

Biblical Hebrew Course 101
– Boot Camp –
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew
Lesson 9 -- supplement
לְשׁוֹן ט
Review the dageshes & sh'vas



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

Review the dageshes & sh'vas

- 9.01 supplement Review dagesh kal & dagesh chazak
- 9.02 supplement Review sh'va level 1 & level 2
- 9.03 supplement Review sh'va level 3 & level 4
- 9.04 supplement Practice identifying the different levels of sh'va
- 9.05 supplement Answers to 9.04

9.01 supplement *Review dagesh kal & dagesh chazak (review Lesson 9)*

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

1. The dagesh kal is found only in the 6 BeGeD KeFeT letters (בֶּגְד־כֶּפֶת)
2. Remember the dagesh kal does not follow a vowel. (However, it can follow a sh'va.)

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

1. The dagesh chazak always follows a vowel.
2. A dagesh chazak doubles the consonant.
3. A dagesh chazak may appear in any consonant except the 5 gutturals (aleph: א, hey: ה, chet: ח, ayin: ע, & sometimes resh: ר).

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 בֶּגְד־כֶּפֶת & does not follow a full vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (bet is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.)
2) בַּמִּדְבָּר	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed- bahr * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בֶּגְד־כֶּפֶת & does not follow a full vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because the dagesh follows a full vowel.) * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בֶּגְד־כֶּפֶת & does not follow a full vowel)
3) הַמַּיִם	the water (Gen 1:2)	hahm- mi -yeem * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.)
4) לְמַטֵּה	of every tribe (Num 13:2)	leh-maht- teh * Dagesh Chazak (tet is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.)

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

1. Dagesh kal: When a BeGeD KeFeT letter begins a word or opens a syllable, it has a dagesh kal. This dagesh changes sound only with בּ to ב; from כּ to כ; & from פּ to פ.
A dagesh kal does not follow a vowel. (It can follow a sh'va.)
2. Dagesh chazak: May appear in any consonant except the 5 gutturals (aleph: א, hey: ה, chet: ח, ayin: ע, & sometimes resh: ר).

9.02 supplement *Review Sh'va Level 1 & Level 2 (review Lessons 8 & 9)*

Level 1: when a sh'va is at the beginning of a word, it is vocal

Word	Meaning	Transliteration The small "eh" signifies the quick & almost indistinguishable "eh" sound.
1) לְךָ	for yourself (Gen 6:14)	leh- chah
2) בַּיּוֹם	in the day (Lev 19:6)	beh- yom
3) בְּרֵאשִׁית	Genesis (In the beginning; Gen 1:1)	beh-reh- sheet (commonly pronounced b'resheet)

Level 2: when 2 sh'vas are consecutive (in other words, are in a row)

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

Grammar-made-simple: Levels 1 & 2 of the vocal sh'va:

1. Level 1: If the sh'va is under the 1st consonant of the word, it is vocal.
2. Level 2: If there are 2 sh'vas in a row (consecutive), the 1st is silent (it closes the syllable) & the 2nd is vocal (& it opens the syllable).

9.03 supplement **Review Sh'va Levels 3 & 4**

Level 3: when a sh'va is under a dagesh chazak (דָּגֶשׁ חֲזָק), it is vocal. (Review Lesson 9.01)

Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) כָּלְכֶם	all of you (2 nd person: you: masculine, plural) Eg: כָּל + לְ + כֶם = כָּלְכֶם	cool-leh- chehm
2) עַמְּךָ	your (2 nd person: you: masculine, singular) people (2Sam 7:24)	ahm-meh- chah
3) הַשְּׁבִיעִי	the seventh	hahsh-sheh-vee- ee (commonly pronounced hahsh-shvee- ee)
4) הַדְּבָרִים	the words or things	hahd-deh-vah- reem (commonly pronounced hahd-d'vah- reem)
5) דְּבָרִים	literally “words” (or “things”) Also, it is the Hebrew name for the book of Deuteronomy	deh-vah- reem (commonly pronounced d'vah- reem)
6) טַפְּכֶם	your (2 nd person: you: masculine, plural) children (Dt 29:11)	tahp-peh- chehm
7) קִדְּשָׁנוּ	sanctifies us (from traditional Festival Candle Blessing)	keed-deh- shah -noo

Grammar-made-simple: Level 3 & dagesh chazak:

1. Sh'va under dagesh chazak is vocal.
2. A dagesh chazak follows a vowel – any full vowel. (Sh'vas, chatafs, & diphthongs are not full vowels.)

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

When a sh'va follows a long vowel*, it is vocal.

***Long vowels:**

kamats קָמֶץ (◌ֿ) // *tsere* צִירֵי (◌ִ) // *cholam* חוֹלָם (◌ֹ) // *cholam vav* חוֹלָם וּ // *shurek* שׁוּרֶק (◌ֻ)

For example: הִיְתָה (In this word: the sh'va immediately follows the kamats, which is a long vowel; therefore, the sh'va is vocal. הִיְתָה is pronounced: hi-yeh-**tah**)

Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) לִבְּךָ	your heart (from the V'ahavta from the Shema, Dt 6:5)	leh-vah- veh -chah (commonly pronounced leh- vahv -chah)
2) כְּתִבִּים	write (masculine, plural)	koh-teh- veem (commonly pronounced koht- veem)
3) וּבְאִלָּתוֹ	and his oath	oo-veh-ah-lah- toh

Grammar-made-simple: Level 4 of the vocal sh'va following a long vowel:

1. Level 4: If the sh'va follows a long vowel, it is vocal.

a. *kamats* קָמֶץ (◌ֿ) // *tsere* צִירֵי (◌ִ) // *cholam* חוֹלָם (◌ֹ) // *cholam vav* חוֹלָם וּ // *shurek* שׁוּרֶק (◌ֻ)

9.04 supplement *Practice identifying the different levels of sh'vas*

Word	Meaning	Transliteration	Type of sh'va & why (Answers are on 9.08)
1) בְּיָד	by hand of (by the hand of Moses, Dt 4:44; Num 9:23)	beh- yahd	Level 1: sh'va 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 sh'va, because sh'va follows a short vowel.
3) לִדְבֹר	to speak	leh-dahb- behr	
4) תִּשְׁמָעוּ	you do/will listen (Deut 11:27)	tish-meh- ooh	
5) כְּתִבִּים	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) וַנִּשָּׂאוּ	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) שְׂמָאל	left	seh- mohl (commonly pronounced s' mohl)	
16) עַמְּךָ	your people	ahm-meh- chah	

9.05 supplement **ANSWERS to 9.04 - supplement**

Word	Meaning	Transliteration	Type of sh'va & why (Questions are on 9.04)
1) בְּיָד	by hand of (by the hand of Moses, Dt 4:44; Num 9:23)	beh- yahd	Level 1: sh'va 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 sh'va, because sh'va follows a short vowel.
3) לְדַבֵּר	to speak	leh-dahb- behr	Level 1: sh'va is under 1st letter
4) תִּשְׁמָעוּ	you do/will listen (Deut 11:27)	tish-meh- ooh	Level 2: 2 sh'vas in a row
5) כְּתָבִים	write (masculine plural)	koh- teh -veem (commonly pronounced kot' veem)	Level 3: sh'va follows a long vowel
6) בְּהָר	in or on mount or mountain	beh- hahr	Level 1: sh'va is under 1st letter
7) בְּמִדְבָּר	in desert	beh-meed- bahr	Level 1: sh'va is under 1st letter 2nd sh'va is non-vocal, silent sh'va; it follows a short vowel
8) וַנִּשְׂאוּ	and they carried, they lifted, to marry (3cp)	veh-nah-seh- oo	Level 1: sh'va is under 1st letter Level 4: 2nd sh'va follows a long vowel
9) לְחוֹל	to be common (Lev 10:10 also in the Havdalah)	leh- chohl	Level 1: sh'va is under 1st letter
10) מִרְחֶשֶׁת	saucepan (Lev 2:7: grain offering made in a pan)	mahr- cheh -sheht	Non-vocal, silent sh'va, because sh'va follows a short vowel.
11) כֻּלְּכֶם	all of you	kool-leh- chem	Level 3: sh'va is under a dagesh chazak
12) בְּנֵי	sons of	beh- nay	Level 1: sh'va is under 1st letter
13) שִׁרְצוּ	they bring forth (Gen 9:7)	sheer- tsoo	Non-vocal, silent sh'va, because sh'va follows a short vowel.
14) מִצְוָה	mitzvah	meets- vah	Non-vocal, silent sh'va, because sh'va follows a short vowel.
15) שְׂמָאל	left	seh- mohl (commonly pronounced s' mohl)	Level 1: sh'va is under 1st letter
16) עַמְּךָ	your people	ahm-meh- chah	Level 3: sh'va is under dagesh chazak