

Biblical Hebrew Course 101
– **Boot Camp** –
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew

Lesson 7

שְׁעוֹר ז

Diphthongs, Dagesh Kal, & Blessings



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

- 7.01 Sound-A-Like Consonants
- 7.02 Diphthongs
- 7.03 Practice reading words with diphthongs
- 7.04 Interesting Fact: Did you know
- 7.05 The dagesh & the dagesh kal
- 7.06 Words with dagesh kal
- 7.07 Psalm 89:52 – practice reading & listening 🎧
- 7.08 Shabbat blessings – practice reading & listening 🎧

Don't forget to bring your completed homework to class 😊

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

Notice these consonants which sound-a-like:		
Letter	Name of letter	Sound
ו	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
כ	chaf	ch, as in Bach
ך	chaf sofit	same sound as כ; only it is the final letter of a word
כף	kaf	k, as in keep
קף	koof	k, as in keep
שׂ	sin (pronounced seen)	s, as in set
ס	samech	s, as in set

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

Standard Sound Of Hebrew Vowels ↓				
אֵ ("ee")	אֶ ("eh")	אִ ("eh")	אָ ("ah")	אֹ ("ah")
Sound Of Hebrew Vowels With Diphthong ↓				
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
אֵי	אֶי	אִי	אָי	אֹי
Chirek Yod חֵירָק יוֹד	Tsere Yod צֵירֵי יוֹד	Segol Yod סֵגוֹל יוֹד	Kamats Yod קָמָץ יוֹד	Patach Yod פָּתַח יוֹד
Diphthongs ↑ Note change in sound of vowel when a yod is added ↑				
NOTE:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> * Reminder: the ם (yud) can be pronounced either yod or yud. There are only 3 diphthong sounds to remember. They are: kamats or patch + yod = “I” (sound “I” as in isle); segol or tsere + yod = “ay” (sound “ay” as in stay); and chirek + yod = still has “ee” (as in sleep). Diphthongs, chatafs, and shevas are all considered half vowels (they are not full vowels). 				

7.03 Practice reading words with diphthongs

Words with diphthongs (note: accented syllables are in bold & highlighted)		
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration
1) מַיִם	water	mi *-yeem (*“i” as in “isle”)
2) שָׁמַיִם	heaven	shah- mi -yeem
3) אֲדֹנָי	My Lord (Ps 110:1)	Ah-doh- nee
4) אֲדֹנָי הַאֱלֹהִים	Lord of the lords, hosts (Deut 10:17; Ps 136:3)	Ah-doh- nay * hah-ah-doh- neem (*“ay” as in “stay”)
5) אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה	Lord YHVH, Lord God (Gen 15:2, 8; Deut 3:24, 9:26; Judges 6:22, 16:28; Ps 69:7, 71:5, 16; etc)	Ah-doh- ni * (*long “i” as in isle) -- Yah- veh
6) אֲדֹנָינוּ	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”)
7) הָיָה	he was	hiy- yah
8) חַגִּי	Haggai, as in the book of <i>Haggai</i>	chahg- gi * (*“i” as in “isle”)
9) בֵּין	between	bayn (*“ay” as in “stay”)
10) אֵיפֹה	where? (interrogative or question word)	ay *-foh
11) סִינַי	Sinai	See- ni * (*“i” as in “isle”)
12) אֱלֹהִים	God (Elohim)	Eh-loh- heem
13) 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
14) הִיא	she	hee
15) חִי	live (verb)	chi* (*“i” as in “isle”)
16) חַיִּים	living or life	chiy- yeem
17) לַחַיִּים	to life! (a common Hebrew toast)	leh- chiy -yeem
18) 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 7.04 **Did You Know: Generally, the Hebrew letter “yod” or “yud” is translated into English as a “י”?**

For example: Yosef in Hebrew is Joseph in English; Yaakov, Jacob; Yerushalayim, Jerusalem.

7.05 The dagesh & the dagesh kal

1. A dagesh is a dot within a consonant

- There are two types of dagesh in Hebrew: dagesh kal & dagesh chazak

2. 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. (Examples of acronyms in English are ASAP & FYI)
 - 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 full vowel. (A dagesh kal can follow a sheva, because a sheva is not a full vowel.)

7.06 Words with dagesh kal: identify syllables & dagesh kal

Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration (please try to read before looking at transliteration) Syllable that is accented is shown below with yellow bold highlight.
1) 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)
2) 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)
3) בְּמִדְבָּר*	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed- bahr * There are two dagesh kals: (each בּ is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת . The 1 st bet is in the 1 st letter of the word; the 2nd bet opens the syllable) * the ךּ is not part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת & will be explained in Lesson 8
4) דָּג	fish (Jonah 1:17)	dahg * Dagesh Kal (dalet is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת)
5) פַּרְעֹה	Pharaoh (Gen 47:10)	pahr- oh * Dagesh Kal (pay is part of בְּגֵד כֶּפֶת)

7.07 Psalm 89:52: practice reading & listening 🎧 www.faithfulstewardship.org/hebrew-blessings/

בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה לְעוֹלָם אָמֵן וְאָמֵן "Blessed be YHVH for evermore! Amen and amen." (Psalms 89:52)		
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration Note: accented syllable is bolded
1) בָּרוּךְ	blessed or praise	bah- rooch
2) יְהוָה	YHVH / LORD The tetragrammaton YHVH (יהוה) is a site word, as the vowels vary.	YHV H (or Adonai)
3) 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
4) אָמֵן וְאָמֵן	Amen and amen	ah-mehn veh-ah- mehn

CANDLELIGHT BLESSING:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם***(explanation is on last page of this lesson)

... 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
1) בְּרוּךְ	blessed or praise	bah- ruch
2) אַתָּה	you (masculine singular pronoun)	aht- tah
3) יְהוָה	YHVH / LORD	YH VH (or Adonai)
4) אֱלֹהֵינוּ	our God	Eh-lo- heh -noo
5) מֶלֶךְ	king (of)	meh -lech
6) הָעוֹלָם	the universe	hah-o- lahm
7) אֲשֶׁר	who or which	ah- shehr
8) קִדְּשָׁנוּ	makes us holy	keed-deh- shah -noo (commonly pronounced keed-dee- shah -noo)
9) בְּמִצְוֹתָיו ¹	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 וֹי is pronounced “tahv”)	beh-meetz-vo*- tahv
10) וְנָתַן	and he gave	veh-nah- tahn
11) לָנוּ	to us	lah -noo
12) אֶת	The word אֶת is a Definite Direct Object Marker, meaning a definite direct object follows the word אֶת . (There is no English equivalent term.)	eht
13) יֵשׁוּעַ	Yeshua	Yeh- shoo -ah
14) מְשִׁיחֵנוּ	our Messiah	Meh-she- chah -noo (commonly pronounced Meh-she- chay -noo)
15) אֹר	light ('ohr' is included in construction of אֹר)	ohr
16) הָעוֹלָם	the world	hah-o- lahm

¹Grammar-made-simple: בְּמִצְוֹתָיו (beh-meetz-vo-**tahv**)

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 cholam vav? It is the consonant vav -- not part of a cholam vav. We know because a syllable cannot begin with vowel (the cholam vav); therefore, this vav is a consonant.
- ii. What about the “cholam” above the vav? It is a cholam which floated over the vav. The cholam should be to the left of the vav. The sound of the vav and the cholam is “voh”.

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

Blessing over the grape juice/wine

Kiddush Blessing (blessing over grape juice/wine):

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם **

בוֹרֵא פְּרֵי 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
1) בּוֹרֵא	creates, makes, shapes, forms	bo- reh
2) פְּרֵי	fruit of	p'ree
3) הַגֶּפֶן	the vine	hahg- gah -fehn

Blessing over the bread/ food

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
1) הַמוֹצִיא	(Who) brings forth	hahm- mo -tzee
2) לֶחֶם	bread	leh -chehm
3) מִן	from	meen
4) הָאָרֶץ	the earth	hah- ah -rehtz



** The majority of Hebrew blessings all begin:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

Blessed are You, YHVH, our God, King of the Universe ...

& then add the appropriate phrase (lighting the candles,
drinking the fruit of the vine, or eating bread from the earth, etc)

Yonah Black is getting ready to light
Shabbat candles.