Biblical Hebrew Course 101
– Boot Camp –
Lesson 6
שִׁעוּר ו

Developing our understanding of the Hebrew Aleph Bet:
Look-a-Likes, BeGeD KeFeT, & Dagesh Kal

Fellowshipping!

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"
Psalm 133:1 ESV

6.01 *Let's compare the consonants that are look-a-likes*

Letter	Pronounce The Name of Each Letter. Note Their Differences	Print
Notice the differences between each of these look-a-like consonants:		
בּ	Vet (note: the flat bottom horizontal bar)	
כ	Chaf: (note: this letter is rounded; similar to a backward "C")	
גּ	Gimmel (note: foot or heel on the lower left)	
נ	Nun (note: top & bottom horizontal bars are both short)	
דּ	Dalet (note: top bar is straight & side bar extends a bit to the right)	
ר	Resh (resh is similar to ד; however, top bar doesn't extend to the right)	
ך	Chaf sofit (similar to ר, only tail hangs below the line; this letter only appears as the last letter of a word.)	
ו	Vav (note: similar to ר; only top horizontal bar is short)	
ן	Nun sofit (note: similar to ו, only tail hangs below the line; this letter only appears as the last letter of a word.)	
ז	Zayin (note: similar to ו, only top bar is slanted)	
ה	Hey (opening on the upper left… an opening for the hay to go through)	
ח	Chet (there is no opening on the top left)	
ת	Tav (looks like ח, but has foot (or a toe) on the bottom left)	
ע	Ayin (this letter is rounded on the bottom)	
צ	Tsade (this letter has a straight bottom & the cross line is also straight)	
ס	Samech (how this letter is rounded; similar to a "O")	
ם	Mem sofit (this letter has a flat bottom & a flat right side; it only appears as the last letter of a word.)	

6.02 *The "o" & "oo" vowels*

The "o" & "oo" vowels are placed next to the consonant, unlike other vowels which are below the consonant.

1. There are three different ways to write the "o" type.

    a. The 1st is the cholam vav; it is written with a dot on top of the vav: וֹ It is important to note that the vav is no longer a consonant; it is now a part of the cholam vav vowel. This vav is silent. The sound of the cholam vav has is "o" as in "row." For example: טוֹב (tov, meaning "good")

    b. The 2nd type of "o" vowel is called a cholam. It is like the cholam vav. This vowel is only the cholam (the dot) & doesn't have the vav. Both the cholam and the cholam vav sound the same: "o" as in "row." (For example: בֹּקֶר (bo-kehr, meaning "morning") Note: the cholam (dot) is slightly to the left side of the "bet."

    c. The 3rd type of "o" sound is not as common as the first two. It is called a chatef kamats; it is written with a sheva & a kamats. This vowel is generally under a guttural consonant & has a long "o" sound as in "row". For example: עֳנִי (oh-nee, meaning "poor").

2. There are two different ways to write the "oo" type of vowel.

    a. The first is called a shurek. It is written with a vav and a dot in the middle of the vav, וּ. As with the cholam vav, this vav is silent; again this vav is no longer a consonant, but part of the vowel. The sound of the shurek is "oo" as in "pool." For example: שָׁבוּעַ (shah-**voo**-ah, meaning "week").

    b. And the other type of "oo" is called a kibbuts; it is 3 slanted dots that may appear under any consonant. אֻ. For example: הָעֵדֻת (hah-eh-**doot**, meaning "the testimony")

6.03 *Fun way to remember the cholam vav (וֹ) and the shurek (וּ)*

- What if I tapped you on top of your head, you'd say "Oh!"; the sound of the cholam vav (וֹ) & cholam (◌ֹ)
- What if I tapped you in the tummy, you'd say "oo" (as in p**oo**l); the sound of the shurek (וּ) & kibbuts (◌ֻ).

Summary of "o" & "oo" vowels				
Book Print	**Name Of Vowel**	**Sound Of Vowel**	**Block**	**Write Each Letter**
o-type vowels				
וֹ	Note: this vowel is always written with the vav & is called <u>cholam vav</u> חוֹלָם וָו	**o** as in r**o**w	וֹ	
אֹ	Note: the cholam can be written with most consonants. It is called <u>cholam</u> חוֹלָם	**o** as in r**o**w	אֹ	
אֳ	The vowel is called a <u>chatef kamats</u> חֲטָף קָמָץ. <u>It can be under any consonant.</u>	**o** as in r**o**w	אֳ	
oo-type vowels				
וּ	Note: this vowel is always written with a vav & is called shurek שׁוּרֵק	**oo** as in p**oo**l	וּ	
אֻ	Note: this vowel is called a kibbutz. <u>It can be written with most consonants.</u> קָבוּץ	**oo** as in p**oo**l	אֻ	

6.04 *Practice reading words with "o" & "oo" vowels*

	Read common Hebrew words & phrases below *(note: accented syllables are in bold & highlighted)*		
Hebrew	**Translation**	**Transliteration**	**Print Words**
1) נָכוֹן	right or correct	nah-**chon** (long "O")	
2) כָּבוֹד	glory, honor, or splendor	kah-**vod** (long "O")	
3) כֹּל הַכָּבוֹד	All the honor; congratulations.	kol hahk-kah-**vod**	
4) אֲרוֹן הַקֹּדֶשׁ	Holy Ark (storage cabinet for the Sefer Torah, Torah Scroll; 2Chron 35:3.)	ah-**ron** hahk-ko-**dehsh**	
5) לֵאמֹר	to say	leh-**mor** (long "O")	
6) סוֹף	end or close (the word for a final letter סוֹפִת, comes from סוֹף)	sof (long "O")	
7) סוֹפִת	suffix or ending, as in 'mem sofit' ם (this word comes from סוֹף)	so-**feet**	
8) הָעֵדֻת	the testimony	hah-eh-**doot**	
9) * עַד־עוֹלָם	forever (2Sam 7:16; literally until forever)	ahd-o-**lahm**	
10) * לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד	forever and ever (PS 145:21)	leh-o-**lahm** vah-**ehd**	
11) שַׁבָּת שָׁלוֹם	Have a good Shabbat!	shahb-**baht** shah-**lom**	
12) טוֹב	Good	tov	
13) בֹּקֶר טוֹב	Good morning!	**bo**-kehr tov	
14) עֶרֶב טוֹב	Good evening!	**eh**-rehv tov (Tip: when 2 segols appear in a 3 or 4-letter word, the 1st gets the accent)	
15) שָׁבוּעַ טוֹב	Have a good week	shah-**voo**-ah tov	
16) תּוֹדָה רַבָּה	Thanks a lot! Thank you very much!	to-**dah** rahb-**bah**	
17) עוֹד פַּעַם	one more time; again	od **pah**-ahm	

6.05 *BeGeD KeFeT letters:* ב ג ד כ פ ת *& Dagesh Kal* **

When the bet (בּ); gimmel (גּ); dalet (דּ); kaf (כּ); pay (פּ); & tav (תּ) start a word, a dot is added to that letter. An easy way to remember these 6 letters is by the acronym BeGeD KeFeT.

Whenever one of the six BeGeD KeFeT letters begins a word, a dot is added to that letter. (This dot is called a dagesh kal**.)

----

 * Refer to Lesson 5.07 for Brief Information on accent marks

** In Lessons 7- 9, we will discuss the dageshes in more detail. The dagesh that is used in conjunction with BeGeD KeFeT letters is a Dagesh Kal.

When a dagesh kal appears in any of these three פ, כ, ב, there is a change in pronunciation.

The ב (vet) becomes a בּ (bet); the כ (chaf) becomes a כּ (kaf); and the פ (fay) becomes a פּ (pay). (Note: the dagesh kal does not make any change in pronunciation in the remaining three letters: ת, ג, ד.)

Why learn BeGeD KeFeT and dagesh kal? So that we can understand how to pronounce words.

6.06 *CHART of BeGeD KeFeT & Dagesh Kal*

The chart shows how a dagesh kal impacts the BeGeD KeFeT letters. The letters whose sound changes with the dagesh kal are the lines highlighted in grey.				
BeGeD KeFeT	**Name of letter**	**Sound**	**Example**	**Explanation**
בּ	with dagesh kal: bet	as in **b**all	בָּרוּךְ (**bah**-rooch)	NOTE: the bet and vet are pronounced differently
ב	without dagesh kal: vet	as in **v**ice	שֶׁבֶת (**sheh**-veht)	
גּ	with dagesh kal: gimmel	as in **g**et	גַּם (gahm)	Note: the gimmel is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ג	without dagesh kal: gimmel	as in **g**et	חַג (chahg)	
דּ	with dagesh kal: dalet	as in **d**og	דָּג (dahg)	Note: the dalet is pronounced the same with or without the dagesh kal
ד	without dagesh kal: dalet	as in **d**og	עוֹד (od)	
כּ	with dagesh kal: kaf	as in **k**eep	כֵּן (kehn)	NOTE: the kaf and chaf are pronounced differently
כ	without dagesh kal: chaf	as in Ba**ch**	נָכוֹן (nah-**chon**)	
פּ	with dagesh kal: pay	as in **p**et	פַּעַם (**pah**-ahm)	NOTE: the pay and fay are pronounced differently
פ	without dagesh kal: fay	as in **f**ar	סוֹפֵת (so-**feet**)	
תּ	with dagesh kal: tav	as in **t**ell	תּוֹדָה (to-**dah**)	Note: the tav is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ת	without dagesh kal: tav	as in **t**ell	שַׁבָּת (shahb-**baht**)	

6.07 *Words with BeGeD KeFeT letters & Dagesh Kal*

When a word begins with one of the BeGeD KeFeT letters, a dagesh kal is added.		
Hebrew	**Translation**	**Transliteration**
1) בָּרוּךְ	blessed or praise	bah-**rooch**
2) דָּג	fish	dahg
3) כִּי	When, because, or like (Ex 1:2)	kee
4) גַּם	also or moreover	gahm
5) פַּרְעֹה	Pharaoh (Gen 47:10)	pahr-**oh**
6) תּוֹרָה	Torah (Ex 12:49)	To-**rah**

6.08 *Let's read Psalm 133:1 … in Hebrew!*

(We encourage you to <u>read</u> this verse – not to <u>sing</u> it … remember we are developing our reading skills.)

Vocabulary for Psalm 133:1 (note: accented syllables are in bold & highlighted)		
Hebrew	**Translation**	**Transliteration**
1) הִנֵּה *	behold	heen-**neh**
2) מַה	what or how	mah
3) טוֹב	good	tov (long "O")
4) וּמַה	and what or how	oo-**mah**
5) נָּעִים	pleasant, nice, or delightful	nah-**eem**
6) וּמַה־נָּעִים **	and how pleasant, nice, or delightful (the dash or maqqef (מַקֵּף) functions similarly to a dash or hyphen in English. Note: with a maqqef, the accent shifts from the 1st word to the 2nd.)	oo-**mah** nah-**eem**
7) שֶׁבֶת	sit, dwell, or remain, or abide (Tip: when 2 segols appear in a 3 or 4-letter word, the 1st gets the accent)	**sheh**-veht
8) אַחִים	brothers	ah-**cheem**
9) גַּם	also or moreover	gahm
10) יָחַד	one, as in together or in unity	**yah**-chad
11) גַּם־יָחַד	also or moreover, as one	gahm **yah**-chad

הִנֵּה מַה־טוֹב וּמַה־נָּעִים שֶׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם־יָחַד׃

← Shurek

← Cholam vav

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" Psalm 133:1 ESV

Grammar-Made-Simple – BeGeD KeFeT: & Dagesh Kal (the dot within a BeGeD KeFeT)

1. The BeGeD KeFeT letters are: bet (בּ); gimmel (גּ); dalet (דּ); kaf (כּ); pay (פּ); & tav (תּ).

2. The BeGeD KeFeT letters are written with a dagesh kal (dot within the letter) start a word.

3. A dagesh kal in BeGeD - KeFeT changes the pronunciation in only 3 of the letters (פּ, כ, בּ).

---

* Refer to Lesson 5.07 on Brief Information on accent marks.

** Words that are indented are from the same root as the word above.