

# Biblical Hebrew Course 101

## – Boot Camp –

### Lesson 6

### שְׁעוּר 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

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

Notice the differences between each of these look-a-like consonants:		
Letter	Pronounce The Name of Each Letter. Note Their Differences	Print
ב	Vet (note: the flat bottom horizontal bar)	
כ	Chaf: (note: this letter is rounded; similar to a backward “C”)	
ג	Gimmel (note: foot or heel on the lower left)	
נ	Nun (note: top & bottom horizontal bars are both short)	
ד	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 ד; 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 Did you know in English there are words that are written the same but pronounced differently?

1. bass (as in a “bass fish”) & bass (as in a ‘bass guitar,’ this bass is pronounced as though it was spelled base).
2. read (as in “read a book”) & read (as in “Yesterday, I read a book.”)

### 6.03 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 1<sup>st</sup> is the cholam vav; it is written with a dot on top of the vav: ם. 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: טוב (tov, meaning “good”)
  - b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: בקר (bo-kehr, meaning “morning”) Note: the cholam (dot) is slightly to the left side of the “bet.”)
  - c. The 3<sup>rd</sup> type of “o” sound is not as common as the first two. It is called a chatef kamats; it is written with a sh’va & a kamats. This vowel is generally under a guttural consonant & has a long “o” sound as in “row”. For example: עני (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, ם. 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: שבוע (shah-voo-ah, meaning “week”).
  - b. And the other type of “oo” is called a kibbutz; it is 3 slanted dots that may appear under any consonant. ם. For example: העדה (hah-eh-doot, meaning “the testimony”)

### 6.04 Fun way to remember the cholam vav (ם) and the shurek (ם)

- What if I tapped you on top of your head, you’d say “Oh!”; the sound of the cholam vav (ם) & cholam (ם)
- What if I tapped you in the tummy, you’d say “oo” (as in pool); the sound of the shurek (ם) & kibbutz (ם).

Summary of “o” & “oo” vowels				
Book Print	Name Of Vowel	Sound Of Vowel	Block	Write Each Letter
o-type vowels				
ם	Note: this vowel is always written with the vav & is called <u>cholam vav</u> חולם ם	o as in row	ם	
ם	Note: the cholam can be written with most consonants. It is called <u>cholam</u> חולם	o as in row	ם	
ם	The vowel is called a <u>chatef kamats</u> חטף קמץ. It can be under any consonant.	o as in row	ם	
oo-type vowels				
ם	Note: this vowel is always written with a vav & is called <u>shurek</u> שורק	oo as in pool	ם	
ם	Note: this vowel is called a kibbutz. It can be written with most consonants. קבוצ	oo as in pool	ם	

## 6.05 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- <b>chon</b> (long “O”)	
2) כְּבוֹד	glory, honor, or splendor	kah- <b>vod</b> (long “O”)	
3) כָּל הַכְּבוֹד	All the honor; congratulations.	kol hahk-kah- <b>vod</b>	
4) אֲרוֹן הַקֹּדֶשׁ	Holy Ark (storage cabinet for the Sefer Torah, Torah Scroll; 2Chron 35:3.)	ah- <b>ron</b> hahk-ko- <b>dehsh</b>	
5) לֵאמֹר	to say	leh- <b>mor</b> (long “O”)	
6) סוֹף	end or close (the word for a final letter סוף, comes from סוּף)	sof (long “O”)	
7) סוּפֹת	suffix or ending (as in ‘mem sofit’ מ (this word comes from סוּף)	so- <b>feet</b>	
8) הַעֲדוּת	the testimony	hah-eh- <b>doot</b>	
9) עַד-עוֹלָם *	forever (2Sam 7:16; literally until forever)	ahd-o- <b>lahm</b>	
10) לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד *	forever and ever (PS 145:21)	leh-o- <b>lahm</b> vah- <b>ehd</b>	
11) שָׁבַת שְׁלוֹם	Have a good Shabbat!	shahb- <b>baht</b> shah- <b>lom</b>	
12) טוֹב	Good	tohv	
13) בֹּקֶר טוֹב	Good morning!	<b>bo</b> -kehr tohv	
14) עָרֵב טוֹב	Good evening!	<b>eh</b> -rehv tohv (Tip: when 2 segols appear in a 3 or 4-letter word, the 1st gets the accent)	
15) שְׁבוּעַ טוֹב	Have a good week	shah- <b>voo</b> -ah tohv	
16) תּוֹדָה רַבָּה	Thanks a lot! Thank you very much!	to- <b>dah</b> rahb- <b>bah</b>	
17) עוֹד פַּעַם	one more time; again	od <b>pah</b> -ahm	

## 6.06 BeGeD KeFeT letters: ב ג ד כ פ ת & Dagesh Kal \*\*

When the bet (ב); gimmel (ג); dalet (ד); kaf (כ); pay (פ); & tav (ת) start a word, a dot is added to that letter. (This dot is called a dagesh kal \*\*.\*) If the dot (dagesh kal) appears in any of these three ב, כ, פ, there is a change in pronunciation. The ב (vet) becomes a ב (bet); the כ (chaf) becomes a כ (kaf); and the פ (fay) becomes a פ (pay). However, if the dagesh kal is in the remaining three letters: ד, ג, ת, there is no change in the pronunciation. An easy way to remember these 6 letters is by the acronym BeGeD KeFeT.

\* 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.

It is important to learn the BeGeD KeFeT and dagesh kal, so we can pronounce words correctly.

## 6.07 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
ב	with dagesh kal: bet	as in <b>b</b> all	בָּרוּךְ (bah-rooch)	NOTE: the <b>bet</b> and <b>vet</b> are pronounced differently
ב	without dagesh kal: vet	as in <b>v</b> ice	שֶׁבַת (sheh-veht)	
ג	with dagesh kal: gimmel	as in <b>g</b> et	גַּם (gahm)	Note: the <b>gimmel</b> is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ג	without dagesh kal: gimmel	as in <b>g</b> et	חָג (chahg)	
ד	with dagesh kal: dalet	as in <b>d</b> og	דָּג (dahg)	Note: the <b>dalet</b> is pronounced the same with or without the dagesh kal
ד	without dagesh kal: dalet	as in <b>d</b> og	עוֹד (od)	
כ	with dagesh kal: kaf	as in <b>k</b> ee <b>p</b>	כֶּן (kehn)	NOTE: the <b>kaf</b> and <b>chaf</b> are pronounced differently
כ	without dagesh kal: chaf	as in <b>Ba</b> ch	נָכוֹן (nah-chon)	
פ	with dagesh kal: pay	as in <b>p</b> et	פַּעַם (pah-ahm)	NOTE: the <b>pay</b> and <b>fay</b> are pronounced differently
פ	without dagesh kal: fay	as in <b>f</b> ar	סוּפָּה (so-feet)	
ת	with dagesh kal: tav	as in <b>t</b> ell	תּוֹדָה (to-dah)	Note: the <b>tav</b> is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ת	without dagesh kal: tav	as in <b>t</b> ell	שֶׁבַת (shahb-baht)	

## 6.08 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

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

- The BeGeD KeFeT letters are: **bet** (בּ); **gimmel** (גַּ); **dalet** (דָּ); **kaf** (כּ); **pay** (פַּ); & **tav** (תּ).
- The BeGeD KeFeT letters are written with a dagesh kal (dot within the letter) start a word.
- A dagesh kal in BeGeD - KeFeT changes the pronunciation in only 3 of the letters (בּ, כּ, פּ).

## 6.09 Let's read Psalm 133:1 ... in Hebrew!

(We encourage you to read this verse – not to sing 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- <b>neh</b>
2) מַה	what or how	mah
3) טוֹב	good	toṽ (long “O”)
4) וּמַה	and what or how	oo- <b>mah</b>
5) נָעִים	pleasant, nice, or delightful	nah- <b>eem</b>
6) וּמַה-נָּעִים **	and how pleasant, nice, or delightful (the dash or maqqef (מקף) functions similarly to a dash or hyphen in English. Note: with a maqqef, the accent shifts from the 1 <sup>st</sup> word to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> .)	oo- <b>mah</b> nah- <b>eem</b>
7) שָׁבֵת	sit, dwell, or remain, or abide (Tip: when 2 segols appear in a 3 or 4-letter word, the 1 <sup>st</sup> gets the accent)	<b>sheh</b> -veht
8) אֶחָיִם	brothers	ah- <b>cheem</b>
9) גַּם	also or moreover	gahm
10) יַחַד	one, as in together or in unity	<b>yah</b> -chad
11) גַּם-יַחַד	also or moreover, as one	gahm <b>yah</b> -chad

הִנֵּה מַה-טוֹב וּמַה-נָּעִים שָׁבֵת אֶחָיִם גַּם-יַחַד:

↑  
Shurek

↑  
Cholam vav

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

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

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