

Biblical Hebrew Course 101
– Boot Camp –
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew

Lesson 8

שְׁעוֹר ח

Developing our understanding of the Hebrew Aleph Bet:

Reinforce these concepts: BeGeD KeFeT, dageshes, chatefs, diphthongs, & sh'vas



Children have fun learning Hebrew with the puppet 'Shalom'!

“... and you are to teach them carefully to your children,” from the Shema Deut 6:7a CJB

- 8.01 Let's reinforce these concepts
- 8.02 Exercise: identify these concepts
- 8.03 Reinforce: dagesh chazak
- 8.04 Reinforce: level 1 through level 4
 - Exercise: practice levels 1 & 2 of the vocal sh'va
 - Exercise: practice levels 3 & 4 of the vocal sh'va

8.01 Let's reinforce these concepts ☺

- **Chatefs:** are a sh'va that is attached to a patach, segol, or kamats. The chatef vowels are only under guttural consonants. (Lesson 5)
 - The chatef patach is written **ְ**. This chatef maintains the sound of the patach (as in **spa**).
 - The chatef segol is written **ֿ**. This chatef maintains the sound of the segol (as in **bed**).
 - The chatef kamats is written **ֻ**. This chatef does not maintain the sound of the kamats but it has a long “o” sound (as in **row**).
- **BeGeD KeFeT:** found only in 6 letters: **בְּגָד כֶּפֶת**. Only 3 change their sound when they have a dagesh (dot): **ב** to **בּ**; from **ג** to **גּ**; from **פ** to **פּ**. (Lesson 6)
- **Dagesh kal:** a dagesh kal is when a BeGeD KeFeT letter opens a word or a syllable. (Lesson 6)
- **Dagesh chazak:** the dagesh chazak follows a vowel. And its consonant is doubled.
 Example: **חָזַק** = **חָזַח** + **זַק** (aht-**tah**). (Lesson 6)
- **Diphthong:** when a yud is added to a vowel, it becomes a new vowel with a different sound. (Lesson 7)
 - A patach or kamats plus a yud changes to an “I” sound (as in **isle**).
 - A segol or tsere plus a yud becomes “ay” (as in **stay**).
 - A chirek plus a yud becomes an “ee” (this “ee” is pronounced slightly longer than the chirek by itself; the chirek yud has the sound of the “ee” as in **sleep**).
- **Syllables:** every Hebrew syllable begins with a consonant & has a vowel – no syllable can begin with a vowel. An open syllable ends with a vowel. A closed syllable ends with a consonant.

8.02 Exercise: identify the concepts listed above

Identify chatefs, BeGeD KeFeT, dageshes, diphthongs, syllables, & sh'vas			
Hebrew	Translation	Identify the various concepts listed above	Transliteration
1) בֵּין	between	Bet has a <u>dagesh kal</u> because it is <u>BeGeD KeFeT</u> & <u>opens</u> the word. Tsere yud is a <u>diphthong</u> (sound is <u>ay</u> as in <u>stay</u>)	bayn (*“ay”: as in “stay”)
2) אֱלֹהִים	God (Elohim)	Under the aleph is a _____. Under the hay is a _____. (sound is _____, as in _____).	Eh-loh- heem הִים ל א
3) אֲדֹנָי	My LORD (Ps 110:1)	Under the aleph is a _____. (sound is _____, as in _____). Under the nun is a _____. (sound is _____, as in _____).	Ah-doh- nee י ד א
4) אַהֲבָה	love (noun)	Under the 1 st hay is a _____. (sound is _____, as in _____).	ah-hah- vah ה ב א
5) אֹנִיָּה	ship or boat. All types of sea-going vessels (Jonah 1:3)	Under the aleph is a _____. (sound is _____, as in _____). Under the noon is a _____. (sound is _____, as in _____). The yud has a _____, which doubles the yud.	oh-nee- yah י נ א

8.02 Exercise: identify the concepts, continued

Identify BeGeD KeFeT, chatefs, dageshes, & diphthongs			
Hebrew	Translation	Identify the various concepts listed above	Transliteration
בָּרוּךְ ⁶	blessed or praise	BeGeD KeFeT (the bet opens the syllable)	bah-rooch בָּ רוּךְ
דִּבֶּר ⁷	he spoke (Lev 25:2)	* Dagesh Kal (dalet is part of כָּפֶת & it opens a syllable.) * Dagesh Chazak (bet is doubled because this dagesh follows a vowel.)	dahb-behr דָּב בֶּר
בַּמִּדְבָּר ⁸	in the wilderness or desert (Deut 1:1)	* Dagesh Kal (the first bet is part of כָּפֶת & it opens a syllable) * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.) * Dagesh Kal (both bets are part of כָּפֶת & open the syllable)	bahm-meed-bahr בֶּמ מִדְ בָּר
לְמִטָּה ⁹	of every tribe (Num 13:2)	* Dagesh Chazak (tet is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.)	leh-maht-teh לְ מִטָּה
וַיַּדְּלֵל ¹⁰	and he divided (Gen 1:7)	* Dagesh Chazak (yud is doubled because this dagesh follows a vowel.) * Dagesh Kal (dalet is part of כָּפֶת & it does not follow a vowel)	vi-yahv-dehl וַיְ דָּל לֵל

8.03 Reinforce dagesh chazak

Dagesh chazak (דָּגֶשׁ 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)
- Dagesh chazak is preceded by a vowel – any vowel.
- Dagesh chazak doubles the consonant in which it stands. Example: אָהָה = אָה + אָה (aht-tah).

Differentiate dagesh kal and dagesh chazak		
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration & identify the type of dagesh
בַּמִּדְבָּר ¹	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed-bahr * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of כָּפֶת & it does not follow a vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.) * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of כָּפֶת & bet opens a syllable)
שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם ²	Have a good Shabbat!	shahb-baht shah-lom * Dagesh Chazak (bet is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.)
כָּל הַכְּבוֹד ³	All the honor; congratulations.	kol hahk-kah-vod * Dagesh Kal (1 st caf is part of כָּפֶת & it does not follow a vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (2 nd caf is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.)

8.04 Reinforce vocal & silent sh'vas: levels 1-4

The vocal sh'va has the same “eh” sound as a segol or tsere, only the vocal sh'va sound is slightly quicker.

In this lesson, we will discuss some of the main rules which determine whether the sh'va is vocal (“eh”) or silent.

➤ Level 1 vocal sh'va: when the sh'va is under the first consonant of the word

Level 1: When the sh'va is under the first letter of a word it is vocal.

This sh'va generally has a quick and an almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”.

Word	Meaning	Transliteration Explanation: 1. The small “eh” signifies the quick & almost indistinguishable “eh” sound. 2. The bolded, highlighted syllable is accented.
1) שְׁמָע	Shema	sheh- mah (commonly pronounced: sh' mah)
2) שְׁוָא	sh'va: one of the vowels in Hebrew	sheh- vah (commonly pronounced: sh' vah)
3) בְּרֵאשִׁית	Genesis (literally: in the head or beginning)	beh-reh- sheet (note: the “eh” in the 1 st syllable is a quick “eh”. (often pronounced: b'reh- sheet)

➤ Level 2 vocal sh'va: when 2 sh'vas are consecutive (in other words, they are in a row)

Level 2: When 2 sh'vas are consecutive, the 1st sh'va is silent & 2nd is vocal. (Note: these sh'vas must be in a row) The **first** of two consecutive sh'vas closes the syllable. The **second** of 2 consecutive sh'vas is vocal and has a quick “eh” sound.

Word	Meaning	Syllables & Pronunciation
1) יִשְׂרְצּוּ	they (3 rd person, masculine, plural) will swarm, teem, or bring forth abundantly (Gen 1:20)	יִשְׂ רְצּוּ – draw a line between the 2 sh'vas. yeesh-reh- tsoo
2) וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ	and he (3 rd person, masculine, singular) will guard or keep you. (from the Aaronic Blessing) The ך is a vocal sh'va & does not count as one of the 2 consecutive sh'vas.	וַיִּשְׁ מְרֶ - ךָּ - remember for Level 2, the 2 sh'vas must be consecutive veh-yeesh-meh- reh -chah
3) יִשְׁמְרוּ	they will guard or keep	יִשְׁ מְרוּ yeesh-meh- roo

Grammar-made-simple: Levels 1 & 2 of the vocal sh'va:

1. Level 1: If the sh'va is under the **1st consonant of the word**, it is vocal.
2. Level 2: If there are **2 sh'vas in a row** (consecutive), the 1st is silent (it closes the syllable) & the 2nd is vocal (& it opens the syllable).

➤ **Level 3: when a sh'va is under a dagesh chazak*, it is vocal.** (*Dagesh chazak explanation below↓.)

*Dagesh chazak: TIP: If a vowel is in front of a dagesh, it is a dagesh chazak.		
1. The dagesh chazak doubles the consonant it is in. 2. This example shows how a dagesh chazak doubles the consonant it is in. כָּלְךָ = כָּם + לְךָ a. Note, the לְ has a dagesh chazak. Why? It follows a vowel (כָּ). Because of the dagesh chazak, the לְ is doubled: כָּם + לְךָ b. The 1st sh'va is silent; the 2nd is vocal: cool-leh- chehm . (Yes, this is similar to Level 2.)		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) כָּלְךָ	all of you (2 nd person: you: masculine, plural) כָּם + לְךָ	cool-leh- chehm (The lamed with the 1st sh'va is silent; the 2 nd lamed is vocal)
2) הַשְּׁבִיעִי	the seventh הַשְּׁ + בִּי + עִי	hahsh-sheh-vee- ee (commonly pronounced hahsh-shvee- ee) (The sheen with the 1st sh'va is silent; the 2 nd sheen is vocal)
3) טַפְכֶּם	your (2 nd person: you: masculine, plural) children (Dt 29:11) טַפְּ + כֶּם	tahp-peh- chehm

➤ **Level 4: when a sh'va follows a long vowel*, it is vocal.** (*Long vowels are listed below↓.)

When a sh'va follows a long vowel*, it is vocal.		
*Long vowels: (This is an introduction to long vowels) kamats קָמֶץ (ֶ) // tsere צִירִי (ִי) // cholam חֹלָם (ֹ) // cholam vav וֹ // shurek שׁוּרֶק (וּ)		
For example: הִיְתָה (The sh'va immediately follows the kamats, a long vowel; therefore, the sh'va is vocal. הִיְתָה is pronounced: hi-yeh- tah)		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) הִיְתָה	it was (3 rd person: feminine, singular) הִיְ + תָה	hi-yeh-tah (commonly pronounced hi-yee- tah)
2) לִבְךָ	your heart (from the V'ahavta from the Shema, Dt 6:5) לֵב + חָךְ	leh-vah- veh -chah (commonly pronounced leh- vahv -chah)
3) כָּתְבֵם	write (masculine, plural) כָּת + בֵּם	koh-teh- veem (commonly pronounced koht- veem)

Grammar-made-simple:

Level 3: when a sh'va is under a dagesh chazak*, it is vocal:

- *Dagesh chazak is easily recognizable because the dagesh chazak follows any vowel.
- The consonant with the dagesh chazak is doubled. כָּלְךָ = כָּם + לְךָ

Level 4 is when the sh'va follows a long vowel:

If the sh'va follows a long vowel, it is vocal.

The long vowels are:

- kamats קָמֶץ (ֶ) // tsere צִירִי (ִי) //
- 3 dots: cholam חֹלָם (ֹ) // cholam vav וֹ // shurek שׁוּרֶק (וּ)
- & the 5 diphthongs