

# Hebrew Vowels Chart

## Steps to learn the Hebrew vowels:

(to do in parallel with the reading of chapter 2 of the Grammar)

1. Memorize all the 9 basic vowels (those with a memory help in green).  
Use the pictures (if needed) to remember the form of the vowels, but be careful to the pronunciation (sometimes different of the mnemotechnic word)
  2. Observe how the others relate to the 9 basic vowels:
    - the second line (reduced) = Hateph + first ligne
    - the fourth ligne (unchang. long) = third line + a consonant except for i and u.
  3. After observing the logical progression of lines (aeiou) and columns (short, reduced, changeable long, unchangeable long), repeat the vowels by line and by column.
- You will know the vowels when you are able to repeat them horizontally and vertically by heart and without hesitation.

Remark: in Hebrew, the vowel under a consonant is always pronounced after this consonant : בַּ = ba

Hebrew vowel with consonant B

Name of the vowel

Memory help

Transliteration Pronunciation

|                   | a  | e   | i   | o  | u   |
|-------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| Short             | <br><b>Pathach</b><br><br>Pasta<br><span style="color: red;">a</span> a as in bat      | <br><b>Seghol</b><br><br>Sea Gull<br><span style="color: red;">e</span> e as in better                | <br><b>Hireq</b><br><br>Here<br><span style="color: red;">i</span> i as in bitter | <br><b>Qamets Hatuf*</b><br><br>Chemist Hat<br><span style="color: red;">o</span> o as in bottle | <br><b>Quibbutz</b><br><br>Key-Boots<br><span style="color: red;">u</span> u as in took |
| Reduced (Hateph)  | <br><b>Hateph Patach</b><br><span style="color: red;">ă</span> a as in bat             | <br><b>Hateph Seghol</b><br><span style="color: red;">ĕ</span> e as in better                         |   | <br><b>Hateph Qamets</b><br><span style="color: red;">ō</span> o as in bottle                    |   |
| Changeable Long   | <br><b>Qamets*</b><br><br>Chemist<br><span style="color: red;">ā</span> a as in father | <br><b>Tsere</b><br><br>Tsetse (fly)<br><span style="color: red;">ē</span> e as in they               |   | <br><b>Holem</b><br>hole m<br><span style="color: red;">ō</span> o as in role                    |   |
| Unchangeable Long | <br><b>Qamets He</b><br><span style="color: red;">â</span> a as in father              | <br><b>Tsere / Seghol Yod</b><br>e as in they    e as in better<br><span style="color: red;">ê</span> | <br><b>Hireq Yod</b><br><span style="color: red;">î</span> i as in machine        | <br><b>Holem Waw</b><br><span style="color: red;">ô</span> o as in role                          | <br><b>Shureq</b><br><br>Shoe-Wreck<br><span style="color: red;">û</span> u as in boot  |

**Shewa:** shave    1. silent shewa (not pronounced)    2. vocal shewa: pronounce like a in amuse

\* Remark: Qamets and Qamets Hatuf look exactly alike. The Qamets occurs much more frequently than the Qamets Hatuf, therefore - in doubt - choose the pronunciation of Qamets. For learning to recognize the Qamets Hatuf, see *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, p. 21 paragraph 3.7 or *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (Ross) 4.4 p. 52-53.

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