THE HEBREW ALPHABET

Circle the letters below that are final forms:

Letters that look alike tend to confuse. Write the sounds of the following:

Dagesh changes the sounds of some letters. Write the sounds of the following:

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1

2

3
Vowel Points

S B
Circle the vowel(s) that say oo as in zoo. Draw a square around the vowel(s) that say ah as in father, draw a diamond around the ones that say eh as in heck, and underline the vowels that say ee as in eek!

?  

§ B.1 Is there a clear distinction between long and short vowels?
Not as clear as one would like. Below is a rough categorization by class:

A  patah  and qamats  are short, but qamats is longer than patah.
A/I  segol  is short.
I  hireq  and tsere  may be short or long, and tsere is longer than hireq.
I  plene hireq  and plene tsere  are long.  
U  holem  and sureq  and their defectiva spellings holem  and qibbuts  are long:
qibbuts  can also be short.
U  qamats hatuf  is short.
Shewa  and the composite shewas  are all short.

S B–C
Write the following vowels:

?  

§ B.2 Is there any other distinction relevant to vowels?
Yes. It is important to know which vowels are full. All vowels that don’t have shewa are full.

?  

Circle the full vowels below:

4  oo  ah  eh  ee  

5 To know whether a hireq  or tsere  is short or a defectiva spelling of plene hireq  or plene tsere  one has to know the history of the word.

6 I class  A class  long U  defectiva U  
A/I  plene long I  composite shewas  

7 are full.
VOCALIZATION

§ B–C

Write each of the following vowel sounds two ways:

\[ \text{hope} \quad \text{flute} \quad \text{sleigh} \quad \text{machine} \]

Writing right to left, transliterate the following sentences into Hebrew:

Use \( \text{ה} \) for “w” \( \text{ת} \) for “th,” and \( \text{י} \) for “j”

Adam ate fruit and so did Eve

Moses talked to God face to face

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho

David was king, but he did not build the temple in Jerusalem

The Philistines gave Delilah many pieces of silver

What constitutes a syllable in Hebrew?

A syllable is a unit of a word that begins with a consonant and ends with another consonant or with a vowel.

The word \( \text{אֶפְרָי} \) has two syllables. The first is \( \text{אֶפְר} \). It cannot be \( \text{אֶפְרְי} \) because that would mean that the second syllable would start with the vowel \( \text{י} \) and a syllable must begin with a _________. The second syllable is \( \text{אֶפְרַי} \).

Consonant + shewa \( \text{י} \) can close a syllable. \( \text{מֵעְרִי} \) (which, by the way, means Egypt) has three syllables \( \text{מֵעְרֵי} \).

Draw lines between the syllables of the words below:

\[ \text{בֵּיתָן אֲרָחָן} \text{ נִינָי} \text{ סִינָי} \text{ בֵּית} \text{ י} \text{ אָשֶר} \text{ אָלָדָה} \]

\[ \text{בֵּיתָן אֲרָחָן} \text{ נִינָי} \text{ סִינָי} \text{ בֵּית} \text{ י} \text{ אָשֶר} \text{ אָלָדָה} \]

§ C

\( \text{h} \) or \( \text{f} \)

\( \text{f} \) or \( \text{f} \)

\( \text{f} \) or \( \text{f} \)

\( \text{f} \) or \( \text{f} \)

\( \text{f} \) or \( \text{f} \)
VOCALIZATION

SC.1 When is a syllable closed and when is it open?

1) Generally speaking, a syllable is closed when it ends with a consonant and open when it ends with a vowel or a vowel sound.  

? Divide the words below into syllables and identify the syllables as open or closed:

open closed open open closed open open open closed

2) When a consonant has dagesh forte, it closes one syllable and begins the next:

Thus, how to demarcate the syllables in ב is a problem.

3) Meteg (a small vertical line written next to a vowel; it denotes an open syllable) causes a bit of a difficulty.

In a word such as והlasting, the meteg distinguishes the first qamats from qamats hatuf seen in הcameo. That is not the problem. The problem is whether in והlasting there are two or three syllables. According to Gesenius, the “usual view” is that the meteg separates the syllables and the shewa is vocal (§9u.1a), but he goes on to explain in a later section (§16i) that Jewish grammarians do not consider the meteg to be opening the syllable. Thus the shewa is silent and the word has two syllables. Then there is the compromise position: shewa after meteg creates half a syllable.

SD There are two situations in which it is unclear whether a shewa is vocal or silent: when it is after a meteg and when shewa has made dagesh forte disappear What is the beginner, to do?

Treat them as vocal and blame it on me. (For more detail see discussion on meteg in the paragraph just above, Vocalization D item 5 in the textbook, and Lesson 2:12.)

? In the words below, identify the vocal shewas:

not vocal not vocal not vocal

10 For example, both ב are open. For more on the syllable, see Joüon, §27.

11 open closed open open closed open open open closed

12 not vocal not vocal not vocal
Transliterate into English the following consonant-vowel combinations:

[Text not visible in the image]