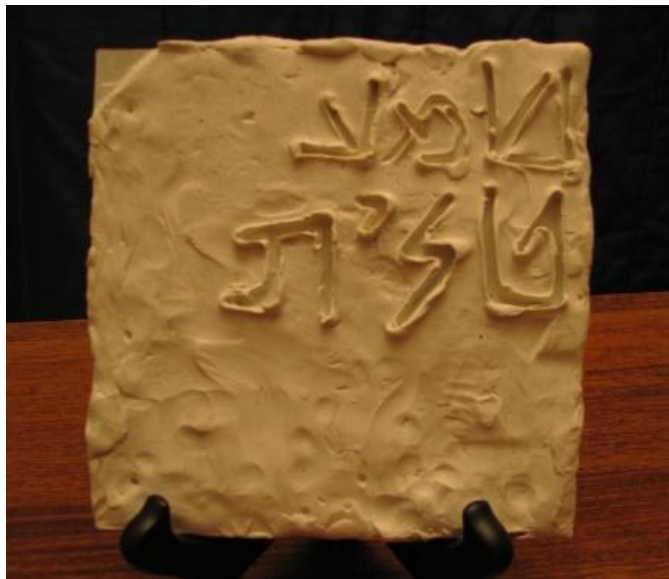


Biblical Hebrew Course 101
– **Boot Camp** –
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew
Lesson 3
שְׁעוּר ג

**2 more vowels & the next 5 consonants +
3 sofits**



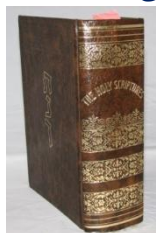
Shema & Tallit

During a 1st Century VBS, Pastor Don taught children the Hebrew Aleph-Bet. (This was written by 8-12 year olds!)

- 3.01 Introduce the next 2 vowels: segol & tsere
- 3.02 Introduce 5 more consonants (aka letters): kaf - samech
- 3.03 The first 3 sofits (or final letters)
- 3.04 Let's read Hebrew
- 3.05 Interesting Fact: Hebrew words in English
- 3.06 How shall I study Hebrew?
- 3.07 Homework & practice identifying letters & vowels in Genesis 1:1

Don't forget to bring your completed homework to class 😊

Introducing the next 5 consonants (aka letters) + 2 more vowels:



- Learn the next two vowels, bringing us up to 4 vowels.
- Learn the next five letters (or consonants), bringing us up to 15 consonants.
- Introduce the first three sofits (final letters). Sofits occur only as the final letter of a word. While the sound of the sofits is the same as their corresponding letter, their shape is modified.

3.01 First, let's introduce the next 2 vowels & review the previous 2 vowels.

| VOWELS | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|-------|-------------------|
| Vowels (aka nikkudot). Note: shown with aleph but can be with any letter | Name of Vowel | Sound of Vowel | Block | Write Each Letter |
| אֶ | patach: פֶּתַח | “ah” as in spa | אֶ | |
| אָ | kamats: קָמָץ | “ah” as in spa | אָ | |
| עֶ | segol: סְגוּל | “eh” as in bed | עֶ | |
| עֵ | tsere: צִירֵי (pronounced tseh-ray) | “eh” as in bed | עֵ | |

3.02 Now, let's introduce 5 more consonants (aka letters).

1. Read the name of each letter below. (For help with Sound of Vowel, refer to Sound of Vowel column, above.)
2. Read & Print each letter below. (Refer to Sound of Letter column for pronunciation)

* **Note: There are 5 letters which look different when they appear as the final letter of the word. For example:**

- kaf (כּ) – pronounced “k” as in keep
- chaf (כַּ) – pronounced as “ch” in Bach
- chaf sofit (כֿ) – both the chaf & the chaf sofit have the same sound, “ch”. The chaf sofit appears only as the final letter of a word.

| Next 5 letters (Consonants #11-15) & 4 vowels | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--|---|-------|-----------------------------|
| Book Letter | Numeric Value | Name | Sound of Letter | Block | Write Hebrew Letter & Vowel |
| כּ | 20 | kaf | k in keep | כּ | |
| כַּ | | kaf with dagesh (dot), & patach | kah | כַּ | |
| כֶּ | | kaf with dagesh (dot), & segol | keh | כֶּ | |
| כֵּ | | kaf with dagesh (dot), & tsere (pronounced tseh-ray) | keh | כֵּ | |
| ח | 20 | chaf (note: <u>no dagesh</u> in a chaf) | ch in bach (both כּ & ח have the same sound*) | ח | |
| חַ | | chaf with kamats | chah | חַ | |
| חֶ | | chaf with segol | ch eh | חֶ | |
| חֵ | | chaf with tsere | ch eh | חֵ | |

○

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|---|---|-----|--|
| ך | 20 | *chaf sofit (a sofit is a final letter of a word) | ch in Bach (both כ & ך have the same sound*) | ך | |
| ךְ | | chaf sofit with a kamats | chah (usually ך only appears with a sh'va or kamats.) | ךְ | |
| ךֿ | | chaf sofit with a sh'va ױ (The sh'va is silent; here is pronounced ch as in Bach) | chah (usually ך only appears with a sh'va or kamats.) | ךֿ | |
| ל | 30 | lamed | l in let | ל | |
| לְ | | lamed with patach | lah | לְ | |
| לֶ | | lamed with segol | leh | לֶ | |
| לֶ׃ | | lamed with tsere | leh | לֶ׃ | |
| מ | 40 | mem | m in me (both מ & ם have the same sound) | מ | |
| מְ | | mem with kamats | mah | מְ | |
| מֶ | | mem with segol | meh | מֶ | |
| מֶ׃ | | mem with tsere | meh | מֶ׃ | |
| ם | 40 | *mem sofit (a sofit is the final letter of a word) | m in me | ם | |
| נ | 50 | nun (noon) | n in nice (both נ & ן have the same sound) | נ | |
| נְ | | nun with patach | nah | נְ | |
| נֶ | | nun with segol | neh | נֶ | |
| נֶ׃ | | nun with tsere | neh | נֶ׃ | |
| ן | 50 | *nun sofit (a sofit is the final letter of a word) | n in nice (both נ & ן have the same sound) | ן | |
| ס | 60 | samech | s in set | ס | |
| סְ | | samech with kamats | sah | סְ | |
| סֶ | | samech with segol | seh | סֶ | |
| סֶ׃ | | samech with tsere | seh | סֶ׃ | |

*** 3.03 The first 3 sofits (or final letters; these have a different shape when they are the last letter of a word):**

- chaf sofit (ךְ) – pronounced the same as “כ” (“ch” as in Bach)
- mem sofit (ם) – pronounced the same as “מ” (“m” as in Tom)
- nun sofit (ן) – pronounced the same as “נ” (“n” as in Ben)

3.04 Let's read Hebrew:

1. **Remember:** Our objective in Hebrew 101 is to become familiar with the letters and their sounds *not* to memorize words.
2. Hebrew is read right to left and top to bottom. Begin by reading the right-most letter. Then add the vowel that is written below it.
3. For example: with the word אֶהָב. Begin by reading the א; then add the ה. We now have אֶהָ (ah-ha). Finally, add the ב. Since there is no vowel below this letter, it only has the sound of the consonant. When we put the word altogether, we have: אֶהָב (ah-hahv).



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

| Read & Write words below: notice as a general rule, the final syllable is accented. Accented syllables are highlighted in yellow and bolded. | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Hebrew | Translation | Transliteration (please, try to read word before looking at transliteration) | Practice Writing Each Hebrew Word Below |
| 1) יָלַד | he gave birth, fathered or begat (as in a genealogy) | yah- lahd | |
| 2) יָלֵד | boy | yeh -lehd (*note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent) | |
| 3) אֵל | God | ehl | |
| 4) מָה | What? (Note: in Biblical Hebrew, there are no punctuation marks. Instead, Biblical Hebrew uses certain words to reflect what punctuation marks do in English. For example, <u>what</u> (מָה) is one of those words that Hebrew uses. The word מָה is a 'question word,' or an 'interrogative.') | mah | |
| 5) כֹּכֵה | so, like this, thus | cah -chah | |
| 6) לֶחֶם | bread | leh -chehm (*note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent) | |
| 7) אֶבֶן | stone | eh -vehn* | |
| 8) סֵלָה | Selah (pause, consider, as in Ps 3:2) | seh -lah | |
| 9) לֵב | heart | lehv | |
| 10) אָמֵן | Amen (truly, truth, 'let it be') | ah- mehn | |

3.05 Interesting fact: An example of a Hebrew word's being incorporated into English is 'amen'

The word "amen" is used in virtually every language. In Hebrew, it means: "confirm" or "support". In English, the meaning is similar, it is: "so be it" or "truly".

3.06 How Shall I Study Hebrew?



Consider taking your lesson with you to work & review during lunch.

1. Practice saying the first 15 letters of the aleph-bet using the hand.
2. **Read** the Hebrew words in this lesson.
3. **Print** the words. Again, **read** words.



| Extra Practice | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Hebrew | Translation | Transliteration (please, try to read word before looking at transliteration) | Practice Writing Each Hebrew Word Below |
| 1) אֶחָד | one | eh- chahd | |
| 2) זֶה | this | zeh | |
| 3) גֶּן | garden | gahn | |
| 4) לָבָן | Laban (also means <i>white</i>) | lah- vahn | |
| 5) כֵּן | yes, so, thus | cehn | |
| 6) מָה | what | mah | |

3.07 Homework & practice identifying letters & vowels in Genesis 1:1

1. On Extra Practice above, say the letter or word in Hebrew, then write it 5 times. The objective is to commit to memory these letters & vowels.
2. On the Scripture below, please **write the name of the letter above that particular letter & the name of the vowel below the letter**. Do the same for each letter. (Identify *only* the letters & vowels which we have introduced thus far.)

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

↓ mem sofit

↑ tsere

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” Gen 1:1.

We encourage you to do your homework – we don’t want to lose what we’ve learned 😊