

Biblical Hebrew Course 101 Biblical Hebrew Course

Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew

Lesson 2-- supplement

שְׁעוֹר ב

Learning the next 5 letters/consonants of the aleph-bet



The father of modern Hebrew: Eliezer Ben Yehuda at his desk in Jerusalem, circa 1912 (en.wikipedia.org). He said: “The Hebrew language will go from the synagogue to the house of study, and from the house of study to the school, and from the school it will come into the home and... become a living language.”

Learning the next 5 consonants/letters of Hebrew aleph-bet

2.01 supplement Next 5 consonants & 2 vowels

2.02 supplement Practice these consonants and the accompanying sounds

2.03 supplement Practice reading & writing these Hebrew words

2.04 supplement Introduction to Hebrew syllables

2.01 supplement *Next 5 consonants of Hebrew Aleph-Bet and 2 vowels*

Next 5 Letters (consonants #6-10) & 2 vowels (nikkudot): patach & kamats					
Book Print	Numeric value	Name of letter	Sound of letter	Block print <small>(as in English, there are slight variations in letters' shapes)</small>	Write each Hebrew Letter
ו	6	vav		ו	
ז	7	zayin		ז	
ח	8	chet		ח	
ט	9	tet		ט	
י	10	yod (or yud)		י	
Vowels (aka nikkudot)		Name of Vowel	Sound of Vowel	Print	Write
כּ		<i>kamats</i> : קָמֶץ		כּ	
כַּ		<i>patach</i> : פַּתַּח		כַּ	

2.02 supplement *Practice these consonants & the accompanying sounds*

Letters (aka consonants) & Vowels (aka nikkudot נִקּוּדוֹת)				
Letter	Name	Sound	Block print <small>(as in English, there are slight variations in letters' shapes)</small>	Write each letter
ו	vav		ו	
וּ	vav with kamats		וּ	
וַ	vav with patach		וַ	
ז	zayin		ז	
זּ	zayin with kamats		זּ	
זַ	zayin with patach		זַ	

ח	chet		ח	
ח־	chet with kamats		ח־	
חַ	chet with patach		חַ	
ט	tet		ט	
ט־	tet with kamats		ט־	
טַ	tet with patach		טַ	
י	yod (or yud)		י	
י־	yod with kamats		י־	
יַ	yod with patach		יַ	

2.03 supplement *Practice reading & writing these Hebrew words*

Always remember to read: right to left and top to bottom.

Read & Write words below – note: <u>generally</u> , the last syllable is the accented syllable.		
Hebrew	Translation	Write each word
יָד	hand	
יָדָה	he threw, he shot	
אָח	brother	
יְהוָה (also written יְהוִה)	YHVH (aka the tetragrammaton (YHVH), the name of God. Vowels from Adonai &/or Elohim have been superimposed on letters.)	
וָו	vav (6th letter of Hebrew aleph-bet)	
גָּג*	roof	
דָּג*	fish	

*We shall learn the dagesh (“dots”) in a later lesson.

2.04 supplement *Introduction to Hebrew syllables*

Guidelines for syllables:

1. Every Hebrew syllable begins with a consonant and a vowel. (Note: in Hebrew, syllables cannot begin with a vowel/nikkud.)
2. Easy way to know how many syllables: count the number of vowels 😊
3. Hebrew has two types of syllables: open and closed.
 - a. Open syllables end with a vowel:
 אֶהָב has two syllables אֶהָ & בָּ .
 The first syllable of אֶהָב is אֶהָ. It is open because it ends with vowel kamats.
 - b. Closed syllables end with a consonant: אֶהָב־
 The second syllable of אֶהָב־ is אֶהָב־. It is *closed* because it ends with the consonant vet.
4. Easy way to identify how many syllables are in a word – count the number of vowels.
 - a. The number of vowels in the word equals the number of syllables. (Note: each syllable has a vowel or diphthong.)
 - b. A simply way to indicate the type of syllables:
 “O” = an open syllable
 “C” = a closed syllable

<i>Practice identifying the number of syllables</i>				
Hebrew	Translation	Number of Syllables	Write Each Word With Syllables	Indicate Type Of Syllables <small>(remember Hebrew is read right to left; use the right to left order when notating the syllables below) C = closed syllable, ends with a consonant O = open syllable, ends with a vowel</small>
יָד	hand	1	יָד	C
אָח	brother	1	אָח	C
אָהַב	he loved	2	אָהַב - אָ	O (1 st syllable on right: “אָ”) C (2 nd syllable: “אָהַב”)
וָו	vav (6th letter of Hebrew Aleph-Bet)	1	וָו	C
גָּג	roof	1	גָּג	C
אָב	father	1	אָב	C
אָבַד	he was lost or perished	2		
גָּד	Gad (as in the tribe of Gad)	1		
חָגַג	celebrated (verb, as in he made or kept a festival)	2		
דָּג	fish (masculine)	1		