

Aleph Bet Song

Alef, bet and gimmel, dalet,
Hey and vav and zayin,
Chet, tet, yod, kaf, lamed, mem, nun samek, and
then ayin,
Peh and tsade, qof and resh,
Sin and shin and tav,
Now I know my alef bet,
I'll tell my 'em and 'av

To the tune of 'Yankee Doodle'

The Hebrew Consonants
(Kelley, page 1)

ה	ד	דִּ	ג	גִּ	ב	בִּ	א			
נ	מ	ל	כ	כִּ	י	ט	ח	ז	ו	
ת	תִּ	שׁ	שׂ	ר	ק	צ	פ	פִּ	ע	ס
צִץ	פֶּה	נֶן	מֶם	כֶּךְ						
עֵץ	אֶף	בֵּן	עֵם	מֶלֶךְ						

Consonant and Vowel Drill

ס ה ת מ ד ר ן ב י ש ל

א ד ף כ צ ע ח ו ג ק ם

פ ת ך ג ש פ ץ ט ז ב נ

אַל פֿ ךַּ נֶא י חֵ לוֹ בָּה עֵי מוֹ תִּי

סֵ כֵּ נִי טֵ צֵ שֶׁה זִי הוּ רֵ גִי שֵׁ

טֹא כִּי הוּ שֵׁ גָה בֶּ תוֹ לֵ מֵ עֹא

The Sign of the Definite Direct Object

אֶת- אֶת

(Kelley, page 12)

לָקַח אֶת-הַבֵּן He took the son

לָקַח הַבֵּן The son took....

לָקַח אֶת-בֶּן-הַמֶּלֶךְ He took the son of the king

לָקַח בֶּן-הַמֶּלֶךְ The son of the king took...

לָקַח אֶת-בְּנוֹ He took his son

לָקַח בְּנוֹ His son took...

לָקַח אֶת-שְׁמוּאֵל He took Samuel

לָקַח שְׁמוּאֵל Samuel took...

The Dagesh

(Kelley, pages 12-13)

Dagesh Lene: Hardens the sound of Begadkephat letters

Occurs *only* in the letters **ב ג ד כ פ ת** when these letters are *not* preceded by a vowel.

Examples: בָּקֶר

בְּבֵית
יְעָאוֹ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל

Dagesh Forte: Doubles any consonant.

Occurs in all consonants

except the gutturals (**א ה ח ע**) and **ר**.

It *doubles* a consonant as well as *hardens* in the case of the *begadkephat* letters:

שָׁמֵר

כָּתַב

Rules for distinguishing between Dagesh Forte and Dagesh Lene
(Kelley, page 13)

1. If a dagesh occurs in any *non* BeGaDKeFaT letter, it is automatically a dagesh forte.
2. If dagesh occurs in a BeGaDKeFaT letter
 - a) It is a dagesh forte if it is *preceded* by any vowel sound.
 - b) It is a dagesh lene if it is *not* *preceded* by a vowel sound, thus either it starts a word or is preceded by a closed syllable.
 - c) One must be able to distinguish between vocal and silent sheva in order to distinguish a) from b).

The Syllable and the Simple Sheva

(Kelley, page 13)

The simple sheva can be either *silent* or *vocal*.

1. The silent sheva is the sign of a zero vowel, no vowel. It is found at the end of a closed syllable in the middle of a word. The silent sheva is found under the consonant following a short vowel.

יְשֹׁמֶר

2. The vocal sheva occurs:

- a) at the beginning of a word שְׁמוֹ

- b) in the middle of a word after a *long* vowel

אֶכְלָה

- c) the second of 2 shevas found together

יְשֹׁמְרוּ

- d) under a dagesh forte (that is, under a doubled letter) קִטְּלוּ

NOTE: If 2 shevas occur together, the 1st is silent and the 2nd is vocal.

A rule of thumb for the sheva: *Short is silent Long is loud*

1. The Hebrew syllable comes in two basic types:

a. An open syllable consists of a consonant and vowel --

חָ צֵ דוּ פוּ זֵי רִי גֵא תָהּ לֵי מֵ אֵ סֵ גֵ

b. A closed syllable consists of a consonant, vowel, and

consonant -- שֶׁן יֵשׁ יָף אֵיזן שֵׁט כָּה רִיז בֶּשׂ סֵד מֵל

2. All Hebrew syllables begin with a consonant. (The one and only one exception is וּ, which appended in front of a word means “and.”)

3. Kelley makes syllables more complicated than they need to be. Please ignore all his thinking about half vowels and how they count for syllables. Just consider them a syllable.

4. Usually one finds long vowels in either open syllables or closed, accented syllables.

5. Usually one finds short vowels in closed, unaccented syllables.

The Hebrew Syllable (continued)

12b

6. Half vowels are always found in open syllables.

(contra Kelley)

7. The tricky part about syllables centers on whether a sheva is vocal or silent:

- a. A vocal sheva always occurs in open syllables.
- b. A silent sheva always is found under the consonant that closes the syllable.

8. When a consonant is doubled (that is, when it has a *dagesh forte* in it), the first of the two consonants always closes a syllable while the second of the two consonants always opens the next syllable.

9. Every consonant in the beginning or middle of a word is followed either by a vowel or a silent sheva. The one exception to this is the quiescent א (something like the “gh” in “night”) which is sometimes found in the middle of words, e.g. שְׂאֵר

The Vowel Sheva – Review (Kelley, page 8) 13

Vocal Sheva

Form: simple שְׁ

compound שֵׁ שֵׁ שֵׁ

Position:

- 1) Beginning a word שְׁמוֹ
- 2) Middle of a word, after a long vowel אֶכְלָה
- 3) Middle of a word, after a silent sheva. יִשְׁמְרוּ
- 4) Middle of a word, under a doubled letter קִטְלוּ

Silent Sheva

Position:

- 1) After a short vowel יִשְׁמֹר
- 2) After another silent sheva, maybe שְׁמֶרֶת
- 3) Followed by a vocal sheva יִשְׁמְרוּ

Remember: If 2 shevas occur together, the first is silent; the second is vocal.

Rules of the Gutturals (Kelley, pages 23-24)

(א ה ח ע ר)

1. They do *not* take a **dagesh forte**; they *cannot* be doubled.

2. Because of number 1 above, *often* the short vowel prior to the guttural is lengthened, that is, **compensatory lengthening**.

טַע becomes טֵע מַח becomes מֵח לֵע becomes לֵע

3. Gutturals frequently like **a-type** vowels (◌ָ or ◌ַ) under or preceding them, or both:

שִׁמְעַת

At the end of words, when הּ, ה, ח, or ע is preceded by any unchangeable long vowel that is not an a-type vowel, an extra “a” is added, called a **furtive patach** :

נַח רוּחַ

4. Gutturals take **compound** shevas, never **simple** shevas. Sometimes the compound sheva influences the vowel preceding the guttural:

נֶעֱבַד

אֶעֱשֶׂה

The Definite Article

(Kelley, pages 24-26)

מֶלֶךְ

a king

הַמֶּלֶךְ

the king

בַּיִת

a house

הַבַּיִת

the house

נָעַר

a youth

הַנָּעַר

the youth

A Summary of the Rules For Vocalizing the Hebrew Definite Article

(Kelley, pages 24-26)

The Hebrew definite article is spelled in 4 different ways.

1. הֵּ He with a *patach*, followed by dagesh forte in the next consonant, before all consonants except the gutturals. Example: הַמֶּלֶךְ

2. הֶ He with *patach* and **no** doubling in the following consonant, called *virtual doubling* before:

a) ה (He) and ח (heth) when these consonants have any vowel *except* qamets and qamets hatuph.

Examples: הָהוּא הַחֵדֶשׁ

b) Words beginning with י and מ, in most cases.

Examples: הַיְלָדִים הַמְּרַגְלִים

3. הֶ He with *qamets*, called *compensatory lengthening* before:

a) א and ר and usually ע. Examples: הָאִישׁ הָרֹאשׁ הָעֵץ

b) Accented הֶ (He with *qamets*). Example: הֶקֶר

A Summary of the Rules For Vocalizing the Hebrew Definite Article

(continued)

(Kelley, pages 24-26)

4. הְּ *He* with *segol*, before:

- a) הְּ with *qamets* or *qamets hatuf*.

Examples: הַחֵם הַחֹם הַחֲשִׁים

- b) Unaccented עַ (‘*ayin* with *qamets*).

Example: הַעֲוֹן

- c) Unaccented הֶ (*He* with *qamets*).

Example: הַהָרִים

NOTE: Take note of the words whose spelling changes are listed in Kelley, p.26 #4.