Grade 1 Biblical Hebrew

First edition · 5 units · 10 lessons · one quarter · Hebrew from the Leningrad Codex

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 1 Biblical Hebrew is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 15–20 minutes a week.

The child reviews the ten letters from kindergarten and learns the other twelve, kaf to tav, with the five letters that change shape at the end of a word (ך ם ן ף ץ), the two sounds of bet, kaf and pe with and without the dot, and shin and sin.

Every letter comes with a Bible word (melekh, lechem, mayim, ner, sus, peh, qol, rosh, shemesh) and a verse in the King James Version beside the Hebrew of the Leningrad Codex. By the end of the quarter the child says and writes all 22 letters in order.

> Every lesson has a short video, most under ten minutes, from Hebrew teaching channels approved for School Launch: Aleph with Beth (a free Christian Biblical Hebrew course with songs and easy Bible stories) and Daily Dose of Hebrew (two-minute verse readings by seminary professors), with a few single videos from Biblingo and BibleProject. The Daily Dose verse videos are made for adults; in the younger grades they are marked as the parent's video. Every lesson works without the video. Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

Who it is for

Written for students in grade 1 (about ages 6–7), with a parent or teacher reading the lessons aloud and joining in. No Hebrew is needed by the child or the parent: every letter and word comes with its sounds spelled out. The child traces and copies letters and a few short words. Sessions are short, 15 to 20 minutes. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, crayons, play dough and household things.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 15–20 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the story and the letters (and the picture study in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the letter book. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice questions (asked out loud), the game and a little review.
2. **A little every day.** Young children learn letters by seeing them, saying them and making them with their hands, over and over, cheerfully. Point to the week's letters on the fridge, trace them in the air, and say Shalom at breakfast.
3. **Picture, sound, shape.** Each Hebrew letter began as a little picture (alef an ox head, bet a house), and the lessons use those pictures to help the shapes stick. Say the letter's name, its sound, and its picture every time.
4. **The letter book.** Keep one notebook for the quarter. Each lesson the child draws the letters large, decorates them and draws a picture of a word that uses them. By the end of the quarter it is a little Hebrew alphabet book.
5. **Right to left.** Hebrew is written and read from right to left, so a Hebrew book opens from what an English reader calls the back. Every Hebrew word in these lessons is set right to left; when the child writes, start at the right edge of the line.
6. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 42 letters, signs and words. Unit 1: יוֹם (yom), לַיְלָה (laylah), טוֹב (tov), יָד (yad), כ ך (kaf), כַּף (kaf), מֶלֶךְ (melekh), כֶּסֶף (kesef). Unit 2: ל (lamed), לֵב (lev), לֶחֶם (lechem), לַיְלָה (laylah), מ ם (mem), מַיִם (mayim), מֹשֶׁה (Moshe), שָׁלוֹם (shalom). Unit 3: נ ן (nun), נֵר (ner), נֹחַ (Noach), בֵּן (ben), ס (samekh), ע (ayin), סוּס (sus), עַיִן (ayin), עֵץ (ets). Unit 4: פ ף (pe), פֶּה (peh), פְּרִי (peri), צ ץ (tsade), ק (qof), צַדִּיק (tsaddiq), אֶרֶץ (erets), קוֹל (qol), קָצִיר (qatsir). Unit 5: ר (resh), רֹאשׁ (rosh), רֹעִי (roʻi), בֵּטֶן (beten), ש (shin / sin), ת (tav), שֶׁמֶשׁ (shemesh), תּוֹרָה (torah).

7. **Printables.** Each lesson has a one-page worksheet, and the answers are in a separate key for the parent. Each unit review also has a printable key.
8. **The Hebrew Bible.** Hebrew verses are quoted from the Westminster Leningrad Codex, the public-domain electronic text of the Leningrad Codex, the oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew Old Testament, copied around A.D. 1008. It is the Hebrew text the King James translators' Old Testament comes from (the Masoretic text), in its oldest complete copy. In the elementary grades the verses are shown with their vowel points but without the small cantillation marks (the musical accents), which would crowd a beginner's page; Biblical Hebrew I shows them in full. Hebrew verse numbers sometimes differ from English ones; every verse here is chosen so that the numbers match. God's own name, written with four letters (יהוה), is printed LORD in capitals in the King James; Jewish readers have long said Adonai ("Lord") in its place, and this course does the same. The English verse is always the King James Version, quoted exactly.

Scope and sequence

UNIT 1 · WEEKS 1–2

Hands That Bless

A review of the first ten letters, alef to yod, and then kaf, the open palm, with its end-of-word form ך. Rembrandt paints old Jacob laying his hand on his grandsons to bless them, and God's blessing in Numbers 6 begins with a kaf at the end of its first word.

1.1 Review: Alef to Yod

1.2 Kaf, the Open Palm

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

The Ox Goad and the Waters

Lamed, the tallest letter, began as a shepherd's staff or ox goad, and mem began as waves of water, with its closed end form ם. Rosa Bonheur paints oxen ploughing, driven by a man with a long goad, and in Genesis 1:2 the Spirit of God moves upon the face of the waters.

2.1 Lamed, the Tall Letter

2.2 Mem, the Water Letter

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Lamps and Eyes

Nun and its long end form ן, the letter of ner (lamp) and Noah; samekh, the round letter of sus (horse); and ayin, the eye. Jan Brueghel fills a forest with animals coming to Noah, and Psalm 121 says: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills.

3.1 Nun and the Lamp

3.2 Samekh and Ayin

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

Mouths and Harvest

Pe, the mouth, with its end form ף; tsade, with its end form ץ, the letter of tsaddiq (righteous) and erets (earth); and qof, the letter of qol (voice) and qatsir (harvest). Ruth gleans in Boaz's harvest field in Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld's painting.

4.1 Pe, the Mouth

4.2 Tsade and Qof

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

From Sunrise to Sunset

Resh, the head; shin with its two sounds; and tav, the last letter: the whole alef-bet is finished. Frederic Church paints a blazing sunset over the wilderness, and Psalm 113 praises the LORD from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same.

5.1 Resh, the Head

5.2 Shin and Tav: The Whole Alef-Bet

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 Review: Alef to Yod: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 activity (ten-letter flip book) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet *Three sessions a week of 15–20 minutes. On the other days, point to the week's letters and say them.*

WEEK	PLAN
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 Kaf, the Open Palm: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 activity (palm-print kaf) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (the blessing card)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 Lamed, the Tall Letter: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 activity (bread-dough lamed) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Mem, the Water Letter: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 activity (water-color mem) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (the water-and-bread mat)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Nun and the Lamp: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 activity (paper lamp) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Samekh and Ayin: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 activity (eye-spy ayin) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (noah's animal parade)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Pe, the Mouth: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 activity (fruit-print pe) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Tsade and Qof: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 activity (sheaf of words) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (the harvest basket)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Resh, the Head: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 activity (shepherd puppet) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Shin and Tav: The Whole Alef-Bet: warm-up, story, letters and picture study

WEEK	PLAN
	• Session 2: Lesson 5.2 activity (sunrise-to-sunset alef-bet) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (my alef-bet chart)

Materials

A notebook for the letter book

One for the quarter, for big letters and drawings.

Crayons or markers, paper, play dough, scissors, glue and tape

For the activities. A parent helps with cutting.

Index cards

For letter cards and games.

Grading

Grades at this age come from cheerful participation: naming letters, tracing them, saying the words and joining the games. A child who practices a few minutes every day earns full credit.

PART	%
Saying and naming (letters, sounds, words, games)	**40**
Letter book and activities	**30**
Unit reviews (out loud)	**15**
Unit challenges	**15**

Scale: Most families simply mark each review Got it, Getting there or Not yet. If you prefer letters: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79. Below that, play the letter games again, then try once more.

- Every review is done out loud. The parent asks, the child answers or points, and the parent marks the answer key.

- A letter counts when the child can point to it and say its name or its sound. Mixing up look-alike letters (bet and kaf, dalet and resh) is normal at first.

A note to parents

You do not need to know Hebrew to teach this course. Every letter and word has its sounds spelled out (shalom is shah-LOHM), every answer is in the answer key, and the letters are taught one picture at a time. Learn right alongside your child.

Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Keep it short and happy. If your child is tired, trace one letter and stop. Fifteen joyful minutes are better than thirty unhappy ones.

Hebrew is the language God used to give most of the Old Testament: the creation story, the Ten Commandments and the Psalms David sang. Each lesson ends with a verse in English (King James Version) and the same verse in Hebrew, so your child can see the very letters Moses and David wrote.

UNIT 1

Hands That Bless

In Lesson 1.1 your child reviews the ten letters from kindergarten, alef to yod, with their pictures and words, and reads the first day of creation in Genesis 1:5: God called the light Day.

In Lesson 1.2 your child meets kaf, the open palm, and learns that five Hebrew letters change shape at the end of a word; kaf's end form ך has a long tail. Rembrandt's Jacob blesses his grandsons with his hand.

PREREQUISITES

- Kindergarten Biblical Hebrew, or knowing the letters alef to yod. A child new to Hebrew can learn the ten letters in Lesson 1.1 over two weeks instead of one.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name the letters alef to yod in order.
- ☐ I can point to kaf and to its end form ך.
- ☐ I can say what kaf began as: an open palm.
- ☐ I know that Hebrew is read from right to left.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**Review: Alef to Yod**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
1.2	**Kaf, the Open Palm**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 1 review

Ask each question out loud; the child answers out loud, points or writes. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Name these letters, starting on the right: א ג ה ז י
2. **5 pts**
   Which letter is the open palm? Show its regular form and its end-of-word form.
3. **5 pts**
   What do tov, yad and bayit mean?
4. **5 pts**
   Say the first eleven letters in order.

ANSWER KEY

1. Alef, gimel, he, zayin, yod.
2. Kaf: כ (regular) and ך (end of a word).
3. Good, hand, house.
4. Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet, yod, kaf.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE BLESSING CARD

Trace your hand on a card. On the palm, write a big כ, and at the bottom write the first word of the priestly blessing, יְבָרֶכְךָ (a parent helps), circling the ך at its end. On the back, copy the English: The LORD bless thee, and keep thee. Give the card to someone in your family and say the blessing over them.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The child writes כ and ך correctly.
Words	The child copies יְבָרֶכְךָ from right to left.
Sounds	The child says kaf and the blessing clearly.
Effort	The child works carefully and says everything out loud.

UNIT 1 · HANDS THAT BLESS · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

1.1 Review: Alef to Yod

OBJECTIVES

- Name the ten letters from alef to yod in order.
- Give a word that begins with at least five of them.
- Point to the first letter of a Hebrew word (on the right).

Warm-up. Lay out ten cards, one for each letter you learned in kindergarten: א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י. Starting at the right, point to each one and say its name. Which ones do you remember? Which ones need a little help?

WATCH

Hebrew - Aleph-Bet Hebrew Alphabet Song - Free Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 2:12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFkuW-tQsog

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the review; sing along and touch each card on the table as its letter is sung.

Note: Aleph with Beth's Aleph-Bet song (2:12): the 22 letters sung in order, each letter on screen.

BACKUP VIDEO

Genesis 1:5

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:07

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLYb3LnZB4I

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 1:5 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

alef-bet

The Hebrew alphabet: 22 letters, named after the first two.

right to left

Hebrew lines start on the right side of the page.

יוֹם yom (YOHM)

Day.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

יוֹם

yom

YOHM

noun

day

לַיְלָה

laylah

LAI-lah

noun

night

טוֹב

tov

TOHV

adjective

good

יָד

yad

YAHD

noun

hand

CORE IDEAS

The ten letters. Alef the ox, bet the house, gimel the camel, dalet the door, he the shout of Behold!, vav the tent peg, zayin the tool, chet the fence, tet the basket, and yod the little hand. Each began as a small picture whose name starts with its sound. In order: א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י.

The story. On the first day, God made light. Then God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. In Hebrew, Day is יוֹם, yom, which begins with yod, and Night is לַיְלָה, laylah, which begins with a letter you will meet in Unit 2. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Say it and move. Do the motion for each letter as you say it: ox horns for alef, a roof for bet, a camel sway for gimel, a door for dalet, arms up for he, a stiff peg for vav, a buzz for zayin, a fence for chet, a thumbs-up for tet (tov!), and a wave for yod.

PICTURE STUDY



Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1656 · Oil on canvas · Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Kassel

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

In Genesis 48, Jacob, very old and nearly blind, blesses Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. He crosses his hands on purpose to give the younger boy the greater blessing. Rembrandt paints the moment with warm light on the hands and faces.

Look closely

- Whose head is Jacob's hand resting on?
- Find Joseph. What is he doing with his hand?
- How is the boy being blessed holding his hands?
- Find the mother. How does she look?

Talk about it

1. Why do you think blessings in the Bible were given with the hands?
2. Who has blessed you?

ACTIVITY

Ten-letter flip book

Make a flip book that shows each letter on the front and its picture and word on the back.

You will need

- Ten index cards
- A hole punch and a ring or string
- Crayons

Steps

1. On the front of each card, write one letter large (a parent helps): א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י.
2. On the back, draw its picture: ox, house, camel, door, a person shouting, peg, tool, fence, basket, hand.
3. Write a Hebrew word under the picture if you know one: אָב, בַּיִת, גָּמָל, דֶּלֶת, הַר, זָהָב, חַלּוֹן, טוֹב, יָד.
4. Punch a hole in the top right corner and ring the cards together, alef on top.
5. Flip through and say each letter, then check the back.

Tips

- Ring the cards on the RIGHT side so the book opens the Hebrew way.

Check your work

- ☐ My flip book has all ten letters in order.
- ☐ I can say each letter before I flip.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write the ten letters across a page from right to left.
2. Under three of them, draw their pictures.

> **From history.** Hebrew children have learned the alef-bet in order for thousands of years. Several psalms are written in alphabet order so that the letters help the singer remember the words.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Name the letters: ב ד ו

▼ **Show solution**

1. Start on the right.
2. The first is the house, the second the door, the third the peg.

Answer: Bet, dalet, vav.

Example 2. Which letter comes between chet and yod?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Say them in order: … zayin, chet, ___, yod.

Answer: Tet.

Example 3. What is the first letter of יָד?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Look at the right end of the word.

Answer: Yod, י.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Name the first letter on the right: טוֹב

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Tet.

2. Easy Say the letters from alef to he.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he.

3. Easy What does yom mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Day.

4. Medium Name these letters: ז ח ט

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Zayin, chet, tet (reading from the right).

5. Medium Give a word that begins with bet and one that begins with gimel.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Bayit (house); gamal (camel) or gadol (big).

6. Hard Say all ten letters without looking.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet, yod.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing he ה and chet ח. He has a gap at the top left.
- Mixing vav ו, zayin ז and yod י. Yod is short; vav is tall with a little hook; zayin has a cap.

> **Make it a game · Letter detective.** The parent shows a Hebrew word on a card (טוֹב, יָד, בַּיִת, הַר, דָּוִד). Find the first letter on the right and name it. Score a point for each one, and then make cards for the parent to solve.

> **Scripture.** "And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." (Genesis 1:5, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לָאוֹר יוֹם
>
> This is the end of the first day of creation. Find yom, Day, the fourth word from the right; it begins with yod.

1.2 Kaf, the Open Palm

OBJECTIVES

- Point to kaf כ and its end form ך and say the name.
- Say that kaf began as an open palm.
- Know that five Hebrew letters change shape at the end of a word.

> **Warm-up.** Hold your hand out flat, palm up, as if someone were going to put a gift in it. Now cup it a little. In Hebrew, the word for the palm of the hand is kaf, and it is the name of today's letter.

WATCH

The Ancient Hebrew Blessing (בִּרְכַּת כֹּהֲנִים) - Numbers 6:24-26

Aleph with Beth · 3:16

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11zuSK-Xyf8

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; listen to the blessing and hold out your palms.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings the priestly blessing of Numbers 6:24–26 in Hebrew. Its first word, yevarekhekha (bless thee), ends with the long-tailed kaf.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:81

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 1:55

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwxH-sqr8XA

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:81 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

כ kaf (KAHF) · end-of-word form ך

Sound: k with a dot inside (כּ), kh without it (כ). Picture: an open palm.

כַּף kaf (KAHF)

Palm of the hand.

end form

A special shape that five letters take at the end of a word: ך ם ן ף ץ.

מֶלֶךְ melekh (MEH-lekh)

King. It ends with the end form of kaf.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

כ ך

kaf

KAHF

letter (and its end-of-word form)

the letter kaf: k with a dot inside

כַּף

kaf

KAHF

noun

palm of the hand

מֶלֶךְ

melekh

MEH-lekh

noun

king

כֶּסֶף

kesef

KEH-sef

noun

silver

CORE IDEAS

The story. God told Moses how the priests should bless His people. They were to say: The LORD bless thee, and keep thee. In Hebrew, the first word is יְבָרֶכְךָ, yevarekhekha: may He bless you. Look at the end of that word: a kaf with a long tail that drops below the line. That is the end-of-word kaf. Old Jacob in our picture also blessed his grandsons with his hand.

How Hebrew sounds. Kaf with a dot inside, כּ, says k. Without the dot, כ, it says kh, the same throaty sound as chet. Kaf looks like bet, but round, with no little foot at the bottom right. At the end of a word, kaf stretches its tail straight down: ך. Five letters do this: kaf, mem, nun, pe and tsade. You will meet all five this year.

Say it and move. Hold out your palm: **Kaf!** Now drop your arm straight down like a long tail: **end-kaf!** Put a pretend crown on your head: **melekh!** (king), and point down at the end: that is the end-kaf.

ACTIVITY

Palm-print kaf

Make a palm print and find the kaf shape in it.

You will need

- Washable paint or a crayon
- Paper

Steps

1. Press your painted palm onto the paper (fingers together).
2. With a marker, trace a big כ around the curve of the palm.
3. Below it, write ך and draw an arrow down its tail.
4. Write כַּף underneath and say kaf.

Tips

- Kaf is round with no foot; bet has a foot. Check yours.

Check your work

☐ My page has a regular kaf and an end-kaf.

☐ I can tell kaf from bet.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write כ and ך side by side. Draw a crown next to מֶלֶךְ and circle its end-kaf.
2. Copy the blessing word יְבָרֶכְךָ and circle its last letter.

> **From history.** Kaf became the Greek kappa and our letter K. The Hebrew word kaf still means the palm, and also a spoon, which is shaped like a little palm.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which is bet and which is kaf? בּ כּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. Bet has a little foot sticking out at the bottom right.
2. Kaf is round with no foot.

Answer: בּ (right) is bet; כּ (left) is kaf.

Example 2. Find the end-kaf in מֶלֶךְ.

▼ **Show solution**

1. The end of a Hebrew word is on the left.
2. Look for the long tail going down.

Answer: The last letter on the left, ך.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What picture did kaf begin as?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   An open palm.

2. Easy Say kaf.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   KAHF.

3. Easy What does melekh mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   King.

4. Medium Point to the end-kaf: כ ך ב

▼ **Show answer**

ך, the middle one with the long tail.

5. Medium Name the five letters that have end forms.

▼ **Show answer**

Kaf, mem, nun, pe, tsade.

6. Hard Why does the first word of the blessing end with ך and not כ?

▼ **Show answer**

Because kaf is the last letter of the word, so it takes its end form.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing kaf כ and bet ב. Bet has a foot; kaf is round.
- Using the end form in the middle of a word. Only the last letter gets the long tail.

> **Make it a game · Bet or kaf?.** The parent holds up כ ,ב or ך. Shout house! for bet, palm! for kaf, and tail! for end-kaf, while doing the motion. Then swap and quiz the parent.

> **Scripture.** “The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:” (Numbers 6:24, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ
>
> This is the first line of the priestly blessing. The first word, on the right, ends with the long-tailed kaf ך, and so does the last word.

UNIT 2

The Ox Goad and the Waters

In Lesson 2.1 your child meets lamed, the tall letter that rises above the line like the goad a farmer used to guide his oxen, in לֵב (lev, heart), לֶחֶם (lechem, bread) and לַיְלָה (laylah, night). Rosa Bonheur’s great painting of oxen ploughing shows a goad in action.

In Lesson 2.2 your child meets mem, the water letter, and its closed end form ם, in מַיִם (mayim, water) and in shalom. Genesis 1:2 shows the Spirit of God over the waters.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1: alef to kaf.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can point to lamed and mem and say their names.
- ☐ I can write mem's end form ם and find it at the end of a word.
- ☐ I can say lev, lechem and mayim and tell what they mean.
- ☐ I can say the letters from alef to mem in order.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**Lamed, the Tall Letter**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
2.2	**Mem, the Water Letter**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 2 review

Ask each question out loud; the child answers out loud, points or writes. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Point to lamed: כ ל מ
2. **5 pts**
   Write mem and its end form.
3. **5 pts**
   What do lev, lechem and mayim mean?

4. 5 pts

   Find the end-mem in שָׁלוֹם.

ANSWER KEY

1. ל, the tall one in the middle.
2. מ and ם.
3. Heart, bread, water.
4. The last letter on the left, ם.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE WATER-AND-BREAD MAT

Make a placemat for a family meal. On one side draw a loaf of bread and write לֶחֶם with a tall lamed; on the other side draw a glass of water and write מַיִם with its end-mem. Across the top write שָׁלוֹם. At the meal, point to each word and say it before the blessing.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The child writes מ ,ל and ם correctly.
Words	The child copies מַיִם ,לֶחֶם and שָׁלוֹם.
Sounds	The child reads the three words aloud.
Effort	The child works carefully and says everything out loud.

UNIT 2 · THE OX GOAD AND THE WATERS · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

2.1 Lamed, the Tall Letter

OBJECTIVES

- Point to lamed and say its name.
- Say that lamed began as a goad or staff.
- Say lev (heart), lechem (bread) and laylah (night).

> **Warm-up.** Stand up as tall as you can, and then reach one arm even higher. Today's letter is the tallest of all the Hebrew letters: it reaches up above the top of the line.

WATCH

Easy Story 20 - אַבְרָם וְהַלֶּחֶם - Avram & the Bread

Aleph with Beth · 4:52

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MidXOBL8EcU

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; raise your arm high every time you hear lechem.

Note: Aleph with Beth's easy story about Avram and the bread, told in simple Hebrew with pictures; listen for lechem, bread.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:89

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgeWRNvW68U

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:89 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

ל lamed (LAH-med)

Sound: l. Picture: a shepherd's staff or ox goad.

לֶחֶם lechem (LEH-khem)

Bread. Bethlehem means "house of bread."

לֵב lev (LAYV)

Heart.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

ל

lamed

LAH-med

letter

the letter lamed: l

לֵב

lev

LAYV

noun

heart

לֶחֶם

lechem

LEH-khem

noun

bread

לַיְלָה

laylah

LAI-lah

noun

night

CORE IDEAS

The story. In Bible times, farmers ploughed with oxen. To keep them walking straight, the farmer carried a long stick with a point, called a goad, and gave a gentle poke when an ox wandered. The letter lamed may have begun as a picture of that goad or a shepherd's staff. Bethlehem, the town where David was born and where Jesus was born, is בֵּית לֶחֶם, Beit Lechem: house of bread.

How Hebrew sounds. Lamed says l. It is the only letter that rises above the top of the line, like a staff held high. Say LAH-med, LAYV (heart), LEH-khem (bread), LAI-lah (night).

Say it and move. Hold a pretend goad high above your head: **Lamed!** Put your hand on your heart: **lev!** Pretend to eat bread: **lechem!** Lay your head down: **laylah!**

PICTURE STUDY



Ploughing in the Nivernais, Rosa Bonheur, 1849 · Oil on canvas · Musée d'Orsay, Paris

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Rosa Bonheur was a French painter who loved animals and studied them closely on farms and in markets. This huge painting shows the autumn ploughing, when the earth is turned over before sowing.

Look closely

- Find the man holding the long goad. What does it look like?
- How many oxen can you count?
- Look at the earth. Which part has been ploughed?
- Which ox looks the strongest?

Talk about it

1. Why would a farmer need a goad?
2. How is God like a good farmer who guides us?

ACTIVITY

Bread-dough lamed

Shape a lamed out of bread dough and bake it.

You will need

- Bread dough or pizza dough (homemade or from the store)
- A baking sheet
- An adult for the oven

Steps

1. Roll the dough into a long rope.
2. Shape a lamed: a short stroke rising up at the top, then the body, curving down to the left at the bottom.
3. Bake it with an adult's help.
4. Before you eat it, say: lamed, lechem!

Tips

- The top stroke of lamed rises above the other letters.

Check your work

- ☐ My lamed reaches up tall.
- ☐ I can say lamed and lechem.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write ל tall on a new page, rising above the line. Draw a heart beside לֵב and bread beside לֶחֶם.

> **From history.** Lamed became the Greek lambda and our letter L.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find the tallest letter in בֵּית לֶחֶם.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Lamed rises above the line.
2. It begins the second word.

Answer: ל, the first letter of the second word (Lechem).

Example 2. What does lev mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It begins with lamed.

Answer: Heart.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Which letter is the tallest?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Lamed.

2. Easy Say lamed.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   LAH-med.

3. Easy What does lechem mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Bread.

4. Medium Point to lamed: כ ל ך

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ל, the tall middle letter.

5. Medium What does Bethlehem mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   House of bread.

6. Hard Say the letters from alef to lamed.

▼ **Show answer**

Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet, yod, kaf, lamed.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing lamed the same height as the other letters. Its top rises above the line.
- Mixing lechem (bread) and laylah (night). Both begin with lamed; listen to the next sounds.

> **Make it a game · Tall or small?.** The parent says a letter name. If it is lamed, stand on tiptoe and stretch up. If it is yod, crouch down small. For any other letter, stand normally. Speed up!

> **Scripture.** “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.” (Psalm 119:89, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> לְעוֹלָם יְהוָה דְּבָרְךָ נִצָּב בַּשָּׁמָיִם׃
>
> This verse begins the lamed part of Psalm 119. The first word, le‘olam, means for ever. Find the tall lamed at the very start.

UNIT 2 · THE OX GOAD AND THE WATERS · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

2.2 Mem, the Water Letter

OBJECTIVES

- Point to mem מ and its end form ם and say the name.
- Say that mem began as waves of water.
- Say mayim (water) and find the end-mem in shalom.

> **Warm-up.** Fill a bowl with water and make little waves with your fingers. Up and down, up and down. Today’s letter began as a picture of waves of water.

WATCH

Easy Story 45.1 - מֹשֶׁה בִּיְאֹר - Moses on the Nile

Aleph with Beth · 3:24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB7_m-yQqno

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; make waves with your hand when you see the river.

Note: Aleph with Beth's easy story of baby Moses on the Nile, told in simple Hebrew with pictures. Moses' name, מֹשֶׁה, begins with mem.

BACKUP VIDEO

Genesis 1:2

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2txBWG9pQg

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 1:2 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

מ mem (MAYM) · end-of-word form ם

Sound: m. Picture: water, like waves.

מַיִם mayim (MAH-yeem)

Water. It begins with mem and ends with end-mem.

מֹשֶׁה Moshe (moh-SHEH)

Moses. His name means drawn out, because he was drawn out of the water.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

מ ם *mem* **MAYM** letter (and its end-of-word form) the letter mem: m	מַיִם *mayim* **MAH-yeem** noun water
מֹשֶׁה *Moshe* **moh-SHEH** name Moses	שָׁלוֹם *shalom* **shah-LOHM** noun peace

CORE IDEAS

The story. Before God made light, the Bible says, the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Later, baby Moses was hidden in a little ark among the reeds of the river Nile, and Pharaoh's daughter found him and drew him out of the water. His name, מֹשֶׁה, Moshe, begins with mem, the water letter.

How Hebrew sounds. Mem says m. The regular mem מ is open at the bottom left. At the end of a word it closes up into a box: ם. You already know a word with an end-mem: שָׁלוֹם, shalom. Say MAYM, MAH-yeem, moh-SHEH.

Say it and move. Make waves with your arm: **Mem! mayim!** Draw a square in the air: **end-mem!** Wave hello: **shalom!** and draw the square at the end.

ACTIVITY

Water-color mem

Paint mem with water colors and turn it into waves.

You will need

- Watercolor paints and a brush, or blue crayons
- Paper

Steps

1. A parent writes a big מ and a big ם on the paper.
2. Paint over them in blue.
3. Add little waves all around the letters.
4. Write מַיִם at the bottom and say mayim.

Tips

- The regular mem has an opening at the bottom left; the end-mem is a closed box.

Check your work

- ☐ My page has מ and ם.
- ☐ I can say mem and mayim.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write מ and ם side by side. Draw water beside מַיִם and circle the end-mem in שָׁלוֹם.

> **From history.** Mem became the Greek mu and our letter M. Its wavy beginning is still visible in our M, which goes up and down like waves.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find both mems in מַיִם.

▼ **Show solution**

1. The first letter on the right is a regular mem.
2. The last letter on the left is an end-mem.

Answer: מ at the start (right) and ם at the end (left).

Example 2. Which is end-mem and which is samekh (Unit 3)? ם ס

▼ **Show solution**

1. End-mem is square with corners.
2. Samekh is round.

Answer: ם (right) is end-mem.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What picture did mem begin as?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Waves of water.

2. Easy What does mayim mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Water.

3. Easy Say Moses' name in Hebrew.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Moshe.

4. Medium Point to the end-mem: מ ם כ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ם, the closed square.

5. **Medium** Which word has an end-mem: שָׁלוֹם or טוֹב?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   שָׁלוֹם.

6. **Hard** Say the letters from alef to mem.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet, yod, kaf, lamed, mem.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing the regular mem at the end of a word. At the end, mem closes into ם.
- Mixing end-mem ם with samekh ס. End-mem is square; samekh is round.

> **Make it a game · Waves and boxes.** The parent holds up מ or ם. For מ, make waves with your arms; for ם, draw a box in the air. Add ל (stand tall) and כ (open palm).

> **Scripture.** "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." (Genesis 1:2, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל־פְּנֵי הַמָּיִם
>
> This is the second verse of the Bible. Find mayim at the very end, on the left: hammayim, the waters, with mem at both ends.

UNIT 3

Lamps and Eyes

In Lesson 3.1 your child meets nun and its end form ן in נֵר (ner, lamp), נֹחַ (Noach, Noah) and בֵּן (ben, son), and Psalm 119:105: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet. Jan Brueghel's painting of the animals going to Noah's ark is full of creatures to find.

In Lesson 3.2 your child meets samekh, the round letter of סוּס (sus, horse), and ayin, the eye, in עַיִן (ayin, eye) and עֵץ (ets, tree), with Psalm 121:1.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2: alef to mem.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can point to nun, samekh and ayin and say their names.
- ☐ I can write nun's end form ן.
- ☐ I can say ner, sus and ayin and tell what they mean.
- ☐ I can say the letters from alef to ayin in order.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**Nun and the Lamp**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
3.2	**Samekh and Ayin**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 3 review

Ask each question out loud; the child answers out loud, points or writes. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Name these letters, starting on the right: נ ס ע

2. **5 pts**
   Write nun and its end form.

3. **5 pts**
   What do ner, sus and ayin mean?

4. **5 pts**
   Say the letters from kaf to ayin.

ANSWER KEY

1. Nun, samekh, ayin.
2. נ and ן.
3. Lamp, horse, eye.
4. Kaf, lamed, mem, nun, samekh, ayin.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: NOAH'S ANIMAL PARADE

Draw five animals from Brueghel's painting walking from right to left toward an ark at the left edge of the page. On the horse write סוּס; above the parade draw a big eye and write עַיִן; on the ark write נֹחַ. Tell the family the story, pointing to each word.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The child writes נ ,ע ,ס and ן correctly.
Words	The child copies עַיִן ,סוּס and נֹחַ.
Sounds	The child reads the words aloud.
Effort	The child works carefully and says everything out loud.

UNIT 3 · LAMPS AND EYES · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

3.1 Nun and the Lamp

OBJECTIVES

- Point to nun נ and its end form ן and say the name.
- Say ner (lamp) and Noach (Noah).
- Find the end-nun in ben (son) and amen.

Warm-up. Turn off the light and switch on a flashlight. Point it at your feet and walk across the room. Can you see where to step? The Bible says God's word is like a lamp for your feet.

WATCH

Easy Story 50 - The Descendants of Noah - תּוֹלְדוֹת נֹחַ - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 4:38

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNQfiDx8ECc

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; hold up your flashlight when you hear Noach.

Note: Aleph with Beth's easy story of Noah's sons and their families after the flood, told in simple Hebrew; listen for Noach, Noah.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:105

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:46

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nn1rt1A0F1Y

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:105 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

נ nun (NOON) · end-of-word form ן

Sound: n. Picture: perhaps a snake or a fish.

נֵר ner (NAYR)

Lamp.

נֹחַ Noach (NOH-akh)

Noah.

בֵּן ben (BAYN)

Son. It ends with end-nun.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

נ ן

nun

NOON

letter (and its end-of-word form)

the letter nun: n

נֵר

ner

NAYR

noun

lamp

נֹחַ

Noach

NOH-akh

name

Noah

בֵּן

ben

BAYN

noun

son

CORE IDEAS

The story. In Bible times, a lamp was a little clay bowl of oil with a wick. At night it gave just enough light to see the path right in front of you. King David wrote: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. The first word of that verse is נֵר, ner, lamp, and it begins with nun. Noah's name, נֹחַ, begins with nun too.

How Hebrew sounds. Nun says n. The regular nun נ is short and bends at the bottom. At the end of a word it stretches straight down below the line: ן. Find it at the end of בֵּן, ben (son), and אָמֵן, amen. Say NOON, NAYR, NOH-akh.

Say it and move. Hold up a pretend lamp: **Nun! ner!** Stretch one arm straight down: **end-nun!** Fold your hands: **amen!**

PICTURE STUDY



The Entry of the Animals into Noah's Ark, Jan Brueghel the Elder, 1613 · Oil on panel · J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Jan Brueghel was a Flemish painter famous for tiny, careful details. He studied real animals in the zoo of the rulers of Brussels so he could paint each one exactly. Here the animals are on their way to Noah's ark.

Look closely

- Find the horse in the middle. What color is it?
- Find the two lions.
- Count the parrots in the tree.
- Find the camel. Who is leading it?

Talk about it

1. Which animal would you most like to see up close?
2. Why do you think Brueghel painted so many animals?

ACTIVITY

Paper lamp

Make a little paper lamp with a nun on it.

You will need

- Paper or card stock
- Crayons
- Tape
- Yellow tissue paper

Steps

1. Draw an oil lamp shape (like a little bowl with a spout) and cut it out.
2. Tape a twist of yellow tissue paper on the spout for the flame.
3. Write נֵר on the lamp and say ner.
4. On the back, copy the English: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.

Tips

- The regular nun is short; the end-nun drops below the line.

Check your work

☐ My lamp says נֵר.

☐ I can say nun and ner.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write נ and ן side by side. Draw a lamp beside נֵר and circle the end-nun in בֵּן and אָמֵן.

> **From history.** Nun became the Greek nu and our letter N. Its old picture may have been a snake or a fish; scholars are not sure.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find the end-nun in אָמֵן.

▼ **Show solution**

1. The end is on the left.
2. End-nun drops below the line.

Answer: The last letter, ן.

Example 2. Which is vav and which is end-nun? ן ו

▼ **Show solution**

1. Vav sits on the line.
2. End-nun drops below the line.

Answer: ו (right) is vav; ן (left) is end-nun.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does ner mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Lamp.

2. Easy Say Noah's name in Hebrew.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Noach.

3. Easy Say nun.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   NOON.

4. Medium Point to the end-nun: נ ן ו

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ן, the middle one that drops down.

5. Medium What does ben mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Son.

6. Hard Say Psalm 119:105 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing end-nun ן with vav ו. End-nun goes below the line.
- Mixing nun נ with gimel ג. Nun has a flat base; gimel has a foot stepping out.

> **Make it a game · Lamp walk.** In a dim room, the parent calls out a Hebrew word. If it begins with nun (ner, Noach, nun), take one step with the flashlight. Otherwise stay still. Reach the other side of the room!

> **Scripture.** "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> נֵר־לְרַגְלִי דְבָרֶךָ וְאוֹר לִנְתִיבָתִי׃
>
> This verse begins the nun part of Psalm 119. Its first word is ner, lamp. Find the nun at the very start, on the right.

UNIT 3 · LAMPS AND EYES · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

3.2 Samekh and Ayin

OBJECTIVES

- Point to samekh and ayin and say their names.
- Say that ayin began as an eye.
- Say sus (horse), ayin (eye) and ets (tree).

> **Warm-up.** Go to a window and look up at the sky or the trees. Lift your eyes as high as you can. Where does your help come from? The Bible answers: My help cometh from the LORD.

WATCH

Hebrew Worship - Psalm 121 תְּהִלִּים - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 3:24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=978qHepmyos

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; lift your eyes when the song begins.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 121 in Hebrew: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills.

BACKUP VIDEO

Hebrew - Aleph-Bet Hebrew Alphabet Song - Free Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 2:12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFkuW-tQsog

Aleph with Beth's Aleph-Bet song (2:12): the 22 letters sung in order, each letter on screen.

KEY TERMS

ס samekh (SAH-mekh)

Sound: s. Picture: perhaps a prop or support.

ע ayin (AH-yeen)

Sound: silent for most readers today: it holds a vowel (in Bible times a sound deep in the throat). Picture: an eye.

סוּס sus (SOOS)

Horse.

עַיִן ayin (AH-yeen)

Eye. The letter's name is the word.

עֵץ ets (AYTS)

Tree.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

ס

samekh

SAH-mekh

letter

the letter samekh: s

ע

ayin

AH-yeen

letter

the letter ayin: silent for most readers today

סוּס

sus

SOOS

noun

horse

עַיִן

ayin

AH-yeen

noun

eye

עֵץ

ets

AYTS

noun

tree

CORE IDEAS

The story. Psalm 121 was sung by travelers walking up to Jerusalem for worship. As they saw the hills ahead, they sang: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. The Hebrew word for my eyes, עֵינַי, begins with ayin, the eye letter.

How Hebrew sounds. Samekh says s. It is round, like a closed circle, with a flat top. Ayin is a quiet letter for most readers today, like alef: it holds a vowel. In Bible times it was a sound deep in the throat. Ayin looks like two eyes looking up and a line going down. Say SAH-mekh, SOOS, AH-yeen, AYTS.

Say it and move. Gallop like a horse: **Samekh! sus!** Point to your eyes and look up: **Ayin!** Stand like a tree with branches: **ets!**

ACTIVITY

Eye-spy ayin

Make an ayin with googly eyes and a horse with a samekh.

You will need

- Paper
- Two googly eyes or paper circles
- Glue and crayons

Steps

1. A parent writes a big ע. Glue an eye at the top of each arm.
2. Write עַיִן under it.
3. On the other side, draw a horse and write ס on its side and סוּס underneath.

Tips

- Samekh is round with a flat top. End-mem is square.

Check your work

☐ My page has ע and ס.

☐ I can say ayin and samekh.

LETTER BOOK

1. Draw an eye beside עַיִן, a horse beside סוּס, and a tree beside עֵץ.
2. Circle the end-tsade at the end of עֵץ: you will learn it in Unit 4.

> **From history.** Ayin became the Greek letter omicron and our letter O: the round eye became a round letter.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which is samekh and which is end-mem? ם ס

▼ **Show solution**

1. Samekh is round.
2. End-mem is square.

Answer: ס (right) is samekh; ם (left) is end-mem.

Example 2. What does the letter's name ayin mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Think of what the letter looks like.

Answer: Eye.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does sus mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Horse.

2. Easy What does ayin mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Eye.

3. Easy Say samekh.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   SAH-mekh.

4. Medium Name these letters: ס ע

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Samekh, ayin.

5. Medium Finish the verse: I will lift up mine eyes...

   ▼ **Show answer**

   unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

6. Hard Say the letters from alef to ayin.

▼ **Show answer**

Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet, yod, kaf, lamed, mem, nun, samekh, ayin.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing samekh ס and end-mem ם. Samekh is round; end-mem has corners.
- Trying to say ayin as a letter sound. Like alef, it holds a vowel.

> **Make it a game · I spy.** Play I spy, but the spy must say the Hebrew word: I spy a סוּס (a horse toy), an עֵץ (a tree out the window), a נֵר (a lamp). Point to the matching letter card when you find it.

> **Scripture.** "A Song of degrees. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." (Psalm 121:1, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> אֶשָּׂא עֵינַי אֶל־הֶהָרִים
>
> This is the start of the travelers' song. Find eynai, mine eyes, the second word here; it begins with ayin, the eye letter.

UNIT 4

Mouths and Harvest

In Lesson 4.1 your child meets pe, the mouth letter, which says p with a dot and f without, and its end form ף, in פֶּה (peh, mouth) and פְּרִי (peri, fruit).

In Lesson 4.2 your child meets tsade and qof in צַדִּיק (tsaddiq, righteous), אֶרֶץ (erets, earth), קוֹל (qol, voice) and קָצִיר (qatsir, harvest), with Boaz greeting his reapers in Ruth 2:4. The unit ends with a harvest basket of words.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3: alef to ayin.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can point to pe, tsade and qof and say their names.
- ☐ I can write the end forms ף and ץ.
- ☐ I can tell when pe says p and when it says f.
- ☐ I can say the letters from alef to qof in order.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**Pe, the Mouth**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
4.2	**Tsade and Qof**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 4 review

Ask each question out loud; the child answers out loud, points or writes. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**

   Name these letters, starting on the right: פ צ ק

2. **5 pts**

   Write the end forms of pe and tsade.

3. **5 pts**

   When does pe say p, and when does it say f?

4. **5 pts**

   What do peh, qol and erets mean?

ANSWER KEY

1. Pe, tsade, qof.
2. ף and ץ.
3. With a dot inside (פּ) it says p; without it (פ) it says f.
4. Mouth, voice, earth.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE HARVEST BASKET

Cut out six paper "sheaves of grain." On each, write one word: פֶּה, פְּרִי, צַדִּיק, אֶרֶץ, קוֹל, קָצִיר. Put them in a basket. Take turns pulling one out, reading it, and acting it out (point to your mouth for peh, pretend to eat fruit for peri, and so on).

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The child writes ץ, צ, ף, פ and ק correctly.
Words	The child copies the six words.
Sounds	The child reads each word aloud with the right p or f.
Effort	The child works carefully and says everything out loud.

UNIT 4 · MOUTHS AND HARVEST · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

4.1 Pe, the Mouth

OBJECTIVES

- Point to pe פ and its end form ף and say the name.
- Say p for פּ (with a dot) and f for פ (without).
- Say peh (mouth) and peri (fruit).

Warm-up. Open your mouth wide and say ahh. Now press your lips together and pop them: p! p! p! Today's letter is the mouth letter, and it makes a popping sound with your lips.

WATCH

Hebrew Worship - Psalm 40:4 תְּהִלִּים - A New Song in my Mouth - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 3:23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-p5YWj4R1I0

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; point to your mouth when the song says “in my mouth.”

Note: Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 40 in Hebrew: he hath put a new song in my mouth.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:129

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:04

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kobQK14qOUQ

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:129 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

פ pe (PAY) · end-of-word form ף

Sound: p with a dot inside (פּ), f without it (פ). Picture: a mouth.

פֶּה peh (PEH)

Mouth.

פְּרִי peri (peh-REE)

Fruit.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

פ ף

pe

PAY

letter (and its end-of-word form)

the letter pe: p with a dot inside

פֶּה

peh

PEH

noun

mouth

פְּרִי

peri

peh-REE

noun

fruit

CORE IDEAS

The story. On the third day of creation, God made the trees that bear fruit, פְּרִי, peri, each with its seed inside. And David sang that God had put a new song in his mouth, his פֶּה, peh: a song of praise to our God. Both words begin with pe, the mouth letter.

How Hebrew sounds. Pe with a dot inside, פּ, says p: pop your lips. Without the dot, פ, it says f: let the air blow through. At the end of a word pe stretches down: ף. Pe looks like an open mouth with a little tongue curling inside. Say PAY, PEH, peh-REE.

Say it and move. Pop your lips: **Pe!** Point to your mouth: **peh!** Pretend to bite an apple: **peri!** Blow out a candle: **fff**, the sound of pe without the dot.

ACTIVITY

Fruit-print pe

Make a pe with fruit prints and say p and f.

You will need

- An apple or potato cut in half (an adult cuts)
- Paint
- Paper

Steps

1. A parent writes a big פּ (with a dot) and a big פ (without).
2. Dip the fruit in paint and print around the letters.
3. Under the dotted pe, write p; under the plain pe, write f.
4. Write פְּרִי at the bottom and say peri.

Tips

- Pe with the dot pops: p. Without it, it blows: f.

Check your work

- ☐ My page shows פּ and פ.
- ☐ I can say p and f for the right one.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write פּ, פ and ף. Draw a mouth beside פֶּה and a fruit beside פְּרִי.

> **From history.** Pe became the Greek pi and our letter P.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Does this pe say p or f? פּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. Look for the dot inside.

Answer: p (it has the dot).

Example 2. Which is pe and which is kaf? כ פ

▼ **Show solution**

1. Pe has a little tongue curling inside its mouth.
2. Kaf is an empty curve.

Answer: פ (right) is pe; כ (left) is kaf.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What picture did pe begin as?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A mouth.

2. Easy What does peri mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Fruit.

3. Easy Say pe.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   PAY.

4. Medium Pe with a dot says ___; pe without a dot says ___.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   p; f.

5. Medium Point to the end-pe: פ ף כ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ף, the middle one.

6. Hard Name the letters that have end forms so far.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Kaf, mem, nun, pe (tsade comes next).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying p for every pe. Without the dot it says f.

- Mixing pe and kaf. Pe has a little tongue inside.

> **Make it a game · Pop or blow.** The parent holds up פּ or פ. For פּ, pop your lips: p! For פ, blow a feather or a paper scrap across the table: fff! Who can blow the feather the farthest?

> **Scripture.** “Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.” (Psalm 119:129, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> פְּלָאוֹת עֵדְוֹתֶיךָ עַל־כֵּן נְצָרָתַם נַפְשִׁי׃
>
> This verse begins the pe part of Psalm 119. Its first word, pela’ot, means wonderful things. Find the pe at the start.

UNIT 4 · MOUTHS AND HARVEST · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

4.2 Tsade and Qof

OBJECTIVES

- Point to tsade צ, its end form ץ, and qof ק, and say their names.
- Say tsaddiq (righteous), erets (earth), qol (voice) and qatsir (harvest).
- Say the letters from alef to qof.

> **Warm-up.** Pretend you are in a wheat field at harvest time, cutting the grain and bundling it into sheaves. Swish, swish! In the Bible, a young woman named Ruth worked in a harvest field, and the owner, Boaz, was kind to her.

WATCH

Easy Story 17 - Naomi & Ruth - נָעֳמִי וְרוּת

Aleph with Beth · 3:56

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkHjpIaH0vM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; listen for Ruth's name, רוּת.

Note: Aleph with Beth's easy story of Naomi and Ruth, told in simple Hebrew with pictures.

BACKUP VIDEO

Easy Story 26 - שְׁמוּאֵל שָׁמַע אֶת־קוֹל יהוה - Samuel Heard Yahweh's Voice

Aleph with Beth · 4:25

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twwaABoRwdo

Aleph with Beth's easy story of the boy Samuel hearing the LORD's voice in the night; listen for qol, voice.

KEY TERMS

צ tsade (TSAH-deh) · end-of-word form

ץ

Sound: ts as in cats. Picture: perhaps a fishhook or a plant.

ק qof (KOHF)

Sound: k (said a little farther back; often written q). Picture: perhaps the back of a head or the eye of a needle.

צַדִּיק tsaddiq (tsad-DEEK)

Righteous: doing what is right in God's eyes.

קוֹל qol (KOHL)

Voice, sound.

קָצִיר qatsir (kah-TSEER)

Harvest.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

צ ץ

tsade

TSAH-deh

letter (and its end-of-word form)

the letter tsade: ts as in cats

ק

qof

KOHF

letter

the letter qof: k

צַדִּיק

tsaddiq

tsad-DEEK

adjective

righteous

אֶרֶץ

erets

EH-rets

noun

earth, land

קוֹל

qol

KOHL

noun

voice

קָצִיר

qatsir

kah-TSEER

noun

harvest

CORE IDEAS

The story. Ruth loved her mother-in-law Naomi and came with her to Bethlehem. To get food, Ruth gleaned in the barley harvest, gathering the grain the reapers left behind. One day the owner of the field, Boaz, came from Bethlehem and greeted his reapers: The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee. The Hebrew word for the reapers, הַקּוֹצְרִים, has both a qof and a tsade in it.

How Hebrew sounds. Tsade says ts, as at the end of cats. At the end of a word it stretches down: ץ, as in אֶרֶץ, erets (earth). Qof says k, a little farther back in the

throat; it drops its leg below the line. Say TSAH-deh, tsad-DEEK, KOHF, KOHL, kah-TSEER.

Say it and move. Hiss like a cat: **ts, Tsade!** Stamp your foot: **erets!** (earth). Cup your ear: **qol!** (voice). Swing a pretend sickle: **qatsir!**

PICTURE STUDY



Ruth in Boaz's Field, Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, 1828 · Oil on canvas · National Gallery, London
Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld was a German painter who later made hundreds of Bible pictures. Here Boaz, the owner of the field, meets Ruth for the first time and tells her to stay and glean in his field, where she will be safe.

Look closely

- Find Boaz. What is he wearing?
- Find Ruth. What is she holding?
- Find the woman with the sickle.
- What are the men in the middle doing?

Talk about it

1. How does Boaz show kindness to Ruth?
2. Why do you think Ruth worked so hard?

ACTIVITY

Sheaf of words

Make a sheaf of paper wheat with harvest words.

You will need

- Yellow paper strips
- A rubber band or yarn
- A marker

Steps

1. On each strip write a word: קָצִיר, קוֹל, צַדִּיק, אֶרֶץ.
2. Bundle the strips like a sheaf of wheat and tie them.
3. Pull out a strip, read it, and say what it means.

Tips

- Qof drops its leg below the line; he does not.

Check your work

- ☐ My sheaf has four harvest words.
- ☐ I can read each one.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write ק, צ, and ץ. Draw a wheat field beside קָצִיר and the earth beside אֶרֶץ.

> **From history.** Qof became the Greek koppa, and then the Latin and English letter Q. Tsade had no Greek child, which is why English has no single letter for ts.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which is he and which is qof? ה ק

▼ **Show solution**

1. Qof's leg drops below the line.
2. He stays on the line.

Answer: ה (right) is he; ק (left) is qof.

Example 2. Find the end-tsade in אָרֶץ.

▼ **Show solution**

1. The end is on the left.
2. End-tsade drops below the line.

Answer: The last letter, ץ.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does qol mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Voice.

2. Easy What does erets mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Earth.

3. Easy Say tsade.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   TSAH-deh.

4. Medium Point to qof: ה ק ח

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ק, the middle one with the leg below the line.

5. **Medium** What did Boaz say to his reapers?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The LORD be with you.

6. **Hard** Name all five letters with end forms.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Kaf ך, mem ם, nun ן, pe ף, tsade ץ.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing qof ק and he ה. Qof drops below the line.
- Saying tsade as plain s. It is ts, as in cats.

> **Make it a game · Boaz and the reapers.** One person is Boaz and says “The LORD be with you.” The reapers answer “The LORD bless thee.” Then Boaz holds up a letter card; the reapers must name it before they can “reap” (take a strip of paper wheat). Swap roles.

> **Scripture.** “And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.” (Ruth 2:4, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> וַיֹּאמֶר לַקּוֹצְרִים יְהוָה עִמָּכֶם
>
> Boaz greets his reapers, and they bless him back. Find the word for the reapers, laqqotsrim, the fourth word here: it has a qof and a tsade.

UNIT 5

From Sunrise to Sunset

In Lesson 5.1 your child meets resh, the head, in רֹאשׁ (rosh, head) and in Psalm 23: יְהוָה רֹעִי, the LORD is my shepherd. A one-minute Hebrew song about head, belly and knees makes it stick.

In Lesson 5.2 your child meets shin (sh) and sin (s) and tav, the last letter, in שֶׁמֶשׁ (shemesh, sun) and תּוֹרָה (torah, law), then says all 22 letters. Frederic Church’s

Twilight in the Wilderness glows over the year's last lesson.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4: alef to qof.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can point to resh, shin and tav and say their names.
- ☐ I can tell shin (dot on the right) from sin (dot on the left).
- ☐ I can say all 22 letters in order.
- ☐ I can write the five end forms.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**Resh, the Head**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
5.2	**Shin and Tav: The Whole Alef-Bet**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 5 review

Ask each question out loud; the child answers out loud, points or writes. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Name these letters, starting on the right: ר ש ת
2. **5 pts**
   Which says sh and which says s? שׁ שׂ
3. **5 pts**
   Say all 22 letters in order.
4. **5 pts**
   Write the five end forms.

ANSWER KEY

1. Resh, shin, tav.
2. שׂ (dot on the right) is sh; שׁ (dot on the left) is s.
3. Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet, yod, kaf, lamed, mem, nun, samekh, ayin, pe, tsade, qof, resh, shin, tav.
4. ך ם ן ף ץ.

> Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY ALEF-BET CHART

Make a big chart of all 22 letters in order, from right to left, in rows. Under each letter draw its little picture or write a word you know. Put the five end forms in a box at the bottom. Hang it up and say the whole alef-bet to your family.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	All 22 letters are written correctly, in order, right to left.
Words	At least ten letters have a word or picture.
Sounds	The child says all 22 letters aloud.
Effort	The child works carefully and says everything out loud.

UNIT 5 · FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

5.1 Resh, the Head

OBJECTIVES

- Point to resh and say its name.
- Tell resh ר from dalet ד.
- Say rosh (head) and ro'i (my shepherd).

> **Warm-up.** Touch your head, then your shoulders, knees and toes. Do it faster! Today's letter began as a picture of a head, and you will learn a Hebrew song about head, belly and knees.

WATCH

Hebrew song - רֹאשׁ וּבֶטֶן וּבִרְכַּיִם - Rosh uVeten Song

Aleph with Beth · 1:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfWu-ayUoso

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; stand up and do the motions with the song.

Note: Aleph with Beth's one-minute song rosh u-veten u-virkayim: head and belly and knees, with motions.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:153

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7D3Qq91lTI

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:153 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

ר resh (RAYSH)

Sound: r. Picture: a head.

רֹאשׁ rosh (ROHSH)

Head.

רֹעִי ro'i (roh-EE)

My shepherd.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

ר *resh* **RAYSH** letter the letter resh: r	רֹאשׁ *rosh* **ROHSH** noun head
רֹעִי *ro'i* **roh-EE** noun + my my shepherd	בֶּטֶן *beten* **BEH-ten** noun belly

CORE IDEAS

The story. David wrote: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In Hebrew: יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר. The word for my shepherd, רֹעִי, ro'i, begins with resh. A shepherd walks at the head of his sheep and leads them; David had done that himself as a boy.

How Hebrew sounds. Resh says r. It looks like a head bowed forward, round at the top right corner. Be careful: dalet ד has a sharp corner that sticks out; resh ר is smooth and round. Say RAYSH, ROHSH, roh-EE.

Say it and move. Pat your head: **Resh! rosh!** Pretend to hold a shepherd's staff and lead your sheep: **ro'i!** Draw a sharp corner in the air for dalet and a round one for resh.

ACTIVITY

Shepherd puppet

Make a shepherd puppet with a resh on his head.

You will need

- A paper bag or sock
- Markers
- Cotton balls for a sheep (optional)

Steps

1. Draw a shepherd's face on the bag.
2. Write a big ר on his head-covering and רֹאשׁ underneath.
3. Make a cotton-ball sheep.
4. Use the puppet to say: The LORD is my shepherd, יְהוָה רֹעִי.

Tips

- Resh is round at the corner; dalet is sharp.

Check your work

☐ My shepherd has a ר.

☐ I can say resh, rosh and roʿi.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write ר and ד side by side and circle the round corner and the sharp one. Draw a head beside רֹאשׁ.

> **From history.** Resh became the Greek rho, written P, and the Latin and English R.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which is dalet and which is resh? ד ר

▼ **Show solution**

1. Dalet has a sharp corner that sticks out.
2. Resh is round.

Answer: ד (right) is dalet; ר (left) is resh.

Example 2. What does roʻi mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It is in Psalm 23:1.

Answer: My shepherd.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What picture did resh begin as?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A head.

2. Easy What does rosh mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Head.

3. Easy Say resh.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   RAYSH.

4. Medium Point to resh: ד ר כ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ר, the round one in the middle.

5. Medium Say Psalm 23:1 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

6. Hard Say the letters from kaf to resh.

▼ **Show answer**

Kaf, lamed, mem, nun, samekh, ayin, pe, tsade, qof, resh.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing resh ר and dalet ד. Feel the corner: dalet is sharp, resh is round.
- Mixing resh ר and end-kaf ך. End-kaf drops below the line.

> **Make it a game · Head, belly, knees.** Sing rosh u-veten u-virkayim with the motions. Then the parent calls the words out of order (veten! rosh! birkayim!) and you touch the right part as fast as you can.

> **Scripture.** "A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> יְהוָה רֹ֭עִי לֹא אֶחְסָר
>
> This is David's shepherd psalm. Find roʿi, my shepherd, the second word here: it begins with resh, the head letter.

UNIT 5 · FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

5.2 Shin and Tav: The Whole Alef-Bet

OBJECTIVES

- Point to shin and tav and say their names.
- Tell shin שׁ (sh) from sin שׂ (s).
- Say all 22 letters in order.

> **Warm-up.** Look out the window. Where is the sun right now? In the morning it rises in the east; in the evening it goes down in the west. The Bible says God's name is to be praised all day long, from sunrise to sunset.

WATCH

Hebrew Worship - 113 תְּהִלִּים - Psalm 113 - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 5:34

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KUx9Sbc0CM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; listen to Psalm 113, then sing the whole Aleph-Bet song to celebrate finishing all 22 letters.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 113 in Hebrew: from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the LORD's name is to be praised.

BACKUP VIDEO

Hebrew - Aleph-Bet Hebrew Alphabet Song - Free Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 2:12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFkuW-tQsog

Aleph with Beth's Aleph-Bet song (2:12): the 22 letters sung in order, each letter on screen.

KEY TERMS

ש shin / sin (SHEEN / SEEN)

Sound: sh with the dot on the right (שׁ), s with the dot on the left (שׂ). Picture: teeth.

ת tav (TAHV)

Sound: t. Picture: a mark, like a little cross.

שֶׁמֶשׁ shemesh (SHEH-mesh)

Sun.

תּוֹרָה torah (toh-RAH)

Law, teaching: God's instruction.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

ש *shin / sin* **SHEEN / SEEN** letter the letter shin / sin: sh with the dot on the right	**ת** *tav* **TAHV** letter the letter tav: t
שֶׁמֶשׁ *shemesh* **SHEH-mesh** noun sun	**תּוֹרָה** *torah* **toh-RAH** noun law, teaching

CORE IDEAS

The story. Psalm 113 says: From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD's name is to be praised. The word for sun is שֶׁמֶשׁ, shemesh, with a shin at both ends. And Psalm 119, the great alphabet psalm, ends its last stanza with tav, the last letter, still praising God's תּוֹרָה, torah, His law. From alef to tav, from sunrise to sunset, God is worthy of praise.

How Hebrew sounds. Shin has three arms, like a crown or teeth. With its dot on the right, שׁ, it says sh; with the dot on the left, שׂ, it is called sin and says s. Tav says t; it has a little foot at the bottom left. Say SHEEN, SEEN, TAHV, SHEH-mesh, toh-RAH.

Say it and move. Hold up three fingers: **Shin!** Spread your arms like the rising sun: **shemesh!** Make a cross with two fingers: **Tav!** Then say all 22 letters, clapping on each one.

PICTURE STUDY



Twilight in the Wilderness, Frederic Edwin Church, 1860 · Oil on canvas · Cleveland Museum of Art

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Frederic Church was an American painter who traveled to wild places to paint God's creation. He painted this sunset in the woods of Maine. When people first saw it, many said they felt as though they were watching the sun go down themselves.

Look closely

- Where is the sun going down?
- What colors can you find in the clouds?
- Find the river.
- Is it morning or evening? How can you tell?

Talk about it

1. Why might looking at a sunset make someone want to praise God?
2. What do you thank God for at the end of a day?

ACTIVITY

Sunrise-to-sunset alef-bet

Make a long alef-bet strip that goes from a sunrise to a sunset.

You will need

- A long strip of paper
- Crayons

Steps

1. At the right end, draw a sunrise; at the left end, a sunset.
2. Between them, write all 22 letters in order from right to left.
3. Write שִׁמְשׁ above the sunrise.
4. Read the letters from sunrise to sunset.

Tips

- Check each letter against your chart; watch the look-alikes (ב כ, ד ר, ה ח ת).

Check your work

☐ My strip has all 22 letters in order.

☐ I can say them all.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write שׁ and שׂ and mark the dots. Write ת. Draw the sun beside שִׁמְשׁ.
2. On the last page, write the whole alef-bet.

> **From history.** Tav became the Greek tau and our letter T. Its oldest form was a simple mark like a small cross (Ezekiel 9:4 speaks of setting a mark, a tav, on foreheads).

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Does this say sh or s? שׂ

▼ **Show solution**

1. Look for the dot.
2. Dot on the right: sh; on the left: s.

Answer: s (sin): the dot is on the left.

Example 2. Which is chet and which is tav? ח ת

▼ **Show solution**

1. Tav has a little foot at the bottom left.

Answer: ח (right) is chet; ת (left) is tav.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does shemesh mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Sun.

2. Easy Which letter is last?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Tav.

3. Easy Say shin and tav.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   SHEEN, TAHV.

4. Medium Shin with the dot on the right says ___.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   sh.

5. Medium What does torah mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Law, teaching.

6. Hard Say all 22 letters without looking.

▼ **Show answer**

Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet, yod, kaf, lamed, mem, nun, samekh, ayin, pe, tsade, qof, resh, shin, tav.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Ignoring the dot on shin. Right dot: sh; left dot: s.
- Mixing tav ת and chet ח. Tav has a foot at the bottom left.

> **Make it a game · Alef-bet relay.** Scatter all 22 letter cards on the floor. Race to line them up in order from right to left while the parent times you. Then try to beat your time. For the last round, name a word for every letter you can.

> **Scripture.** “From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD’s name is to be praised.” (Psalm 113:3, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> מִמִּזְרַח־שֶׁמֶשׁ עַד־מְבוֹאוֹ מְהֻלָּל שֵׁם יְהוָה
>
> The first two words mean from the rising of the sun. Find shemesh, the sun, joined to the first word with a little dash (a maqqef).