

# Biblical Hebrew Course 101

## *Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew*

### Lesson 9

### שְׁעוֹר ט

## Shevas, cont.



*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

### ***Continue learning the shevas***

- 9.01 Review dagesh kal & dagesh chazak
- 9.02 Review sheva Level 1 & Level 2
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- 9.04 Practice identifying the different levels of sheva
- 9.05 Reading exercise: Leviticus 10:10
- 9.06 Answers to 9.04
- 9.07 Review grammatical terms & definitions
- 9.08 Weekly Parasha: [www.RestoringTorah.org](http://www.RestoringTorah.org)

## 9.01 Review dagesh kal & dagesh chazak

**Dagesh kal** (דגש קל) is also called **dagesh lene** (or a weak dagesh)

1. The dagesh kal is found only in 6 letters. The acronym for remembering these letters is BeGeD KeFeT: **בְּגָד כֶּפֶת**
2. For this class, we're concerned with the 3 letters that can change their sounds. These are **ב** to **בּ**; from **כ** to **כּ**; from **פ** to **פּ**.
  - a. It is important to remember that the dagesh kal never follows a vowel.
  - b. And that it only appears.
  - c. When BeGeD KeFeT letter is in the 1st letter of a word or when it opens a syllable a word, it will have a dagesh.
    - The addition of a dagesh kal changes the sound in only 3 of the 6 BeGeD KeFeT letters:
      - **ב** (from **ב** to **בּ**)
      - **כ** (from **כ** to **כּ**)
      - **פ** (from **פ** to **פּ**)

**Dagesh chazak** (דגש חזק) is also called **dagesh forte** (or dagesh strong)

1. REMEMBER: A dagesh chazak is a dagesh when the dagesh is preceded by a vowel.
2. A dagesh chazak doubles the consonant.
  - Examples of a dagesh chazak in a word:
    - דָּבַר** = **דָּב**+**בָּר** = pronounced: dahb-**behr** (note: dagesh in dalet is a dagesh kal because it is part of the **בְּגָד כֶּפֶת** letters)
    - בַּמְדַּבֵּר** = **בַּמְ**+**דָּב**+**רָ**+**בָּ** = pronounced: bahm-meed-**bahr** (note: dagesh in bet is a dagesh kal because it is part of the **בְּגָד כֶּפֶת** letters)
    - הִגְדָּה** = **הִגְ**+**דָּ**+**הָ** = pronounced: hahg-gah-**dah**
    - אָהָה** = **אָה**+**תָּה** = pronounced aht-tah.
3. A dagesh chazak may appear in any consonant except the 5 gutturals (aleph: א, hey: ה, chet: ח, ayin: ע, & sometimes resh: ר).

### Grammar-made-simple: dagesh kal & dagesh chazak:

1. When a BeGeD KeFeT letter begins a word, it has a dagesh kal.
2. If any vowel (long or short) is in front of a dagesh, it is a dagesh chazak. Also the consonant will be doubled.

**Level 1: when sheva is at the beginning of a word, it is vocal**

**9.02 Review sheva level 1 & level 2 (refer to lesson 8)**

Reminder the sheva can be either vocal or it can be silent.

There are various rules which determine whether the sheva is vocal (“eh”) or silent which we will discuss in this lesson.

- **A vocal sheva is called sheva na** (עָ אָשָׁא). This sheva generally has a quick and an almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”.
- **A silent sheva is called sheva nach** (אָ אָשָׁא).

**Level 2: when 2 shevas are consecutive, the 1<sup>st</sup> sheva is silent; & the 2<sup>nd</sup> sheva is vocal**

When the sheva is <u>under the first letter of a word</u> , that sheva is vocal. It is a sheva na (עָ אָשָׁא). This sheva generally has a quick & an almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”.		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
שְׁמָע	Shema	sheh- <b>mah</b> (commonly pronounced: sh' <b>mah</b> )
שְׁוָא	sheva: one of the vowels in Hebrew	sheh- <b>vah</b> (commonly pronounced: sh' <b>vah</b> )

When 2 Shevas are consecutive (in a row), the 1 <sup>st</sup> is silent (אָ אָשָׁא) & 2 <sup>nd</sup> is vocal (עָ אָשָׁא).		
1. The first of two consecutive shevas closes the syllable. The first sheva is silent (אָ אָשָׁא) 2. The second of 2 consecutive shevas is vocal (עָ אָשָׁא) and has a quick “eh” sound.		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
יִשְׂרָצוּ	they (3 <sup>rd</sup> person, masculine, plural) will swarm, teem, or bring forth abundantly (Gen 1:20)	yeesh-reh- <b>tsoo</b>

**Grammar-made-simple: Levels 1 & 2 of the vocal sheva:**

1. Level 1: If the sheva is under the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of the word, it is vocal.
2. Level 2: If there are 2 shevas in a row (consecutive), then the 1<sup>st</sup> is silent & the 2<sup>nd</sup> is vocal.

### 9.03 Introducing sheva level 3 & level 4

#### Level 3: when a sheva is under a dagesh chazak, the sheva is vocal.

o Also, when a sheva is under a dagesh chazak, that sheva is vocal.

(Review Lesson 9.01: a dagesh chazak follows any vowel)

When a sheva is under a dagesh chazak (דגש חזק), the sheva is vocal (נע וְאֵן).		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
כִּלְכֶם	all of you (2 <sup>nd</sup> person: you: masculine, plural) Eg: כִּלְכֶם = כֶּם+לְ+כֶם	cool-leh- <b>chehm</b>
אַהֲמֶיךָ	your (2 <sup>nd</sup> person: you: masculine, singular) people (2Sam 7:24)	ahm-meh- <b>chah</b>
הַשְּׁבִיעִי	the seventh	hahsh-sheh-vee- <b>ee</b> (commonly pronounced hahsh-shvee- <b>ee</b> )
הַדְּבָרִים	the words or things	hahd-deh-vah- <b>reem</b> (commonly pronounced hahd-d'vah- <b>reem</b> )
דְּבָרִים	literally “words” (or “things”) Also, it is the Hebrew name for the book of Deuteronomy	deh-vah- <b>reem</b> (commonly pronounced d'vah- <b>reem</b> )
טַפְּכֶם	your (2 <sup>nd</sup> person: you: masculine, plural) children (Dt 29:11)	tahp-peh- <b>chehm</b>
קִדְּשָׁנוּ	sanctifies us (from traditional Festival Candle Blessing)	keed-deh- <b>shah</b> -noo

#### Grammar-made-simple: dagesh chazak:

1. Reminder: it's easy to recognize a dagesh chazak, because this dagesh follows a vowel – any vowel.

**Level 4: when a sheva follows a long vowel, it is vocal**

When a sheva follows a long vowel\*, it is vocal (שְׁוֹא נָע).

\*Long vowels:

*kamats* קָמֶץ (ֶ) // *tseré* צֵרֵי (ֵ) // // *tseré yud* צֵרֵי (ֵי) // *chirek yud* (ֵי) //

*cholam* חוֹלָם (וֹ) // *cholam vav* חוֹלָם וּ (וֹ) // *shurek* שׁוּרֶק (וּ)

**For example:** הִיְתָהּ (In this word, note: the sheva immediately follows the chamatz, which is a long vowel. Therefore, the sheva is vocal. הִיְתָהּ is pronounced: hi-yeh-**ta**h)

Word	Meaning	Transliteration
הִיְתָהּ	it was (3 <sup>rd</sup> person: feminine, singular)	hi-yeh- <b>ta</b> h (commonly pronounced hi-yee- <b>ta</b> h)
לְבָבְךָ	your heart (from the V'ahavta from the Shema, Dt 6:5)	leh-vah- <b>veh</b> -chah (commonly pronounced leh- <b>vahv</b> -chah)
כְּתָבִים	write (masculine, plural)	koh-teh- <b>veem</b> (commonly pronounced koht- <b>veem</b> )
וּבְאִלְתּוֹ	and his oath	oo-veh-ah-lah- <b>to</b> h

**Grammar-made-simple:** levels 3 & 4 of the vocal sheva:

- Level 3: If the sheva is under a dagesh chazak, it is vocal.
- Level 4: If the sheva follows a long vowel or a diphthong, it is vocal.

a. *kamats* קָמֶץ (ֶ) // *tseré* צֵרֵי (ֵ) // *cholam* חוֹלָם (וֹ) // *cholam vav* חוֹלָם וּ (וֹ) // *shurek* שׁוּרֶק (וּ)

**9.04 Practice identifying the different levels of shevas**

Word	Meaning	Transliteration	Type of sheva & why (Answers are on 9.08)
1) בְּיַד	by hand of (by the hand of Moses, Dt 4:44; Num 9:23)	beh- <b>yahd</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
2) הַבְּדִלָה	Havdalah (ceremony closing Shabbat & distinguishes it from the common of other 6 days)	hahv-dah- <b>lah</b>	Non-vocal, <b>silent sheva</b> , because sheva follows a short vowel.
3) לְדַבֵּר	to speak	leh-dahb- <b>behr</b>	
4) תִּשְׁמְעוּ	you do/will listen (Deut 11:27)	tish-meh- <b>ooh</b>	
5) כְּתָבִים	write (masculine plural)	koh- <b>teh</b> -veem (commonly pronounced kot- <b>veem</b> )	
6) בְּהָר	in or on mount or mountain	beh- <b>hahr</b>	
7) בְּמִדְבָּר	in desert or wilderness	beh-meed- <b>bahr</b>	
8) וְנָשְׂאוּ	and they carried, they lifted, to marry (3cp)	veh-nah-seh- <b>oo</b> (commonly pronounced v'nahs- <b>oo</b> )	
9) לְחוֹל	to be common (Lev 10:10; also in the Havdalah)	leh- <b>chohl</b>	

10) מִרְחֶשֶׁת	saucepan (Lev 2:7: grain offering made in a pan)	mahr- <b>ch</b> eh-sheht	
11) כֻּלְּכֶם	all of you (Deut 29:10)	kool-leh- <b>chem</b>	
12) בְּנֵי	sons of	beh- <b>nay</b>	
13) שֶׁרְצוּ	they bring forth (Gen 9:7)	sheer- <b>tsoo</b>	
14) וְרוּחַ	and spirit	veh- <b>roo</b> -ahch	
15) מִצְוָה	mitzvah / commandment	meets- <b>vah</b>	
16) זְמַן	time	zeh- <b>mahn</b> (commonly pronounced z'mahn)	
17) שְׂמָאל	left	seh- <b>mohl</b> (commonly pronounced s'mohl)	
18) אַבְרָהָם	Avraham	Ahv-rah- <b>hahm</b>	
19) מְאֹד	very	meh- <b>ohd</b>	
20) בְּבִקְשָׁה	please (adverb)	beh-vahk-kah- <b>shah</b>	
21) עַמְּךָ	your people	ahm-meh- <b>chah</b>	
22) לְאֵט	slowly (adverb)	leh- <b>aht</b>	

### 9.05 Reading exercise: Leviticus 10:10

“You are to distinguish between the holy & the common, & between the unclean & the clean,” Lev 10:10 ESV

וְלִהְבְדִּיל בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין הַחֹל וּבֵין הַטְּמֵא וּבֵין הַטְּהוֹר:

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration
וְלִהְבְדִּיל	and to be divided, separated, make distinction, set apart	oo-lah-hahv- <b>decl</b>
בֵּין	between	bayn
הַקֹּדֶשׁ	the holy	hahk-ko- <b>dehsh</b>
וּבֵין	and between	oo- <b>vayn</b>
הַחֹל	the common, unholy, ordinary, profane	hah- <b>chol</b>
וּבֵין	and between	oo- <b>vayn</b>
הַטְּמֵא	the unclean, defiled	haht-tah- <b>may</b>
וּבֵין	and between	oo- <b>vayn</b>
הַטְּהוֹר	the clean, pure	hah- tah- <b>hor</b>

9.06 **ANSWERS to 9.04** “Practice identifying the different levels of silent & vocal sheva”

Word	Meaning	Transliteration	Type of sheva & why (Questions are on 9.03)
1) בְּיַד	by hand of (by the hand of Moses, Dt 4:44; Num 9:23)	beh- <b>yahd</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
2) הַבְּדִלָּה	Havdalah (ceremony closing Shabbat & distinguishes it from the common of other 6 days)	hahv-dah- <b>lah</b>	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
3) לְדַבֵּר	to speak	leh-dahb- <b>behr</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
4) תִּשְׁמָעוּ	you do/will listen (Deut 11:27)	tish-meh- <b>ooh</b>	Level 2: 2 shevas in a row
5) כְּתוּבִים	write (masculine plural)	koh- <b>teh</b> -veem (commonly pronounced kot' <b>veem</b> )	Level 3: sheva follows a long vowel
6) בְּהַר	in or on mount or mountain	beh- <b>hahr</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
7) בְּמִדְבָּר	in desert	beh-meed- <b>bahr</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter 2 <sup>nd</sup> sheva is non-vocal, silent sheva; it follows a short vowel
8) וַנִּשְׂאוּ	and they carried, they lifted, to marry (3cp)	veh-nah-seh- <b>oo</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter Level 4: 2 <sup>nd</sup> sheva follows a long vowel
9) לְחֹל	to be common (Lev 10:10 also in the Havdalah)	leh- <b>chohl</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
10) מִרְחֶשֶׁת	saucepan (Lev 2:7: grain offering made in a pan)	mahr- <b>cheh</b> -sheht	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
11) כְּלָכֶם	all of you	kool-leh- <b>chem</b>	Level 4: sheva is under a dagesh chazak
12) בְּנֵי	sons of	beh- <b>nay</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
13) שִׁרְצוּ	they bring forth (Gen 9:7)	sheer- <b>tsoo</b>	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
14) וְרוּחַ	and spirit	veh- <b>roo</b> -ahch	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
15) מִצְוָה	mitzvah	meets- <b>vah</b>	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
16) מִשְׁפָּטֶי	Your judgments (Ps 19:9)	mish-peh- <b>tay</b>	Level 2: 2 shevas in a row
17) שְׂמָאל	left	seh- <b>mohl</b> (commonly pronounced s' <b>mohl</b> )	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
18) אַבְרָהָם	Avraham	Ahv-rah- <b>hahm</b>	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
19) מְאֹד	very	meh- <b>ohd</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
20) בְּבִקְשָׁה	please (adverb)	beh-vahk-kah- <b>shah</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
21) עַמְּךָ	your people	ahm-meh- <b>chah</b>	Level 3: sheva is under dagesh chazak
22) לְאֵט	slowly (adverb)	leh- <b>aht</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter

## 9.07 *Review grammatical terms & definitions*

### Short definitions of terms:

שְׁוֹא נָע (sheva na) vocal sheva

שְׁוֹא נָח (sheva nach) quiet or silent sheva

דָּגֵשׁ קָל (dagesh kal) dagesh lene.

- Changes the sound of the consonant.

While the dagesh kal can be in the 6 BeGeD KeFet letters (בְּגֵד כָּפֶת), there are only 3 of the 6 which change their sound.

The 3 letters which change sound with the dagesh kal: בּ to בְּ; כּ to כְּ; & פּ to פְּ

דָּגֵשׁ חָזָק (dagesh chazak) dagesh forte or dagesh strong

- Doubles consonant in which it stands.
- Identical in appearance to dagesh kal.
- May be in any consonant except the 5 gutturals (aleph, hay, chet, ayin, & sometimes resh).
- When a dagesh is immediately preceded by a vowel, the dagesh is a dagesh chazek.

eg: אַתָּה = אַתְּ-הָהָה (aht-tah).

דוֹ-תְנוּעָה (doo-teh-noo-ah) diphthong

נִקְדוּת/נִקְדוּד (nik-kud/neh-kud-dot) symbols or Hebrew vowels

שְׁרֵשׁ (shoh-rehsh) 3-4 letter root of a word

## 9.08 *Weekly Parasha reading* (go to [www.RestoringTorah.org](http://www.RestoringTorah.org))