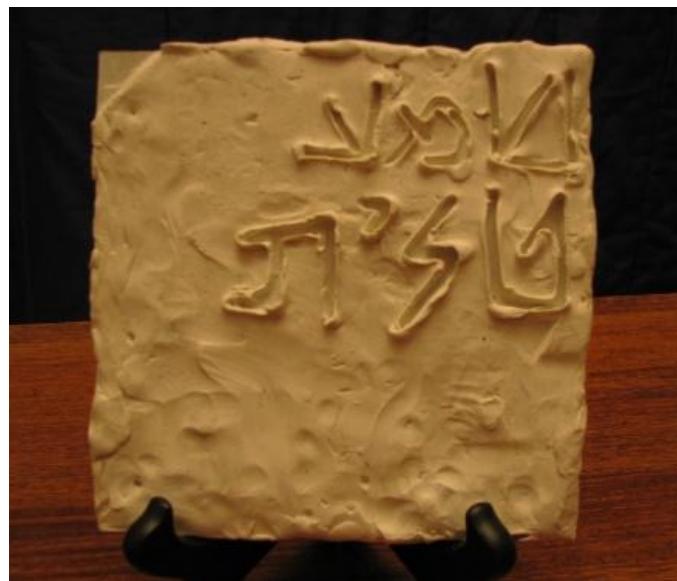


Biblical Hebrew Course 101
– Boot Camp –
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew
Lesson 3
שְׁעָוָר ג

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



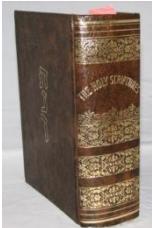
Shema & Tallit

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
א	patach: פָתָח	“ah” as in spa	א	
א	kamats: קָמָט	“ah” as in spa	א	
א	segol: סֶגֹול	“eh” as in bed	א	
א	tsere: צִיר (pronounced tseh-ray)	“eh” as in bed	א	

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:

- o kaf (כ) – pronounced “k” as in keep
- o chaf (ח) – pronounced as “ch” in Bach
- o chaf sofit (ׁח) – 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
כ	20	kaf	k in keep	כ	
כ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & patach	kah	כ	
כ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & segol	keh	כּ	
כ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & tsere (pronounced tseh-ray)	keh	כּ	
ח	20	chaf (note: <u>no dagesh</u> in a chaf)	ch in bach (both כ &ׁח have the same sound*)	כ	
ח		chaf with kamats	chah	כּ	
ח		chaf with segol	cheh	כּ	
ח		chaf with tsere	cheh	כּ	

○

ת	20	*chaf sofit (a sofit is a final letter of a word)	ch in Bach (both ת & צ have the same sound*)	ת	
תּ		chaf sofit with a kamats	chah (usually ח only appears with a sh'va or kamats.)	תּ	
תּ		chaf sofit with a sh'va (The sh'va is silent; here is pronounced ch as in Bach)	chah (usually ח only appears with a sh'va or kamats.)	תּ	
ל	30	lamed	l in let	ל	
לּ		lamed with patach	lah	לּ	
לּׁ		lamed with segol	leh	לּׁ	
לּׂ		lamed with tsere	leh	לּׂ	
מ	40	mem	m in me (both מ & מּ have the same sound)	מ	
מּ		mem with kamats	mah	מּ	
מּׁ		mem with segol	meh	מּׁ	
מּׂ		mem with tsere	meh	מּׂ	
מּ	40	*mem sofit (a sofit is the final letter of a word)	m in me	מּ	
נוּ	50	nun (noon)	n in nice (both נ & נּ have the same sound)	נוּ	
נוּׁ		nun with patach	nah	נוּׁ	
נוּׁׁ		nun with segol	neh	נוּׁׁ	
נוּׁׂ		nun with tsere	neh	נוּׁׂ	
נוּׂׂ	50	*nun sofit (a sofit is the final letter of a word)	n in nice (both נ & נּ have the same sound)	נוּׂׂ	
ס	60	samech	s in set	ס	
סּ		samech with kamats	sah	סּ	
סּׁ		samech with segol	seh	סּׁ	
סּׂ		samech with tsere	seh	סּׂ	

* 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 (ת) – pronounced the same as “ת” (“ch” as in Bach)
- mem sofit (מ) – pronounced the same as “מ” (“m” as in Tom)
- nun sofit (נוּׂׂ) – pronounced the same as “נוּׂׂ” (“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 בָּהָא. Begin by reading the אָ; then add the בָּ. We now have אָהָא (ah-ha). Finally, add the בָּ. Since there is no vowel below this letter, it only has the sound of the consonant. When we put the word altogether, we have: אָהָבָא (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) יָלַד	boy	yeh -lehd (*note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent)	
3) אֱלֹהִים	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> (מה) is one of those words that Hebrew uses. The word מה is a 'question word,' or an 'interrogative.')	mah	
5) כָּכָה	so, like this, thus	cah -chah	
6) לְחֵם	bread	leh -chehm (*note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent)	
7) אָבָן	stone	eh -vehn*	
8) סְלָה	Selah (pause, consider, as in Ps 3:2)	seh -lah	
9) לְבָב	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) גַן	garden	gahn	
4) לְבָן	Laban (also means <i>white</i>)	lah-vahn	
5) כֹּן	yes, so, thus	cehn	
6) מַה	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.)

→ mem sofit

tsere →

בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשְׁמִים וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

“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 😊