Grade 2 Biblical Hebrew

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

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 2 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 22 letters through Psalm 119, the alphabet psalm, masters the end forms and the look-alike letters, learns the dot (dagesh) that changes v to b, kh to k and f to p, and then begins to read with the first four vowel points: patach and qamets (ah), segol and tsere (eh).

By the end of the quarter the child reads short Bible words such as אָב, בֵּן, מֶלֶךְ, הַר and שָׁלוֹם, writes neatly like a scribe, and has met the Leningrad Codex, the oldest complete Hebrew Bible.

> 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 2 (about ages 7–8), 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 copies letters and short words and begins to sound out syllables. 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 38 letters, signs and words. Unit 1: א (alef), ב (bet), ת (tav), דָּבָר (davar), שָׁמַיִם (shamayim), אֶרֶץ (erets), אָמֵן (amen), מֶלֶךְ (melekh). Unit 2: לֵב (lev), ד (dalet), ר (resh), ח (chet), ב (bet), כ ך (kaf), פ ף (pe), ש (shin / sin), תּוֹרָה (torah). Unit 3: יָד (yad), בַּת (bat), אוֹר (or), דָּג (dag), הַר (har), אָב (av), גַּם (gam). Unit 4: זְאֵב (ze'ev), כֶּבֶשׂ (keves), נָמֵר (namer), שֵׁם (shem), בֵּן (ben), בַּת (bat), אָח (ach), חָכָם (chakham). Unit 5: כְּתוֹב (ketov), סֵפֶר (sefer), דָּבָר (davar), שָׁלוֹם (shalom), לְךָ (lekha), יִשָּׂא (yissa).

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

The Alphabet Psalm

A review of all 22 letters through Psalm 119, the alphabet psalm, whose 22 stanzas run from alef to tav, and the five letters with tails at the end of a word. The Aleppo Codex, a thousand-year-old Hebrew Bible, shows letters written by hand in neat columns.

1.1 Psalm 119: An Alphabet Psalm

1.2 Five Letters with Tails

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

Look-Alikes and Dots

Telling the look-alike letters apart (ב כ, ד ר, ה ח, ת ו ז, ס ם), and the little dot that turns v into b, kh into k and f into p. Doré's engraving of Moses carrying the stone tablets down Mount Sinai shows God's words written for His people.

2.1 Look-Alike Letters

2.2 The Dot That Changes Sounds

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

The Ah Vowels

The first vowel points: patach and qamets, the two marks that say ah, and reading letter-and-vowel pairs, ba, da, ga, ma. Doré's engraving of the creation of light opens the unit with God's first words: Let there be light.

3.1 The Ah Vowels

3.2 Reading Ba, Da, Ga

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

The Eh Vowels and First Words

Segol and tsere, the two eh vowels, and reading first whole words: av, ben, bat, melekh, lev, shem. Edward Hicks's Peaceable Kingdom paints Isaiah's promise that the wolf shall dwell with the lamb.

4.1 The Eh Vowels

4.2 First Words

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Scribes and Shalom

Writing Hebrew carefully like the scribes who copied the Bible, and reading shalom again, now with every vowel. The carpet page of the Leningrad Codex, the oldest complete Hebrew Bible, shows the scribe's own signature.

5.1 Writing Like a Scribe

5.2 Shalom Again

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 Psalm 119: An Alphabet Psalm: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 activity (alef-bet bookmark) 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.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 Five Letters with Tails: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 activity (tail cards) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (my psalm 119 letter scroll)

WEEK	PLAN
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 Look-Alike Letters: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 activity (look-alike flaps) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 The Dot That Changes Sounds: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 activity (dot stickers) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (look-alike detective poster)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 The Ah Vowels: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 activity (vowel stamps) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Reading Ba, Da, Ga: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 activity (fish pond reading) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (ah-vowel reading wheel)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 The Eh Vowels: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 activity (peaceable animal cards) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 First Words: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 activity (family tree) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (my family in hebrew)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Writing Like a Scribe: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 activity (scribe's practice sheet) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Shalom Again: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 activity (peace dove mobile) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (the shalom blessing card)

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

The Alphabet Psalm

In Lesson 1.1 your child reviews the whole alef-bet through Psalm 119, which has one stanza of eight verses for each letter, and reads the first letter of the bet stanza: Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? The Aleppo Codex shows how scribes wrote the Hebrew Bible by hand.

In Lesson 1.2 your child reviews the five end forms, ך ם ן ף ץ, and finds two of them in the first verse of the Bible: הַשָּׁמַיִם and הָאָרֶץ.

PREREQUISITES

- Grade 1 Biblical Hebrew, or knowing all 22 letters. A child who is still unsure can spend two weeks on Lesson 1.1.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can say and write all 22 letters in order.
- ☐ I can write the five end forms and find them in a word.
- ☐ I know Psalm 119 is written in alphabet order.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**Psalm 119: An Alphabet Psalm**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
1.2	**Five Letters with Tails**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 1 review

The child answers out loud or in writing. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Write the 22 letters in order, right to left.

2. **5 pts**
   Write the five end forms.

3. **5 pts**
   Find the end forms in הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ.

4. **5 pts**
   How is Psalm 119 arranged?

ANSWER KEY

1. א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת.
2. ך ם ן ף ץ.
3. ם at the end of הַשָּׁמַיִם and ץ at the end of הָאָרֶץ.
4. In 22 stanzas of eight verses, one for each letter in order; every verse of a stanza begins with that letter.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY PSALM 119 LETTER SCROLL

Roll a long sheet of paper into a scroll. Down the right edge write the 22 letters in order. Beside each one, write a Hebrew word you know that begins with that letter (or draw its picture). Then read the scroll aloud from alef to tav.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	All 22 letters are correct and in order.
Reading	At least twelve letters have a word.
Sounds	The child reads the scroll aloud.
Effort	The child works carefully and reads out loud.

UNIT 1 · THE ALPHABET PSALM · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

1.1 Psalm 119: An Alphabet Psalm

OBJECTIVES

- Say and write all 22 letters in order.
- Explain how Psalm 119 is arranged.
- Find the letter that begins a Psalm 119 stanza.

Warm-up. Open your Bible to Psalm 119. It is the longest chapter in the whole Bible! Look at the little headings between the stanzas: in many Bibles they say ALEPH, BETH, GIMEL. What do you think they mean?

WATCH

Biblical Hebrew worship - He is Yahweh our God - הוּא יהוה אֱלֹהֵינוּ - Psalm 105:7-9, 145:17

Aleph with Beth · 2:25

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA-jWaJ5zx8

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; listen once and then sing along with the refrain.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 105:7–9 and Psalm 119:17 in Hebrew: He is the LORD our God.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:9

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:22

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFjvq2nJa10

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:9 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

stanza

A group of lines in a song or poem, like a verse of a hymn. Psalm 119 has 22 stanzas.

acrostic

A poem whose lines begin with the letters in order. Psalm 119 is an acrostic.

scribe

A person who copied the Bible by hand.

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.

א *alef* **AH-lef** letter the letter alef: silent	**ב** *bet* **BAYT** letter the letter bet: b with a dot inside
ת *tav* **TAHV** letter the letter tav: t	**דָּבָר** *davar* **dah-VAHR** noun word, thing

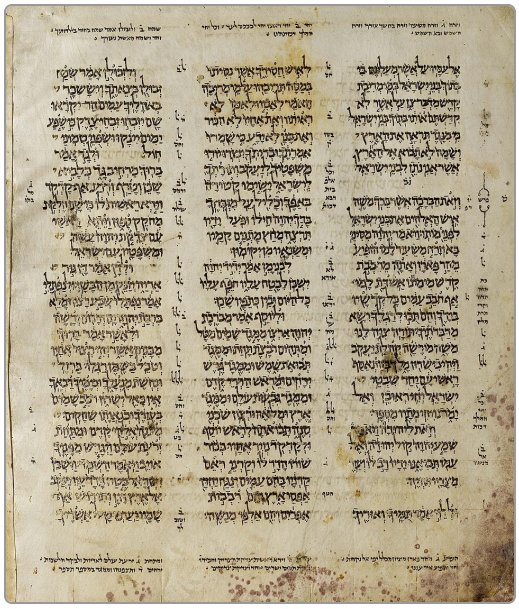
CORE IDEAS

The story. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible: 176 verses. It is built on the alef-bet. The first eight verses all begin with alef, the next eight with bet, and so on, all the way to tav: 22 letters times 8 verses. Every stanza praises God's word. The bet stanza begins: Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

The 22 letters. א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת. In your King James Bible, the stanzas are headed with the letter names: ALEPH, BETH, GIMEL, DALETH, HE, VAU, ZAIN, CHETH, TETH, JOD, CAPH, LAMED, MEM, NUN, SAMECH, AIN, PE, TZADDI, KOPH, RESH, SCHIN, TAU. They are spelled a little differently from ours, but they are the same letters.

Say it and do it. Turn the pages of Psalm 119 in your Bible and read the stanza headings out loud. At each one, point to the same letter on your chart.

PICTURE STUDY



A page of the Aleppo Codex (Deuteronomy), Shlomo ben Buya'a, scribe; pointed by Aaron ben Asher, about 930 · Ink on parchment · Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

The Aleppo Codex is one of the oldest Hebrew Bibles written as a book. A scribe wrote the letters, and a famous scholar named Aaron ben Asher added the vowel points and notes. For hundreds of years teachers used it to check that their copies were exact.

Look closely

- How many columns of writing are on the page?
- Do the lines start on the right or the left?
- Find the tiny notes in the margins.
- Can you find a lamed rising above the line?

Talk about it

1. Why would a scribe work so carefully?
2. What would it be like to copy a whole Bible by hand?

ACTIVITY

Alef-bet bookmark

Make a bookmark for Psalm 119 with all 22 letters.

You will need

- A strip of card stock
- Fine markers
- A ribbon (optional)

Steps

1. Write the 22 letters down the strip from top to bottom, alef first.
2. Beside each letter write its KJV heading (ALEPH, BETH …).
3. Put the bookmark in Psalm 119.
4. Each day this unit, read one stanza heading and its first verse.

Tips

- Check the look-alikes as you write: ב כ, ד ר, ה ח ת, ו ז ן.

Check your work

☐ My bookmark has all 22 letters in order.

☐ I can match each to a Psalm 119 heading.

LETTER BOOK

1. Copy the 22 letters across a page from right to left, in two rows of eleven.

> **From history.** Psalm 119 is not the only alphabet poem in the Bible. Psalms 25, 34, 111, 112 and 145, Proverbs 31:10–31 and four chapters of Lamentations are also written in alphabet order.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which letter begins every verse of the third stanza of Psalm 119?

▼ **Show solution**

1. The stanzas follow the alef-bet.
2. The third letter is gimel.

Answer: Gimel, ג.

Example 2. What is the first letter of Psalm 119:9?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Look at the right end: בַּמָּה

Answer: Bet, ב.

PRACTICE

1. Easy How many letters are in the alef-bet?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   22.

2. Easy How many verses are in each stanza of Psalm 119?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Eight.

3. Easy Which letter comes after ayin?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Pe.

4. Medium Which letter begins the last stanza?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Tav.

5. Medium Which letter comes between samekh and pe?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ayin.

6. Hard Why is Psalm 119 176 verses long?

▼ **Show answer**

22 letters × 8 verses each = 176.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Forgetting samekh or ayin in the middle. Practice: nun, samekh, ayin, pe.
- Reading the KJV heading CAPH as a new letter. It is kaf.

> **Make it a game · Stanza hunt.** Call out a letter name. The child finds that stanza heading in Psalm 119 as fast as possible and reads the first English verse. Keep score; then swap.

> **Scripture.** “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.” (Psalm 119:9, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> בַּמֶּה יְזַכֶּה־נַּעַר אֶת־אָרְחוֹ
>
> This verse opens the bet stanza. Its first word, bammeh, means with what? or wherewithal? Find the bet at the start, on the right.

1.2 Five Letters with Tails

OBJECTIVES

- Write the five end forms ך ם ן ף ץ.
- Find end forms at the ends of words.
- Read the first verse of the Bible and find two end forms.

> **Warm-up.** Write your name in cursive or with a fancy last letter. Some people add a flourish at the end of their name. Hebrew does something like that: five letters change shape when they come at the end of a word.

WATCH

Hebrew - How to write the Hebrew Alphabet (Aleph-Bet) - Free Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 5:33

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQ7MC61w6Fw

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; watch how the five end forms are written, and write each one with the video.

Note: Aleph with Beth shows how to write each Hebrew letter, stroke by stroke (5:33).

BACKUP VIDEO

Genesis 1:1

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:10

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVmA5J_0d6A

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

KEY TERMS

end form (final form)

A special shape for five letters at the end of a word.

ך ם ן ף ץ

End-kaf, end-mem, end-nun, end-pe, end-tsade.

שָׁמַיִם shamayim (shah-MAH-yeem)

Heaven, heavens. It ends with end-mem.

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.

שָׁמַיִם

shamayim

shah-MAH-yeem

noun

heaven, heavens

אֶרֶץ

erets

EH-rets

noun

earth, land

אָמֵן

amen

ah-MAYN

word

it is true; so be it

ENGLISH amen

מֶלֶךְ

melekh

MEH-lekh

noun

king

CORE IDEAS

The story. The very first verse of the Bible says: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. In Hebrew the last two words are הַשָּׁמַיִם, the heavens, ending with end-mem, and הָאָרֶץ, the earth, ending with end-tsade. Even the first verse shows two of the five tails.

The five end forms. Kaf כ becomes ך; mem מ becomes ם; nun נ becomes ן; pe פ becomes ף; tsade צ becomes ץ. Four of them drop a long tail below the line; end-mem instead closes into a box. They sound exactly the same as the regular letters.

A memory help. The five letters in order are kaf, mem, nun, pe, tsade. Say them quickly: kaf-mem-nun-pe-tsade. Hebrew teachers often remember them as one funny word.

ACTIVITY

Tail cards

Make matching cards for the five letters and their tails.

You will need

- Ten index cards
- A marker

Steps

1. Write the five regular letters on five cards: כ מ נ פ צ.
2. Write the five end forms on the other five: ך ם ן ף ץ.
3. Mix them up, turn them face down and play memory: match each letter with its tail.

Tips

- Say the name of each card as you turn it over.

Check your work

☐ I can match all five pairs.

☐ I can say the names.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write each regular letter with its end form beside it. Underline the tails.

> **From history.** In the oldest Hebrew writing there were no end forms. Scribes gradually began stretching the last letter of a word, and by the time of the Dead Sea Scrolls the end forms were in regular use.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Where in a word does an end form go?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Only the very last letter takes the end form.

Answer: At the end of the word (on the left).

Example 2. Find the end form in מַלְךְ.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Look at the left end.

Answer: ך, end-kaf.

Example 3. Which end form has no tail?

▼ **Show solution**

1. One closes into a box.

Answer: End-mem ם.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Name the five letters with end forms.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Kaf, mem, nun, pe, tsade.

2. Easy Write the end form of nun.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ן.

3. Easy Write the end form of mem.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ם.

4. **Medium** Find the end forms: אָמֵן שָׁלוֹם אֶרֶץ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ן in אָמֵן, ם in שָׁלוֹם, ץ in אֶרֶץ.

5. **Medium** Do the end forms change the sound?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   No; they sound the same.

6. **Hard** Which end form looks almost like vav, and how do you tell them apart?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   End-nun ן drops below the line; vav ו stays on it.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using an end form in the middle of a word.
- Mixing end-nun ן and vav ו, or end-kaf ך and resh ר: the end forms drop below the line.

> **Make it a game · Tail tag.** The parent says a word (shalom, melekh, erets, amen, kaf). Run and touch the end form it ends with (the five cards are on the wall).

> **Scripture.** “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ
>
> These are the last words of the first verse: the heavens and the earth. Find the end-mem in hashamayim and the end-tsade in ha’arets.

UNIT 2

Look-Alikes and Dots

In Lesson 2.1 your child learns to tell apart the letters that look alike, the most common reading mistakes, using Psalm 119:11: Thy word have I hid in mine heart.

In Lesson 2.2 your child learns the dot that changes sounds in bet, kaf and pe: בּ b, ב v; כּ k, כ kh; פּ p, פ f; and shin and sin.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1: all 22 letters and the end forms.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can tell apart ב כ, ד ר, ה ח ת, ו ז ן and ס ם.
- ☐ I can say b or v, k or kh, p or f from the dot.
- ☐ I can tell shin שׁ from sin שׂ.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**Look-Alike Letters**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
2.2	**The Dot That Changes Sounds**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 2 review

The child answers out loud or in writing. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Name each letter: ב כ ד ר ה ח
2. **5 pts**
   Say the sound: בּ ב כּ כ פּ פ
3. **5 pts**
   Name each letter: ו ז ן ס ם ת
4. **5 pts**
   Which says sh and which says s? שׁ שׂ

ANSWER KEY

1. Bet, kaf, dalet, resh, he, chet (from the right).
2. b, v, k, kh, p, f.
3. Vav, zayin, end-nun, samekh, end-mem, tav.
4. שׁ sh (dot on the right); שׂ s (dot on the left).

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: LOOK-ALIKE DETECTIVE POSTER

Make a poster with five "suspect pairs": ב כ, ד ר, ה ח, ו ז, ס ם. Under each pair, draw a magnifying glass on the clue that tells them apart (the foot of bet, the corner of dalet, the gap of he, the cap of zayin, the corners of end-mem). Present your poster to the family like a detective.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The child writes all ten letters correctly.
Reading	The child points to the clue for each pair.
Sounds	The child names each letter aloud.
Effort	The child works carefully and reads out loud.

UNIT 2 · LOOK-ALIKES AND DOTS · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

2.1 Look-Alike Letters

OBJECTIVES

- Tell apart bet and kaf, dalet and resh, he, chet and tav.
- Tell apart vav, zayin and end-nun, and samekh and end-mem.
- Find look-alikes in a Bible verse.

Warm-up. Look at two family members or two pets that look alike. How do you tell them apart? There is always a little clue. Hebrew letters have look-alikes too, and each pair has a clue.

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 story; sing along and hold up the matching card for each look-alike when it is sung.

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

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:11

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:32

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrTnZ1RNJ3A

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:11 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

look-alike

Two letters that are easy to mix up.

clue

The small difference that tells them apart: a foot, a corner, a gap, a tail.

לֵב lev

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.

לֵב

lev

LAYV

noun

heart

ד

dalet

DAH-let

letter

the letter dalet: d

ר

resh

RAYSH

letter

the letter resh: r

ח

chet

KHAYT

letter

the letter chet: kh, the rough throaty sound of Bach

CORE IDEAS

The story. When Moses came down Mount Sinai with the stone tablets, he carried God's words written by God Himself. Every letter mattered. David wrote: Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. To hide God's word in your heart, you have to read it carefully, letter by letter.

The clues. ב bet has a foot at the bottom right; כ kaf is round with no foot. ד dalet has a sharp corner; ר resh is round. ה he has a gap at the top left; ח chet is closed; ת tav has a foot at the bottom left. ו vav has a small hook; ז zayin has a cap on both sides; ן end-nun drops below the line. ס samekh is round; ם end-mem is square.

Practice. Cover all but one letter with your hand and name it. Then check the clue. Go slowly: speed comes later.

PICTURE STUDY



Moses Comes Down from Mount Sinai, Gustave Doré, 1866 · Wood engraving · From the Doré Bible

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Gustave Doré was a French artist who made more than two hundred engravings for the Bible. Here Moses brings down the second set of tablets, and his face shines because he has been with God (Exodus 34:29).

Look closely

- What is Moses carrying?
- Find the light shining from his head.
- Is Moses high up or low down?
- What is the weather like on the mountain?

Talk about it

1. Why did Moses' face shine?
2. How can you hide God's word in your heart?

ACTIVITY

Look-alike flaps

Make lift-the-flap cards that hide the clue.

You will need

- Card stock
- Scissors and tape
- A marker

Steps

1. Write each look-alike pair on a card: ב כ, ד ר, ה ח, ו ז, ס ם.
2. Tape a little paper flap over the clue on each letter.
3. Ask someone to name the letters, then lift the flap to check the clue.

Tips

- Make the clues clear: a strong foot, a sharp corner, an open gap.

Check your work

☐ I have five pair cards.

☐ I can explain each clue.

LETTER BOOK

1. Copy the five look-alike pairs and circle the clue on each letter.

> **From history.** Even careful scribes sometimes confused dalet and resh. Bible scholars still find places where old copies differ by just one of these letters.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Name the first letter: בְּלִבִּי

▼ **Show solution**

1. Look for the foot at the bottom right.
2. It has one: bet.

Answer: Bet.

Example 2. Is this he or chet? ח

▼ **Show solution**

1. Look at the top left.
2. There is no gap: it is closed.

Answer: Chet.

Example 3. Is this vav or end-nun? ן

▼ **Show solution**

1. Does it drop below the line?

Answer: End-nun (it drops below the line).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Name: ד

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Dalet.

2. Easy Name: ר

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Resh.

3. **Easy** Name: כ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Kaf.

4. **Medium** Name, from the right: ה ח ת

   ▼ **Show answer**

   He, chet, tav.

5. **Medium** Name, from the right: ו ז ן

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Vav, zayin, end-nun.

6. **Hard** Find a bet, a lamed and an end-kaf in בְּלִבִּי ... לְךָ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Bet first (right), lamed second, end-kaf at the very end of לְךָ.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Guessing from the shape quickly. Stop and look for the clue.
- Mixing tav ת and chet ח: tav has a foot.

> **Make it a game · Flash and freeze.** The parent flashes a look-alike card for one second. Name it. If you are right, take a step; if wrong, freeze for a turn. First across the room wins.

> **Scripture.** "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> בְּלִבִּי צָפַנְתִּי אִמְרָתֶךָ
>
> This verse is in the bet stanza too. Find the first word, belibbi, in my heart: bet, lamed, bet, yod. Look closely at the two bets with their feet.

2.2 The Dot That Changes Sounds

OBJECTIVES

- Say b or v for בּ ב, k or kh for כּ כ, p or f for פּ פ.
- Tell shin שׁ (sh) from sin שׂ (s).
- Read the letter sounds in a short word.

> **Warm-up.** Put your hand in front of your mouth and say b, then v. Feel the difference? For b your lips close; for v the air keeps flowing. One little dot in Hebrew decides which one you say.

WATCH

Easy Story 1 - הַיֶּלֶד הַקָּטָן - The Small Boy

Aleph with Beth · 3:24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY0n91hfSwI

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; clap when you hear a b and wave when you hear a v.

Note: Aleph with Beth's first easy story, "The Small Boy," told in simple Hebrew with pictures: listen for the b and v sounds.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:97

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:18

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYWkJ3V0ox4

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:97 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

dagesh
A dot inside a letter. In bet, kaf and pe it makes the hard sound: b, k, p.

בּ ב
b and v.

כ כ

k and kh.

פ פ

p and f.

שׁ שׂ

shin (sh) and sin (s).

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.

ב

bet

BAYT

letter

the letter bet: b with a dot inside

כ ך

kaf

KAHF

letter (and its end-of-word form)

the letter kaf: k with a dot inside

פ ף

pe

PAY

letter (and its end-of-word form)

the letter pe: p with a dot inside

שׁ

shin / sin

SHEEN / SEEN

letter

the letter shin / sin: sh with the dot on the right

תּוֹרָה

torah

toh-RAH

noun

law, teaching

CORE IDEAS

The story. David loved God's law so much that he wrote: O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. To read it, Hebrew readers learned the little marks that the scribes added to the letters. The most important mark is a dot inside the letter, called a dagesh.

The three pairs. With a dot, בּ says b; without, ב says v. With a dot, כּ says k; without, כ says kh (the throaty sound). With a dot, פּ says p; without, פ says f. At the start of a word, these letters usually have the dot. Shin has a dot on top instead: on the right שׁ sh, on the left שׂ s.

Practice. Say each pair with your hand in front of your mouth: b v, k kh, p f. The dotted one stops the air; the plain one lets it flow.

ACTIVITY

Dot stickers

Turn soft sounds into hard sounds with dot stickers.

You will need

- Cards with כ ,ב and פ written large
- Small round stickers or a marker

Steps

1. Read each card with its soft sound: v, kh, f.
2. Put a dot sticker inside each letter.
3. Read them again with the hard sound: b, k, p.
4. Write a shin and put its dot on the right; another and put its dot on the left.

Tips

- The dot goes in the middle of the letter.

Check your work

- ☐ I can change v to b, kh to k, f to p.
- ☐ I can tell shin from sin.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write the three pairs: בּ ב, כּ כ, פּ פ, with the sound under each. Then שׁ sh and שׂ s.

> **From history.** The dots and vowel marks were added by scribes called Masoretes, more than a thousand years ago, so that the right pronunciation would never be lost. The letters themselves were never changed.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say the first sound of בַּיִת.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Is there a dot in the bet?
2. Yes: b.

Answer: b (bayit).

Example 2. Say the first sound of פְּרִי.

▼ **Show solution**

1. The pe has a dot.

Answer: p (peri).

Example 3. Is it sh or s? שָׂם

▼ **Show solution**

1. Where is the dot on the shin?
2. On the left.

Answer: s (sin).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Sound: ב

   ▼ **Show answer**

   b.

2. Easy Sound: ב

   ▼ **Show answer**

   v.

3. Easy Sound: פּ

▼ **Show answer**

p.

4. Medium Sounds, from the right: כּ כ פ

▼ **Show answer**

k, kh, f.

5. Medium Sounds: שׂ שׁ

▼ **Show answer**

sh, s.

6. Hard Why do bet, kaf and pe usually have a dot at the start of a word?

▼ **Show answer**

Because at the start of a word they take the hard sound (b, k, p).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Ignoring the dot. Look inside the letter before you say it.
- Mixing the shin dot and the sin dot: right sh, left s.

> **Make it a game · Hard or soft?.** The parent holds up a card: בּ, ב, כּ, כ, פּ or פ. Stamp your foot for a hard sound (b, k, p) and wave your hand for a soft one (v, kh, f), then say it.

> **Scripture.** "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> מָה־אָהַבְתִּי תוֹרָתֶךָ כָּל־הַיּוֹם
>
> This verse begins the mem stanza. In ahavti, I love, the bet has no dot, so it says v: ah-HAHV-tee.

UNIT 3

The Ah Vowels

In Lesson 3.1 your child learns that Hebrew letters are written without vowels and the vowels are little marks under and over them. Patach ַ and qamets ָ both say ah. Gustave Doré's Creation of Light shows Genesis 1:3.

In Lesson 3.2 your child reads letter-and-vowel pairs, בַ ba, דָ da, גַ ga, and short words like גָּד, יָד and הַר.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2: all letters, look-alikes and the dot.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can find patach and qamets under a letter and say ah.
- ☐ I can read ba, da, ga, ma, la and other pairs.
- ☐ I can read הַר, גָּד, יָד and אָב.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**The Ah Vowels**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
3.2	**Reading Ba, Da, Ga**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 3 review

The child reads aloud or writes. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**

   Read: בָּ דָ גַ מַ

2. **5 pts**

   Read: לָ נַ שָׁ תַ

3. **5 pts**

   Read and say what each means: יָד דָּג

4. 5 pts

What do patach and qamets sound like?

ANSWER KEY

1. ba, da, ga, ma.
2. la, na, sha, ta.
3. yad (hand), dag (fish).
4. Both say ah.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: AH-VOWEL READING WHEEL

Cut two paper circles, one smaller. On the big circle write eight letters around the edge; on the small one cut a window and draw a qamets under it. Turn the wheel and read each letter with ah: ba, ga, da, ma… Read the whole wheel to your family.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The letters and qamets are written correctly.
Reading	The child reads all eight pairs.
Sounds	The b/v and k/kh are read from the dot.
Effort	The child works carefully and reads out loud.

UNIT 3 · THE AH VOWELS · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

3.1 The Ah Vowels

OBJECTIVES

- Know that Hebrew vowels are little marks under and over the letters.
- Find patach ַ and qamets ָ and say ah.
- Read a letter with patach or qamets.

> **Warm-up.** Write the word “cat” without the a: c_t. Could it be cat, cut or cot? For a long time Hebrew was written without vowels, and readers had to know the words. Then scribes added little vowel marks to help.

WATCH

Easy Story 3 - The Creation Story

Aleph with Beth · 4:50

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; listen for or (light) and point to a light in the room.

Note: Aleph with Beth’s easy Creation story in simple Hebrew with pictures; listen for or, light.

BACKUP VIDEO

Genesis 1:3

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VsWZMeD5wA

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 1:3 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

בַ patach

Says ah: a short line under the letter.

Example: בַּת bat (daughter).

בָ qamets

Says ah: a little T under the letter.

Example: יָד yad (hand).

vowel point

A small mark under, over or beside a letter that shows its vowel.

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.

יָד

yad

YAHD

noun

hand

בַּת

bat

BAHT

noun

daughter

אוֹר

or

OHR

noun

light

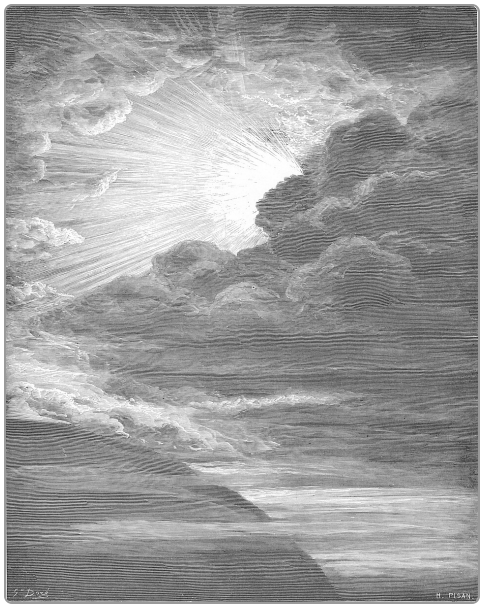
CORE IDEAS

The story. In the beginning the earth was dark. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. In Hebrew, God's first spoken words are יְהִי אוֹר, yehi or: let there be light. With just a word, God made light. The Bible's words are powerful because they are God's words.

How Hebrew sounds. Hebrew letters are mostly consonants. The vowels are tiny marks called points. Today you learn two that both say ah. Patach is a short line under the letter: בַ = vah, בַּ = bah. Qamets looks like a little T under the letter: דָ = dah. Read the letter first, then the vowel under it: d + ah = dah.

Practice. Point to a letter, say its sound, then slide your finger down to the vowel and say ah. Join them: m … ah … mah.

PICTURE STUDY



The Creation of Light, Gustave Doré, 1866 · Wood engraving · From the Doré Bible

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

This is the first picture in Doré's great Bible. He did not try to draw God; instead he drew the light itself, breaking through the darkness at God's word.

Look closely

- Where is the light coming from?
- Which parts of the picture are still dark?
- Find the sea.
- Why do you think there are no people in this picture?

Talk about it

1. What would it have been like to see the first light?
2. How is God's word like light?

ACTIVITY

Vowel stamps

Use a fingertip to stamp letters and vowels.

You will need

- Paper
- A marker
- An ink pad or paint

Steps

1. Write five letters in a row with space under each: ב ד מ ל נ.
2. Under each, draw a qamets (a little T).
3. Read: ba, da, ma, la, na.
4. In a new row, draw patach (a short line) under each, and read again.

Tips

- The vowel goes under the middle of the letter.

Check your work

☐ I wrote five letters with qamets and five with patach.

☐ I can read them all.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write patach and qamets large and label them ah. Copy יָד and בַּת.

> **From history.** In a Torah scroll read in a synagogue today, there are still no vowel points: the reader must know the words. The points appear in printed Bibles and in books like the Leningrad Codex.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read: מָ

▼ **Show solution**

1. The letter is mem: m.
2. The vowel is qamets: ah.

Answer: mah.

Example 2. Read: בַּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. The letter is bet with a dot: b.
2. The vowel is patach: ah.

Answer: bah.

Example 3. Read: יָד

▼ **Show solution**

1. yod + qamets = yah.
2. Then dalet: d.

Answer: yahd (yad, hand).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Read: לָ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   lah.

2. Easy Read: נַ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   nah.

3. Easy Which vowel looks like a little T?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Qamets.

4. Medium Read: גַּ דָּ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   gah, dah.

5. Medium Read: בַּת

   ▼ **Show answer**

   baht (bat, daughter).

6. Hard Why did scribes add vowel points?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   So readers would say the words correctly; the letters alone do not show the vowels.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying the vowel before the letter. Read the letter first, then the vowel under it.
- Missing the dot in bet: בּ b, ב v.

> **Make it a game · Ah-ah relay.** Lay letter cards with qamets or patach in a row. Hop to each and read it: bah, dah, gah… If you read it right, you may hop on. Time yourself.

> **Scripture.** “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” (Genesis 1:3, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר
>
> These are God’s first spoken words in the Bible. Find the patach under the first letter, vav: va-, and.

3.2 Reading Ba, Da, Ga

OBJECTIVES

- Read letter-and-ah pairs quickly.
- Read short words with ah: אָב, הַר, דָּג, יָד.
- Read a closed syllable: letter + vowel + letter.

> **Warm-up.** Clap and chant: ba, ba, ba; da, da, da; ga, ga, ga. Now you will read those sounds in Hebrew letters, and then put them together into real Bible words.

WATCH

Hebrew Worship - 136 תְּהִלִּים - Psalm 136 - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 5:42

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8ZIJ2fmnMw

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the reading practice; sing the repeated line ki le'olam chasdo with the singer.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 136 in Hebrew: O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

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

syllable
A beat in a word. Each Hebrew syllable starts with a letter and has one vowel.

דָּג dag (DAHG)
Fish.

הַר har (HAHR)

Mountain.

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.

דָּג *dag* **DAHG** noun fish	**הַר** *har* **HAHR** noun mountain
אָב *av* **AHV** noun father	**גַּם** *gam* **GAHM** word also

CORE IDEAS

The story. Psalm 136 was sung in the temple with a repeated answer after every line: for his mercy endureth for ever. The singers called out a line, and everyone answered together: כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ. It begins: O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good.

How to read. Read letter + vowel together as one beat: בָּ bah, גַ gah, דָ dah. If a letter comes after the vowel with no vowel of its own, add it to the end of the beat: דָּג = dah + g = dahg. הַר = hah + r = hahr. אָב = ah + v = ahv (alef is quiet, so you just hear ah).

Practice. Read slowly, then faster: bah, dah, gah; dahg, hahr, ahv, yahd.

ACTIVITY

Fish pond reading

Make a fishing game with word fish.

You will need

- Paper fish with a paper clip on each
- A stick with a string and magnet (or just pick by hand)

Steps

1. Write a pair or word on each fish: בָּ, דָּ, גַּ, מָ, יָד, דָּג, הַר, אָב.
2. Put the fish in a “pond” (a bowl or a blanket).
3. Catch a fish and read it. Keep it if you read it correctly.

Tips

- Make one fish say דָּג: a fish called fish!

Check your work

☐ I can read every fish.

☐ I know what יָד, הַר, דָּג and אָב mean.

LETTER BOOK

1. Copy and read: בָּ דָּ גַּ מָ לָ, then יָד דָּג הַר אָב, and draw each word.

> **From history.** Hebrew children in Bible times learned to read by chanting letter-and-vowel pairs, much as you are doing now.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read: דָּג

▼ **Show solution**

1. dalet with dot + qamets = dah.
2. gimel at the end = g.

Answer: dahg (dag, fish).

Example 2. Read: אָב

▼ **Show solution**

1. Alef is quiet + qamets = ah.
2. Bet without a dot at the end = v.

Answer: ahv (av, father).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Read: בָּ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   bah.

2. Easy Read: מַ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   mah.

3. Easy Read: שָׁ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   shah.

4. Medium Read and translate: הַר

   ▼ **Show answer**

   hahr, mountain.

5. Medium Read and translate: דָּג

▼ **Show answer**

dahg, fish.

6. Hard Read: גַּם

▼ **Show answer**

gahm (gam, also).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Forgetting the last letter of a syllable. דָּג is dahg, not dah.
- Reading bet at the end of אָב as b. It has no dot: v.

> **Make it a game · Syllable hopscotch.** Chalk or tape a hopscotch with a pair in each square (בַּ דָּ גַ מָ לָ נָ). Hop and read each square you land on.

> **Scripture.** "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." (Psalm 136:1, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> הוֹדוּ לַיהוָה כִּי־טוֹב
>
> This is the first verse of the thanksgiving psalm. Find la- (patach under lamed) at the start of the second word, and tov, good, in the third.

UNIT 4

The Eh Vowels and First Words

In Lesson 4.1 your child learns segol ֶ (eh) and tsere ֵ (ey) and reads the animal words in Isaiah 11:6: זְאֵב wolf, כֶּבֶשׂ lamb, נָמֵר leopard, in Edward Hicks's Peaceable Kingdom.

In Lesson 4.2 your child reads first family words, אָב, בֵּן, בַּת, אָח, and Proverbs 10:1: A wise son maketh a glad father.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 3: patach and qamets.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can find segol and tsere and say eh and ey.
- ☐ I can read words with ah and eh vowels.
- ☐ I can read and translate av, ben, bat, melekh, lev and shem.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**The Eh Vowels**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
4.2	**First Words**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 4 review

The child reads aloud or writes. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Read: בֶּ דֶ מֶ לֶ
2. **5 pts**
   Read and translate: בֵּן אָב
3. **5 pts**
   Read and translate: מֶלֶךְ לֵב
4. **5 pts**
   What do segol and tsere look like?

ANSWER KEY

1. beh, dey, meh, ley.
2. ben (son), av (father).
3. melekh (king), lev (heart).
4. Segol: three dots in a triangle under the letter. Tsere: two dots side by side under the letter.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY FAMILY IN HEBREW

Draw your family. Label each person with a Hebrew word you can read: אָב (father), בֵּן (son), בַּת (daughter), אָח (brother). Read each label aloud and tell the family what it means. Add Proverbs 10:1 in English at the bottom.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The labels are copied correctly with their vowels.
Reading	The child reads each label aloud.
Sounds	The ah and eh vowels are said correctly.
Effort	The child works carefully and reads out loud.

UNIT 4 · THE EH VOWELS AND FIRST WORDS · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

4.1 The Eh Vowels

OBJECTIVES

- Find segol ֶ and tsere ֵ and say eh and ey.
- Read letters with segol and tsere.
- Read the animal words of Isaiah 11:6.

> **Warm-up.** Can you imagine a wolf curled up next to a lamb, or a lion lying beside a calf? The prophet Isaiah said that one day in the kingdom of God, even the fiercest animals would live in peace.

WATCH

Easy Story 9 - Yosef & His Wife & Their House - יוֹסֵף וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּבֵיתָם

Aleph with Beth · 2:55

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the reading practice; listen for words with eh, like bayit and delet.

Note: Aleph with Beth's easy story of Joseph, his wife and their house, in simple Hebrew with pictures.

BACKUP VIDEO

Classroom Biblical Hebrew 1 - What is your name? - Door & Window - Simple Commands

Aleph with Beth · 8:56

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

An Aleph with Beth classroom lesson in Hebrew: door, window and simple commands; good listening practice for the eh sounds.

KEY TERMS

בֶ segol

Says eh: three dots in a triangle under the letter. Example: מֶלֶךְ melekh (king).

בֵ tsere

Says ey: two dots side by side under the letter. Example: בֵּן ben (son).

זְאֵב ze'ev (zeh-AYV)

Wolf.

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.

זְאֵב

ze'ev

zeh-AYV

noun

wolf

כֶּבֶשׂ

keves

KEH-ves

noun

lamb

נָמֵר

namer

nah-MAYR

noun

leopard

שֵׁם

shem

SHAYM

noun

name

CORE IDEAS

The story. Isaiah wrote about the King God would send: The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid… and a little child shall lead them. Christians have long read this as a picture of the peace of Christ's kingdom. The animal words are full of eh vowels: זְאֵב ze'ev (wolf), כֶּבֶשׂ keves (lamb), נָמֵר namer (leopard).

How Hebrew sounds. Segol is three dots in a little triangle under the letter: בֶּ beh, as in bed. Tsere is two dots side by side: בֵּ bey, as in they. Many teachers simply say eh for both; this course says ey for tsere to help you tell them apart.

Practice. Read: מֶ meh, לֶ ley, כֶּ keh, שֶׁ shey. Then words: מֶלֶךְ MEH-lekh, בֵּן BAYN, לֵב LAYV, שֵׁם SHAYM (name).

PICTURE STUDY



Peaceable Kingdom, Edward Hicks, about 1826 · Oil on canvas · Philadelphia Museum of Art

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Edward Hicks, a Quaker preacher in Pennsylvania, painted Isaiah's prophecy more than sixty times. In this version he added William Penn's peace treaty with the Indians, which he saw as a picture of Isaiah's peace coming true in his own land.

Look closely

- Find the little child. Which animal is beside him?
- Find the leopard. What is it doing?
- Find the lamb.
- Read one line of the painted border.

Talk about it

1. Why would a wolf and a lamb living together be surprising?
2. What does Isaiah's picture teach about the King God promised?

ACTIVITY

Peaceable animal cards

Make animal cards with Hebrew labels.

You will need

- Four cards
- Crayons

Steps

1. Draw a wolf, a lamb, a leopard and a goat kid.
2. Label them: זְאֵב, כֶּבֶשׂ, נָמֵר, גְּדִי.
3. Circle every segol (three dots) in red and every tsere (two dots) in blue.
4. Read each label.

Tips

- Count the dots carefully: three for segol, two for tsere.

Check your work

☐ My four cards are labeled.

☐ I can read each one.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write segol and tsere large and label them eh and ey. Copy and read מֶלֶךְ, בֵּן, לֵב, שֵׁם.

> **From history.** Hicks lived in Newtown, Pennsylvania. Before he was a famous painter he painted signs and carriages, and he always said his preaching mattered more than his painting.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read: כֶּבֶשׂ

▼ **Show solution**

1. kaf with a dot + segol = keh.
2. bet without a dot + segol = veh.
3. sin at the end = s.

Answer: KEH-ves (lamb).

Example 2. Read: שֵׁם

▼ **Show solution**

1. shin (dot on the right) + tsere = shey.
2. end-mem = m.

Answer: SHAYM (name).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Read: בְּ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   beh.

2. Easy Read: לֶ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ley.

3. Easy How many dots does segol have?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Three.

4. Medium Read and translate: בֵּן

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ben, son.

5. Medium Read and translate: מֶלֶךְ

▼ **Show answer**

melekh, king.

6. Hard Read: נָמֵר

▼ **Show answer**

nah-MAYR (namer, leopard).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing segol (three dots) and tsere (two dots). Count them.
- Mixing tsere with the colon at the end of a verse (׃). Tsere is under a letter; the verse-end mark sits on the line.

> **Make it a game · Two dots, three dots.** The parent writes a letter with segol or tsere on a whiteboard. Hold up two fingers for tsere or three for segol, then read it. Score a point for each.

> **Scripture.** "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> וְגָר זְאֵב עִם־כֶּבֶשׂ וְנָמֵר עִם־גְּדִי
>
> This is Isaiah's picture of the peace of the coming King. Find ze'ev, wolf (second word), keves, lamb, and namer, leopard.

UNIT 4 · THE EH VOWELS AND FIRST WORDS · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

4.2 First Words

OBJECTIVES

- Read family words: אָב, בֵּן, בַּת, אָח.
- Read two-syllable words with ah and eh vowels.

- Read Proverbs 10:1 in Hebrew (three words).

> **Warm-up.** Who is in your family? Name everyone: father, mother, brothers, sisters. Today you will read the Hebrew words for some of them, the same words used in the stories of Abraham, Jacob and Joseph.

WATCH

Hebrew - Family & names bonus practice - Biblical Hebrew - Lesson 5b

Aleph with Beth · 8:41

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ER7m5u-nWY

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the reading practice; point to the picture each time you hear av, ben or ach.

Note: Aleph with Beth's family-and-names practice in simple Hebrew: father, son, brother and how to say whose they are.

BACKUP VIDEO

Easy Story 42 - יוֹסֵף וְאַחָיו - Joseph and His Brothers

Aleph with Beth · 3:17

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwxvQlZz-3w

Aleph with Beth's easy story of Joseph and his brothers, told in simple Hebrew with pictures.

KEY TERMS

בֵּן ben (BAYN)

Son.

אָח ach (AHKH)

Brother.

חָכָם chakham (khah-KHAHM)

Wise.

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.

בֵּן *ben* **BAYN** noun son	בַּת *bat* **BAHT** noun daughter
אָח *ach* **AHKH** noun brother	חָכָם *chakham* **khah-KHAHM** adjective wise

CORE IDEAS

The story. King Solomon, the wisest king, wrote many proverbs, short wise sayings. One of the first says: A wise son maketh a glad father. In Hebrew: בֵּן חָכָם יְשַׂמַּח־אָב, ben chakham yesammach av. A child who listens and learns brings joy to his parents and to God.

How to read. Read beat by beat. אָח: ah + kh = AHKH. חָכָם: khah + khahm = khah-KHAHM. בַּת: bah + t = BAHT. In two-beat words, Hebrew usually leans on the last beat.

Practice. Read the family words, then the proverb's three words: ben, chakham, … av. The middle word, yesammach, has vowels you will learn next year; your parent can read it to you.

ACTIVITY

Family tree

Make a little family tree with Hebrew labels.

You will need

- Paper
- Crayons
- Photos (optional)

Steps

1. Draw a tree with branches.
2. Draw or paste your family on the branches.
3. Label father אָב, son בֵּן, daughter בַּת, brother אָח.
4. Read every label aloud.

Tips

- Copy the vowels carefully under each letter.

Check your work

- ☐ My tree has at least four Hebrew labels.
- ☐ I can read them.

LETTER BOOK

1. Copy and read: אָב, בֵּן, בַּת, אָח, חָכָם, and draw each.

> **From history.** Hebrew names often contain these words: Benjamin means son of the right hand, Abraham means father of many, and Bathsheba means daughter of an oath.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read: חָכָם

▼ **Show solution**

1. chet + qamets = khah.
2. kaf without a dot + qamets = khah.
3. end-mem = m.

Answer: khah-KHAHM (wise).

Example 2. Read: אָח

▼ **Show solution**

1. alef + qamets = ah.
2. chet at the end = kh.

Answer: AHKH (brother).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Read and translate: אָב

   ▼ **Show answer**

   av, father.

2. Easy Read and translate: בַּת

   ▼ **Show answer**

   bat, daughter.

3. Easy Read and translate: בֵּן

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ben, son.

4. **Medium** Read and translate: אָח

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ach, brother.

5. **Medium** Say Proverbs 10:1 (the middle part) in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A wise son maketh a glad father.

6. **Hard** Read: בֵּן חָכָם

   ▼ **Show answer**

   BAYN khah-KHAHM: a wise son.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading kaf without a dot as k. Without the dot it is kh: khah-KHAHM.
- Stressing the first beat. Hebrew usually leans on the last.

> **Make it a game · Who am I?.** The parent points to a family member (or a photo). Find the right Hebrew card: בַּת ,בֵּן ,אָב or אָח, and read it.

> **Scripture.** “The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.” (Proverbs 10:1, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> בֵּן חָכָם יְשַׂמַּח־אָב
>
> This is one of Solomon’s first proverbs. Read ben (son) and chakham (wise), and find av (father) at the end of the quote.

UNIT 5

Scribes and Shalom

In Lesson 5.1 your child learns to write the letters neatly from right to left, hanging from a top line as scribes did, and looks at the Leningrad Codex, where the scribe Samuel ben Jacob signed his name in the year 1008.

In Lesson 5.2 your child reads שָׁלוֹם with its vowels and the last line of the priestly blessing, Numbers 6:26. The year ends with a Shalom blessing card.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4: letters, the dot, and the ah and eh vowels.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can write the letters neatly from right to left.
- ☐ I can read short words with ah and eh vowels.
- ☐ I can read שָׁלוֹם and tell what it means.
- ☐ I can say the priestly blessing in English.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**Writing Like a Scribe**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
5.2	**Shalom Again**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 5 review

The child reads aloud or writes. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Copy neatly: שָׁלוֹם, מֶלֶךְ, יָד.
2. **5 pts**
   Read: אָב בֵּן דָּג הַר
3. **5 pts**
   What does shalom mean?
4. **5 pts**
   Say Numbers 6:26 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. Letters hang from the top line, written right to left, with vowels under the letters.
2. av, ben, dag, har.
3. Peace (also hello and goodbye).
4. The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE SHALOM BLESSING CARD

Fold a card. On the front, write שָׁלוֹם in your neatest scribe's hand. Inside, copy Numbers 6:24–26 in English. Sign it at the bottom like the scribe Samuel ben Jacob: "Written by ___." Give it to someone you love.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The Hebrew is neat, right to left, with vowels.
Reading	The child reads שָׁלוֹם aloud.
Sounds	The English blessing is copied exactly.
Effort	The child works carefully and reads out loud.

UNIT 5 · SCRIBES AND SHALOM · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

5.1 Writing Like a Scribe

OBJECTIVES

- Write Hebrew letters neatly from right to left.
- Know that the scribes copied the Bible letter by letter.
- Copy a short word with its vowels.

Warm-up. Write one sentence as neatly as you possibly can, slowly. How long did it take? Now imagine copying the whole Bible by hand. That is what scribes did, letter by letter, for thousands of years.

WATCH

Hebrew - How to write the Hebrew Alphabet (Aleph-Bet) - Free Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 5:33

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQ7MC61w6Fw

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> before you practice; write each letter along with the video.

Note: Aleph with Beth shows how to write each Hebrew letter, stroke by stroke (5:33).

BACKUP VIDEO

Easy Story 39 - Bezalel Made the Tabernacle - בְּצַלְאֵל עָשָׂה אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכָּן

Aleph with Beth · 7:16

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jiAInaGrLA

Aleph with Beth's easy story of Bezalel, the craftsman God filled with skill to make the tabernacle, told in simple Hebrew.

KEY TERMS

scribe

A person trained to copy the Bible by hand, exactly.

Leningrad Codex

The oldest complete Hebrew Bible, written in the year 1008. The Hebrew in this course comes from it.

כְּתוֹב ketov (keh-TOHV)

Write! (a command).

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.

כְּתוֹב

ketov

keh-TOHV

verb (command)

write!

סֵפֶר

sefer

SAY-fer

noun

book, scroll

דָּבָר

davar

dah-VAHR

noun

word

CORE IDEAS

The story. God told the prophet Habakkuk: Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. God wants His word written clearly so people can read it. More than a thousand years ago a scribe named Samuel ben Jacob copied the whole Hebrew Bible, added all the vowel points and notes, and signed his name in the middle of a beautiful decorated page.

How scribes wrote. Hebrew letters hang from an imaginary top line, not sit on a bottom line. Most letters are about the same size and shape as a square. Start every letter at its top right corner. Leave a little space between words. Write the letter first, then add its dot and vowel.

Practice. Draw a light top line. Write each letter of שָׁלוֹם hanging from it: shin, lamed, vav, end-mem. Then add the dot on the shin, the qamets under it, and the dot on the vav.

PICTURE STUDY



Carpet page of the Leningrad Codex, Samuel ben Jacob, scribe, 1008 · Ink, gold and color on parchment · National Library of Russia, Saint Petersburg

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

The Leningrad Codex was written in Cairo in the year 1008. It is the oldest complete Hebrew Bible in the world, and the Hebrew in this course comes from it. On this page the scribe wrote, in the middle: "I, Samuel son of Jacob, wrote and pointed and gave the notes to this book." The tiny writing around the design is made of notes about the text.

Look closely

- Find the lines of writing in the very center.
- Find the gold.
- Find the tiny words running around the borders.
- Do the lines go right to left or left to right?

Talk about it

1. Why would a scribe sign his work?
2. How many hours do you think this one page took?

ACTIVITY

Scribe's practice sheet

Make your own lined scribe's page and copy three words.

You will need

- Paper
- A ruler and a pencil
- A fine pen

Steps

1. With the ruler, draw light lines across the page about one finger apart.
2. Write שָׁלוֹם, מֶלֶךְ and יָד hanging from the lines, right to left.
3. Add the vowels last.
4. Sign the bottom: "Written by (your name)."

Tips

- Start each letter at its top right.

Check your work

☐ My letters hang from the lines.

☐ My vowels are under the right letters.

LETTER BOOK

1. Copy the whole alef-bet once more in your neatest scribe's writing.

> **From history.** Scribes counted the letters of each book to check their copies. They even knew which letter was the middle letter of the Torah.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Where do you start writing a Hebrew letter?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Hebrew goes right to left.
2. Letters hang from the top line.

Answer: At its top right.

Example 2. Do you write the vowels first or last?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Scribes wrote the letters, and the vowels were added later.

Answer: Last, after the letters.

PRACTICE

1. Easy In which direction do you write Hebrew?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Right to left.

2. Easy Do Hebrew letters hang from a top line or sit on a bottom line?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   They hang from a top line.

3. Easy Who copied the Bible by hand?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Scribes.

4. Medium What is the Leningrad Codex?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The oldest complete Hebrew Bible, written in 1008.

5. Medium Copy: שָׁלוֹם.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   שָׁלוֹם, written right to left.

6. Hard Why did scribes have to work so carefully?

▼ **Show answer**

So that every word of the Bible was copied exactly, with nothing added or lost.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing letters sitting on the bottom line. Hang them from the top.
- Writing the word from left to right. Start at the right.

> **Make it a game · Scribe's challenge.** Copy one word as neatly as you can. The parent checks it like a master scribe: every letter, every dot, every vowel. If it is perfect, you earn a gold star on your scribe's page.

> **Scripture.** "And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." (Habakkuk 2:2, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> כְּתֹוב חָזוֹן וּבָאֵר עַל־הַלֻּחוֹת
>
> God tells Habakkuk to write clearly. The first word here, ketov, means write!

UNIT 5 · SCRIBES AND SHALOM · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

5.2 Shalom Again

OBJECTIVES

- Read שָׁלוֹם with all its points.
- Read short words from Numbers 6:26.
- Explain what shalom means in the Bible.

> **Warm-up.** At the very beginning of Hebrew you learned one word: shalom. Now you can read it yourself, letter by letter and vowel by vowel. What a long way you have come this year!

WATCH

Shalom - Peace

BibleProject · 3:49

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the reading; watch the word study, then sing the blessing.

Note: BibleProject's animated word study of shalom: peace as wholeness, made complete by God.

BACKUP VIDEO

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

Aleph with Beth · 3:16

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

Aleph with Beth sings the priestly blessing of Numbers 6:24–26 in Hebrew.

KEY TERMS

שָׁלוֹם shalom (shah-LOHM)

Peace: wholeness, everything made right by God.

וְ ve- (veh)

And, joined to the front of a word.

לְךָ lekha (leh-KHAH)

To you.

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.

שָׁלוֹם

shalom

shah-LOHM

noun

peace

לְךָ

lekha

leh-KHAH

preposition + you

to you

יִשָּׂא

yissa

yis-SAH

verb

may he lift up

CORE IDEAS

The story. The priestly blessing ends: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Shalom means more than no fighting: it means wholeness, everything as it should be. The prophet Isaiah called the promised Child the Prince of Peace, and Jesus told His disciples: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.

How to read shalom. שָׁ: shin (dot on the right) + qamets = shah. לוֹ: lamed + vav with a dot on top, which says oh = loh. ם: end-mem = m. Together: shah-LOHM. The vav with a dot on top, וֹ, is a new vowel, holem; you will learn it fully next year.

The last line. וְיָשֵׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם: ve-yasem lekha shalom, and give thee peace. ve- means and; yasem means may he give; lekha means to you; shalom means peace.

ACTIVITY

Peace dove mobile

Make a dove mobile with shalom.

You will need

- White paper
- String
- A stick or hanger

Steps

1. Cut out three doves.
2. On one write שָׁלוֹם, on one שׁ in English letters, and on one Peace.
3. Hang them from the stick.
4. Read the Hebrew dove each morning.

Tips

- Write the Hebrew neatly, hanging from a top line.

Check your work

☐ My mobile has שָׁלוֹם written correctly.

☐ I can read it.

LETTER BOOK

1. Write the last line of the blessing in Hebrew and English: וְיָשֵׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם, and give thee peace.

> **From history.** Christians in many lands still greet each other with the word for peace: shalom in Hebrew, salaam in Arabic, pax in Latin.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read: שָׁלוֹם

▼ **Show solution**

1. shin + qamets = shah.
2. lamed + holem vav = loh.
3. end-mem = m.

Answer: shah-LOHM.

Example 2. Read: לְךָ

▼ **Show solution**

1. lamed + a tiny two-dot mark (shewa, a quick e) = leh.
2. kaf without a dot + qamets = khah.

Answer: leh-KHAH (to you).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Read: שָׁלוֹם

   ▼ **Show answer**

   shah-LOHM.

2. Easy What does shalom mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Peace.

3. Easy Who is called the Prince of Peace?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The promised Child: Jesus (Isaiah 9:6).

4. Medium What does וְ mean at the front of a word?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And.

5. Medium Say Numbers 6:26 in English.

▼ **Show answer**

The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

6. Hard Shalom means more than no fighting. What else?

▼ **Show answer**

Wholeness: everything as it should be, made right by God.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading the holem vav וֹ as v. With a dot on top, it says oh.
- Reading the end-mem as a new letter. It is mem: m.

> **Make it a game · Shalom chain.** Sit in a circle. The first person says Shalom! and a family member's name; that person answers Shalom! and passes it on. Then pass a card with וְיָשֵׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם and each person reads one word.

> **Scripture.** "The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." (Numbers 6:26, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיָשֵׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם׃
>
> This is the last line of the priestly blessing. Now you can read the last word yourself: shalom.