

# Biblical Hebrew Course 101

## – Boot Camp –

### Lesson 6

### שְׁעוּר ו

## 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

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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 ר; however, top bar doesn’t extend to the right)	
ך	Chaf sofit (similar to ר, only tail hangs below the line; this letter only appears as the last letter of a word.)	
ו	Vav (note: similar to ו; only top horizontal bar is short)	
ן	Nun sofit (note: similar to נ, only tail hangs below the line; this letter only appears as the last letter of a word.)	
ז	Zayin (note: similar to ו, only top bar is slanted)	
ה	Hey (opening on the upper left... an opening for the hay to go through)	
ח	Chet (there is no opening on the top left)	
ת	Tav (looks like ח, but has foot (or a toe) on the bottom left)	
ע	Ayin (this letter is rounded on the bottom)	
צ	Tsade (this letter has a straight bottom & the cross line is also straight)	
ס	Samech (how this letter is rounded; similar to a “O”)	
ם	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.
  - a. The 1<sup>st</sup> is the cholam vav; it is written with a dot on top of the vav: ם. 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”)
  - b. 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: בקר (bo-kehr, meaning “morning”) Note: the cholam (dot) is slightly to the left side of the “bet.”)
  - c. 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: עני (oh-nee, meaning “poor”).
2. There are two different ways to write the “oo” type of vowel.
  - a. The first is called a shurek. It is written with a vav and a dot in the middle of the vav, ם. 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: שבוע (shah-voo-ah, meaning “week”).
  - b. And the other type of “oo” is called a kibbutz; it is 3 slanted dots that may appear under any consonant. ם. For example: העדות (hah-eh-doot, meaning “the testimony”)

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

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

Summary of “o” & “oo” vowels				
Book Print	Name Of Vowel	Sound Of Vowel	Block	Write Each Letter
o-type vowels				
ם	Note: this vowel is always written with the vav & is called <u>cholam vav</u> חולם ם	o as in row	ם	
ם	Note: the cholam can be written with most consonants. It is called <u>cholam</u> חולם	o as in row	ם	
ם	The vowel is called a <u>chatef kamats</u> חטף קמץ. <u>It can be under any consonant.</u>	o as in row	ם	
oo-type vowels				
ם	Note: this vowel is always written with a vav & is called <u>shurek</u> שורק	oo as in pool	ם	
ם	Note: this vowel is called a kibbutz. <u>It can be written with most consonants.</u> קבוצ	oo as in pool	ם	

## 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
1) נָכוֹן	right or correct	nah- <b>chon</b> (long “O”)	
2) כְּבוֹד	glory, honor, or splendor	kah- <b>vod</b> (long “O”)	
3) כָּל הַכְּבוֹד	All the honor; congratulations.	kol hahk-kah- <b>vod</b>	
4) אֲרוֹן הַקְּדֹשׁ	Holy Ark (storage cabinet for the Sefer Torah, Torah Scroll; 2Chron 35:3.)	ah- <b>ron</b> hahk-ko- <b>dehsh</b>	
5) לֵאמֹר	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”)	
6) סוֹף	end or close (the word for a final letter סופת, comes from סוֹף)	sof (long “O”)	
7) סוֹפֵת	suffix or ending (as in ‘mem sofit’ מ (this word comes from סוֹף)	so- <b>feet</b>	
8) הַעֲדָת	the testimony	hah-eh- <b>doot</b>	
9) עַד-עוֹלָם *	forever (2Sam 7:16; literally until forever)	ahd-o- <b>lahm</b>	
10) לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד *	forever and ever (PS 145:21)	leh-o- <b>lahm</b> vah- <b>ehd</b>	
11) שָׁבַת שְׁלוֹם	Have a good Shabbat!	shahb- <b>baht</b> shah- <b>lom</b>	
12) טוֹב	Good	to <b>v</b>	
13) בֹּקֶר טוֹב	Good morning!	<b>bo</b> -kehr to <b>v</b>	
14) עָרֵב טוֹב	Good evening!	<b>eh</b> -rehv to <b>v</b> (Tip: when 2 segols appear in a 3 or 4-letter word, the 1st gets the accent)	
15) שְׂבוּעַ טוֹב	Have a good week	shah- <b>voo</b> -ah to <b>v</b>	
16) תּוֹדָה רַבָּה	Thanks a lot! Thank you very much!	to- <b>dah</b> rahb- <b>bah</b>	
17) עוֹד פַּעַם	one more time; again	od <b>pah</b> -ahm	

## 6.06 BeGeD KeFeT letters: ב ג ד פ פ ת & Dagesh Kal \*\*

When the bet (ב); gimmel (ג); dalet (ד); kaf (כ); pay (פ); & tav (ת) 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 ב, כ, פ, there is a change in pronunciation. The ב (vet) becomes a ב (bet); the כ (chaf) becomes a כ (kaf); and the פ (fay) becomes a פ (pay). However, if the dagesh kal is in the remaining three letters: ת, ג, ד, 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
בּ	with dagesh kal: bet	as in <b>b</b> all	בָּרוּךְ (bah-rooch)	NOTE: the <b>bet</b> and <b>vet</b> are pronounced differently
ב	without dagesh kal: vet	as in <b>v</b> ice	שֶׁבֶת (sheh-veht)	
גּ	with dagesh kal: gimmel	as in <b>g</b> et	גַּם (gahm)	Note: the <b>gimmel</b> is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ג	without dagesh kal: gimmel	as in <b>g</b> et	חָג (chahg)	
דּ	with dagesh kal: dalet	as in <b>d</b> og	דָּג (dahg)	Note: the <b>dalet</b> is pronounced the same with or without the dagesh kal
ד	without dagesh kal: dalet	as in <b>d</b> og	עוֹד (od)	
כּ	with dagesh kal: kaf	as in <b>k</b> ee <b>p</b>	כֶּן (kehn)	NOTE: the <b>kaf</b> and <b>chaf</b> are pronounced differently
כ	without dagesh kal: chaf	as in <b>Bach</b>	נָחוֹן (nah-chon)	
פּ	with dagesh kal: pay	as in <b>p</b> et	פֶּעַם (pah-ahm)	NOTE: the <b>pay</b> and <b>fay</b> are pronounced differently
פ	without dagesh kal: fay	as in <b>f</b> ar	סוּפֶת (so-feet)	
תּ	with dagesh kal: tav	as in <b>t</b> ell	תּוֹדָה (to-dah)	Note: the <b>tav</b> is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ת	without dagesh kal: tav	as in <b>t</b> ell	שֶׁבֶת (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) דָּג	fish	dahg
3) כִּי	When, because, or like (Ex 1:2)	kee
4) גַּם	also or moreover	gahm
5) פַּרְעֹה	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)

- The BeGeD KeFeT letters are: **bet** (בּ); **gimmel** (גּ); **dalet** (דּ); **kaf** (כּ); **pay** (פּ); & **tav** (תּ).
- The BeGeD KeFeT letters are written with a dagesh kal (dot within the letter) start a word.
- A dagesh kal in BeGeD - KeFeT changes the pronunciation in only 3 of the letters (בּ, כּ, פּ).

## 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
1) הִנֵּה *	behold	heen- <b>neh</b>
2) מַה	what or how	mah
3) טוֹב	good	tov (long “O”)
4) וּמַה	and what or how	oo- <b>mah</b>
5) נָעִים	pleasant, nice, or delightful	nah- <b>eem</b>
6) ** וּמַה-נָּעִים	and how pleasant, nice, or delightful (the dash or maqef (מֶקֶף) functions similarly to a dash or hyphen in English. Note: with a maqef, the accent shifts from the 1 <sup>st</sup> word to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> .)	oo- <b>mah</b> nah- <b>eem</b>
7) שָׁבֵת	sit, dwell, or remain, or abide (Tip: when 2 segols appear in a 3 or 4-letter word, the 1 <sup>st</sup> gets the accent)	<b>sheh</b> -veht
8) אֶחָיִם	brothers	ah- <b>cheem</b>
9) גַּם	also or moreover	gahm
10) יָחַד	one, as in together or in unity	<b>yah</b> -chad
11) גַּם-יָחַד	also or moreover, as one	gahm <b>yah</b> -chad

הִנֵּה מַה-טוֹב וּמַה-נָּעִים שָׁבֵת אֶחָיִם גַּם-יָחַד:

↑  
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.