

# Chapter 2a – Hebrew Vowels

## Consonants with Vowels

### Deuteronomy 6:5

*consonantal text with no vowel pointing*

ואהבת את יהוה אלהיך בכל לבבך

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ואהבת את יהוה אלהיך בכל לבבך




*consonantal text with vowel pointing*



# Chapter 2b – Hebrew Vowels

## Vowel Chart 1

### Long Vowels






	<i>Vowel Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>
<i>a-type</i>	 Qamets	<i>a</i> as in <i>father</i>	<i>ā</i>
<i>e-type</i>	 Tserere	<i>e</i> as in <i>they</i>	<i>ē</i>
<i>o-type</i>	 Holem	<i>o</i> as in <i>role</i>	<i>ō</i>



# Chapter 2c – Hebrew Vowels

## Vowel Chart 2

### Short Vowels




	<i>Vowel Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>	
<i>a-type</i>		Pathach	<i>a</i> as in <i>bat</i>	<i>a</i>
<i>e-type</i>		Seghol	<i>e</i> as in <i>better</i>	<i>e</i>
<i>i-type</i>		Hireq	<i>i</i> as in <i>bitter</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>o-type</i>		Qamets Hatuf	<i>o</i> as in <i>bottle</i>	<i>o</i>
<i>u-type</i>		Qibbuts	<i>u</i> as in <i>ruler</i>	<i>u</i>



# Chapter 2d – Hebrew Vowels

## Vowel Chart 3












### Reduced (Hateph) Vowels

	<i>Vowel Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>
<i>a-type</i>	 Hateph Pathach	<i>a</i> as in <i>amuse</i>	<i>ă</i>
<i>e-type</i>	 Hateph Seghol	<i>a</i> as in <i>amuse</i>	<i>ě</i>
<i>o-type</i>	 Hateph Qamets	<i>a</i> as in <i>amuse</i>	<i>ǒ</i>



# Chapter 2e – Hebrew Vowels

## Summary Vowel Chart: Long, Short, Reduced





	<i>a</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>u</i>
<i>Long</i>	 Qamets	 Tsere		 Holem	
<i>Short</i>	 Pathach	 Seghol	 Hireq	 Qamets Hatuf	 Qibbutz
<i>Reduced</i>	 Hateph Pathach	 Hateph Seghol		 Hateph Qamets	



# Chapter 2f – Hebrew Vowels

## Hebrew Vowel Letters 1

### Vowel Letters Written with He

		<i>Vowel Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>
<i>a-type</i>		Qamets He	<i>a as in father</i>	<i>âh</i>
<i>e-type</i>		Tserere He	<i>e as in they</i>	<i>êh</i>
		Seghol He	<i>e as in better</i>	<i>êh</i>
<i>o-type</i>		Holem He	<i>o as in role</i>	<i>ôh</i>



Vowel letters written with ה  
are used only at the end of a word,  
as in תּוֹרָה (law) and יִבְנֶה (he will build).



# Chapter 2g – Hebrew Vowels

## Hebrew Vowel Letters 2

### Vowel Letters Written with Waw

	<i>Vowel Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>	
<i>o-type</i>	 <b>וּ</b>	Holem Waw	<i>o</i> as in <i>role</i>	<i>ô</i>
<i>u-type</i>	 <b>וֹ</b>	Shureq	<i>u</i> as in <i>ruler</i>	<i>û</i>





These vowels are often referred to as  
**unchangeable long vowels**  
because they do not  
reduce or *change*.



# Chapter 2h – Hebrew Vowels

## Hebrew Vowel Letters 3

### Vowel Letters Written with Yod

	<i>Vowel Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>
<i>a-type</i>	 Pathach Yod	<i>a</i> as in <i>bat</i>	<i>â</i>
<i>e-type</i>	 Tserere Yod	<i>e</i> as in <i>they</i>	<i>ê</i>
	 Seghol Yod	<i>e</i> as in <i>better</i>	<i>ê</i>
<i>i-type</i>	 Hireq Yod	<i>i</i> as in <i>machine</i>	<i>î</i>

These vowels are often referred to as  
**unchangeable long vowels**  
because they do not  
reduce or *change*.





# Chapter 2i – Hebrew Vowels

## Summary Vowel Chart: Vowel Letters

	<i>a</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>u</i>
With ה	<b>בַּהּ</b> Qamets He	<b>בֵּה/בֶּה</b> Seghol He/ Tsere He		<b>בֹּה</b> Holem He	
With ו				<b>בֹּו</b> Holem Waw	<b>בֹּוּ</b> Shureq
With י	<b>בַּי</b> Qamets Yod	<b>בֵּי/בֶּי</b> Seghol Yod/ Tsere Yod	<b>בִּי</b> Hireq Yod		



# Chapter 2j – Hebrew Vowels

## Shewa



This symbol is called *Shewa*.  
It is not listed in the vowel charts because it is not like any other vowel. It does not belong to any phonetic class.  
There are two types of Shewa in Hebrew:  
*Silent Shewa* and *Vocal Shewa*.

# Chapter 2k – Hebrew Vowels

## Daghes Forte



The dot in the ש above is called *Daghes Forte*.

It looks exactly like the Daghes Lene but it is used to **double the consonant** in which it occurs. For example, the Hebrew word שָׁמַיִם (the heavens) has a Daghes Forte in the Shin (שׁ). It is rendered, therefore, as two Shins (שׁשׁ), *haššāmayim*. The Daghes Forte can occur in any consonant except the gutturals (א, ה, ח, ע) and ר.



# Chapter 21 – Hebrew Vowels

## Guttural Consonants and ׀

Four Hebrew letters are called *gutturals*. They are called gutturals because they are pronounced in the back of the throat.

א, ה, ח, ע and sometimes ׀

### Guttural Preferences

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1. Gutturals prefer a-class vowels.
2. **Gutturals and ׀ cannot take Daghes Fort.**
3. Gutturals cannot take Vocal Shewa, but do take reduced (Hateph) vowels. The consonant ׀ can take Vocal Shewa. Reduced vowels are always vocal; they are never silent.



# Chapter 2m – Hebrew Vowels

## Defective Writing

<i>Full Writing</i>		<i>Defective Writing</i>	
בּוֹ	➤	בֹּ	Holem Waw to Holem
שׁוֹפָר	➤	שָׁפָר	ram's horn
בִּי	➤	בִּיִּ	Shureq to Qibbutz
מִדְּוֵי	➤	מִדְּוֵיִ	why?
בִּי	➤	בִּיִּ	Hireq Yod to Hireq
דָּוִד	➤	דָּוִדִּי	David

