

# Biblical Hebrew Course 101

## – Boot Camp –

### Lesson 6

שְׁעִיר ג

#### Developing our understanding of the Hebrew Aleph Bet: Look-a-Likes, BeGeD KeFeT, & Dagesh Kal



*Fellowshipping!*

*“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!”*  
Psalm 133:1 ESV

- 6.01 Compare the consonants that Look-a-Like
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## 6.01 Let's compare the consonants that are look-a-likes

Notice the differences between each of these look-a-like consonants:		
Letter	Pronounce The Name of Each Letter. Note Their Differences	Print
ב	Vet (note: the flat bottom horizontal bar)	
כ	Chaf: (note: this letter is rounded; similar to a backward “C”)	
ג	Gimmel (note: foot or heel on the lower left)	
נ	Nun (note: top & bottom horizontal bars are both short)	
ד	Dalet (note: top bar is straight & side bar extends a bit to the right)	
ר	Resh (resh is similar to a backwards “r” in English or to ְ; however, top bar doesn’t extend to the right)	
ְ	Chaf sofit (similar to ְ, only tail hangs below the line; this letter only appears as the last letter of a word.)	
ו	Vav (note: similar to ְ; only top horizontal bar is short)	
ׂ	Nun sofit (note: similar to ׂ, only tail hangs below the line; this letter only appears as the last letter of a word.)	
ׁ	Zayin (note: similar to ׁ, only top bar is slanted)	
ׂ	Hey (opening on the upper left... an opening for the hay to go through)	
ׁ	Chet (there is no opening on the top left)	
ׁ	Tav (looks like ׁ, but has foot (or a toe) on the bottom left)	
ׁ	Ayin (this letter is rounded on the bottom)	
ׁ	Tsade (this letter has a straight bottom & the cross line is also straight)	
ׁ	Samech (how this letter is rounded; similar to a “O”)	
ׁ	Mem sofit (this letter has a flat bottom & a flat right side; it only appears as the last letter of a word.)	

## 6.02 Did you know in English there are words that are written the same but pronounced differently?

1. bass (as in a “bass fish”) & bass (as in a ‘bass guitar;’ this bass is pronounced as though it was spelled base).
2. read (as in “read a book”) & read (as in “Yesterday, I read a book.”)

## 6.03 The “o” & “oo” vowels

The “o” & “oo” vowels are placed next to the consonant, unlike other vowels which are below the consonant.

1. There are three different ways to write the “o” type.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> is the cholam vav; it is written with a dot on top of the vav: ḥ. It is important to note that the vav is no longer a consonant; it is now a part of the cholam vav vowel. This vav is silent. The sound of the cholam vav has is “o” as in “row.” For example: טוב (tov, meaning “good”)
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> type of “o” vowel is called a cholam. It is like the cholam vav. This vowel is only the cholam (the dot) & doesn’t have the vav. Both the cholam and the cholam vav sound the same: “o” as in “row.” (For example: בָּקָר (bo-kehr, meaning “morning”) Note: the cholam (dot) is slightly to the left side of the “bet.”)
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> type of “o” sound is not as common as the first two. It is called a chatef kamats; it is written with a sh’va & a kamats. This vowel can be under a guttural consonant & has a long “o” sound as in “row”. For example: עֲבָדָי (oh-nee, meaning “poor”).

2. There are two different ways to write the “oo” type of vowel.

- The first is called a shurek. It is written with a vav and a dot in the middle of the vav, ḥ. As with the cholam vav, this vav is silent; again this vav is no longer a consonant, but part of the vowel. The sound of the shurek is “oo” as in “pool.” For example: שָׁבָועַ (shah-vooh-ah, meaning “week”).
- And the other type of “oo” is called a kibbutz; it is 3 slanted dots that may appear under any consonant. ḥ. For example: חָהֵה דּוּת (hah-eh-doot, meaning “the testimony”)

## 6.04 Fun way to remember the cholam vav (ḥ) and the shurek (ḥ)

- What if I tapped you on top of your head, you’d say “Oh!”; the sound of the cholam vav (ḥ) & cholam (ḥ)
- What if I tapped you in the tummy, you’d say “oo” (as in pool); the sound of the shurek (ḥ) & kibbutz (ḥ).

Summary of “o” & “oo” vowels				
Book Print	Name Of Vowel	Sound Of Vowel	Block	Write Each Letter
o-type vowels				
ḥ	Note: this vowel is always written with the vav & is called cholam vav חֹלֶם וָו	o as in row	ḥ	
ḥ	Note: the cholam can be written with most consonants. It is called cholam חֹלֶם	o as in row	ḥ	
ḥ	The vowel is called a chatef kamats חָתֵף קָמָץ. It can be under any consonant.	o as in row	ḥ	
oo-type vowels				
ḥ	Note: this vowel is always written with a vav & is called shurek שְׁוָרֶק	oo as in pool	ḥ	
ḥ	Note: this vowel is called a kibbutz. It can be written with most consonants. קְבָיעָץ	oo as in pool	ḥ	

## 6.05 Practice reading words with “o” & “oo” vowels

Read common Hebrew words & phrases below (note: accented syllables are in bold & highlighted)			
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration	Print Words
<sup>1)</sup> <b>נְכֹזֶן</b>	right or correct	nah- <b>chon</b> (long “O”)	
<sup>2)</sup> <b>כְּבֹוד</b>	glory, honor, or splendor	kah- <b>vod</b> (long “O”)	
<sup>3)</sup> <b>פָּלָל הַכְּבֹוד</b>	All the honor; congratulations.	kol hahk-kah- <b>vod</b>	
<sup>4)</sup> <b>אַרְזֹן הַקְדִּשָּׁה</b>	Holy Ark (storage cabinet for the Sefer Torah, Torah Scroll; 2Chron 35:3.)	ah- <b>ron</b> hahk-ko- <b>dehsh</b>	
<sup>5)</sup> <b>לְאָמֵר</b>	to say (or “saying”, as it is in many verses in the Torah; for example: Lev 23:1: “And YHVH said to Moses, <u>saying</u> .”)	leh- <b>mor</b> (long “O”)	
<sup>6)</sup> <b>סָופָה</b>	end or close (the word for a final letter סָופָה, comes from סָופָה)	sof (long “O”)	
<sup>7)</sup> <b>סָופָת</b>	suffix or ending (as in ‘mem sofit’ מָסָף (this word comes from סָופָה))	so- <b>feet</b>	
<sup>8)</sup> <b>הַעֲדָתָה</b>	the testimony	hah-eh- <b>doot</b>	
<sup>9)</sup> <b>עַד-עֲזָלָם *</b>	forever (2Sam 7:16; literally until forever)	ahd-o- <b>lahm</b>	
<sup>10)</sup> <b>לְעוֹלָם וְעוֹלָם *</b>	forever and ever (PS 145:21)	leh-o- <b>lahm</b> vah- <b>ehd</b>	
<sup>11)</sup> <b>שָׁבַת שְׁלֹום</b>	Have a good Shabbat!	shahb- <b>baht</b> shah- <b>lom</b>	
<sup>12)</sup> <b>טוֹב</b>	Good	tov	
<sup>13)</sup> <b>בְּקָרְבָּן טֹבָב</b>	Good morning!	<b>bo</b> -kehr tov	
<sup>14)</sup> <b>עַרְבָּה טֹבָב</b>	Good evening!	<b>eh</b> -rehv tov (Tip: when 2 segols appear in a 3 or 4-letter word, the 1st gets the accent)	
<sup>15)</sup> <b>שָׁבּוּעַ טֹבָב</b>	Have a good week	shah- <b>voo</b> -ah tov	
<sup>16)</sup> <b>תָּזְהָה רָבָה</b>	Thanks a lot! Thank you very much!	to- <b>dah</b> rahb- <b>bah</b>	
<sup>17)</sup> <b>עַד פְּעָם</b>	one more time; again	od <b>pah</b> -ahm	

## 6.06 BeGeD KeFeT letters: בְּגַדְכָּה פְּתַת & Dagesh Kal\*\*

When the bet (בּ); gimel (גּ); dalet (דּ); kaf (כּ); pay (פּ); & tav (תּ) start a word, a dot is added to that letter. (This dot is called a dagesh kal\*\*.). If the dot (dagesh kal) appears in any of these three בּ, כּ, דּ, there is a change in pronunciation. The בּ (vet) becomes a בּ (bet); the כּ (chaf) becomes a כּ (kaf); and the דּ (fay) becomes a דּ (pay). However, if the dagesh kal is in the remaining three letters: גּ, נּ, תּ there is no change in the pronunciation.

An easy way to remember these 6 letters is by the acronym BeGeD KeFeT.

\* Refer to Lesson 5.07 for Brief Information on accent marks.

\*\* The dagesh is used in conjunction with BeGeD KeFeT letters is a Dagesh Kal. In Lessons 7- 9, we will study the dageshes in more detail. It is important to learn the dageshes, so we can pronounce words correctly.

## 6.07 CHART of BeGeD KeFeT & Dagesh Kal

The chart shows how a dagesh kal impacts the BeGeD KeFeT letters. The letters whose sound changes with the dagesh kal are the lines highlighted in grey.				
BeGeD KeFeT	Name of letter	Sound	Example	Explanation
ב	with dagesh kal: bet	as in ball	בָּרוּךְ (bah-rooch)	NOTE: the bet and vet are pronounced differently
ב	without dagesh kal: vet	as in vice	שְׁבָעַת (sheh-veht)	
ג	with dagesh kal: gimel	as in get	גָּהֵם (gahm)	Note: the gimel is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ג	without dagesh kal: gimel	as in get	גָּהָם (chahg)	
ד	with dagesh kal: dalet	as in dog	דָּהָג (dahg)	Note: the dalet is pronounced the same with or without the dagesh kal
ד	without dagesh kal: dalet	as in dog	עֹד (od)	
כ	with dagesh kal: kaf	as in keep	כָּהֵן (kehn)	NOTE: the kaf and chaf are pronounced differently
כ	without dagesh kal: chaf	as in Bach	נָחָן (nah-chon)	
פ	with dagesh kal: pay	as in pet	פָּעֵם (pah-ahm)	NOTE: the pay and fay are pronounced differently
פ	without dagesh kal: fay	as in far	סֹפֶת (so-feet)	
ת	with dagesh kal: tav	as in tell	תּוֹדָה (to-dah)	Note: the tav is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ת	without dagesh kal: tav	as in tell	שְׁבָתָה (shahb-baht)	

## 6.08 Words with BeGeD KeFeT letters & Dagesh Kal

When a word begins with one of the BeGeD KeFeT letters, a dagesh kal is added.		
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration
1) בָּרוּךְ	blessed or praise	bah-rooch
2) דָּהָג	fish	dahg
3) כָּהֵן	When, because, or like (Ex 1:2)	kee
4) גָּהֵם	also or moreover	gahm
5) פָּרָעָה	Pharaoh (Gen 47:10)	pahr-oh
6) תּוֹרָה	Torah (Ex 12:49)	To-rah

### Grammar-Made-Simple – BeGeD KeFeT: & Dagesh Kal (the dot within a BeGeD KeFeT)

1. The BeGeD KeFeT letters are: bet (ב); gimel (ג); dalet (ד); kaf (כ); pay (פ); & tav (ת).
2. The BeGeD KeFeT letters are written with a dagesh kal (dot within the letter) start a word.
3. A dagesh kal in BeGeD - KeFeT changes the pronunciation in only 3 of the letters (ב, ג, פ).

## 6.09 Let's read Psalm 133:1 ... in Hebrew!

(We encourage you to read this verse – not to sing it ... remember we are developing our reading skills.)

Vocabulary for Psalm 133:1 (note: accented syllables are in bold & highlighted)		
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration
<sup>1)</sup> הִנֵּה *	behold	heen-neh
<sup>2)</sup> מָה	what or how	mah
<sup>3)</sup> טֹב	good	tov (long “O”)
<sup>4)</sup> וּמָה	and what or how	oo-mah
<sup>5)</sup> נָעָם	pleasant, nice, or delightful	nah-eem
<sup>6)</sup> וּמָה-נָעָם **	and how pleasant, nice, or delightful (the dash or maqqef (־) functions similarly to a dash or hyphen in English. Note: with a maqqef, the accent shifts from the 1 <sup>st</sup> word to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> .)	oo-mah nah-eem
<sup>7)</sup> שָׁבַת	sit, dwell, or remain, or abide (Tip: when 2 segols appear in a 3 or 4-letter word, the 1st gets the accent)	sheh-veht
<sup>8)</sup> אֶחָד	brothers	ah-cheem
<sup>9)</sup> גַם	also or moreover	gahm
<sup>10)</sup> יְחִיד	one, as in together or in unity	yah-chad
<sup>11)</sup> גַם-יְחִיד	also or moreover, as one	gahm yah-chad

הִנֵּה מָה-טֹב וּמָה-נָעָם שָׁבַת אֶחָד גַם-יְחִיד:

Shurek →

Cholam vav →

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” Psalm 133:1 ESV

\* Refer to Lesson 5.07 on Brief Information on accent marks.

\*\* Words that are indented are from the same root as the word above.