

Biblical Hebrew Course 101

Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew

Lesson 7

שְׁעוֹר ז

Diphthong & Dagesh Kal



Lighting candles & eating challah is a wonderful way to welcome in Shabbat.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy,” Exodus 20:8 NASB, from the Ten Commandments

Continue reinforcing the Hebrew aleph-bet

- 7.01 Sound-A-Like Consonants
- 7.02 Diphthongs
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- 7.04 Interesting Fact: Did you know
- 7.05 Introducing the dagesh & the dagesh kal
- 7.06 Words with dagesh kal
- 7.07 Hebrew blessing – practice reading & listening 🎧
- 7.08 Shabbat blessings – practice reading & listening 🎧

7.01 Sound-A-Like consonants: consonants with the same sound

Notice these consonants which sound-a-like:		
Letter	Name of letter	Sound
וּ	vet	v, as in vice
וּ	vav	v, as in vice
ט	tet	t, as in tell
ת	tav	t, as in tell
כּ	chet	ch, as in Bach
ח	chaf	ch, as in Bach
ך	chaf sofit	same sound as ח; only it is the final letter of a word
כּ	kaf	k, as in keep
ק	koof	k, as in keep
שׂ	sin (pronounced seen)	s, as in set
ס	samech	s, as in set

7.02 Diphthongs: a “yod” plus another vowel act as a unit & form a new sound

Standard Sound of Hebrew vowels ↓:				
יְ ("ee")	יֶ ("eh")	יִ ("eh")	יָ ("ah")	יַ ("ah")
Note: change in sound of vowel with addition of yod				
“ee” as in sleep	“ay” as in stay	“ay” as in stay	“I” as in isle	“I” as in isle
יְיִ	יֶיִ	יִיִ	יָיִ	יַיִ
Chirek Yod חֵירֶק יוֹד	Tsere Yod צֵירֵי יוֹד	Segol Yod סֶגוֹל יוֹד	Kamats Yod קָמָץ יוֹד	Patach Yod פָּתַח יוֹד
Diphthongs ↑ Note change in sound of vowel when a yod is added ↑				
NOTE:				
1. * Reminder: the ך can be pronounced either yod or yud.				
2. There are only 3 diphthong sounds to remember. They are: both kamats & patch + yod = “I” (as in isle); both segol & tsere + yod = “ay” (as in stay); and chirek + yod = still has “ee” (as in sleep).				

7.03 Practice reading words with diphthongs

Words with diphthongs (note: accented syllables are in bold & highlighted)		
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration
מים	water	mi*-yeem (*“i” as in “isle”)
ים	Sea (REMINDER: indented Hebrew words signify that they are from the same root as the word above.)	yahm
שמים	heaven	shah-mi-yeem
אדון	lord, master (Josh 3:11, 13; Neh 7:61; Ps 12:5, 97:5, 105:21, 114:7, Jer 22:18, 34:5; Zech 4:14, 6:5)	ah-dohn
אדני	My Lord (Ps 110:1)	Ah-doh-nee
אדני האדנים	Lord of the lords, hosts (Deut 10:17; Ps 136:3)	Ah-doh-nay* -- hah-ah-doh-neem (*“ay” as in “stay”)
אדני יהוה	Lord YHVH, Lord God (Gen 15:2, 8; Deut 3:24, 9:26; Jdg 6:22, 16:28; Ps 69:7, 71:5, 16; etc)	Ah-doh-ni* (*long “I” as in isle) -- Yah-veh
האדון יהוה	The Lord YHVH, the Lord God (Ex 23:17, 34:23)	hah-Ah-dohn --Yah-veh
אדנינו	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”)
היה	he was	hiy-yah
חגי	Haggai, as in the book of <i>Haggai</i>	chahg-gi* (*“i” as in “isle”)
בין	between	bayn (*“ay” as in “stay”)
איפה	where? (interrogative or question word)	ay*-foh
סיני	Sinai	See-ni* (*“i” as in “isle”)
אלהים	God (Elohim)	Eh-loh-heem
ויחנה	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
חן	grace, favor, pleasant	chehn
היא	she	hee
חי	live (verb)	chi* (*“i” as in “isle”)
חיים	living or life	chiy-yeem
לחיים	to life! (a common Hebrew toast)	leh-chiy-yeem
אלריך	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”)

7.04 INTERESTING FACT: Did you know?

Generally, a “J” in English name is translated as a “yod/yud” in Hebrew. For example: Joseph in English is Yosef in Hebrew; Jacob, Yaakov; Jerusalem, Yerushalayim

7.05 Introducing the dagesh & the dagesh kal

- A dagesh is a dot within a consonant
 - There are two types of dagesh in Hebrew: dagesh kal & dagesh chazak
- Dagesh kal** (דגש קל) is also called **dagesh lene** (or a weak dagesh)
 - Where is dagesh kal found?** It is in 6 letters: ב, ג, ד, כ, פ, ת. BeGeD KeFeT (in Hebrew: בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת) is the acronym for these letters.
 - Note: in only 3 of these 6 letters does the dagesh kal actually change the sound:
 - the ב changes to בּ; the כ to כּ; the פ to פּ.
 - What rules pertain to dagesh kal?**
 - It is found in the 1st letter of a word or in a consonant that opens a syllable.
 - Dagesh kal never follows a vowel.

7.06 Words with dagesh kal

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration (please try to read before looking at transliteration) Syllable that is accented is shown below with yellow bold highlight.
בְּרֵאשִׁית	In the beginning (Gen 1:1)	beh-reh- sheet * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of the בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת. When a word begins with a bet, there is a change in pronunciation)
כִּי	When, because, or like (Ex 1:2)	kee * Dagesh Kal (caf is part of the בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת. When a word begins with a chaf, the chaf changes to a kaf)
דָּבַר	he spoke (Lev 25:2)	dahb- behr * Dagesh Kal (dalet is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת)
בְּמִדְבָּר*	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed- bahr * There are two dagesh kals: (each ב is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת. The 1st bet is in the 1st letter of the word; the 2nd bet opens the syllable) * the מ is not part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת & will be explained in Lesson 8
דָּג	fish (Jonah 1:17)	dahg * Dagesh Kal (dalet is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת)
פַּרְעֹה	Pharaoh (Gen 47:10)	pahr- oh * Dagesh Kal (pay is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת)

7.07 Hebrew Blessing: practice reading & listening 🎧 www.faithfulstewardship.org/hebrew-blessings/

Blessed be YHVH for evermore! Amen and amen. (Psalms 89:52)		
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration Note: accented syllable is bolded
בְּרוּךְ	blessed or praise	bah- rooch
יְהוָה	YHVH / LORD	YH VH (or Adonai)
לְעוֹלָם*	forevermore (*Notice: sometimes the cholam floats to the right & isn't properly aligned over the vav. This is common when using left-to-right computers ☹️)	leh-oh*- lahm
אָמֵן וְאָמֵן	Amen and amen	ah-mehn veh-ah- mehn

CANDLELIGHT BLESSING:

****כָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם****

... אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְנָתַן-לָנוּ אֶת יֵשׁוּעַ מְשִׁיחֵנוּ אֹר הָעוֹלָם. (אָמֵן)

“Blessed are You, YHVH, our God, King of the Universe Who makes us holy with His commandments; and gave to us Yeshua our Meshiach, the light of the world. Amen...”

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration Note: accented syllable is bolded
כָּרוּךְ	blessed or praise	bah- ruch
אַתָּה	you (masculine singular pronoun)	aht- tah
יְהוָה	YHVH / LORD	YH VH (or Adonai)
אֱלֹהֵינוּ	our God	Eh-lo- heh -noo
מֶלֶךְ	king	meh -lech
הָעוֹלָם	of the universe	hah-o- lahm
אֲשֶׁר	who or which	ah- shehr
קִדְּשָׁנוּ	makes us holy	keed-deh- shah -noo (commonly pronounced keed-dee- shah -noo)
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו*	in His commandments (*the i looks like a cholam vav, but it is a vav + cholam. It's sound is “vo”. More info in Tip below. Also, the suffix וֹיְ is pronounced “tahv”)	beh-meetz-vo*- tahv
וְנָתַן	and he gave	veh-nah- tahn
לָנוּ	to us	lah -noo
אֶת*	(*This is a Definite Direct Object Marker, meaning a direct object follows the word “eht/אֶת” There is no equivalent term in English)	eht
יֵשׁוּעַ	Yeshua	Yeh- shoo -ah
מְשִׁיחֵנוּ	our Messiah	Meh-she- chah -noo (commonly pronounced Meh-she- chay -noo)
אֹר	light (‘ohr’ is included in construction of אֹר)	ohr
הָעוֹלָם	the world	hah-o- lahm

Grammar-made-simple: בְּמִצְוֹתָיו

1. In the word (בְּמִצְוֹתָיו), the “tsade” has a sheva; the sheva closes the previous syllable.

a. In many ways this word is a “sight word.”

- i. Is the “vav” a consonant or part of a holam vav? It is the consonant vav & not part of the holam vav. We know because a syllable cannot begin with vowel (the holam vav, in this instance); therefore, this vav is be a consonant.
- ii. What about the holam that is above the vav? It is a holam which floated over the vav. It should be to the left of the vav. So, the cholam gives the vav the V-oh sound.

2. The pronominal suffix **וֹיְ** is pronounced “tahv”. This pronominal suffix ending is 3rd person masculine singular & is translated as “his”.

KIDDUSH BLESSING (blessing over grape juice/wine):

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם **
 בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגֶּפֶן (אָמֵן)

*“Blessed are You, YHVH, our God, King of the Universe
 Who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen”*

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration Note: accented syllable is bolded
בוֹרֵא	creates, makes, shapes, forms	bo- reh
פְּרֵי	fruit of	p’ree
הַגֶּפֶן	the vine	hahg- gah -fehn

MOTZI BLESSING (blessing over bread/food):

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם **
 הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ: (אָמֵן)

*“Blessed are You, YHVH, our God, King of the Universe
 Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen”*

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration Note: accented syllable is bolded
הַמוֹצִיא	(Who) brings forth	hahm- mo -tzee
לֶחֶם	bread	leh -chehm
מִן	from	meen
הָאָרֶץ	the earth	hah- ah -rehtz



Yonah Black is getting ready to light Shabbat candles.

** The majority of Hebrew blessings all begin with this phrase & then add to it:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
Blessed are You, YHVH, our God, King of the Universe ...