

Biblical Hebrew Course 101
– Boot Camp –
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew
Lesson 10
שְׁעוֹר י'
Review What We've Learned



“...man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by
everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD,”
Dt 8:3; Mt 4:4.

Review what we've learned in Course 101

- ✓ The Hebrew aleph bet & vowels (review of Lessons 1-6)
- ✓ Interesting facts about Bar Mitzvah
- ✓ BeGeD KeFeT letters & dagesh kal & dagesh chazak (review of Lesson 6)
- ✓ Diphthongs (review of Lesson 7)
- ✓ 4 levels of vocal & silent sh'vas (review of Lesson 8-9)
- ✓ Words & phrases used in our Hebrew class
- ✓ Current Parasha Reading

Lesson 1: first 5 letters of Hebrew aleph bet & vowels with “ah” sound

Hebrew Indented words are from the same root as word above.	Translation	Transliteration (Please try to read before looking at transliteration) Accented syllable is shown with yellow bold highlight.
1) אָבִי	father (note: red letter is vet א; the other form of א) also Av is the 5 th month of the Biblical year, counting from Nisan.	ahv: (reminder – “a” sound in Hebrew is <u>like “a” in spa</u> – <u>not</u> like “a” in apple.)
2) אָבִיךָ	abba, daddy, son-ship (covenantal relationship)	ahb-bah
3) אָהַבֵּנִי TIP 1	he loved (verb: 3 rd person, masculine, singular, past tense)	ah-hahv
4) גָּדִי TIP 2	Gad (as in the tribe of Gad)	gahd
5) אָבִיד	he perished, was lost (verb: 3 rd person, masculine, singular, past tense)	ah-vahd
6) הָבֵא	the coming	hahb-bah
7) הָ	the	hah
8) בָּא	I come (verb: 1 st person, masculine, singular, present tense) also he came; arrived (verb: 3 rd person, masculine, past tense)	bah
9) בָּהָּ	in her (בָּהָּ & בָּא sound the same, but are spelled differently. As in English: “so” and “sew.”)	bah
10) בִּגְדֶיךָ	clothes, covering, wrap	beh-gehd
11) בָּדָד	alone (Lev 13:46)	bah-dahd
12) גָּאֵה	he exalted, triumphed (verb: 3 rd person, masculine, past tense; Ex 15:1, 21)	gah-ah

Grammar-made-simple: review accented syllables & dots in the 1st letter of a word

Tip 1: Which syllable is accented? As a general rule, the final syllable is accented, as noted with the yellow highlight in the Transliteration column. For example, ah-hahv.

Tip 2: When a dot is in the 1st letter of a word, the pronunciation of that letter changes if it is one of 3 letters: א, ב, ג.
For example: א changes to אָ; ב changes to בָ; and ג changes to גָ.

Lesson 2: next 5 letters of Hebrew aleph bet & vowels with “ah” sound

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration (Please try to read before looking at transliteration) Accented syllable is shown with yellow bold highlight.
1) יָד	hand	yahd
2) יָדָה	he threw, he shot (verb: 3rd person, singular, masculine, past tense)	yah- dah
3) אָח	brother	ach
4) יְהוָה	YHVH (also written as יהוה)	YaH- VeH
5) וָו	vav (6 th letter of the Hebrew Aleph-Bet)	vahv
6) דָּג	fish (masculine, singular)	dahg
7) דָּגָה	school of fish	dah- gah
8) גָּג	roof	gahg
9) חָג	festival (noun, masculine, singular)	chahg
10) חָגָה	celebrated, as in make or keep a festival (verb: 3rd person, masculine, singular, past tense)	chah- gahg
11) בָּהַג	spoil (Ezekiel 25:7)	bahg
12) דָּאָה	anxious, fear, concerned, worried (verb: 3rd person, masculine, singular, past tense)	dah- ahg

I love that I am beginning to be able to pronounce Hebrew words in worship songs! DR

Lesson 3: next 5 letters of aleph bet, 3 sofits, & vowels with “eh” sound

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration
		Accented syllable is shown with yellow bold highlight.
1) יָלֵד TIP 1	boy	yeh -lehd (note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first is accented)
2) כֵּכָה	so, like this, thus (כֵּכָה כֵּכָה – so so)	cah -chah
3) אֶבֶן TIP 1	stone	eh -vehn
4) סֵלָה	Selah (pause, consider, think on this. Psalm 3:2)	seh -lah
5) לֵב	heart	lehv
6) אֶחָד	one	eh- chahd
7) לֶחֶם TIP 1	bread	leh -chehm
8) זֶה	this	zeh
9) גֶּן	garden	gahn
10) לָבָן	as in the color <u>white</u> (also, Jacob’s father-in-law, Laban)	lah- vahn
11) חֵן	favor, grace	chehn
12) כֵּן	yes	cehn
13) מָה	What (interrogative; it’s a question word)	mah
14) מִן	from, of (preposition)	meen

Grammar-made-simple:

TIP 1 Two segols in a row:

- ▶ When a 3 or 4 letter word has 2 segols, the first is accented. (If there are more letters in the word, then the accent generally will follow the usual rule with the accent on the final syllable.)

Sofits (final letters)

Five Hebrew letters have different shapes when they are the final letter of a word. Though their shape changes, their sound does not differ from its corresponding letter.

The 5 sofits are:

- ▶ chaf sofit (ך) – pronounced the same as “כ” (“ch” as in **Bach**)
- ▶ mem sofit (ם) – pronounced the same as “מ” (“m” as in **me**)
- ▶ nun sofit (ן) – pronounced the same as “נ” (“n” as in **nice**)
- ▶ fay sofit (ף) – pronounced the same as “פ” (“f” as in **far**)
- ▶ tsade sofit (צ) – pronounced the same as “צ” (“ts” as in **cats**)

Lesson 4: last 7 letters of the aleph bet & chirek

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration Accented syllable is shown with yellow bold highlight.	Practice writing each word (Use Block print on page 1 of this lesson.)
1) בֶּרֶךְ	son of (Aramaic, Bar Mitzvah, info below)	bahr	
2) אֶרֶץ ^{TIP 1}	land	eh-rehtz	
3) הִנֵּה	behold ('listen up')	hee-neh	
4) אָמֵן	Amen (truly, truth, 'so let it be it')	ah-mehn	
5) אֶלֶף ^{TIP 1}	1000	eh-lehf	
6) דָּוִד	David	Dah-veed	
7) מָה זֶה	What is this?	mah zeh	
8) בְּטָח	of course, certainly, for sure, security, safely, securely	beh-tach	
9) פָּאֶרָן	Paran (Num 13:3)	Pah-rahn	

Grammar-made-simple:

^{TIP 1} Two segols in a row:

- ▶ When a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols consecutively in a row, the first is accented.

Interesting facts about Bar Mitzvah:

There are references to Bar Mitzvah (a boy's coming of age) in the Talmud¹. By the 14th century, some sources mention a boy was called to the Torah for the first time on or following his 13th birthday. By the 17th century, boys not only read Torah but also gave talks. The first recorded bar mitzvah ceremony was in France in the 13th century. (Originally, it was merely a blessing that a father gave his son.)

According to the Orthodox Jews, a bar mitzvah is *not a graduation which celebrates an accomplishment of the past*, rather it is *the beginning of responsibility*.

In 1846, in New York, girls began to have their bat mitzvah.

¹The Talmud, a written record of rabbinic teachings that spans a period of about six hundred years, was begun during the first century AD (after the Temple's destruction) and continued through the sixth and seventh centuries AD.

<https://jps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/HiltonExcerpt.pdf>

https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/484213/jewish/What-is-the-Origin-of-the-Bar-Mitzvah-Celebration.htm

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/bar-bat-mitzvah> (source Encyclopedia Judaica)

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/history-of-bar-mitzvah/>

<https://reformjudaism.org/talmud>

Lesson 5: gutturals, 2 sofits, & the chatef vowels

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration (try to read before looking at transliteration)
1) אָהֶבָה	love (can be either a verb or a noun)	ah-hah- vah
2) אֲדָמָה	earth, ground	ah-dah- mah
3) הָאֲדָמָה	the earth (Genesis 12:3)	hah-ah-dah- mah
4) חָטָא	sinner	chah- tah
5) אֲשֶׁר	who, whose, which, where, that (relative pronoun)	ah- shehr
6) חֲטִיף	chatef is a half or reduced vowel. (eg: חֲטִיף, חֲטִיף, חֲטִיף)	chah- teh f
7) יַעֲשֶׂה	he will do, make (Num 9:14)	yah-ah- seh
8) אֱמֶת	truth	eh- meht Tip Because there are not 2 segols in a row, the accent remains on the final syllable.
9) וְאַמִּץ	& courage (& courageous)	veh-eh- mahts Tip – refer to Tip above
10) חֹזֶק וְאַמִּץ	“Be strong and of good courage” Congratulations said to Torah service participants at the end of Torah service. (Deut 31:6, 7, 23; Josh 1:6, 7, 9, 18, 10:25; 2Sam 10:12; 1Chron 19:13, 22:13, 28:20; and 2Chron 32:7)	chah- zak veh-eh- mahts
11) עֵדָת	congregation of (Ex 35:1)	ah- daht
12) לַעֲשׂוֹת	to do or make (Ex 35:1) (Note: the dot to the left of the וּ has double duty: it makes the letter a ‘seen’ <u>AND</u> the dot also serves as a <u>cholam</u> .)	lah-ah- soht
13) יַעֲבֹד	he will work or serve	yah-ah- vohd
14) לְרֵעֶךָ	to your neighbor (Lev 19:18b; final line of the Messianic Shema)	leh-reh-ah- chah
15) אֱלֹהִים	Elohim – a title for god, not actual God’s name (Gen 1:1-1:12, etc)	eh-loh- heem
16) אֱלֹהֶיךָ	your God (Deut 8:6)	eh-loh- hay -chah
17) הָאֱלֹהִים	the gods (literally), the God, or the judges (Ex 21:6)	hah-eh-loh- heem

Grammar-made-simple: chatef vowels

There are 3 chatef vowels:

- ▶ chatef segol (ֲ) – sound is “eh” as in “bed”
- ▶ chatef patach (ֳ) - sound is “ah” as in “spa”
- ▶ chatef kamats (ִ) - sound is “oh” as in “row”

Note:

1. Chatef vowels only fall under gutturals. However, not every guttural always has a chataf.
2. The ֲ & ֳ are pronounced quicker and shorter than the regular segol and patach.

The ִ is pronounced as “oh” “row”.

Lesson 6: “oh” and “oo” types of vowels

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration Accented syllable is shown with yellow bold highlight.
1) נָכוֹן	right, correct	nah- chohn (long “O”)
2) כְּבוֹד	glory, honor, splendor, weighty	kah- vohd
3) אֲרוֹן הַקֹּדֶשׁ	Holy Ark (storage cabinet which houses the Sefer Torah, Torah Scroll)	ah- rohn -- hahk-koh- dehsh
4) סוֹף	end or close (the same root as סוֹפֵת, as in ‘mem sofit’ מֵם סוֹפִית)	sohf
5) סוֹפֵת	suffix or ending; the 5 final letters: eg ‘mem sofit’ מֵם סוֹפִית	soh-feet
6) הָעֵדוּת	the testimony	hah-eh- doot

BeGeD KeFeT letters: ב ג ד כ פ ת

There are 6 letters in the Hebrew aleph bet which can be written with or without a dagesh (dot). They are called the BeGeD KeFeT letters. This term is simply a device for the easy memorization of these 6 letters.

These 6 consonants are: bet (ב); gimmel (ג); dalet (ד); kaf (כ); pay (פ); and tav (ת).

However, only three of the six letters actually change their sound, depending upon whether there is a dagesh in the letter or not. These are bet (ב); kaf (כ); pay (פ). (The blue-highlighted letters below show how the sound changes with these three letters.)

BeGeD KeFeT	Name of letter	Sound	Example	Explanation
ב	with dagesh: bet	as in ball	רַבָּה (rahb-bah)	NOTE: the bet and vet are pronounced differently
ב	without dagesh: vet	as in vice	שֶׁבֶט (sheh-veht)	
ג	with dagesh: gimmel	as in get	גַּם (gahm)	Note: the gimmel is pronounced the same with and without the dagesh
ג	without dagesh: gimmel	as in get	חָג (chahg)	
ד	with dagesh: dalet	as in dog	דָּג (dahg)	Note: the dalet is pronounced the same with and without the dagesh
ד	without dagesh: dalet	as in dog	עוֹד (od)	
כ	with dagesh: kaf	as in keep	כֶּן (kehn)	NOTE: the kaf and chaf are pronounced differently
כ	without dagesh: chaf	as in Bach	נָכוֹן (nah-chon)	
פ	with dagesh: pay	as in pet	פֶּעַם (pah-ahm)	NOTE: the pay and fay are pronounced differently
פ	without dagesh: fay	as in far	סוֹפֵת (so-feet)	
ת	with dagesh: tav	as in tell	תּוֹדָה (to-dah)	Note: the tav is pronounced the same with and without the dagesh
ת	without dagesh: tav	as in tell	שֶׁבֶט (shahb-bat)	

Lesson 6: continued

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

A dagesh chazak generally follows a short vowel. The dagesh chazak doubles the consonant.

Lesson 7: Diphthong (דו־תנועה: doo-teh-noo-ah)

Standard Sound of Hebrew vowels:

א ("ee")

ה ("eh")

ח ("eh")

א ("ah")

א ("ah")

With the addition of a yud, the vowel becomes a diphthong & the sound changes.
 "ee" as in sleep "ay" as in stay "ay" as in stay "I" as in isle "I" as in isle

אֵי

Chirek Yud
חֵירֶק יוֹד

אֵי

Tsere Yud
צֵרֶי יוֹד

אֵי

Segol Yud
סֶגוֹל יוֹד

אֵי

Kamats Yud
קָמָץ יוֹד

אֵי

Patach Yud
פָּתַח יוֹד

NOTE:

- There are only 3 diphthong sounds to remember: "I" (as in isle); "ay" (as in stay); and "ee" (as in sleep).
- Note: diphthongs are also long vowels.

Remember: when a long vowel is followed by a yud; the vowel becomes a diphthong.

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration
1) מַיִם	water	mi-yeem
2) שָׁמַיִם	heaven	shah-mi-yeem
3) אֲדֹנָיו	our Lord (1Sam 16:16) Used to refer to leaders, eg King David (1Sam 25:14, 17; 1Ki 1:43, 47; Neh 10:30; Ps 8:2,10)	Ah-doh-nay-noo (*"ay": as in "stay")
4) הָיָה	he was	hiy-yah
5) חַגִּי	Haggai, as in the book of <i>Haggai</i>	chah-gi (*"i" as in "isle")
6) בֵּין	between	bayn (*"ay": as in "stay")
7) אֵיפֹה	where? (interrogative or question word)	ay-foh
8) סִינִי	Sinai	See-ni
9) אֱלֹהִים	God (Elohim)	Eh-loh-heem
10) וַיְחַנֵּךְ	and He will be gracious to you, will give you favor (from the Aaronic blessing [aka Birkat Kohanim or Priestly Blessing], Num 6:26)	vee-choon-neh-chah
11) הִיא	she	hee
12) חִי	live	chi
13) אֵלֶיךָ	to you or upon you (this word is also in the Aaronic blessing [aka Birkat Kohanim or Priestly Blessing], Num 6:25)	eh-lay-chah (*"ay": as in "stay")

Lesson 8: vocal sh'vas

Level 1 of the vocal sh'va

- When the sh'va is under the **first letter of a word**, it is **vocal**. This sh'va generally has a quick and almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”.

Level 1- Sh'va that is under the first letter of a word is vocal (quick or short “eh”). This sh'va generally has a quick and almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”.		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) קדוש	holy, sacred (Is 1:4, the holy one; construct)	keh- dosh (commonly pronounced k'dosh)
2) בְּרָכָה	blessing (noun; Gen 12:2)	beh-rah- chah (commonly pronounced brachah)
3) מְאֹד	very	meh- od
4) שְׁמַע	Shema (refer to page 42 for more details)	sheh- mah (commonly pronounced sh'mah)
5) כְּתָב	writing, text, decree, registration of the text (noun, masculine; Esther 4:8)	keh- tahv
6) שְׁאוֹל	Sheol, hell, or grave (noun)	Sheh- ol
7) שְׁלֹשׁ רִגְלִים	3 annual pilgrimage festivals (Ex 23:14 - noun)	sheh- losh reh-gah- leem
8) שְׁוָא	one of the vowels in Hebrew	sheh- vah (commonly pronounced sh'vah)

Level 2 of the vocal sh'va

- When **2 sh'vas are consecutive (in a row)**, the 1st is silent & 2nd is vocal.
 - If a sh'va is under the 1st letter of the word, it is vocal & does not count as one of 2 consecutive sh'vas.
 - The first of two consecutive sh'vas closes the syllable and this sh'va is silent.
 - The second of 2 consecutives sh'vas is vocal and has a quick “eh” sound.

When 2 sh'vas are consecutive, the 1st is silent & 2nd is vocal. 1. The first of two consecutive sh'vas closes the syllable. The first sh'va is silent 2. The second of 2 consecutives sh'vas is vocal <i>and</i> has a quick “eh” sound.		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) יִשְׂרָצוּ	they (3 rd person, masculine, plural) will swarm, teem, or bring forth abundantly (Gen 1:20)	yeesh-reh- tsoo
2) וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ	& he (3 rd person, masculine, singular) will keep or guard you. (From the Aaronic Blessing) NOTE: The ך is a vocal sh'va (שְׁוָא נָע) & does not count as one of the 2 consecutives sh'vas	veh-yeesh-meh- reh -chah
3) יִשְׁמְרוּ	they will guard or keep	yeesh-meh- roo

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

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

Lesson 9 : Introducing Levels 3 & 4 of vocal sh'vas

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

When a <u>sh'va</u> is under a dagesh chazak, the sh'va is vocal.		
Reminder: when a dagesh follows a short vowel, the consonant that the dagesh is in is doubled		
For example: עֲמַךְ = עֵמֶךְ + חַךְ = pronounced: ahm-meh- chah		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) עֲמַךְ	your (2 nd person: you: masculine, singular) people (2Sam 7:24)	ahm-meh- chah
2) דְּבָרִים	the words or things	hahd-deh-vah- reem (commonly pronounced hahd-d'vah- reem)
3) טַפָּכֶם	your (2 nd person: you: masculine, plural) children (Dt 29:11)	tahp-peh- chehm
4) כֹּלְכֶם	all of you (2 nd person: you: masculine, plural) Eg: כֹּלְכֶם = כֶּם + לְ + כֶּם	cool-leh- chehm
5) הַשְּׁבִיעִי	the seventh	hahsh-sheh-vee- ee (commonly pronounced hahsh-shvee- ee)
6) דְּבָרִים	literally “words” (or “things”) Also this is the Hebrew name for the book of Deuteronomy	deh-vah- reem (commonly pronounced d'vah- reem)
7) קִדְּשָׁנוּ	sanctifies us (from Festival Candle Blessing)	keed-deh- shah -noo

Level 4: when a sh'va follows a long vowel, it is vocal.

When <u>sh'va</u> follows a long vowel*, it is vocal.		
*Long vowels: kamats קָמֶץ (ֹ) // tsere צִירִי (ִ) // cholam חֹלָם (ֹ) // cholam vav חֹלָם וּ // shurek שׁוּרֶק (וּ) // PLUS, all diphthongs are long. For example: הִיְתָה (In this word, note: the sh'va immediately follows the chamatz, which is 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)	hi-yeh- tah (commonly pronounced hi-yee- tah)
2) לִבְּךָ	your heart (from the V'ahavta from the Shema, Dt 6:5)	leh-vah- veh -chah (commonly pronounced leh- vahv -chah)
3) וּבְכָל־נַפְשְׁךָ	& with all your soul (from the V'ahavta in the Shema, Dt 6:5)	oo-veh-chol nahf-sheh- chah
4) כֹּתְבִים	write (masculine, plural)	koh-teh- veem (commonly pronounced koht- veem)
5) וּבְאִתּוֹ	and his oath	oo-veh-ah-lah- toh

Grammar-made-simple: Levels 3 & 4 of the vocal sh'va:

- Level 3: If the sh'va is under a dagesh chazak, it is vocal.
- Level 4: If the sh'va follows a long vowel, it is vocal. The long vowels are:
 - kamats קָמֶץ (ֹ) // tsere צִירִי (ִ) // cholam חֹלָם (ֹ) // cholam vav חֹלָם וּ // shurek שׁוּרֶק (וּ)
 - Remember: all diphthongs are long vowels.

Lesson 10: Words & Phrases used in our Hebrew class

Grammatical terms:

דוֹ-תְנוּעָה	(doo-teh-noo-ah)	diphthong – (AKA: דוֹ-תְנוּעָה)
נִקּוּד	(nikud)	Hebrew vowel
נִקּוּדוֹת	(neh-koo-dot)	Hebrew vowels
סְמִיכוֹת	(s'mee-choot)	(aka construct). 2 words used as a single unit or word. It takes the place of “of”; means “of” or “belonging to”. eg: people <u>of</u> Israel -- עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל
שָׁרֵשׁ	(sho-rehsh)	root of a word. Other words are developed from this root word.

Vocabulary

“וְ” & “וּ”	(veh & oo)	these letters are attached to the 1 st letter of word & mean “and”
לָמָּה?	(lahm-mah)	Why?
מָה זֶה?	(mah zeh)	What is this?
אֵיךְ אוֹמְרִים?	(ehch ohm * -reem)	How do you say?
כֵּן כֵּן כֵּן!	(kehn, kehn, kehn)	Yes, Yes, Yes!
לֹא לֹא לֹא!	(lo, lo, lo!)	No, No, No!
עוֹד פַּעַם	(od pah-ahm)	Again
כָּל הַזְּמַן יָשָׁר	(kol hahz'mahn * -- yah-shahr)	All the time straight.
יֵשׁ לִי שְׁאֵלָה	(yehsh lee -- sheh-eh-lah).	I have a question.
שְׁעוֹר	(shee-oor)	lesson
אַרְצוֹת הַבְּרִית	(ahr-tsot—hahb-breet)	U.S. (literally, the lands of the covenant)
פַּרְשָׁה	(pah-rah-shah)	weekly portion of Torah reading

* In these instances, the sh'va is silent in the regular pronunciation.



Weekly Parasha reading listed on CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org

GO to CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org

CLICK on **Calendar**.

THEN, select **Yearly Calendars**.

NOW, select the **current year** (for example: 2026 Calendar & Readings)

THEN, scroll down to the **current month** (for example: Aug 2026 calendar)

FINALLY, click on **current week** (for example: 08/29/2026)