

HEBREW PEOPLE PRESENTS



LEARN
HEBREW
WITH
EASE

Text- and
workbook
for the online
classes

with Tiaan Nel

שלום

Welcome to this wonderful journey of learning Hebrew! Thank you for choosing to learn with us.

Please refrain from copying or distributing this workbook.
If you are interested in our learning material,
please contact Tiaan Nel at tiaan@hebrewpeople.com

All online lessons are available at www.kolkallah.com
and correlate with the lessons in this book.

All assignments need to be sent to Tiaan Nel:
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Have fun!

Printer friendly idea: Set your printer to start printing from the second page and print in black and white.

The Hebrew Alphabet

Before we start learning the alphabet, please remember:

- **Hebrew is not like English!** Try and remind yourself of this so that you do not start comparing languages.
- Hebrew is written and read from **right to left**.

Each Hebrew letter has three values:

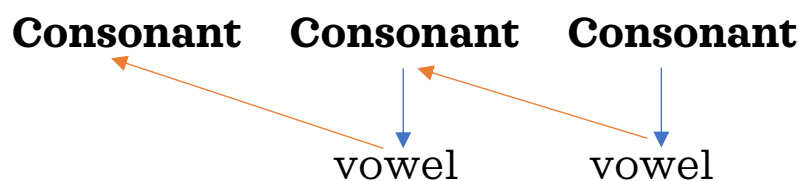
- It is a picture
- It has a name
- It makes a certain sound

The Hebrew alphabet, which is also called the **Alef-Bet**, has 22 letters. These letters are **consonants**. The **vowels** are added through dots and lines (*also called Nikud or Nekuddot in Hebrew*) and serve as training wheels. Just like a child needs training wheels to get used to the very first bicycle, we need these training wheels while our brain gets used to the new letters, sounds and words.

There are 5 vowel sounds in Hebrew:

- A** (like in the word **A**qua)
- E** (like in the word **re**d or **ge**t)
- I** (like in the word **me**)
- O** (like in the word **yellow**)
- U** (like in the word **blue**)

A word in Hebrew is always read from right to left starting with a consonant and ending with a consonant. We read the consonant, then the vowel, then the consonant and the vowel until we end with a consonant. The reading pattern would be something like this:



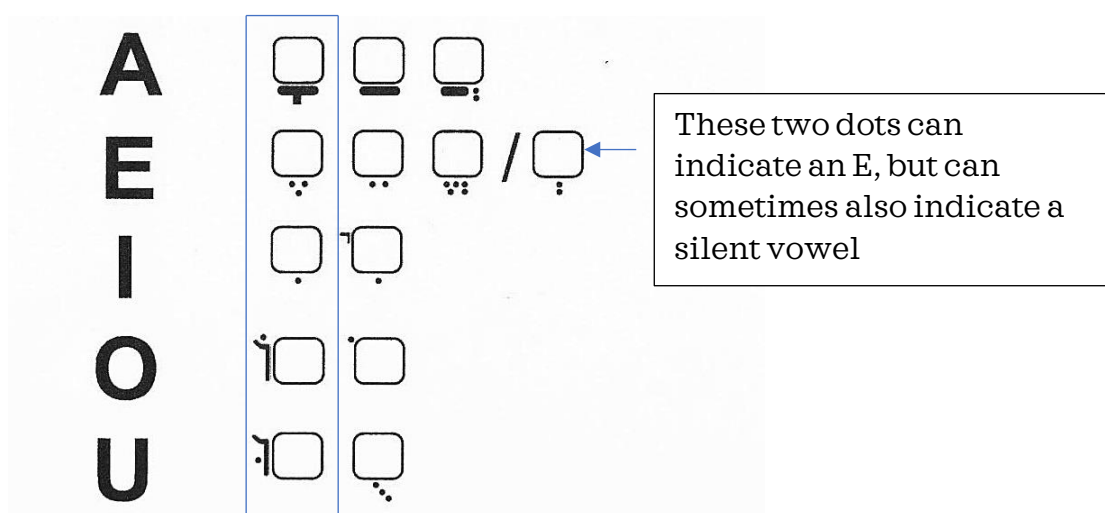
Remember: A Hebrew word **always** starts and ends with a consonant! Two vowels cannot stand next to each other - they need to be separated by a consonant.

Are you ready to learn the alphabet?

→ Please watch Hebrew 101 (two sessions) on www.kolkallah.com to learn how to write the letters, how to pronounce them correctly and to receive valuable tips.

The vowels

The little blocks are placeholders and show you where the consonant would be written in relationship to each vowel.



As you can see, there are **thirteen** different ways to indicate the **five** vowel-sounds! BUT, do not worry! There is a way to help your brain and memory a little bit!

- First of all: The vowels in the first row are the ones that are used most often; so the first option for A is used most often for A, the first option for E is used most often for E, the first option for I is used most often to indicate an I, the first option for O is used most often for O and the first option for U is used most often for U.
- **A** always has a solid line in there somewhere
- **E** has more than one dot
- **I** has only one dot beneath the consonant
- **O** has a single dot at the left top hand corner of the consonant
- **U** is a bit different than the others, so you will have to learn **U**

Your first assignment:

Make a handy vowel chart for yourself.

The 22 Consonants

Sound	Name	Space to practice writing		
Silent	Alef		א	א
B	Bet		ב	ב
V	Vet		בּ	בּ
G	Gimel		ג	ג
D	Dalet		ד	ד
H	Heh		ה	ה
V	Vav		ו	ו
Z	Zayin		ז	ז
Ch	Chet		ח	ח
T	Tet		ט	ט
Y (yes)	Yod		י	י
K	Kaf		כ	כ
Ch	Chaf		כּ	כּ
Ch	Chaf sofit		ך	ך
L	Lamed		ל	ל
M	Mem		מ	מ
M	Mem sofit		ם	ם
N	Nun		נ	נ
N	Nun sofit		ן	ן
S	Samech		ס	ס
Silent	Ayin		ע	ע
P	Pe		פ	פ
F	Fe		פּ	פּ
F	Fe sofit		ף	ף
Ts	Tsadi		צ	צ
Ts	Tsadi sofit		ץ	ץ
K	Kof		ק	ק
R	Resh		ר	ר
Sh	Shin		ש	ש
S	Sin		שׁ	שׁ
T	Tav		ת	ת

The letters Vet, Chaf and Sin are sub-letters to Bet, Kaf and Shin. They are merely an extra sound added to the main letter. This is quite unique. When we start saying the Alef-Bet, we don't need to say:

Alef, Bet, **Vet**, Gimel, Dalet, Heh, Vav, Zayin, Chet, Tet, Yod, Kaf, **Chaf, Chaf Sofit**, Lamed, etc...

We only say:

Alef, Bet, Gimel, Dalet, He, Vav, Zayin, Chet, Tet, Yod, Kaf, Lamed, etc...

There are 6 letters with the same sound:

- Alef א and Ayin ע (both are silent letters)
- Vet כ and Vav ו (both have a V sound like in **very**)
- Chet ח and Chaf פ (both have a CH sound, like in **Chanukah**, not like in chimney!)
- Kaf ק and Kof פ (both have a K sound like in **coffee** or **cake**)
- Samech ס and Sin ש (both have a S sound, like in **sand**)

→ When do we use which letter, you may ask? Unfortunately, there are not many rules to help us. We simply need to learn the vocabulary and with it the spelling of each word.

The Alef-Bet has 5 Sofit-forms. The word 'Sofit' simply means 'final' or 'ending' and shows us the way these five letters are written when they are written at the end of a word. The Sofit-letters are:

- Chaf sofit ך
- Mem sofit ם
- Nun sofit ן
- Fe sofit ף
- Tsadi sofit ץ

Your second assignment:

Write each letter 10 times and make a voice recording of the Alef-Tav.

The 'Silent' Letters

The *silent consonants* are Alef, Ayin and Heh at the end of a word. Why do we need silent consonants in Hebrew? If we say that there is a rule in Hebrew, that a word always starts with a consonant and always ends with a consonant, we need a solution for all those Hebrew words that start with the sounds A, E, I, O and U. For instance, the word **Abba** (Father). It starts with a A sound and ends with a A sound, but we cannot start a word with a vowel in Hebrew, so a very practical solution is to use a silent consonant and add the A vowel. Do you see? אָבָא This way we don't break any rules by starting or ending the word in a vowel!

The *silent vowel* has the same role. A word is built up of a consonant, followed by a vowel, then a consonant again and a vowel until it ends in a consonant. For

instance, in the name Avraham: אַבְרָהָם We don't say Averaham, we say Avraham, but we need to keep the rule of consonant, vowel, consonant, vowel, consonant, so we use a silent vowel. Please remember that this vowel is sometimes silent, but sometimes the E sound. How do we know when to use which? We learn our vocabulary and spelling of the words!

Vocabulary

Please try to read and write these words:

Hebrew	Practice writing	English
אָבָא		Father (an Aramaic word, now used often in Hebrew)
אָב		Father (old Hebrew word - used in the Lord's prayer)
גָּב		Back
דָּג		Fish
אַהֲבָה		Love
אָבָא וְדָג		Father and fish
זִיג זָג		Zigzag
חַג		Festival
טוֹב		good
יָד		Hand
כִּכְּה		just because...
בָּךְ		Bach (the famous composer)
לֵב		Heart
אָמָא		Mother (an Aramaic word, now often used in Hebrew)
אִם		Mother (Hebrew)
טִיאָן נֵל		Tiaan Nel 😊
סָבָא		Grandfather
עִם		with
אִם		if
עִמָּנוּאֵל		Immanuel
פִּלְאפּוֹן		Smartphone
אָף		Nose
צָבָא		Army

עץ		Tree or Wood
קל		easy
קר		cold
שלום		Shalom
שרה		Sarah (female name, which means 'Princess')
תודה		Thank you

Did you notice?

- The letter He ה at the end of a word is silent, yet when used in the beginning or in the middle of a word, it is pronounced H.
- The word 'and' is a single consonant and is written in front of the next word, as in אֶבְיָא וְדָג

Your third and last assignment for Unit 101:

Please read the following words and write what you read in English. Make a circle around the silent consonants and vowels.

Hebrew	Practice writing	English
אברהם		
ישוע		
ישראל		
הללויה		
אמן		
ירושלים		
בניה		
שוקולד		
מנגו		
טלפון		
פיצה		
קפה		
אבוקדו		
לימון		

Remember to send your assignments to Tiaan! See you soon for lesson 102!