b>yahd</b>  | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter                                    |
| 2) הַבְּדִלָה  | Havdalah (ceremony closing Shabbat & distinguishes it from the common of other 6 days) | hahv-dah- <b>lah</b>  | Non-vocal, <b>silent sheva</b> , because sheva follows a short vowel. |
| 3) לְדַבֵּר    | to speak   | leh-dahb- <b>behr</b>   |   |
| 4) תִּשְׁמְעוּ | you do/will listen (Deut 11:27)  | tish-meh- <b>ooh</b>  |   |
| 5) כְּתֹבִים   | write (masculine plural)   | koh- <b>teh</b> -veem (commonly pronounced kot'- <b>veem</b> )  |   |
| 6) בְּהָר      | in or on mount or mountain   | beh- <b>hahr</b>  |   |
| 7) בְּמִדְבָּר | in desert or wilderness  | beh-meed- <b>bahr</b>   |   |
| 8) וְנָשְׂאוּ  | and they carried, they lifted, to marry (3cp)  | veh-nah-seh- <b>oo</b> (commonly pronounced v'nahs- <b>oo</b> ) |   |
| 9) לְחוּל      | to be common (Lev 10:10; also in the Havdalah)   | leh- <b>chohl</b>   |   |

|                 |  |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| 10) מִרְחֶשֶׁת  | saucepan (Lev 2:7: grain offering made in a pan) | mahr- <b>ch</b> eh-sheht                       |  |
| 11) כֻּלְּכֶם   | all of you (Deut 29:10)                          | kool-leh- <b>ch</b> em                         |  |
| 12) בְּנֵי      | sons of  | beh- <b>n</b> ay                               |  |
| 13) שִׁרְצוּ    | they bring forth (Gen 9:7)                       | sheer- <b>t</b> soo                            |  |
| 14) וְרוּחַ     | and spirit                                       | veh- <b>r</b> oo-ahch                          |  |
| 15) מִצְוָה     | mitzvah / commandment                            | meets- <b>v</b> ah                             |  |
| 16) זְמַן       | time   | zeh- <b>m</b> ahn (commonly pronounced z'mahn) |  |
| 17) שְׂמָאל     | left   | seh- <b>m</b> ohl (commonly pronounced s'mohl) |  |
| 18) אַבְרָהָם   | Avraham  | Ahv-rah- <b>h</b> ahm                          |  |
| 19) מְאֹד       | very   | meh- <b>o</b> hd                               |  |
| 20) בְּבִקְשָׁה | please (adverb)                                  | beh-vahk-kah- <b>sh</b> ah                     |  |
| 21) עַמְּךָ     | your people                                      | ahm-meh- <b>ch</b> ah                          |  |
| 22) לְאִט       | slowly (adverb)                                  | leh- <b>a</b> ht                               |  |

### 9.05 Reading exercise: Leviticus 10:10

“You are to distinguish between the holy & the common, & between the unclean & the clean,” Lev 10:10 ESV

וְלִהְבְדִּיל בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין הַחֹל וּבֵין הַטְּמֵא וּבֵין הַטְּהוֹר:

| Hebrew        | Translation   | Transliteration           |
|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| וְלִהְבְדִּיל | and to be divided, separated, make distinction, set apart | oo-lah-hahv- <b>de</b> el |
| בֵּין         | between   | bayn                      |
| הַקֹּדֶשׁ     | the holy  | hahk-ko- <b>de</b> hsh    |
| וּבֵין        | and between   | oo- <b>v</b> ayn          |
| הַחֹל         | the common, unholy, ordinary, profane                     | hah- <b>ch</b> ol         |
| וּבֵין        | and between   | oo- <b>v</b> ayn          |
| הַטְּמֵא      | the unclean, defiled                                      | haht-tah- <b>ma</b> y     |
| וּבֵין        | and between   | oo- <b>v</b> ayn          |
| הַטְּהוֹר     | the clean, pure   | hah- tah- <b>h</b> or     |

9.06 ANSWERS to 9.04 “Practice identifying the different levels of silent & vocal sheva”

| Word            | Meaning  | Transliteration   | Type of sheva & why<br>(Questions are on 9.03)   |
|-----------------|--|---|--|
| 1) בַּיָּד      | by hand of (by the hand of Moses, Dt 4:44; Num 9:23)                                   | beh- <b>yahd</b>  | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter   |
| 2) הַבְּדִלָּה  | Havdalah (ceremony closing Shabbat & distinguishes it from the common of other 6 days) | hahv-dah- <b>lah</b>  | Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.  |
| 3) לְדַבֵּר     | to speak   | leh-dahb- <b>behr</b>   | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter   |
| 4) תִּשְׁמְעוּ  | you do/will listen (Deut 11:27)  | tish-meh- <b>ooh</b>  | Level 2: 2 shevas in a row   |
| 5) כְּתִיבִים   | write (masculine plural)   | koh- <b>teh</b> -veem (commonly pronounced kot' <b>veem</b> ) | Level 3: sheva follows a long vowel  |
| 6) בְּהָר       | in or on mount or mountain   | beh- <b>hahr</b>  | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter   |
| 7) בְּמִדְבָּר  | in desert  | beh-meed- <b>bahr</b>   | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> sheva is non-vocal, silent sheva; it follows a short vowel |
| 8) וַנִּשְׂאוּ  | and they carried, they lifted, to marry (3cp)  | veh-nah-seh- <b>oo</b>  | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter<br>Level 4: 2 <sup>nd</sup> sheva follows a long vowel                        |
| 9) לְחֹל        | to be common (Lev 10:10 also in the Havdalah)  | leh- <b>chohl</b>   | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter   |
| 10) מִרְחֹשֶׁת  | saucepan (Lev 2:7: grain offering made in a pan)                                       | mahr- <b>cheh</b> -sheht                                      | Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.  |
| 11) כְּלָכֶם    | all of you   | kool-leh- <b>chem</b>   | Level 4: sheva is under a dagesh chazak  |
| 12) בְּנֵי      | sons of  | beh- <b>nay</b>   | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter   |
| 13) שִׁרְצוּ    | they bring forth (Gen 9:7)   | sheer- <b>tsoo</b>  | Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.  |
| 14) וְרוּחַ     | and spirit   | veh- <b>roo</b> -ahch   | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter   |
| 15) מִצְוָה     | mitzvah  | meets- <b>vah</b>   | Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.  |
| 16) מִשְׁפָּטֶי | Your judgments (Ps 19:9)   | mish-peh- <b>tay</b>  | Level 2: 2 shevas in a row   |
| 17) שְׂמָאל     | left   | seh- <b>mohl</b> (commonly pronounced s' <b>mohl</b> )        | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter   |
| 18) אַבְרָהָם   | Avraham  | Ahv-rah- <b>hahm</b>  | Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.  |
| 19) מְאֹד       | very   | meh- <b>ohd</b>   | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter   |
| 20) בְּבִקְשָׁה | please (adverb)  | beh-vahk-kah- <b>shah</b>                                     | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter   |
| 21) עַמְּךָ     | your people  | ahm-meh- <b>chah</b>  | Level 3: sheva is under dagesh chazak  |
| 22) לְאֵט       | slowly (adverb)  | leh- <b>ah</b> t  | Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter   |

## 9.07 *Review grammatical terms & definitions*

### Short definitions of terms:

שְׁוֹא נָע (sheva na) vocal sheva

שְׁוֹא נָח (sheva nach) quiet or silent sheva

דְּגִישׁ קָל (dagesh kal) dagesh lene.

- Changes the sound of the consonant.

While the dagesh kal can be in the 6 BeGeD KeFet letters (בְּגָד כּפֶת), there are only 3 of the 6 which change their sound.

The 3 letters which change sound with the dagesh kal: בּ to בְּ; כּ to כְּ; & פּ to פְּ

דְּגִישׁ חָזָק (dagesh chazak) dagesh forte or dagesh strong

- Doubles consonant in which it stands.
- Identical in appearance to dagesh kal.
- May be in any consonant except the 5 gutturals (aleph, hay, chet, ayin, & sometimes resh).
- When a dagesh is immediately preceded by a vowel, the dagesh is a dagesh chazek.

eg: אַהֲתָה = אַתְּ-תָה (aht-tah).

דוּ-תְנוּ-אָה (doo-teh-noo-ah) diphthong

נִקְדוּת/נִקְדוּד (nik-kud/neh-kud-dot) symbols or Hebrew vowels

שָׁרֵשׁ (shoh-rehsh) 3-4 letter root of a word

## 9.08 *Weekly Parasha reading* (go to [www.RestoringTorah.org](http://www.RestoringTorah.org))