

Biblical Hebrew Course 101  
– Boot Camp –  
*Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew*  
Lesson 9  
שְׁעוֹר ט  
**Dageshes & Vocal 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

- 9.01 Review dagesh kal & dagesh chazak
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## 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 chazak is preceded by a full vowel. (A sheva is not 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)
    - בַּמְדָּבָר** = **בַּמ**+**דָּב**+**רָבָר** = pronounced: bahm-meed-**bahr** (note: the dagesh in the bet is a dagesh kal because it is part of the **בְּגָד כָּפֶת** letters)
    - הַגְּדָה** = **הַג**+**דָּה** = pronounced: hahg-gah-**dah**
    - אֶתְהָא** = **אֶת**+**תָּהָא** = 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 when it follows a sheva, thereby opening 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: A dagesh chazak follows a vowel & doubles the consonant it is in. (Remember a sheva is not a vowel.)

### 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- <b>behr</b> * Dagesh Kal ( <b>dalet</b> is part of <b>בְּגָד כָּפֶת</b> & does not follow a vowel) * Dagesh Chazak ( <b>bet</b> is doubled because dagesh follows a vowel.)
2) בַּמְדָּבָר	in the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1)	bahm-meed- <b>bahr</b> * Dagesh Kal ( <b>bet</b> is part of <b>בְּגָד כָּפֶת</b> & does not follow a vowel) * Dagesh Chazak ( <b>mem</b> is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.) * Dagesh Kal ( <b>bet</b> is part of <b>בְּגָד כָּפֶת</b> & does not follow a vowel)
3) הַמַּיִם	the water (Gen 1:2)	hahm- <b>mi</b> -yeem * Dagesh Chazak ( <b>mem</b> is doubled because the dagesh follows a vowel.)
4) לְמֵטָה	of every tribe (Num 13:2)	leh-maht- <b>teh</b> * Dagesh Chazak ( <b>tet</b> 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.

### Level 1: when a sheva is at the beginning of a word

When the sheva is <u>under the first letter of a word it is vocal</u> . 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.
1) לְךָ	for yourself (Gen 6:14)	leh- <b>chah</b>
2) בְּיוֹם	in the day (Lev 19:6)	beh- <b>yom</b>
3) בְּרֵאשִׁית	Genesis (In the beginning) (Gen 1:1)	beh-reh- <b>sheet</b> (commonly pronounced b’resheet)

#### Grammar-made-simple: Level 1 of the vocal sheva:

Level 1: If the sheva is under the 1<sup>st</sup> consonant of the word, it is vocal.

### Level 2: when 2 shevas are consecutive (in other words, are in a row)

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

#### Grammar-made-simple: Level 2 of the vocal sheva:

Level 2: If there are 2 shevas in a row (consecutive), the 1<sup>st</sup> is silent (it closes the syllable) & the 2<sup>nd</sup> is vocal (& it opens the syllable).

### 9.03 *Introducing Sheva Level 3*

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

\*A dagesh chazak follows any vowel & doubles the consonant that it is in. (Remember a sheva is not a vowel.)

When the sheva is <u>under the first letter of a word</u> it is vocal. This sheva generally has a quick and an almost indistinguishable sound: “eh”.		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
		Explanation: 3. The small “eh” signifies the quick & almost indistinguishable “eh” sound. 4. The bolded, highlighted syllable is accented.
1) לָךְ	for yourself (Gen 6:14)	leh- <b>chah</b>
2) בְּיוֹם	in the day (Lev 19:6)	beh- <b>yom</b>
3) בְּרֵאשִׁית	Genesis (In the beginning) (Gen 1:1)	beh-reh- <b>sheet</b> (commonly pronounced b’resheet)

**Grammar-made-simple: Level 3 of the vocal sheva is under a dagesh chazak\*:**

1. When a sheva is under a dagesh chazak\*, the sheva is vocal.
2. \*Dagesh chazak is easily recognizable because the dagesh chazak follows any full vowel.

### 9.04 *Introducing Sheva Level 4*

**Level 4: when a sheva follows a long vowel\*, it is vocal.** (Review Lesson 9.01)

When a sheva follows a long vowel*, it is vocal.		
*Long vowels: kamats קָמֶץ (ֶ) // tsere צִירִי (ִ) // cholam חוֹלָם (ֹ) // cholam vav וּ חוֹלָם (וּ) // shurek שׁוּרֶק (וּ)		
For example: הִיְתָה (The sheva immediately follows the kamats, a long vowel; therefore, the sheva is vocal. הִיְתָה is pronounced: hi-yeh- <b>tah</b> )		
Word	Meaning	Transliteration
1) הִיְתָה	it was (3 <sup>rd</sup> person: feminine, singular)	hi-yeh- <b>tah</b> (commonly pronounced hi-yee- <b>tah</b> )
2) 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)
3) כָּתְבִים	write (masculine, plural)	koh-teh- <b>veem</b> (commonly pronounced koht- <b>veem</b> )
4) וּבְאִלְתּוֹ	and his oath	oo-veh-ah-lah- <b>toh</b>

**Grammar-made-simple: Level 4 of the vocal sheva follows a long vowel:**

Level 4: If the sheva follows a long vowel, it is vocal.

- a. kamats קָמֶץ (ֶ) // tsere צִירִי (ִ) // cholam חוֹלָם (ֹ) // cholam vav וּ חוֹלָם (וּ) // shurek שׁוּרֶק (וּ)

9.05 *Practice identifying the different levels of shevas* (refer to Lesson 9 supplement)

Word	Meaning	Transliteration	Type of sheva & why
1) בַּיָּד	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>	
4) תִּשְׁמְעוּ	you do/will listen (Deut 11:27)	tish-meh- <b>ooh</b>	
5) כְּתוּבִים	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) וַנִּשְׂאוּ	and they carried, they lifted, to marry (3cp)	veh-nah-seh- <b>oo</b> (commonly pronounced v'nahs- <b>oo</b> )	
9) לְחֹל	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>chesh</b> -sheht	
11) כֻּלְּכֶם	all of you (Deut 29:10)	kool-leh- <b>chem</b>	
12) בְּנֵי	sons of	beh- <b>nay</b>	
13) שִׁרְצוּ	they bring forth (Gen 9:7)	sheer- <b>tsoo</b>	
14) מִצְוָה	mitzvah / commandment	meets- <b>vah</b>	
15) זְמַן	time	zeh- <b>mahn</b> (commonly pronounced z'mahn)	
16) שְׂמָאל	left	seh- <b>mohl</b> (commonly pronounced s' <b>mohl</b> )	
17) אַבְרָהָם	Avraham	Ahv-rah- <b>hahm</b>	
18) מְאֹד	very	meh- <b>ohd</b>	
19) בְּבִקְשָׁה	please (adverb)	beh-vahk-kah- <b>shah</b>	

9.06 **ANSWERS to 9.05** “Practice identifying the different levels of silent & vocal sheva”

Word	Meaning	Transliteration	Type of sheva & why (Questions are on 9.03)
1) בַּיָּד	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) כָּתְבִים	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) כִּלְכֶם	all of you	kool-leh- <b>chem</b>	Level 3: 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) מִצְוָה	mitzvah	meets- <b>vah</b>	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
15) מִשְׁפָּטֶי	Your judgments (Ps 19:9)	mish-peh- <b>tay</b>	Level 2: 2 shevas in a row
16) שְׂמָאל	left	seh- <b>mohl</b> (commonly pronounced s' <b>mohl</b> )	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
17) אַבְרָהָם	Avraham	Ahv-rah- <b>hahm</b>	Non-vocal, silent sheva, because sheva follows a short vowel.
18) מְאֹד	very	meh- <b>ohd</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter
19) בְּבִקְשָׁה	please (adverb)	beh-vahk-kah- <b>shah</b>	Level 1: sheva is under 1st letter

### 9.07 Reading exercise: Leviticus 10:10

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

וְלַהֲבַדִּיל בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין הַחֹל וּבֵין הַטְּמֵא וּבֵין הַטְּהוֹר:

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

### 9.08 Review short definitions of grammatical terms

דָּגֵשׁ 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 בָּ; כּ to כָּ; & פּ to פָּ

דָּגֵשׁ 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: אֶתְּהָ = אֶתְּ-הָ (aht-tah).

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

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

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

### 9.09 Weekly Parasha reading -

1. Go to Calendar on CFS website: [www.FaithfulStewardship.org](http://www.FaithfulStewardship.org) -- click on Calendar. Select current year & scroll to current month.
2. OR click here to go directly: <https://www.faithfulstewardship.org/calendar/>  
Select current year & scroll to current month.