

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
- 9.03 Introducing sheva Level 3 & Level 4
- 9.04 Practice identifying the different levels of sheva
- 9.05 Answers to 9.04
- 9.06 Reading exercise: Leviticus 10:10
- 9.07 Review grammatical terms & definitions
- 9.08 Weekly Parasha: www.RestoringTorah.org

9.01 Review dagesh kal & dagesh chazak

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

- The dagesh kal is found only in 6 BeGeD KeFeT letters. The acronym for remembering these letters is BeGeD KeFeT: **בְּגָד כָּפֶת**
- 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**.
 - It is important to remember that the dagesh kal never follows a vowel. (It can follow a sheva.)
 - And that it only appears when a BeGeD KeFeT letter is the 1st letter of a word or when it opens a syllable, 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)

- REMEMBER: A dagesh is a dagesh chazak when the dagesh is preceded by a full vowel.
- A dagesh chazak doubles the consonant.
 - Examples of a dagesh chazak in a word:
 - דָּבַר** = **דָּב**+**בַּר** = pronounced: dahb-**behr** (note: the dagesh in the dalet is a dagesh kal because it is part of the **בְּגָד כָּפֶת** letters)
 - בְּמִדְבָּר** = **בְּמִד**+**בָּר**+**בָּר** = pronounced: bahm-meed-**bahr** (note: the dagesh in the bet is a dagesh kal because it is part of the **בְּגָד כָּפֶת** letters)
 - הַגְּדָה** = **הַגְּד**+**אָה** = pronounced: hahg-gah-**dah**
 - אָהֳתָה** = **אָה**+**תָּה** = pronounced aht-tah.
- 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:

- Dagesh kal: When a BeGeD KeFeT letter begins a word or opens a syllable, it has a dagesh kal. This dagesh changes sound only with **ב** to **בּ**; from **כ** to **כּ**; & from **פ** to **פּ**.
- Dagesh chazak: When any full vowel is in front of a dagesh, it is a dagesh chazak. The consonant, that this dagesh is in, will be doubled.

Practice recognizing dagesh kal & dagesh chazak

* Note: the rule for each dagesh is named below

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration (please try to read before looking at transliteration)
1. דָּבַר	he spoke (Lev 25:2)	dahb- behr * Dagesh Kal (dalet is part of בְּגָד כָּפֶת & does not follow a full vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (bet is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.)
2. בְּמִדְבָּר	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed- bahr * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בְּגָד כָּפֶת & does not follow a full vowel) * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because the dagesh follows a full vowel.) * Dagesh Kal (bet is part of בְּגָד כָּפֶת & does not follow a full vowel)
3. הַמַּיִם	the water (Gen 1:2)	hahm- may -yeem * Dagesh Chazak (mem is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.)
4. לְמִטָּה	of every tribe (Num 13:2)	leh-maht- teh * Dagesh Chazak (tet is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.)

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 אָ שָׁ*). This sheva generally has a quick and an almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”.
- **A silent sheva is called sheva nach** (חָ אָ שָׁ*). (*These terms will be discussed later.)

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

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

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

When the sheva is under the first letter of a word it is vocal. This sheva 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.
לָךְ	for yourself (Gen 6:14)	leh- chah
בַּיּוֹם	in the day (Lev 19:6)	beh- yom
לְנוֹחַ	to Noach (Gen 6:13)	leh- no -ahch (*when the final letter & vowel of a word are ךְ, the pronunciation is “ach” not “cha”)

Level 2: vocal sheva – when 2 shevas are consecutive (in other words, are in a row)

When 2 Shevas are consecutive, the 1st is silent (חָ אָ שָׁ) & 2nd is vocal. 1. The first of two consecutive shevas closes the syllable. The first sheva is silent. 2. The second of 2 consecutive shevas is vocal and has a quick “eh” sound.		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
עַבְדְּךָ	your servant (Gen 19:19)	ahv-deh- chah
תִּשְׁמָעוּ	you will obey (2 nd part of the Shema; Deut 11:13)	teesh-meh- oo
אַרְצְכֶם	your land (2 nd part of the Shema; Deut 11:14)	ahr-tseh- chehm
נַפְשְׁךָ	your soul (Deut 6:5)	nah-sheh- chah
יִשְׁמְרוּ	they will guard or keep (Ezekiel 11:20)	yeesh-meh- roo
שִׁבְתֶּךָ	your dwelling places (1Kings 8:30)	sheev-teh- chah

9.03 Introducing sheva Level 3 & Level 4

Level 3: when a sheva is under a dagesh chazak, the sheva is vocal. (Review Lesson 9.01)

When a **sheva** is under a dagesh chazak (דגש חזק), the sheva is vocal.

Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) כֻּלְּכֶם	all of you (2 nd person: you: masculine, plural) Eg: כֻּלְּכֶם = כָּל+לְ+כֶם	cool-leh- chehm
2) אַחֲמֶיךָ	your (2 nd person: you; masculine, singular) people (2Sam 7:24)	ahm-meh- chah
3) הַשְּׁבִיעִי	the seventh	hahsh-sheh-vee- ee (commonly pronounced hahsh-shvee- ee)
4) הַדְּבָרִים	the words or things	hahd-deh-vah- reem (commonly pronounced hahd-d'vah- reem)
5) דְּבָרִים	literally “words” (or “things”) Also, it is the Hebrew name for the book of Deuteronomy	deh-vah- reem (commonly pronounced d'vah- reem)
6) טַפְּכֶם	your (2 nd person: you: masculine, plural) children (Dt 29:11)	tahp-peh- chehm
7) קִדְּשָׁנוּ	sanctifies us (from traditional Festival Candle Blessing)	keed-deh- shah -noo

Grammar-made-simple: dagesh chazak:

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

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

When a **sheva** follows a long vowel*, it is vocal.

*Long vowels:

kamats קָמֶץ (ֻ) // *tseré* צִירֵי (ִ) // *cholam* חוֹלָם (ֹ) // *cholam vav* חוֹלָם וּ // *shurek* שׁוּרֶק (וּ) & sometimes *tseré yud* צִירֵי יוּ (ִ) // *chirek yud* (ִ)

For example: הִיְתָה (In this word: the sheva immediately follows the kamats, which is a long vowel; therefore, the sheva 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) לְבַבְּךָ	your heart (from the V'ahavta from the Shema, Dt 6:5)	leh-vah- veh -chah (commonly pronounced leh- vahv -chah)
3) כָּתְבֵם	write (masculine, plural)	koh-teh- veem (commonly pronounced koht- veem)
4) וּבְאִתּוֹ	and his oath	oo-veh-ah-lah- toh

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

1. Level 3: If the sheva is under a dagesh chazak, it is vocal.
2. Level 4: If the sheva follows a long vowel, it is vocal.

- a. *kamats* קָמֶץ (ֻ) // *tseré* צִירֵי (ִ) // *cholam* חוֹלָם (ֹ) // *cholam vav* חוֹלָם וּ // *shurek* שׁוּרֶק (וּ) & sometimes *tseré yud* צִירֵי יוּ (ִ) // *chirek yud* (ִ)

9.04 Practice identifying the different levels of shevas

Word	Meaning	Transliteration	Type of sheva & why (Answers are on 9.08)
1) בַּיָּד	by hand of (by the hand of Moses, Dt 4:44; Num 9:23)	beh- yahd	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
2) הַבְּדִלָּה	Havdalah (ceremony closing Shabbat & distinguishes it from the common of other 6 days)	hahv-dah- lah	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
3) לְדַבֵּר	to speak	leh-dahb- behr	
4) תִּשְׁמָעוּ	you do/will listen (Deut 11:27)	tish-meh- ooh	
5) כְּתִבִּים	write (masculine plural)	koh- teh -veem (commonly pronounced kot' veem)	
6) בְּהַר	in or on mount or mountain	beh- hahr	
7) בְּמִדְבָּר	in desert or wilderness	beh-meed- bahr	
8) וְנָשְׂאוּ	and they carried, they lifted, to marry (3cp)	veh-nah-seh- oo (commonly pronounced v'nahs- oo)	
9) לְחֹל	to be common (Lev 10:10; also in the Havdalah)	leh- chohl	
10) מִרְחֶשֶׁת	saucepan (Lev 2:7: grain offering made in a pan)	mahr- cheh -sheht	
11) כְּלָכֶם	all of you (Deut 29:10)	kool-leh- chem	
12) בְּנֵי	sons of	beh- nay	
13) וְרָצוּ	they bring forth (Gen 9:7)	sheer- tsoo	
14) וְרוּחַ	and spirit	veh- roo -ahch	
15) מִצְוָה	mitzvah / commandment	meets- vah	
16) זְמַן	time	zeh- mahn (commonly pronounced z'mahn)	
17) שְׂמָאל	left	seh- mohl (commonly pronounced s' mohl)	
18) אַבְרָהָם	Avraham	Ahv-rah- hahm	
19) מְאֹד	very	meh- ohd	
20) בְּבִקְשָׁה	please (adverb)	beh-vahk-kah- shah	
21) עַמְּךָ	your people	ahm-meh- chah	
22) לְאִט	slowly (adverb)	leh- aht	

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

9.06 Reading exercise: Leviticus 10:10

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

וְלִהְבְּדִיל בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין הַחֹל וּבֵין הַטְּמֵא וּבֵין הַטְּהוֹר:

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration
1) וְלִהְבְּדִיל	and to be divided, separated, make distinction, set apart	oo-lah-hahv- deei
2) בֵּין	between	bayn
3) הַקֹּדֶשׁ	the holy	hahk-ko- dehsh
4) וּבֵין	and between	oo- vayn
5) הַחֹל	the common, unholy, ordinary, profane	hah- chol
6) וּבֵין	and between	oo- vayn
7) הַטְּמֵא	the unclean, defiled	haht-tah- may
8) וּבֵין	and between	oo- vayn
9) הַטְּהוֹר	the clean, pure	hah- tah- hor

9.07 Review short definitions of grammatical terms

שְׁוֵא נָע (sheva na) vocal sheva

שְׁוֵא נָח (sheva nach) quiet or silent sheva

דְּגֵשׁ קַל (dagesh kal) dagesh lene.

- Changes the sound of the consonant.

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

The 3 letters which change sound with the dagesh kal: בּ to ב; כּ to כ; & פּ to פ

דְּגֵשׁ חֲזָק (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: אַהֲתָה = אַתְּ-תָה (aht-tah).

דוּוֹתָנוּעָה (doo-teh-noo-ah) diphthong

נִקְדוֹת/נְקוּדוֹת (nik-kud/neh-kud-dot) symbols or Hebrew vowels

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

9.08 Weekly Parasha reading -

1. Go to Calendar on CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org
or click here to go directly: <https://www.fulfillstewardship.org/2024-calendar-readings/>
2. Scroll to current month