

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: the “o” & “oo” vowels**
- 6.04 Fun way to remember the cholam vav (וֹ) and the shurek (וּ)
- 6.05 Exercise: read words with “o” & “oo” vowels
- 6.06 **Introduce: BeGeD KeFeT letters & dagesh kal**
- 6.07 Exercise: words with BeGeD-KeFeT & dagesh kal
- 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
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, 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-**vo**-ah, meaning “week”).
 - b. **Kibbutz** is written with 3 slanted or descending dots under the consonant. ױ. For example: הַעֲדוּת (hah-eh-**do**ot, meaning “the testimony”)

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

- 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 (וֹ) & kibbutz (וֹ).

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				
וֹ	Note: this vowel is always written with a vav & is called <u>shurek</u> שׁוּרֵק	oo as in pool	וֹ	
ױ	Note: this vowel is called a <u>kibbutz</u> . <u>It is written below the consonant.</u> קִבּוּץ	oo as in pool	ױ	

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 סֹפֵת, 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) עָרֵב 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, גִּמְלָה, דָּלֶת, כַּף, פֶּה, תָּב). 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 (פֶּ).

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

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 all	בָּרוּךְ (bah-rooch)	NOTE: the bet and vet are pronounced differently
ב	without dagesh kal: vet	as in v ice	שֶׁבֶט (sheh-veht)	
גּ	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)	
דּ	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)	
כּ	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)	
פּ	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	סוּפֵת (so-feet)	
תּ	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	שֶׁבֶט (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 חֲזָק)

- 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)
- When a dagesh follows a vowel, it is a dagesh chazak.
- Dagesh chazak doubles the consonant in which it stands. Example: אַהֲתָהּ = אַהֲתָהּ + אַהֲתָהּ (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 קִפֹּת & it does not follow a vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.) * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בְּגֵד קִפֹּת & 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 קִפֹּת & it does not follow a vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.) * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בְּגֵד קִפֹּת & 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.