

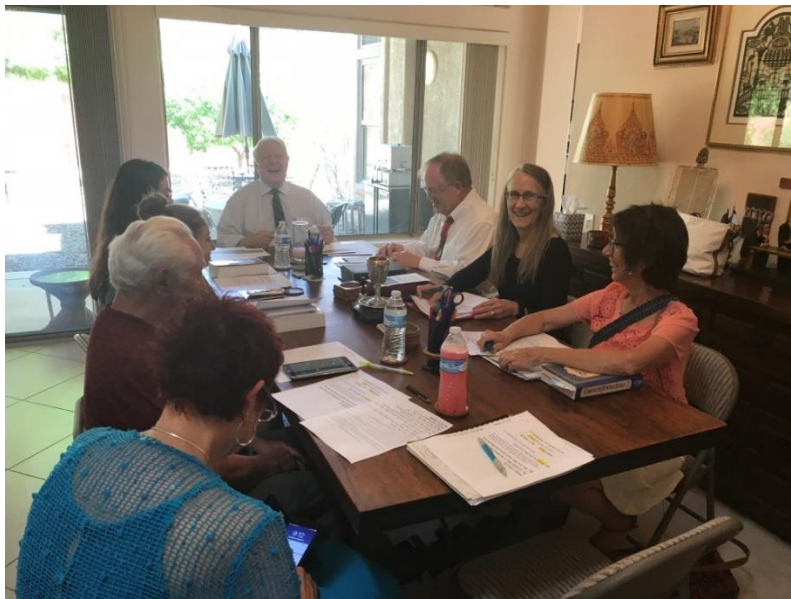
Biblical Hebrew 101

Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew

Lesson 4

שְׁעוֹר דַּ

Introduce final letters of aleph-bet



Hebrew Class at Congregation Faithful Stewardship

Learning Hebrew is fun, stimulating ... & helps increase cognitive skills!

Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth of God," 2Tim 2:15.

Continue learning the Hebrew aleph-bet

- 4.01 Introduce final letters of aleph-bet & another vowel: ayin – tav & chirek
- 4.02 Tips: sofits
- 4.03 Practice reading and writing these letters with 5 vowels
- 4.04 Let's put these sounds together and read actual Hebrew words
- 4.05 More practice reading
- 4.06 Review: How shall I study Hebrew?
- 4.07 Identify letters we've learned in Genesis 1:1

Learn the last letters – new vowel (chirek vowel)

In this lesson, we will:

- Begin to learn the remaining letters in the Hebrew aleph-bet.
- Learn the chirek vowel

4.01 Introduce the final letters of aleph-bet & another vowel

1. Read the name of each letter below. (Refer to Sound of Letter column for pronunciation)
2. Do *the hand*: make a fist with your right hand. Point thumb down and say *aleph*. Raise index finger - say *bet*. Lift middle finger - say *gimmel*. Lift ring finger – say *dalet*. And finally lift pinkie – say *hay*
3. Print each letter. (Copy the Block print below & refer to Aleph-Bet chart for letter formulation.)



Letters (aka consonants) & Vowels (aka nikkudot נִקּוּדוֹת)					
Please note: there are 2 forms of the פּ.					
The 1 st is פּ (pay, which has a dot) while the 2 nd is פ (fay, with no dot).					
(There is also the fay sofit ף which has the same sound as the fay פּ).					
Book print	Numeric Value	Name of letter	Sound of letter	Block Print (as in English, there are slight variations in letters' shapes)	Write each letter
א	70	ayin	silent	ע	
ב	80	pay	p as in pet	פּ	
ב	80	fay	f as in far	פ	
ב	80	fay sofit	f as in far	ף	
ג	90	tsade	ts in cats	צ	
ג	90	tsade sofit	ts in cats	ץ	
ד	100	koof	k in kept	ק	
ר	200	resh	r in ran	ר	
ש	300	shin (<i>sheen</i>)	sh in shoe	שׁ	
ש	300	sin (<i>seen</i>)	s in set	שׂ	
ת	400	tav	t in top	ת	
Vowel (the aleph is used for illustration purposes.)		Name of vowel	Sound of vowel	Print	Write
א		chirek: חִירֵק	ee in sleep	אֿ	

4.02 Tip: Sofits (final letters): Five Hebrew letters have a different shape when they appear as the last letter of a word.

In this lesson, we introduced the other two sofits:

- fay sofit (ף) – pronounced the same as “פּ” (“P” as in far)
- tsade sofit (ץ) – pronounced the same as “צ” (“ts” as in cats)

4.03 Practice reading and writing these letters with 5 vowels

The last 7 letters (consonants # 16-22) and 5 vowels: patach & kamats, and segol & tsere, and chirek				
Letter	Name	Sound	Block	Write letter & vowel
א	ayin	<i>silent</i>	א	
אֶ	ayin with patach	ah as in spa	אֶ	
אֵ	ayin with segol	eh as in bed	אֵ	
אִ	ayin with tsere	eh as in bed	אִ	
אִי	ayin with chirek	ee as in sleep	אִי	
בּ	pay (has a dagesh/dot inside)	p as in pay	בּ	
בַּ	pay with a dagesh & kamats	pah	בַּ	
בֶּ	pay with a dagesh & segol	peh	בֶּ	
בִּ	pay with a dagesh & tsere	peh	בִּ	
בִּי	pay with a dagesh & chirek	pee	בִּי	
ב	fay has no dagesh (NOTE: both בּ & ב have the same sound)	fay as in far	ב	
בַּ	fay with kamats	fah	בַּ	
בֶּ	fay with segol	feh	בֶּ	
בִּ	fay with tsere	feh	בִּ	
בִּי	fay with chirek	fee	בִּי	
בֿ	fay sofit (final letter of word; same sound as בּ)	f as in far	בֿ	
צ	tzade	ts , in cats	צ	
צַ	tsade with patach	tsah	צַ	
צֶ	tsade with segol	tseh	צֶ	
צִ	tsade with tsere	tseh	צִ	

צ	tsade with chirek	tsee	צ	
ץ	tsade sofit (final letter of word; same sound as צ)	ts in cats	ץ	
ק	koof	k in keep	ק	
קָ	koof with kamats	kah	קָ	
קֶ	koof with segol	keh	קֶ	
קֶ	koof with tsere	keh	קֶ	
קֵ	koof with chirek	kee	קֵ	
ר	resh	r in ran	ר	
רָ	resh with kamats	rah	רָ	
רֶ	resh with segol	reh	רֶ	
רֶ	resh with tsere	reh	רֶ	
רֵ	resh with chirek	ree	רֵ	
ש	shin (<i>sheen</i>)	sh in shoe	ש	
שָׁ	shin with patach	shah	שָׁ	
שֶׁ	shin with segol	sheh	שֶׁ	
שֶׁ	shin with tsere	sheh	שֶׁ	
שֵׁ	shin with chirek	shee	שֵׁ	
שׂ	sin (<i>seen</i>)	s in set	שׂ	
שָׂ	sin with patach	sah	שָׂ	
שֶׂ	sin with segol	seh	שֶׂ	
שֶׂ	sin with tsere	seh	שֶׂ	
שׂ	sin with chirek	see	שׂ	
ת	tav	t in top	ת	

תָּ	tav with kamats	tah	תָּ	
תֵּ	tav with segol	teh	תֵּ	
תֶּ	tav with tsere	teh	תֶּ	
תִּ	tav with chirek	tee	תִּ	

4.04 *Let's put these sounds together & read actual words!*

Our objective is to become familiar with the letters and their sounds not to memorize words.

Reminder: How to read Hebrew

1. Hebrew is read right to left and top to bottom. Begin by reading the right-most letter. Then add the vowel that is written below it.
2. For example: with the word אָהָב. Begin by reading the א; then add the ה. We now have אָה (ah-ha). Now, we add the ב. Because there is no vowel below this letter, it only has the sound of the consonant. When we put the word altogether we have: אָהָב (ah-hav).



Always remember read: right to left and top to bottom.

Read & Write words below			
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration (please, try to read before looking at transliteration)	Practice writing each word (Use Block print on page 1 of this lesson.)
בֵּר	son of (Aramaic word, Bar Mitzvah)	bahr	
אֶרֶץ	land	eh-rehtz (note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent)	
הִנֵּה	behold ('listen up')	hee-neh	
אָמֵן	Amen (truly, truth, 'let it be')	ah-mehn	
אֶלֶף	1000 (Num 31:7)	eh-lehf (note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent)	
דָּוִד	David	Dah-veed	
מָה זֶה?	What is this?	Mah zeh?	
בְּטָח	of course, certainly, for sure, security, safely, securely	beh-tach	
פָּאֵרָן	Paran (Num 13:3)	Pah-rahn	

Refer to laminated aleph-bet sheet to review the entire aleph-bet.

4.05 More practice reading

More Hebrew words		
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration (please, try to read before looking at transliteration)
אָשָׁה	he, or it, did	ah- sah
לְגִן	to the vine (Judges 9:12)	lahg- gah -fehn
אַתָּה	you (masculine)	aht- tah
חֲזַק	be strong	chah- zakh
חָצֵר	permanent (as in settlement)	chah- tzehr
צָעַק	cry out	tzah- ahk

4.06 Review: How Shall I Study Hebrew?

Today, you read 14 more words!!!

1. Consider taking your lesson with you & review it during lunch.
2. Practice saying the all the letters of the aleph-bet *using the hand*.
3. Read again the Hebrew words in this lesson. (Repetition helps reinforce sounds in our minds.)



4.07 Identify the letters we've learned in Genesis 1:1

On the Scripture below, please **write the name of the letter above that particular letter & the name of the vowel below the letter**. Do the same for each letter. (Identify letters & vowels which we have introduced.)

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” Gen 1:1.

← resh

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ: א

chirek →