

# 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?
- 6.03 **Introduce: BeGeD KeFeT letters & dagesh kal**
- 6.04 Words with BeGeD-KeFeT & dagesh kal
- 6.05 **Introduce: the “o” & “oo” vowels**
- 6.06 Fun way to remember the cholam vav (וֹ) and the shurek (וּ)
- 6.07 Exercise: BeGeD KeFeT & dagesh kal plus “o” & “oo” vowels
- 6.08 **Introduce: dagesh chazak**
- 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
ו	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 ר; 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 נ, 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”)	
מ	Mem sofit (this letter has a flat bottom & a flat right side; it only appears	

### 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: BeGeD KeFeT letters & Dagesh Kal

The acronym BeGeD KeFeT stands for these 6 letters: Bet-Gimmel-Dalet Kaf-Fay-Tav (בְּ, גְּ, דָּ, כְּ, פְּ, תָּ). If one of these 6 starts a word or follows a sh'va, it will have a dagesh kal (dot) within it.

The dagesh kal changes the sound on only these 3:

- the vet (ב) becomes a bet (בְּ).
- the chaf (כ) becomes a kaf (כְּ).
- the fay (פ) becomes a pay (פְּ).

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
בְּ	with dagesh kal: bet	as in <b>ball</b>	בָּרוּךְ (bah-rooch)	NOTE: the <b>bet</b> and <b>vet</b> are pronounced differently
ב	without dagesh kal: vet	as in <b>vice</b>	שִׁבְתָּ (sheh-veht)	
גְּ	with dagesh kal: gimmel	as in <b>get</b>	גַּם (gahm)	Note: the <b>gimmel</b> is pronounced the same with & without the dagesh kal
ג	without dagesh kal: gimmel	as in <b>get</b>	חָג (chahg)	
דָּ	with dagesh kal: dalet	as in <b>dog</b>	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>dog</b>	עוֹד (od)	
כְּ	with dagesh kal: kaf	as in <b>keep</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>	נָחוּן (nah-chon)	
פְּ	with dagesh kal: pay	as in <b>pet</b>	פַּעַם (pah-ahm)	NOTE: the <b>pay</b> and <b>fay</b> are pronounced differently
פ	without dagesh kal: fay	as in <b>far</b>	סוּפְתָּ (so-feet)	
תָּ	with dagesh kal: tav	as in <b>tell</b>	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>tell</b>	שִׁבְתָּ (shahb-baht)	

### 6.04 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) בָּרָא	created (Gen 1:1)	bah- <b>rah</b>
2) כִּי	when, because, or like (Ex 1:2)	kee
3) פָּן	lest (Gen 3:3)	pehn

## 6.05 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:**

- Cholam vav** is written with a dot on top of the vav: וָ. 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”)
- 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: בְּקָר (bo-kehr, meaning “morning”) Note: the cholam (dot) is slightly to the left side of the “bet.”
- 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.**

- Shurek** is written with a vav and a dot in the middle of the vav, וֹ. 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-**voo**-ah, meaning “week”).
- Kibbutz** is written with 3 slanted or descending dots under the consonant. װ. For example: הַעֲדוּת (hah-eh-**doot**, meaning “the testimony”)

## 6.06 Fun way to remember the cholam vav (וָ) and the shurek (וֹ)

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

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

## 6.07 Exercise: BeGeD KeFeT & dagesh kal plus “o” & “oo” vowels

Read common Hebrew words & phrases below (note: accented syllables are in bold & highlighted)			
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration	Print Words
1) נָכוּן	right or correct	nah- <b>chon</b> (long “O”)	
2) כְּבוֹד	glory, honor, or splendor	kah- <b>vod</b>	
3) 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”)	
4) סוֹף	end or close (the word for a final letter סּוּפֹת, comes from סוֹף)	sof (long “O”)	
5) סוּפֹת	suffix or ending (as in ‘mem sofit’ ם (this word comes from סוֹף))	so- <b>feet</b>	
6) הַעֲדוּת	the testimony	hah-eh- <b>doot</b>	
7) עַד-עוֹלָם	forever (2Sam 7:16; literally until forever).	ahd-o- <b>lahm</b>	
8) טוֹב	good	tohv	
9) בֹּקֶר טוֹב	Good morning!	<b>bo</b> -kehr tov	
10) עֶרֶב טוֹב	Good evening!	<b>eh</b> -rehv tov (Tip: when 2 segols appear in a 3 or 4-letter word, the 1st gets the accent)	
11) שָׁבוּעַ טוֹב	Have a good week	shah- <b>voo</b> -ah tov	
12) עוֹד פְּעַם	one more time; again	od <b>pah</b> -ahm	
13) תּוֹדָה	thank you	to- <b>dah</b>	
14) כָּל	all	kol	

## 6.08 Introduce: dagesh chazak

### Dagesh chazak (דָּגֵשׁ חֲזָק)

- The dagesh chazak looks like the dagesh kal in that they both have a dot (dagesh) within the letter.
- Gutturals do not take dageshes. (The guttural consonants are: aleph: א, hey: ה, chet: ח, ayin: ע, & sometimes resh: ר)
- When a dagesh follows a vowel, it is a dagesh chazak.
- Dagesh chazak doubles the consonant in which it stands.

Examples: אַתָּה = אַת+תָּה (aht-**taht**)

שַׁבָּת = שַׁב+בַּת (shahb-**baht**)

## 6.07 Exercise: Identify dagesh kals & dagesh chazaks

### 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 a vowel, it is a dagesh chazak. The dagesh chazak doubles the consonant.

### EXERCISE

Hebrew	Translation	Identify the type of dagesh & tell why
1) בַּמִּדְבָּר	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed- <b>bahr</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dagesh Kal (the 1<sup>st</sup> bet is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת &amp; it <i>does not follow a vowel</i>)</li> <li>• Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled, because <i>dagesh follows a vowel</i>)</li> <li>• Dagesh Kal (the 2<sup>nd</sup> bet is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת &amp; it <i>does not follow a vowel</i>)</li> </ul>
2) שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם	Have a good Shabbat!	shahb- <b>baht</b> shah- <b>lom</b>
3) כָּל הַכְּבוֹד	All the honor; congratulations.	kol hahk-kah- <b>vod</b>
4) אָרוֹן הַקֹּדֶשׁ	The Holy Ark (storage cabinet for the Torah Scroll; 2Chron 35:3.)	ah- <b>ron</b> hahk-ko- <b>dehsh</b>
5) תּוֹדָה רַבָּה	Thanks a lot! Thank you very much!	to- <b>dah</b> rahb- <b>bah</b>

### ANSWERS

Hebrew	Translation	Identify the type of dagesh & tell why
1) בַּמִּדְבָּר	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed- <b>bahr</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dagesh Kal (the 1<sup>st</sup> bet is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת &amp; it <i>does not follow a vowel</i>)</li> <li>• Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled, because <i>dagesh follows a vowel</i>)</li> <li>• Dagesh Kal (the 2<sup>nd</sup> bet is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת &amp; it <i>does not follow a vowel</i>)</li> </ul>
2) שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם	Have a good Shabbat!	shahb- <b>baht</b> shah- <b>lom</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dagesh Chazak (bet is doubled because <i>dagesh follows a vowel</i>)</li> </ul>
3) כָּל הַכְּבוֹד	All the honor; congratulations.	kol hahk-kah- <b>vod</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dagesh Kal (the 1<sup>st</sup> kaf is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת &amp; it <i>does not follow a vowel</i>)</li> <li>• Dagesh Chazak (the 2<sup>nd</sup> kaf is doubled because <i>dagesh does follow a vowel</i>)</li> </ul>
4) אָרוֹן הַקֹּדֶשׁ	The Holy Ark (storage cabinet for the Torah Scroll; 2Chron 35:3)	ah- <b>ron</b> hahk-ko- <b>dehsh</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dagesh Chazak (koof is doubled because <i>dagesh follows a vowel</i>)</li> </ul>
5) תּוֹדָה רַבָּה	Thanks a lot! Thank you very much!	To- <b>dah</b> rahb- <b>bah</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dagesh Kal (tav is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת &amp; it <i>does not follow a vowel</i>)</li> <li>• Dagesh Chazak (koof is doubled because <i>dagesh follows a vowel</i>)</li> </ul>