

Biblical Hebrew Course 101
– **Boot Camp** –
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew
Lesson 2 -- **supplement**

שְׁעוֹר ב

**Additional practice with the next 5
consonants (aka letters)& syllables**



The father of modern Hebrew: Eliezer Ben Yehuda at his desk in Jerusalem, circa 1912
(en.wikipedia.org). He said: “The Hebrew language will go from the synagogue to the house of study, and from the house of study to the school, and from the school it will come into the home and... become a living language.”

- 2.01 supplement Additional practice with the next 5 consonants & 2 vowels
- 2.02 supplement Practice reading & writing these words
- 2.03 supplement Hebrew syllables
- 2.04 supplement Exercise & answers to identifying syllables

2.01 supplement *Additional practice with the next 5 consonants & 2 vowels*

Next 5 Letters (consonants #6-10) & 2 vowels (nikkudot): patach & kamats					
Book Print	Numeric value	Name of letter	Sound of letter	Block Print (There are slight stylistic variations in the how each person writes a letter)	Write each Hebrew Letter
ו	6	vav		ו	
ז	7	zayin		ז	
ח	8	chet		ח	
ט	9	tet		ט	
י	10	yod (or yud)		י	
Vowels (aka nikkudot)		Name of Vowel	Sound of Vowel	Print	Write
כּ		kamats: קָמֶץ		כּ	
אֶ		patach: פָּתַח		אֶ	

2.02 supplement *Practice reading & writing these words* *Always remember to read: right to left and top to bottom.*

Read & Write words below – note: <u>generally</u> , the last syllable is the accented syllable.		
Hebrew	Translation	Write each word
1) יָד	hand	
2) יָדָה	he threw, he shot	
3) אָח	brother	
4) וָו	vav (6th letter of Hebrew aleph-bet)	
5) גַּג *	roof	
6) דָּג *	fish	

* We shall learn the dagesh (“dots”) in a later lesson.

2.03 supplement *Hebrew syllables*

Guidelines for syllables:

1. Every Hebrew syllable begins with a consonant and is followed by a vowel. (Note: in Hebrew, syllables cannot begin with a vowel/nikkud.)
2. Hebrew has two types of syllables: open and closed.
 - a. Open syllables begin with a consonant and end with a vowel.
 - b. Closed syllables begin and end with a consonant (these 2 consonants are like bookends with the vowel in between).
 - c. Example:
 אָחַב has two syllables.
 The first syllable is אָ. It is open because it ends with the vowel kamats.
 The second syllable is חַב. It is closed because it ends with the consonant vet.
3. How many syllables are in a word? Count the number of vowels.
 - a. The number of vowels in the word equals the number of syllables. (Note: each syllable must begin with a consonant and have a vowel.)
 - b. A simple way to indicate the type of syllables:
 “O” = an open syllable
 “C” = a closed syllable

2.04 supplement *Exercise & answers to identifying syllables*

Exercise: Identify the number & types of syllables (remember Hebrew is read right to left; use the right to left order when notating the syllables below)					
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration <small>Read before looking at transliteration</small>	Number of syllables <small>(hint: count the number of vowels)</small>	Write each word showing syllables	Indicate type of syllables <small>C = closed syllable, ends with a consonant O = open syllable, ends with a vowel</small>
1) יָד	hand	yahd	1	יָד	C (1 syllable; 1 vowel. Syllable ends with a consonant)
2) אָח	brother	ach	1	אָח	C
3) אָהַב	he loved	ah-hahv	2	אָ - הַב	O (1 st syllable on right: “אָ”) C (2 nd syllable: “הַב”)
4) וָו	vav (6th letter of Hebrew Aleph-Bet)	vahv	1		
5) גָּג *	roof *this dot will be taught later	gahg	1		
6) אָב	father	ahv	1		
7) אָבַד	he was lost or perished	ah-vahd	2		
8) גָּד *	Gad (as in the tribe of Gad) *this dot will be taught later	gahd (like “a” in spa)	1		
9) חָגַג	celebrated (verb, as in he made or kept a festival)	chah-gahg	2		
10) דָּג	fish (masculine)	dahg	1		
11) דָּאָג	anxious, fear, concerned	dah-ahg	2		

Answers: to Exercise (Identify number & types of syllables)

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration Read before looking at transliteration	Number of syllables	Write each word with syllables	Indicate type of syllables (remember Hebrew is read right to left; use the right to left order when notating the syllables below) C = closed syllable, ends with a consonant O = open syllable, ends with a vowel
1) יָד	hand	yahd	1	יָד	C (1 syllable; 1 vowel. Syllable ends with a consonant)
2) אָח	brother	ach	1	אָח	C
3) אָהֵב	he loved	ah-hahv	2	אָ - הֵב	O (1 st syllable on right: “אָ”) C (2 nd syllable: “הֵב”)
4) וָו	vav (6th letter of Hebrew Aleph-Bet)	vahv	1	וָו	C
5) גָּג *	roof *to be discussed in a later lesson	gahg	1	גָּג	C
6) אָב	father	ahv	1	אָב	C
7) אָבָד	he was lost or perished	ah-vahd	2	אָ - בָד	O (1 st syllable on right: “אָ”) C (2 nd syllable: “בָד”)
8) גָד	Gad (as in the tribe of Gad)	gahd (like “a” in spa)	1	גָד	C (1 syllable; 1 vowel. Syllable ends with a consonant)
9) חָגַג	celebrated (verb, as in he made or kept a festival)	chah-gahg	2	חָ - גַג	O (1 st syllable on right: “חָ”) C (2 nd syllable: “גַג”)
10) דָג	fish (masculine)	dahg	1	דָג	C
11) דָאָג	anxious, fear, concerned	dah-ahg	2	דָא - ג	O (1 st syllable on right “דָ”) C (2 nd syllable: “אָג”)