

Biblical Hebrew 101
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew
Lesson 3
שְׁעוֹר ג

Introducing the next 5 letters & 2 vowels



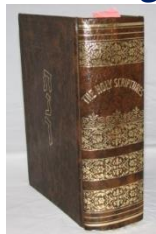
Sbema & Tallit

During a 1st Century VBS, Pastor Don taught children the Hebrew Aleph-Bet. (This was written by 8-12 year olds!)

Introducing the next 5 consonants of the Hebrew aleph-bet

- 3.01 Introduce the next 2 vowels: segol & tsere
- 3.02 Introduce 5 more consonants: kaf - samech
- 3.03 The first 3 sofits (or final letters)
- 3.04 Let's read Hebrew
- 3.05 Interesting Fact: Hebrew words in English
- 3.06 How shall I study Hebrew?
- 3.07 Identify letters we have had in Genesis 1:1

Introducing the next 5 consonants + 2 more vowels:



- Learn the next two vowels, bringing us up to 4 vowels.
- Learn the next five letters (or consonants), bringing us up to 15 consonants.
- Learn 3 forms of 1 consonant/letter.
- Introduce the first three sofits (final letters). Sofits occur only as the final letter of a word. While the same sound is the same their corresponding letter. The shape of the consonant changes when it becomes a sofit.

3.01 First, let's introduce the next 2 vowels & review the previous 2 vowels.

VOWELS				
Vowels (aka nikkudot). Note: shown with aleph but can be with any letter	Name of vowel	Sound of vowel	Block Print	Write each letter
אִ	patach: פָּתַח	“ah” as in spa	אִ	
אָ	kamats: קָמָץ	“ah” as in spa	אָ	
אֵ	segol: סֶגוֹל	“eh” as in bed	אֵ	
אֶ	tsere: צִירֵי	“eh” as in bed	אֶ	

3.02 Now, let's introduce 5 more letters of the Hebrew aleph-bet.

1. Read the name of each letter below. (For help with sound of vowel, refer to Sound of Vowel column, above.)
2. Read & Print each letter below. (Refer to Sound of Letter column for pronunciation)

* **Note: 5 letters in Hebrew which look different when they appear as the final letter of the word. For example:**

- kaf (כּ) – pronounced “k” as in keep
- chaf (ח) – pronounced as “ch” in Bach
- chaf sofit (ך) – both the chaf & the chaf sofit have the same sound, “ch”. The chaf sofit appears only as the final letter of a word.

Next 5 letters (Consonants #11-15) & 4 vowels					
Letter	Numeric value	Name	Sound	Block	Write letter & vowel
כּ	20	kaf	k in keep	כּ	
כָּ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & patach	kah	כָּ	
כֵּ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & segol	keh	כֵּ	
כֶּ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & tsere	keh	כֶּ	
ח	20	chaf (note: <u>no dagesh</u> in a chaf)	ch in bach (both כּ & ח have the same sound)	ח	
חָ		chaf with kamats	chah	חָ	
חֵ		chaf with segol	chah	חֵ	
חֶ		chaf with tsere	chah	חֶ	

ך	20	*chaf sofit (a sofit is the final letter of a word)	ch in bach	ך	
ךְ		chaf sofit with a kamats	chah (generally ך only has 1 of two vowels: a sheva or a kamats.)	ךְ	
ל	30	lamed	l in let	ל	
לַ		lamed with patach	lah	לַ	
לֶ		lamed with segol	leh	לֶ	
לֶ׃		lamed with tseré	leh	לֶ׃	
מ	40	mem	m in me (both ם & ך have the same sound)	מ	
מַ		mem with kamats	mah	מַ	
מֶ		mem with segol	meh	מֶ	
מֶ׃		mem with tseré	meh	מֶ׃	
ם	40	*mem sofit (a sofit is the final letter of a word)	m in me	ם	
נ	50	nun (noon)	n in nice (both ן & נ have the same sound)	נ	
נַ		nun with patach	nah	נַ	
נֶ		nun with segol	neh	נֶ	
נֶ׃		nun with tseré	neh	נֶ׃	
ן	50	*nun sofit (a sofit is the final letter of a word)	n in nice	ן	
ס	60	samech	s in set	ס	
סַ		samech with kamats	sah	סַ	
סֶ		samech with segol	seh	סֶ	
סֶ׃		samech with tseré	seh	סֶ׃	

*** 3.03 The first 3 sofits (or final letters):** 5 letters have a different shape when they are the last letter of a word.

In this lesson, we introduced the first 3 sofits:

- chaf sofit (ךְ) – pronounced the same as “כ” (“ch” as in Bach)
- mem sofit (ם) – pronounced the same as “מ” (“m” as in Tom)
- nun sofit (ן) – pronounced the same as “נ” (“n” as in Ben)

3.04 Let's read Hebrew:

1. **Remember:** Our objective in Hebrew 101 is to become familiar with the letters and their sounds *not* to memorize words.
2. 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.
3. For example: with the word אֶהָב. Begin by reading the א; then add the ה. We now have אֶהָ (ah-ha). Finally, add the ב. Since there is no vowel below this letter, it only has the sound of the consonant. When we put the word altogether, we have: אֶהָב (ah-hav).



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

Read & Write words below: notice as a general rule, the final syllable is accented. Accented syllables are highlighted in yellow and bolded.			
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration (please, try to read word before looking at transliteration)	Practice writing each word below
יָלַד	he gave birth, fathered or begat (as in a genealogy)	yah- lahd	
יָלֵד	boy	yeh -lehd (*note: when a 3 or 4- letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent)	
הַטְּמֵא	the unclean	haht-tah- meh (Lev 10:10)	
כַּלָּה	bride, engaged girl	cahl- lah	
כֹּכָה	so, like this, thus	cah -chah	
לֶחֶם	bread	leh -chehm (*note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent)	
אֶבֶן	stone	eh -vehn*	
סֵלָה	Selah (pause, consider, as in Ps 3:2)	seh -lah	
לֵב	heart	lehv	
אֵל	God	ehl	
מָה	What? (interrogative)	mah	
אָמֵן	Amen (truly, truth, 'let it be')	ah- mehn	

3.05 Interesting fact: An example of a Hebrew word's being incorporated into English is 'amen'

The word "amen" is used in virtually every language. In Hebrew, it means: "confirm" or "support". In English, the meaning is similar, it is: "so be it" or "truly".

3.06 How Shall I Study Hebrew?



- Consider taking your lesson with you to work & review during lunch.
- 1. Practice saying the first 15 letters of the aleph-bet using the hand.
 - 2. **Read** the Hebrew words in this lesson.
 - 3. **Print** the words. Again, **read** words.



Extra Practice			
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration (please, try to read before looking at transliteration)	Practice writing each word below
אֶחָד	one	eh- chahd	
זֶה	this	zeh	
גֶּן	garden	gahn	
אֵלֶּה	these	ehl -leh	
לָבָן	Laban (also means <i>white</i>)	lah- vahn	
כֵּן	yes, so, thus	cehn	
מָה	what	mah	

3.07 Identify letters & vowels we’ve had:

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 *only* the letters & vowels which we have introduced thus far.)

← mem sofit

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

↑ tsere

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