

# Biblical Hebrew Course 101

## – Boot Camp –

### *Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew*

### Lesson 2 -- supplement

שְׁעָרָ בָּ

## 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

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
ַ		kamats: זַמַּת		ַ	
ָ		patach: פָּתָח		ָ	

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

## 2.02 supplement Practice reading & writing these words

*Always remember to read: right to left and top to bottom.*

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

**בְּנָא** has two syllables.

The first syllable is **בְ**. It is open because it ends with the vowel kamats.

The second syllable is **נָא**. It is closed because it ends with the consonant vav.

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 Read before looking at transliteration	Number of syllables (hint: count the number of vowels)	Write each word showing syllables	Indicate type of syllables 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) אֶחָד	brother	ach	1	אֶחָד	C
3) אֶלְכָבָד	he loved	ah-hahv	2	אֶלְכָבָד	O (1 <sup>st</sup> syllable on right: “אֶ”) C (2 <sup>nd</sup> syllable: “לְכָבָד”)
4) וָו	vav (6th letter of Hebrew Aleph-Bet)	vahv	1		
5) גָּהָגָה *	roof *this dot will be taught later	gahg	1		
6) אָבָד	father	ahv	1		
7) אָבָדָה	he was lost or perished	ah-vahd	2		
8) גָּדָה *	Gad (as in the tribe of Gad) *this dot will be taught later	gahd (like “a” in spa)	1		
9) חָגָג	celebrated (verb, as in he made or kept a festival)	chah-gahg	2		
10) דָּהָג	fish (masculine)	dahg	1		

11) 	anxious, fear, concerned	dah-ahg	2		
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*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) 	hand	yahd	1		C (1 syllable; 1 vowel. Syllable ends with a consonant)
2) 	brother	ach	1		C
3) 	he loved	ah-hahv	2		O (1 <sup>st</sup> syllable on right: "הָחַ") C (2 <sup>nd</sup> syllable: "הַבָּ")
4) 	vav (6th letter of Hebrew Aleph-Bet)	vahv	1		C
5) 	roof *to be discussed in a later lesson	gahg	1		C
6) 	father	ahv	1		C
7) 	he was lost or perished	ah-vahd	2		O (1 <sup>st</sup> syllable on right: "הָבָדְ") C (2 <sup>nd</sup> syllable: "הַדָּ")
8) 	Gad (as in the tribe of Gad)	gahd (like "a" in spa)	1		C (1 syllable; 1 vowel. Syllable ends with a consonant)
9) 	celebrated (verb, as in he made or kept a festival)	chah-gahg	2		O (1 <sup>st</sup> syllable on right: "חָגָגְ") C (2 <sup>nd</sup> syllable: "חָגָגְ")
10) 	fish (masculine)	dahg	1		C
11) 	anxious, fear, concerned	dah-ahg	2		O (1 <sup>st</sup> syllable on right "הָאַחֲגְ") C (2 <sup>nd</sup> syllable: "הָאַחֲגְ")