

Hebrew Vowels Chart

Steps to learn the Hebrew vowels:

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

- 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)
- 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.
- After observing the logical progression of lines (aeiou) and columns (short, reduced, changeable long, unchangeable long), repeat the vowels by line and by column.






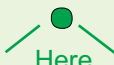

















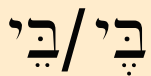




You will know the vowels when you are able to repeat them horizontally and vertically by heart and without hesitation.
Remark: in Hebrew, the vowel under a consonant is always pronounced after this consonant : בַּ = ba

Hebrew vowel with consonant B

Name of the vowel

Memory help

Transliteration Pronunciation

	a	e	i	o	u
Short	 Pathach  Pasta a as in bat	 Seghol  Sea Gull e as in better	 Hireq  Here i as in bitter	 Qamets Hatuf*  Chemist Hat o as in bottle	 Quibbutz  Key-Boots u as in took
Reduced (Hateph)	 Hateph Patach ă as in bat	 Hateph Seghol ě as in better	 Hateph Hireq ĭ as in bitter	 Hateph Qamets ȝ as in bottle	 Hateph Quibbutz ŭ as in took
Changeable Long	 Qamets*  Chemist ā as in father	 Tsere  Tsetse (fly) ē as in they	 Hateph Hireq ĭ as in bitter	 Holem hole m ō as in role	 Hateph Quibbutz ŭ as in took
Unchangeable Long	 Qamets He â as in father	 Tsere / Seghol Yod e as in they e as in better	 Hireq Yod î as in machine	 Holem Waw ô as in role	 Shureq  Shoe-Wreck û 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.