

Biblical Hebrew Course 101
– Boot Camp –
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew
Lesson 9
לְשׁוֹן ט
Dageshes & Vocal 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

- 9.01 Review dagesh kal & dagesh chazak
- 9.02 Review Sheva Level 1 & Level 2
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9.01 Review dagesh kal & dagesh chazak

Dagesh kal (דָּגֶשׁ קָל) is also called **dagesh lene** (or a weak dagesh)

- The dagesh kal is found only in 6 BeGeD KeFeT letters. The acronym for remembering these letters is BeGeD KeFeT: בְּגֵד קָפֶת
- For this class, we're concerned with the 3 letters that can change their sounds. These are בּ to ב; from כּ to כ; from פּ to פ.
 - It is important to remember that the dagesh kal never follows a vowel. (It can follow a sheva.)
 - And that it only appears when a BeGeD KeFeT letter is the 1st letter of a word or when it opens a syllable, it will have a dagesh.
 - The addition of a dagesh kal changes the sound in only 3 of the 6 BeGeD KeFeT letters:
 - בּ (from ב to בּ)
 - כּ (from כ to כּ)
 - פּ (from פ to פּ)

Dagesh chazak (דָּגֶשׁ חָזָק) is also called **dagesh forte** (or dagesh strong)

- REMEMBER: A dagesh chazak is preceded by a full vowel. (A sheva is not a full vowel)
- A dagesh chazak doubles the consonant.
 - Examples of a dagesh chazak in a word:
 - דָּבַר = דָּב+בַּר = pronounced: dahb-**behr** (note: the dagesh in the dalet is a dagesh kal because it is part of the בְּגֵד קָפֶת letters)
 - בְּמִדְבָּר = בְּמִד+מְדָבָר = pronounced: bahm-meed-**bahr** (note: the dagesh in the bet is a dagesh kal because it is part of the בְּגֵד קָפֶת letters)
 - הַגְדָּה = הַגְדָּ+הָ = pronounced: hahg-gah-**dah**
 - אַתָּה = אַתָּ+הָ = pronounced aht-tah.
- A dagesh chazak may appear in any consonant except the 5 gutturals (aleph: א, hey: ה, chet: ח, ayin: ע, & sometimes resh: ר).

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

- Dagesh kal: When a BeGeD KeFeT letter begins a word or when it follows a sheva, thereby opening a syllable, it has a dagesh kal. This dagesh changes sound only with בּ to ב; from כּ to כ; & from פּ to פ.
- Dagesh chazak: A dagesh chazak follows a vowel & doubles the consonant it is in. (Remember a sheva is not a vowel.)

Practice recognizing dagesh kal & dagesh chazak		
* Note: the rule for each dagesh is named below		
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration (please try to read before looking at transliteration)
1) דָּבַר	he spoke (Lev 25:2)	dahb- behr * Dagesh Kal (dalet is part of בְּגֵד קָפֶת & does not follow a vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (bet is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.)
2) בְּמִדְבָּר	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed- bahr * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בְּגֵד קָפֶת & does not follow a vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.) * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בְּגֵד קָפֶת & does not follow a vowel)
3) הַמַּיִם	the water (Gen 1:2)	hahm- mi -yeem * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.)
4) לְמִטָּה	of every tribe (Num 13:2)	leh-maht- teh * Dagesh Chazak (tet is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.)

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.

Level 1: when a sheva is at the beginning of a word

When the sheva is <u>under the first letter of a word</u> it is vocal . This sheva generally has a quick and an almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”.		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
		Explanation: 1. The small “eh” signifies the quick & almost indistinguishable “eh” sound. 2. The bolded, highlighted syllable is accented.
1) לְךָ	for yourself (Gen 6:14)	leh- chah
2) בְּיוֹם	in the day (Lev 19:6)	beh- yom
3) בְּרֵאשִׁית	Genesis (In the beginning) (Gen 1:1)	beh-reh- sheet (commonly pronounced b’resheet)

Grammar-made-simple: Level 1 of the vocal sheva:

Level 1: If the sheva is under the 1st consonant of the word, it is vocal.

Level 2: when 2 shevas are consecutive (in other words, are in a row)

When 2 Shevas are consecutive, <u>the 1st is silent & 2nd is vocal</u> . 1. The first of two consecutive shevas closes the syllable. The first sheva is silent. 2. The second of 2 consecutive shevas is vocal <i>and</i> has a quick “eh” sound.		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) עַבְדְּךָ	your servant (Gen 19:19)	ahv-deh- chah
2) תִּשְׁמָעוּ	you will obey (2 nd part of the Shema; Deut 11:13)	tees-meh- oo
3) אֶרֶצְכֶם	your land (2 nd part of the Shema; Deut 11:14)	ahr-tseh- chehm
4) נַפְשְׁךָ	your soul (Deut 6:5)	nahf-sheh- chah
5) יִשְׁמְרוּ	they will guard or keep (Ezekiel 11:20)	yeesh-meh- roo
6) שְׁבִתֶּךָ	your dwelling places (1Kings 8:30)	sheev-teh- chah

Grammar-made-simple: Level 2 of the vocal sheva:

Level 2: If there are 2 shevas in a row (consecutive), the 1st is silent (it closes the syllable) & the 2nd is vocal (& it opens the syllable).

9.03 Introducing Sheva Level 3

Level 3: when a sheva is under a dagesh chazak*, it is vocal. (Review Lesson 9.01)

*A dagesh chazak follows any vowel & doubles the consonant that it is in. (Remember a sheva is not a vowel.)

When the sheva is <u>under the first letter of a word it is vocal</u> . This sheva generally has a quick and an almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”.		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
		Explanation: 3. The small “eh” signifies the quick & almost indistinguishable “eh” sound. 4. The bolded, highlighted syllable is accented.
1) כִּלְכֵּם	all of you (2 nd person: you: masculine, plural) Eg: כִּלְכֵּם = כֵּם + לְ	cool-leh- chehm
2) הַשְּׁבִיעִי	the seventh	hahsh-sheh-vee- ee (commonly pronounced hahsh-shvee- ee)
3) הַדְּבָרִים	the words or things	hahd-deh-vah- reem (commonly pronounced hahd-d’vah- reem)
4) טַפְּכֶם	your (2 nd person: you: masculine, plural) children (Dt 29:11)	tahp-peh- chehm
5) קִדְּשָׁנוּ	sanctifies us (from traditional Festival Candle Blessing)	keed-deh- shah -noo

Grammar-made-simple: Level 3 of the vocal sheva is under a dagesh chazak*:

1. When a sheva is under a dagesh chazak*, the sheva is vocal.
2. *Dagesh chazak is easily recognizable because the dagesh chazak follows any full vowel.

9.04 Introducing Sheva Level 4

Level 4: when a sheva follows a long vowel*, it is vocal. (Review Lesson 9.01)

When a <u>sheva follows a long vowel*</u> , it is vocal.		
*Long vowels: <i>kamats</i> קָמֶץ (ֹ) // <i>tseré</i> צִירֵי (ִי) // <i>cholam</i> חֹלָם (ֹ) // <i>cholam vav</i> חֹלָם וּ (וֹ) // <i>shurek</i> שׁוּרֶק (וֹ)		
For example: הִיְתָה (The sheva immediately follows the kamats, a long vowel; therefore, the sheva is vocal. הִיְתָה is pronounced: hi-yeh- tah)		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) הִיְתָה	it was (3 rd person: feminine, singular)	hi-yeh- tah (commonly pronounced hi-yee- tah)
2) לִבְבְּךָ	your heart (from the V’ahavta from the Shema, Dt 6:5)	leh-vah- veh -chah (commonly pronounced leh- vahv -chah)
3) כָּתְבִים	write (masculine, plural)	koh-teh- veem (commonly pronounced koht- veem)
4) וּבְאִלָּתוֹ	and his oath	oo-veh-ah-lah- toh

Grammar-made-simple: Level 4 of the vocal sheva follows a long vowel:

Level 4: If the sheva follows a long vowel, it is vocal.

- a. *kamats* קָמֶץ (ֹ) // *tseré* צִירֵי (ִי) // *cholam* חֹלָם (ֹ) // *cholam vav* חֹלָם וּ (וֹ) // *shurek* שׁוּרֶק (וֹ)

9.05 *Practice identifying the different levels of shevas* (refer to Lesson 9 supplement)

Word	Meaning	Transliteration	Type of sheva & why
1) בַּיָּד	by hand of (by the hand of Moses, Dt 4:44; Num 9:23)	beh- yahd	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
2) הַבְּדִלָּה	Havdalah (ceremony closing Shabbat & distinguishes it from the common of other 6 days)	hahv-dah- lah	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
3) לִדְבֹר	to speak	leh-dahb- behr	
4) תִּשְׁמְעוּ	you do/will listen (Deut 11:27)	tish-meh- ooh	
5) כְּתָבִים	write (masculine plural)	koh- teh -veem (commonly pronounced kot' veem)	
6) בְּהָר	in or on mount or mountain	beh- hahr	
7) בְּמִדְבָּר	in desert or wilderness	beh-meed- bahr	
8) וַנִּשְׂאוּ	and they carried, they lifted, to marry (3cp)	veh-nah-seh- oo (commonly pronounced v'nahs- oo)	
9) לְחֹל	to be common (Lev 10:10; also in the Havdalah)	leh- chohl	
10) מִרְחֶשֶׁת	saucepan (Lev 2:7: grain offering made in a pan)	mahr- cheh -sheht	
11) כֻּלְּכֶם	all of you (Deut 29:10)	kool-leh- chem	
12) בְּנֵי	sons of	beh- nay	
13) שִׁרְצוּ	they bring forth (Gen 9:7)	sheer- tsoo	
14) מִצְוָה	mitzvah / commandment	meets- vah	
15) זְמַן	time	zeh- mahn (commonly pronounced z'mahn)	
16) שְׂמָאל	left	seh- mohl (commonly pronounced s' mohl)	
17) אַבְרָהָם	Avraham	Ahv-rah- hahm	
18) מְאֹד	very	meh- ohd	
19) בְּבִקְשָׁה	please (adverb)	beh-vahk-kah- shah	

9.06 **ANSWERS to 9.05 “Practice identifying the different levels of silent & vocal sheva”**

Word	Meaning	Transliteration	Type of sheva & why (Questions are on 9.03)
1) בַּיָּד	by hand of (by the hand of Moses, Dt 4:44; Num 9:23)	beh- yahd	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
2) הַבְּדִלָּה	Havdalah (ceremony closing Shabbat & distinguishes it from the common of other 6 days)	hahv-dah- lah	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
3) לִדְבֹר	to speak	leh-dahb- behr	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
4) תִּשְׁמְעוּ	you do/will listen (Deut 11:27)	tish-meh- ooh	Level 2: 2 shevas in a row
5) כֹּתְבִים	write (masculine plural)	koh- teh -veem (commonly pronounced kot' veem)	Level 3: sheva follows a long vowel
6) בְּהָר	in or on mount or mountain	beh- hahr	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
7) בְּמִדְבָּר	in desert	beh-meed- bahr	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter 2 nd sheva is non-vocal, silent sheva; it follows a short vowel
8) וַנִּשְׂאוּ	and they carried, they lifted, to marry (3cp)	veh-nah-seh- oo	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter Level 4: 2 nd sheva follows a long vowel
9) לְחֹל	to be common (Lev 10:10 also in the Havdalah)	leh- chohl	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
10) מִרְחֶשֶׁת	saucepan (Lev 2:7: grain offering made in a pan)	mahr- cheh -sheht	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
11) כֻּלְּכֶם	all of you	kool-leh- chem	Level 3: sheva is under a dagesh chazak
12) בְּנֵי	sons of	beh- nay	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
13) וַיִּבְרְאוּ	they bring forth (Gen 9:7)	sheer- tsoo	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
14) מִצְוָה	mitzvah	meets- vah	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
15) מִשְׁפָּטֶי	Your judgments (Ps 19:9)	mish-peh- tay	Level 2: 2 shevas in a row
16) שְׂמָאל	left	seh- mohl (commonly pronounced s' mohl)	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
17) אַבְרָהָם	Avraham	Ahv-rah- hahm	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
18) מְאֹד	very	meh- ohd	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
19) בְּבִקְשָׁה	please (adverb)	beh-vahk-kah- shah	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter

9.07 *Reading exercise: Leviticus 10:10*

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

וְלַהֲבַדִּיל בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין הַחֹל וּבֵין הַטָּמֵא וּבֵין הַטָּהוֹר:

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration
1) וְלַהֲבַדִּיל	and to be divided, separated, make distinction, set apart	oo-lah-hahv- deel
2) בֵּין	between	bayn
3) הַקֹּדֶשׁ	the holy	hahk-ko- dehsh
4) וּבֵין	and between	oo- vayn
5) הַחֹל	the common, unholy, ordinary, profane	hah- chol
6) וּבֵין	and between	oo- vayn
7) הַטָּמֵא	the unclean, defiled	haht-tah- meh (commonly pronounced haht-tah-may)
8) וּבֵין	and between	oo- vayn
9) הַטָּהוֹר	the clean, pure	haht- tah- hor

9.08 *Review short definitions of grammatical terms*

דָּגֵשׁ קָל (dagesh kal) dagesh lene.

- Changes the sound of the consonant.

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

The 3 letters which change sound with the dagesh kal: בּ to ב; כּ to כ; & פּ to פ

דָּגֵשׁ 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: אַתָּה = אַת-הָהָ (aht-tah).

דוֹ-תְנוּעָה (doo-teh-noo-ah) diphthong

נִקְדּוֹת/נְקוּדוֹת (nik-kud/neh-kood-dot) symbols or Hebrew vowels

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

9.09 *Weekly Parasha reading -*

- Go to Calendar on CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org -- click on Calendar. Select current year & scroll to current month.
- OR click here to go directly: <https://www.faithfulstewardship.org/calendar/>
Select current year & scroll to current month.