

Biblical Hebrew Course 101 – Boot Camp –

Lesson 6

שְׁעוּר ו

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



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
- 6.02 Did you know in English there are words that are written the same but pronounced differently?
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- 6.06 **Introduce: BeGeD KeFeT letters & dagesh kal**
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- 6.09 Exercise: identify the dagesh kals & dagesh chazaks

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, only it 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 Introduce: 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 long “o” in Hebrew**:
 - a. **Cholam vav** is written with a dot on top of the vav: וְ. It is important to note that this 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: טוֹב (tov, meaning “good”)
 - b. **Cholam** is similar to the cholam vav. This is written with only the dot (the cholam) without the vav. The cholam has the same sound as the cholam vav: “o” as in “row.” For example: בֹּקֶר (bo-kehr, meaning “morning”) Note: the cholam (dot) is slightly to the left side of the “bet.”
 - c. **Chatef kamats** is written with a sh’va & a kamats. This has an “o” sound as in “row” and can be under a guttural consonant. For example: עֲנִי (oh-nee, meaning “poor”).
2. There are **two different ways to write the “oo” in Hebrew**.
 - a. **Shurek** is written with a vav and a dot in the middle of the vav, וִ. As with the cholam vav, this vav is also 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: שָׁבוּעַ (shah-**vo**-ah, meaning “week”).
 - b. **Kibbutz** is written with 3 slanted or descending dots under the consonant. ׀. For example: הַעֲדוּת (hah-eh-**do**ot, meaning “the testimony”)

6.04 Fun way to remember the cholam vav (וְ) and the shurek (וִ)

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

Summary of “o” & “oo” vowels				
Book Print	Name Of Vowel	Sound Of Vowel	Block	Write Each Letter
o-type vowels				
וְ	Note: this vowel is always written with the vav & is called <u>cholam vav</u> חוֹלָם וְ	o as in row	וְ	
ׂ	Note: the cholam can be written with most consonants. It is called <u>cholam</u> חוֹלָם	o as in row	ׂ	
׃	The vowel is called a <u>chatef kamats</u> חֲטַף קָמָץ. <u>It can be under any consonant.</u>	o as in row	׃	
oo-type vowels				
וִ	Note: this vowel is always written with a vav & is called <u>shurek</u> שׁוּרֵק	oo as in pool	וִ	
׀	Note: this vowel is called a <u>kibbutz</u> . <u>It is written below the consonant.</u> קִבּוּץ	oo as in pool	׀	

6.05 Exercise: read 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- chon (long “O”)	
2) כְּבוֹד * כָּבוֹד	glory, honor, or splendor *The dot (dagesh kal) in the kaf is discussed in 6.06	kah- vod	
3) כָּל הַכְּבוֹד * כָּל הַכְּבוֹד	All the honor; congratulations. *The dot (dagesh kal) in the pay is discussed in 6.06	kol hahk-kah- vod	
4) אֲרוֹן הַקֹּדֶשׁ	The Holy Ark (storage cabinet for the Sefer Torah, Torah Scroll; 2Chron 35:3.)	ah- ron hahk-ko- dehsh	
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- mor (long “O”)	
6) סוֹף	end or close (the word for a final letter סוּפֹת, comes from סוֹף)	sof (long “O”)	
7) סוֹפֵת	suffix or ending (as in ‘mem sofit’ ם (this word comes from סוֹף)	so- feet	
8) הַעֲדוּת	the testimony	hah-eh- doot	
9) עַד-עוֹלָם	forever (2Sam 7:16; literally until forever).	ahd-o- lahm	
10) שִׁבְתְּ שָׁלוֹם	Have a good Shabbat!	shahb- baht shah- lom	
11) טוֹב	Good	tohv	
12) בֹּקֵר טוֹב * בֹּקֵר טוֹב	Good morning! *The dot (dagesh kal) in the bet is discussed in 6.06	bo -kehr tov	
13) עֶרֶב טוֹב	Good evening!	eh -rehv tov (Tip: when 2 segols appear in a 3 or 4-letter word, the 1st gets the accent)	
14) שָׁבוּעַ טוֹב	Have a good week	shah- voo -ah tov	
15) תּוֹדָה רַבָּה * תּוֹדָה רַבָּה	Thanks a lot! Thank you very much! *The dot (dagesh kal) in the tav is discussed in 6.06	to- dah rahb- bah	
16) עוֹד פַּעַם * עוֹד פַּעַם	one more time; again *The dot (dagesh kal) in the pay is discussed in 6.06	od pah -ahm	

6.06 Introduce: BeGeD KeFeT letters & Dagesh Kal

The acronym BeGeD KeFeT stands for these 6 letters: Bet-Gimmel-Dalet Kaf-Fay-Tav

(בְּ, גִּ, דָּ, כֶּ, פֶּ, תָּ). If one of these 6 starts a word or a syllable, it will have a dagesh kal (dot) within it.

The dagesh kal changes the sound on only these 3:

- the vet (ו) becomes a bet (ב).
- the chaf (כ) becomes a kaf (כּ).
- the fay (פ) becomes a pay (פּ).

There is no change in pronunciation when a dagesh kal is in the remaining three letters: ג, ד, ת.

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 b all	בָּרוּךְ (bah-rooch)	NOTE: the bet and vet are pronounced differently
ב	without dagesh kal: vet	as in v ice	שְׁבַת (shch-veht)	
ג	with dagesh kal: gimmel	as in g et	גַּם (gahm)	Note: the gimmel is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ג	without dagesh kal: gimmel	as in g et	חָג (chahg)	
ד	with dagesh kal: dalet	as in d og	דָּג (dahg)	Note: the dalet is pronounced the same with or without the dagesh kal
ד	without dagesh kal: dalet	as in d og	עוֹד (od)	
כ	with dagesh kal: kaf	as in k ee p	כֶּן (kehr)	NOTE: the kaf and chaf are pronounced differently
כ	without dagesh kal: chaf	as in Bach	נְכוֹן (nah-chon)	
פ	with dagesh kal: pay	as in p et	פַּעַם (pah-ahm)	NOTE: the pay and fay are pronounced differently
פ	without dagesh kal: fay	as in f ar	סוּפַת (so-feet)	
ת	with dagesh kal: tav	as in t ell	תּוֹדָה (to-dah)	Note: the tav is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ת	without dagesh kal: tav	as in t ell	שְׁבַת (shahb-baht)	

6.07 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) כִּי	When, because, or like (Ex 1:2)	kee
3) פַּרְעֹה	Pharaoh (Gen 47:10)	pahr-oh

6.08 Introduce: dagesh chazak

Dagesh chazak (דָּגֵשׁ חָזָק)

- The dagesh chazak looks like the dagesh kal in that they both have a dot (dagesh) in the letter.
- Gutturals don't take dageshes. (Gutturals are: aleph: א, hey: ה, chet: ח, ayin: ע, & sometimes resh: ר)
- Dagesh chazak is preceded by a vowel – any vowel.
- Dagesh chazak doubles the consonant in which it stands. Example: אַהֲתָהּ = אַהֲתָ + תָּהּ (aht-tah).

6.09 Exercise: identify the dagesh kals & dagesh chazaks

<u>EXERCISE</u>		
Hebrew	Translation	Identify the type of dagesh & tell why
1) בַּמִּדְבָּר	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed- bahr * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בְּגֵד קִפְתַּת & it does not follow a vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.) * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בְּגֵד קִפְתַּת & bet does not follow a vowel)
2) הַמַּיִם	the water (Gen 1:2)	hahm- mi -yeem *
3) הַגִּדָּה	Haggadah (booklet that tells the story of the exodus from Egypt)	hahg-gah- dah *
4) הַשָּׁמַיִם	the heavens (Gen 1:1)	hahsh-shah- mi -yeem *

<u>ANSWERS</u>		
Hebrew	Translation	Identify the type of dagesh & tell why
1) בַּמִּדְבָּר	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed- bahr * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בְּגֵד קִפְתַּת & it does not follow a vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.) * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בְּגֵד קִפְתַּת & bet does not follow a vowel)
2) הַמַּיִם	the water (Gen 1:2)	hahm- mi -yeem * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.)
3) הַגִּדָּה	Haggadah (booklet that tells the story of the exodus from Egypt)	hahg-gah- dah * Dagesh Chazak (gimmel is doubled because this dagesh follows a vowel.)
4) הַשָּׁמַיִם	the heavens (Gen 1:1)	hahsh-shah- mi -yeem * Dagesh Chazak (sheen is doubled because this dagesh follows a vowel.)

Grammar-Made-Simple – the dageshes

Dagesh Kal

When a BeGeD KeFeT letter starts a word or a syllable, it has a dagesh kal.

Dagesh Chazak

When a non-guttural letter has a dagesh & the dagesh follows any vowel, it is a dagesh chazak. The dagesh chazak doubles the consonant.