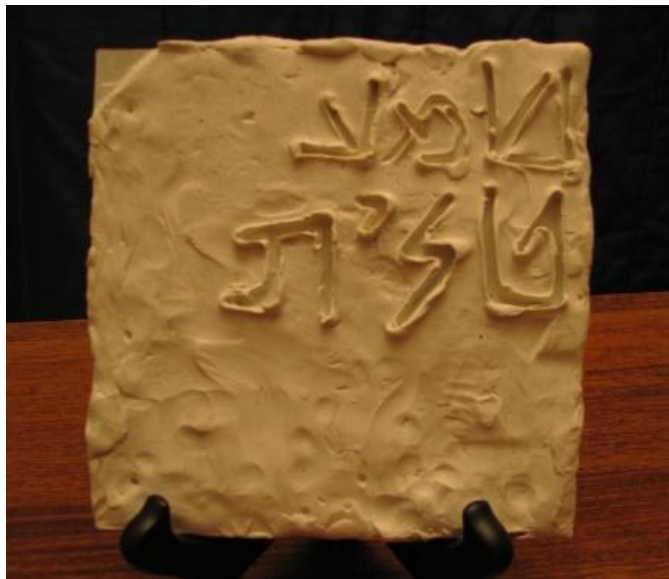


Biblical Hebrew Course 101  
– **Boot Camp** –  
*Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew*  
Lesson 3  
שְׁעוּר ג

**2 more vowels & the next 5 consonants +  
3 sofits**

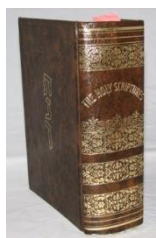


*Shema & Tallit*

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

- 3.01 Introduce the next 2 vowels: segol & tsere
- 3.02 Introduce 5 more consonants (aka letters): 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 Homework & practice identifying letters & vowels in Genesis 1:1

## Introducing the next 5 consonants (aka letters) + 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.
- Introduce the first three sofits (final letters). Sofits occur only as the final letter of a word. While the sound of the sofits is the same as their corresponding letter, their shape is modified.

### 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	Write Each Letter
אֵ	patach: פַּתַּח	“ah” as in spa	אֵ	
אִ	kamats: קָמָץ	“ah” as in spa	אִ	
אֶ	segol: סֶגוֹל	“eh” as in bed	אֶ	
אֹ	tsere: צִירֵי	“eh” as in bed	אֹ	

### 3.02 Now, let's introduce 5 more consonants (aka letters).

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: There are 5 letters 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 of Letter	Block	Write Hebrew Letter & Vowel
כּ	20	kaf	k in keep	כּ	
כַּ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & patach	kah	כַּ	
כֶּ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & segol	keh	כֶּ	
כֹּ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & tsere	keh	כֹּ	
ח	20	chaf (note: <u>no dagesh</u> in a chaf)	ch in bach (both כּ & ח have the same sound*)	ח	
חַ		chaf with kamats	chah	חַ	
חֶ		chaf with segol	ch eh	חֶ	
חֹ		chaf with tsere	ch eh	חֹ	

ך	20	*chaf sofit (a sofit is a final letter of a word)	ch in bach (both כ & ך have the same sound*)	ך	
ךְ		chaf sofit with a kamats	chah (usually ך only appears with a sheva or kamats.)	ךְ	
ךֿ		chaf sofit with a sheva	chah (usually ך only appears with a sheva or kamats.)	ךֿ	
ל	30	lamed	l in let	ל	
לְ		lamed with patach	lah	לְ	
לֶ		lamed with segol	leh	לֶ	
לֶׇ		lamed with tserere	leh	לֶׇ	
מ	40	mem	m in me (both מ & ם have the same sound)	מ	
מְ		mem with kamats	mah	מְ	
מֶ		mem with segol	meh	מֶ	
מֶׇ		mem with tserere	meh	מֶׇ	
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 נ & ן have the same sound)	נ	
נְ		nun with patach	nah	נְ	
נֶ		nun with segol	neh	נֶ	
נֶׇ		nun with tserere	neh	נֶׇ	
ן	50	*nun sofit (a sofit is the final letter of a word)	n in nice (both נ & ן have the same sound)	ן	
ס	60	samech	s in set	ס	
סְ		samech with kamats	sah	סְ	
סֶ		samech with segol	seh	סֶ	
סֶׇ		samech with tserere	seh	סֶׇ	

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

- chaf sofit (ךֿ) – pronounced the same as “כֿ” (“ch” as in Bach)
- mem sofit (םֿ) – pronounced the same as “מֿ” (“m” as in Tom)
- nun sofit (ןֿ) – pronounced the same as “נֿ” (“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 אֶה (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-hahv).



**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 Hebrew Word Below
1) יָלַד	he gave birth, fathered or begat (as in a genealogy)	yah- <b>lahd</b>	
2) יָלֵד	boy	<b>yeh</b> -lehd (*note: when a 3 or 4- letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent)	
3) אֵל	God	ehl	
4) מָה	What? (interrogative)	mah	
5) כֵּכָה	so, like this, thus	<b>cah</b> -chah	
6) לֶחֶם	bread	<b>leh</b> -chehm (*note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent)	
7) אֶבֶן	stone	<b>eh</b> -vehn*	
8) סֵלָה	Selah (pause, consider, as in Ps 3:2)	<b>seh</b> -lah	
9) לֵב	heart	lehv	
10) אָמֵן	Amen (truly, truth, 'let it be')	ah- <b>mehn</b>	

### 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".

Don't forget to bring your completed homework to class 😊

### 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 word before looking at transliteration)	Practice Writing Each Hebrew Word Below
1) אֶחָד	one	eh- <b>chahd</b>	
2) זֶה	this	zeh	
3) גֶּן	garden	gahn	
4) לָבָן	Laban (also means <i>white</i> )	lah- <b>vahn</b>	
5) כֵּן	yes, so, thus	cehn	
6) מָה	what	mah	

### 3.07 Homework & practice identifying letters & vowels in Genesis 1:1

1. On Extra Practice above, say the letter or word in Hebrew, then write it 5 times. The objective is to commit to memory these letters & vowels.
2. 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.)

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

↓ mem sofit

↑ tsere

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

We encourage you to do your homework – we don’t want to lose what we’ve learned 😊