Kindergarten Biblical Hebrew

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

Quick reference

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Kindergarten 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 learns that Hebrew is the language of most of the Old Testament, that it is read from right to left, and the words shalom, amen and hallelujah; then meets the first ten letters, alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet and yod, each through the little picture it began as and a Bible word that starts with it.

There is no reading required: the child looks, says, traces and builds the letters, and each lesson has a worksheet with a separate answer key. The quarter ends with a little Hallelujah show.

> 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 kindergartners (about ages 5–6), 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. There is no reading required; the child looks, says, traces and draws the letters, and a parent helps. 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 31 letters, signs and words. Unit 1: שָׁלוֹם (shalom), אָמֵן (amen), א (alef), אַב (av). Unit 2: ב (bet), בַּיִת (bayit), תֵּבָה (tevah), בֵּן (ben), ג (gimel), גָּמָל (gamal), גָּדוֹל (gadol). Unit 3: ד (dalet), דֶּלֶת (delet), דָּוִד (David), ה (he), ו (vav), הַר (har), הִנֵּה (hinneh). Unit 4: ז (zayin), ח (chet), זָהָב (zahav), חָלוֹן

(chalon), ט (tet), טוֹב (tov), אוֹר (or). Unit 5: י (yod), יָד (yad), יוֹם (yom), הַלְלוּ־יָהּ (hallelujah), טוֹב (tov), בַּיִת (bayit).

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

Shalom!

The child meets Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament: it is written from right to left, it says Shalom for hello and peace, and its first letter, alef, began as a picture of an ox. Rembrandt's Moses holds up the Ten Commandments in Hebrew letters.

1.1 Shalom!

1.2 Alef the Ox

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

Houses and Camels

Bet, the house letter, and gimel, the camel letter. Bet begins the very first word of the Bible, bereshit (in the beginning), and Noah's ark is a floating house in Edward Hicks's painting.

2.1 Bet the House

2.2 Gimel the Camel

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Doors and Windows

Dalet, the door letter that begins David's name; he, the letter of Behold!; and vav, the little tent peg that means "and." Antonello da Messina paints Saint Jerome in a study full of doors and windows, reading the Bible he translated from Hebrew.

3.1 Dalet the Door

3.2 He and Vav

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

It Is Good

Zayin, chet and tet: the letters of zahav (gold), chalon (window) and tov (good). Noah opens the window of the ark, and on the first day God sees the light, that it is good, in Albert Bierstadt's glowing painting of the Sierra Nevada.

4.1 Zayin and Chet

4.2 Tet: It Is Good

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Hands That Praise

Yod, the smallest letter, began as a hand, and it begins yad (hand) and yom (day). The quarter ends with hallelujah, praise the LORD, as King David plays his harp in Gerard van Honthorst's painting.

5.1 Yod the Hand

5.2 Ten Letters and Hallelujah

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 Shalom!: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 activity (my shalom door sign) 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 Alef the Ox: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 activity (play-dough alef) 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 right-to-left parade)

WEEK	PLAN
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 Bet the House: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 activity (a shoebox ark-house) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Gimel the Camel: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 activity (cotton-ball camel gimel) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (my letter house)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Dalet the Door: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 activity (a dalet door that opens) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 He and Vav: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 activity (a tent with pegs) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (the door-and-window hunt)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Zayin and Chet: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 activity (noah's window) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Tet: It Is Good: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 activity (my tov book) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (tov! show-and-tell)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Yod the Hand: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 activity (handprint yod) and letter book • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Ten Letters and Hallelujah: warm-up, story, letters and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 activity (ten-letter praise banner) 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 hallelujah show)

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 kindergartner 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

Shalom!

In Lesson 1.1 your child learns that Moses and David wrote in Hebrew, that Hebrew goes from right to left, and the word shalom (hello, peace). Rembrandt's painting of Moses holding the stone tablets shows real Hebrew letters.

In Lesson 1.2 your child meets the first letter, alef, an ox head turned on its side, the letter that starts the word for father, av. The unit ends with a little right-to-left parade.

PREREQUISITES

- None. This is the very first Hebrew lesson.
- A parent who is happy to say new sounds out loud, even imperfectly.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can say Shalom and tell what it means.
- ☐ I can show which way Hebrew goes: from right to left.
- ☐ I can point to alef and say its name.
- ☐ I can say amen and tell what it means.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- ***Hebrew alphabet flash cards*, any maker**: Any simple set of Hebrew letter cards works; you can also print the letter on index cards yourself.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**Shalom!**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
1.2	**Alef the Ox**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 1 review

Ask each question out loud; the child answers out loud or points. The review is worth 20 points. A parent marks each answer.

1. **5 pts**
   Say hello the Hebrew way. What else does that word mean?

2. **5 pts**
   Show with your finger which way Hebrew is read.

3. **5 pts**

   Point to alef on a card and say its name.

4. **5 pts**

   What do we say at the end of a prayer, and what does it mean?

ANSWER KEY

1. Shalom (shah-LOHM). It also means peace.
2. From right to left (the child sweeps a finger from the right side to the left).
3. א, alef (AH-lef).
4. Amen (ah-MAYN): it is true; so be it.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE RIGHT-TO-LEFT PARADE

Make three big cards: one with שָׁלוֹם, one with א, and one with אָמֵן (a parent writes them; the child colors them). Line up the family facing the room. The leader starts on the RIGHT side and marches to the LEFT, holding up each card and saying its word: Shalom! Alef! Amen! Everyone repeats. Then the next person leads.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Direction	The parade moves from right to left, the way Hebrew is read.
Words	The child says shalom, alef and amen clearly.
Meaning	The child can tell what shalom and amen mean.
Cheer	The parade is done out loud, with smiles.

UNIT 1 · SHALOM! · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

1.1 Shalom!

OBJECTIVES

- Say shalom (hello, peace) with a wave.
- Show that Hebrew is read from right to left.

- Know that Moses and David wrote in Hebrew.

> **Warm-up.** Hold up a picture book and open it. Which side do we start on? In English we start on the left. Now guess: is there a language that starts on the other side? Today you meet one: Hebrew, the language of Moses and King David.

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 once, and wave when you hear shalom at the end.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings the priestly blessing of Numbers 6:24–26 in Hebrew; listen for the last word, shalom.

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

שָׁלוֹם shalom (shah-LOHM)

Hello, goodbye, and peace. One word for all three.

right to left

The way Hebrew is written and read: start at the right side of the page and move to the left.

Hebrew

The language of most of the Old Testament, the language Moses and David wrote in.

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

greeting · noun

hello; goodbye; peace

אָמֵן

amen

ah-MAYN

word

it is true; so be it

ENGLISH amen

CORE IDEAS

The story. A long, long time ago, God called Moses up a mountain and gave him two flat stones with His words written on them: the Ten Commandments. Those words were written in Hebrew. Later, King David sang songs to God, the Psalms, and those were in Hebrew too. Most of the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible, was first written in Hebrew. When we read our English Bible, we are reading words that were first written in Hebrew letters.

How Hebrew sounds. When people meet in the Bible, they wish each other peace. The Hebrew word is שָׁלוֹם, shalom: shah-LOHM. Lean on the end of the word: LOHM. Shalom means hello, it means goodbye, and it means peace, the good peace of God.

Say it and move. Wave as someone comes in: **Shalom!** Wave as they go: **Shalom!** Now point to the RIGHT side of the room and slowly sweep your arm to the LEFT: that is the way Hebrew goes. Say **right to left** as you sweep.

PICTURE STUDY



Moses with the Ten Commandments, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1659 · Oil on canvas · Gemäldegalerie, Berlin

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Rembrandt was a Dutch painter who lived about three hundred and seventy years ago. He loved painting Bible stories, and he painted real Hebrew letters on Moses' tablets. Look at the tablets: the letters go across from right to left, like all Hebrew.

Look closely

- What is Moses holding up?
- Can you see the little golden letters? Point to one.
- Look at the start of each line of letters: the same short word begins line after line. Can you find it?
- Is Moses happy, sad or serious?

Talk about it

1. Why do you think God wrote His words on stone?
2. If you could ask Moses one question, what would it be?

ACTIVITY

My shalom door sign

Make a sign for your door that says shalom in Hebrew letters, to wish everyone peace when they come in.

You will need

- A sheet of paper or a paper plate
- Crayons or markers
- Tape

Steps

1. A parent writes שָׁלוֹם large across the middle. Remember: it starts at the right!
2. Trace each letter with a crayon, starting with the letter on the right.
3. Draw a dove or a smiling sun around the word.
4. Tape the sign to your door.
5. Say Shalom! to everyone who comes in today.

Tips

- Trace from right to left.
- Say shah-LOHM each time you finish a letter.

Check your work

☐ My sign says שָׁלוֹם.

☐ I can say shalom and tell what it means.

LETTER BOOK

1. Start your letter book: on the first page, draw yourself waving. A parent writes שָׁלוֹם beside you.
2. Draw an arrow that points from the right edge of the page to the left. That is the Hebrew way.

> **From history.** Hebrew is one of the oldest written languages still read today. Children have learned the Hebrew letters for about three thousand years, and Christian scholars have studied Hebrew for centuries so they could read the Old Testament in the words its writers used.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Grandpa comes to visit. How can you greet him in Hebrew?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Someone is arriving.
2. In Hebrew we greet with shalom.

Answer: Shalom! (shah-LOHM)

Example 2. Where does a Hebrew line start: on the left or on the right?

▼ **Show solution**

1. English starts on the left.
2. Hebrew starts on the other side.

Answer: On the right.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Wave and say hello in Hebrew.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Shalom!

2. Easy What else does shalom mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Peace (and goodbye).

3. Easy Sweep your arm the way Hebrew goes.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   From right to left.

4. Medium Who wrote in Hebrew: Moses or a dinosaur?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Moses (and David, and the other Old Testament writers).

5. Medium Say shalom with the stress at the end: shah-LOHM.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   shah-LOHM.

6. Hard Tell your parent the story of the Ten Commandments in one or two sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   God gave Moses His words on two stones, written in Hebrew.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying SHAH-lom with the stress at the front. Hebrew usually leans on the end: shah-LOHM.
- Tracing Hebrew from left to right. Start at the right side.

> **Make it a game · Shalom, shalom.** A parent goes out of the room and knocks. Open the door, wave and say Shalom! When the parent leaves again, wave and say Shalom! Take turns. Try it with a stuffed-animal visitor too.

> **Scripture.** "The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." (Numbers 6:26, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> וְיָשֵׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם
>
> This is part of the blessing God gave the priests to say over His people. The last word is shalom: peace. When you say shalom, you are wishing someone God's peace.

1.2 Alef the Ox

OBJECTIVES

- Point to the letter alef and say its name.
- Say that alef began as a picture of an ox head.
- Hear alef at the start of av (father) and amen.

> **Warm-up.** Put two fingers up on top of your head like horns and say Moo! An ox is a big, strong farm animal with horns. Today you meet a Hebrew letter that began as a little picture of an ox's head.

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; listen to the Aleph-Bet song and make ox horns when you hear alef at the very start.

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

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:1

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:01

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8z6b0RE5k0

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:1 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

א alef (AH-lef)

Sound: silent: it holds a vowel, like a little catch in the throat. Picture: an ox head.

אָב av (AHV)

Father. It begins with alef.

letter

One of the shapes we use to write. Hebrew has 22 letters.

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

אָב

av

AHV

noun

father

אָמֵן

amen

ah-MAYN

word

it is true; so be it

ENGLISH amen

CORE IDEAS

The story. Long ago, before there were alphabets, people drew little pictures to write. Then someone had a wonderful idea: let a little picture stand for just the first sound of its name. The picture of an ox head was called alef, and it came first in the

line. That is how the Hebrew alphabet got its first letter. Over many years the ox head was turned on its side and drawn faster and faster, until it looked like this: א.

How Hebrew sounds. Alef is a quiet letter. It does not say a sound of its own; it is like a little door where a vowel comes in. In אָב, av (father), the alef holds the ah sound: AHV. In אָמֵן, amen, it holds the ah too: ah-MAYN.

Say it and move. Make ox horns with your fingers: **Alef!** Draw an alef in the air with your finger: first the long slanted line, then one little arm up, then one little arm down. Say **alef** each time.

ACTIVITY

Play-dough alef

Roll play dough into snakes and build a big alef.

You will need

- Play dough or clay (or yarn and glue on paper)
- A card with א drawn large by a parent

Steps

1. Roll one long snake for the slanted line in the middle.
2. Roll two short snakes for the arms: one at the top right, one at the bottom left.
3. Press them onto the card on top of the parent's alef.
4. Make two little horns of dough and put them on top: it is an ox!
5. Say alef each time you touch your letter.

Tips

- Use the parent's letter as a guide underneath.
- Look at the alef from all sides and say what it looks like to you.

Check your work

☐ My alef has a long middle line and two arms.

☐ I can say alef and point to it.

LETTER BOOK

1. On a new page, a parent draws a big א. Color it brown like an ox.
2. Draw a father next to it. A parent writes אַב (av) under him.

> **From history.** The name alef comes from an old word for ox. The Greeks borrowed the letter and called it alpha, and that is where our word alphabet comes from: alpha (alef) plus beta (bet).

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find alef: ש ב א

▼ **Show solution**

1. Alef has a long slanted line with two little arms.
2. The first letter on the right is alef.

Answer: א (alef) is the first one on the right.

Example 2. What picture did alef begin as?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Think of horns.

Answer: An ox head.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Point to alef: ג א ב

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The middle letter, א.

2. Easy What animal is alef?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   An ox.

3. **Easy** Say alef three times.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   AH-lef, AH-lef, AH-lef.

4. **Medium** Which word begins with alef: אָב (av) or שָׁלוֹם (shalom)?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   אָב, av (father).

5. **Medium** Draw an alef in the air.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A slanted line with one arm up on the right and one arm down on the left.

6. **Hard** Does alef say a sound by itself?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   No: alef is quiet and holds a vowel sound.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking alef says a. Alef is quiet; the little vowel marks give the sound.
- Mixing alef with other letters. Look for the long slanted line.

> **Make it a game · Alef hunt.** A parent hides five cards around the room: three with א and two with other letters. Find all the alefs and shout Alef! each time. Then hide them for the parent.

> **Scripture.** "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD." (Psalm 119:1, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> אַשְׁרֵי תְמִימֵי־דָרֶךְ הַהֹלְכִים בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה׃
>
> Psalm 119 is an alphabet psalm. Its first eight verses all begin with alef. Look at the first letter of this verse on the right: it is alef!

UNIT 2

Houses and Camels

In Lesson 2.1 your child meets bet, the house letter, and hears that the first word of the whole Bible, בְּרֵאשִׁית, bereshit, begins with it. Edward Hicks's painting of the animals going into Noah's ark shows a house that floats.

In Lesson 2.2 your child meets gimel, the camel letter, the first sound of gamal (camel) and gadol (big). The unit ends with a letter-house you can open.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1: shalom, right to left, and alef.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can point to bet and gimel and say their names.
- ☐ I can say what bet and gimel began as: a house and a camel.
- ☐ I know the first word of the Bible begins with bet.
- ☐ I can say alef, bet, gimel in order.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**Bet the House**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
2.2	**Gimel the Camel**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 2 review

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

1. **5 pts**

   Point to bet: ג ב א

2. **5 pts**

   What did bet begin as? What did gimel begin as?

3. 5 pts
   Say the first three letters in order.

4. 5 pts
   The first word of the Bible means “in the beginning.” Which letter does it start with?

ANSWER KEY

1. ב, the middle one.
2. Bet: a house. Gimel: a camel.
3. Alef, bet, gimel.
4. Bet (בְּרֵאשִׁית, bereshit).

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY LETTER HOUSE

Fold a sheet of paper in half like a card and draw a house on the front with a door that opens. A parent writes ב big on the door. Inside, draw your family, and a camel in the yard with a ג on its hump. Open the door and say: Bet, bayit, house! Point to the camel: Gimel, gamal, camel!

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The child points to ב and ג and names them.
Words	The child says bayit and gamal.
Sounds	The b of bet and the g of gimel are clear.
Cheer	The child says everything out loud, with smiles.

UNIT 2 · HOUSES AND CAMELS · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

2.1 Bet the House

OBJECTIVES

- Point to bet and say its name.

- Say that bet began as a picture of a house.
- Know that the first word of the Bible, bereshit, begins with bet.

> **Warm-up.** Walk to the front door of your home and knock on it. Who lives in this house? Say the names of everyone in your family. Today's letter began as a little picture of a house.

WATCH

Easy Story 13 - הַיֶּלֶד אֲשֶׁר בַּתֵּבָה - The Boy in the Ark

Aleph with Beth · 1:44

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9fno8Jr1yg

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; watch once and say tevah when you see the little ark.

Note: Aleph with Beth's easy story, told in simple Hebrew with pictures, about baby Moses in his little ark, the tevah, on the river.

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

ב bet (BAYT)

Sound: b with a dot inside (בּ), v without it (ב). Picture: a house.

בַּיִת bayit (BAH-yeet)

House. It begins with bet.

בְּרֵאשִׁית bereshit (beh-ray-SHEET)

In the beginning: the first word of the Bible.

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

בַּיִת

bayit

BAH-yeet

noun

house

תֵּבָה

tevah

tay-VAH

noun

ark (Noah's boat)

בֵּן

ben

BAYN

noun

son

CORE IDEAS

The story. The very first word of the Bible is בְּרֵאשִׁית, bereshit: In the beginning. And the very first letter of the Bible is bet, the house letter. God made the whole world to be a home for people. Later, when the earth was full of wickedness, God told Noah to build an ark, a big boat with rooms like a house, and to bring his family and the animals inside. God kept them safe in that floating house through the flood.

How Hebrew sounds. Bet looks like a house seen from the side: a roof on top, a floor at the bottom, and an open door on the left. With a little dot inside, בּ, it says b, as in בַּיִת, bayit (house). Without the dot, ב, it says v. Say BAYT. Then say BAH-yeet.

Say it and move. Make a roof with your arms over your head: **Bet!** Sweep your hand around like opening a door: **bayit!** Say **Alef, bet!** and march two steps from right

to left.

PICTURE STUDY



Noah's Ark, Edward Hicks, 1846 · Oil on canvas · Philadelphia Museum of Art

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Edward Hicks was a Quaker preacher and sign painter in Pennsylvania who painted Bible animals again and again. His ark looks like a big barn on a boat: a house that floats.

Look closely

- Find the door of the ark. What is going in?
- Find the lion. Is he scary or calm?
- Count the windows on the ark.
- Which animals come in twos?

Talk about it

1. Why does the ark look like a house?
2. How do you think Noah's family felt inside when the rain began?

ACTIVITY

A shoebox ark-house

Turn a box into Noah's ark, a house that floats, and put a bet on its door.

You will need

- A shoebox or cereal box
- Crayons or paint
- Toy animals or paper animals

Steps

1. Draw windows along the side of the box and a door in the middle.
2. A parent writes a big ב on the door.
3. March the animals in two by two, and say bet each time one goes through the door.
4. Close the lid and say bayit: house!

Tips

- Look at the bet: does it look like a house with an open door?
- Say bereshit and point to your bet.

Check your work

☐ My ark has a ב on the door.

☐ I can say bet and bayit.

LETTER BOOK

1. A parent draws a big ב on a new page. Draw a little house inside the bet.
2. Write בַּיִת (bayit) under it with a parent's help, starting at the right.

> **From history.** Bet comes from the old word for house. The Greeks turned it into beta, and alpha plus beta gives us the word alphabet.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find bet: א ב ג

▼ **Show solution**

1. Bet has a roof, a floor and an open door on the left.

Answer: ב, the middle letter.

Example 2. What does bayit mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It starts with the house letter.

Answer: House.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What picture did bet begin as?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A house.

2. Easy Say bet and bayit.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   BAYT, BAH-yeet.

3. Easy Which comes first, alef or bet?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Alef.

4. Medium What does bereshit mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   In the beginning.

5. Medium Point to the bet: בַּיִת

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The first letter on the right.

6. Hard Which letter begins the whole Bible?

▼ **Show answer**

Bet.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing up bet ב with kaf כ later on. Bet has a little tail at the bottom right, sticking out past the corner.
- Reading the bet from the left. The open side faces left, and you start on the right.

> **Make it a game · Knock, knock, bet.** Tape a ב card on a door. Knock and say Bet! The person inside opens and answers Bayit! Then they knock. Add the alef card on another door and go from right to left: alef door, then bet door.

> **Scripture.** "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים
>
> These are the first three words of the Bible in Hebrew: bereshit bara Elohim, In the beginning God created. The very first letter, on the right, is bet.

UNIT 2 · HOUSES AND CAMELS · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

2.2 Gimel the Camel

OBJECTIVES

- Point to gimel and say its name.
- Say that gimel is the camel letter.
- Say alef, bet, gimel in order.

> **Warm-up.** Get down on your hands and knees and be a camel: walk slowly and sway, with a big hump on your back. Camels carry heavy loads across the desert. Today's letter is the camel letter.

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 sway like a camel when you hear gimel, the third letter.

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

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:17

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:32

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIZrwK64GPo

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:17 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

ג gimel (GHEE-mel)

Sound: g as in go. Picture: a camel.

גָּמָל gamal (gah-MAHL)

Camel.

גָּדוֹל gadol (gah-DOHL)

Big, great.

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.

ג

gimel

GHEE-mel

letter

the letter gimel: g as in go

גָּמָל

gamal

gah-MAHL

noun

camel

ENGLISH camel

גָּדוֹל

gadol

gah-DOHL

adjective

big; great

CORE IDEAS

The story. In the Bible, Abraham's servant took ten camels on a long trip to find a wife for Isaac. He prayed at a well, and a kind young woman named Rebekah came and gave him water, and then she said she would bring water for all his camels too. Ten thirsty camels drink a lot! That is how the servant knew God had answered his prayer.

How Hebrew sounds. Gimel says g as in go. Its name and its word both start with g: GHEE-mel, gah-MAHL. Gimel looks like a little person or a camel taking a step, with one foot out to the left. A camel is gadol: big!

Say it and move. Sway like a camel: **Gimel, gamal!** Stretch up tall: **gadol!** Say the letters so far from right to left: **alef, bet, gimel**.

ACTIVITY

Cotton-ball camel gimel

Glue cotton balls or torn brown paper onto a big gimel and give it a camel face.

You will need

- A card with a large ג drawn by a parent
- Cotton balls or brown paper scraps
- Glue
- A googly eye or a marker

Steps

1. Spread glue along the gimel.
2. Press on the cotton balls or paper bits.
3. Draw a camel face at the top and a hump in the middle.
4. Say gimel, gamal while it dries.

Tips

- Follow the parent's lines exactly so the gimel keeps its shape.

Check your work

- ☐ My gimel has a little foot stepping to the left.
- ☐ I can say gimel and gamal.

LETTER BOOK

1. Draw a camel. A parent writes ג beside it and גָּמָל underneath.
2. Draw something big and say gadol.

> **From history.** Gimel became the Greek letter gamma and, much later, our letters C and G.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Put these in order, starting on the right: ב ג א

▼ **Show solution**

1. Alef comes first, then bet, then gimel.

Answer: א ב ג: alef, bet, gimel.

Example 2. What does gamal mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It starts with gimel.

Answer: Camel.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What animal is gimel?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A camel.

2. Easy Say gimel and gamal.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   GHEE-mel, gah-MAHL.

3. Easy Say alef, bet, gimel.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Alef, bet, gimel.

4. Medium Point to gimel: ב ג א

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ג, the middle letter.

5. Medium What does gadol mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Big, great.

6. Hard Tell how Rebekah helped the camels.

▼ **Show answer**

She gave water to the servant and to all ten camels.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying gimel with a soft j sound. It is a hard g, as in go.
- Writing the gimel foot to the right. It steps to the left, the way Hebrew goes.

> **Make it a game · Camel race.** Put the א, ב and ג cards across the room in order from right to left. Walk like a camel to each one and say its name. Then mix them up and let the parent put them back in order.

> **Scripture.** "Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word." (Psalm 119:17, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> גִּמֹּל עַל־עַבְדְּךָ אֶחְיֶה וְאֶשְׁמְרָה דְבָרֶךָ׃
>
> This verse begins the gimel part of Psalm 119. Find the gimel, the first letter on the right. The verse asks God to deal bountifully, that is, kindly and generously, with His servant.

UNIT 3

Doors and Windows

In Lesson 3.1 your child meets dalet, the door letter, in דֶּלֶת (delet, door) and in the name of King David, דָּוִד. Antonello da Messina's painting of Saint Jerome, who learned Hebrew to translate the Old Testament, is full of doors and windows to find.

In Lesson 3.2 your child meets he, the letter of hinneh (behold!) and har (mountain), and vav, the tent-peg letter that means "and." The unit ends with a door-and-window letter hunt.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2: alef, bet, gimel.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can point to dalet, he and vav and say their names.
- ☐ I can tell the pictures: door, “behold!”, tent peg.
- ☐ I can say the first six letters in order: alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**Dalet the Door**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
3.2	**He and Vav**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 3 review

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

1. **5 pts**
   Point to dalet: ה ד ו
2. **5 pts**
   Which letter is a door? Which is a tent peg?
3. **5 pts**
   Say the first six letters in order.
4. **5 pts**
   Whose name begins with dalet: David or Moses?

ANSWER KEY

1. ד, the middle one.
2. Dalet is a door; vav is a tent peg.
3. Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav.
4. David, דָּוִד.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE DOOR-AND-WINDOW HUNT

Tape a ד card on a door in your home, a ה card on a window, and a ו card on a hook or a peg. Lead your family on a tour from right to left through the house: at each one, say the letter name and its picture. Then add your ב ,א and ג cards and say all six in order.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The child finds and names ה ,ד and ו.
Words	The child says delet, har and ve.
Sounds	The d, h and v are said clearly.
Cheer	The child says everything out loud, with smiles.

UNIT 3 · DOORS AND WINDOWS · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

3.1 Dalet the Door

OBJECTIVES

- Point to dalet and say its name.
- Say that dalet began as a picture of a door.
- Hear dalet in delet (door) and David.

Warm-up. Open and close a door in your home three times. Now count the doors in your house as you walk around. Today's letter began as a picture of a door.

WATCH

Easy Story 11 - David & Goliath - דָּוִד וְגָלְיָת - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 4:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBf4PWps9qk

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

Note: Aleph with Beth's easy story of David and Goliath, told 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 that teaches door and window and simple commands in Hebrew; watch the door part together.

KEY TERMS

ד dalet (DAH-let)

Sound: d. Picture: a door.

דֶּלֶת delet (DEH-let)

Door.

דָּוִד David (dah-VEED)

King David, the shepherd boy who became king and wrote many psalms.

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.

ד

dalet

DAH-let

letter

the letter dalet: d

דֶּלֶת

delet

DEH-let

noun

door

דָּוִד

David

dah-VEED

name

David

CORE IDEAS

The story. David was a shepherd boy who loved God. He played the harp and sang to God while he watched his sheep, and God chose him to be king of Israel. In Hebrew his name is דָּוִד, and it has two dalets in it, one at the start and one at the end. Many of the Psalms begin with the words a Psalm of David.

How Hebrew sounds. Dalet says d. It looks like the top and side of a door frame: a line across the top, and a line down on the right, with a little corner sticking out. Say DAH-let, DEH-let (door), dah-VEED (David). Be careful: dalet ד has a sharp corner, and resh, a letter you will meet later, is round.

Say it and move. Stand in a doorway with one hand on the top and one on the side: **Dalet!** Open the door: **delet!** Play a pretend harp: **David!**

PICTURE STUDY



Saint Jerome in His Study, Antonello da Messina, about 1474 · Oil on lime wood · National Gallery, London

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Saint Jerome lived about sixteen hundred years ago. He moved to Bethlehem and learned Hebrew so he could translate the Old Testament from its own language into Latin, the language people read then. The painter put him in a study full of doors, windows and arches.

Look closely

- Find Jerome. What is he doing?
- Count the windows you can see.
- Find the lion. Where is he walking?
- Find the peacock and the little bird on the step.

Talk about it

1. Why do you think Jerome went to all the trouble of learning Hebrew?
2. Which door or window would you like to walk through?

ACTIVITY

A dalet door that opens

Make a paper door with a dalet on it that really opens.

You will need

- A sheet of paper
- Child-safe scissors (a parent helps)
- Crayons

Steps

1. A parent cuts three sides of a door in the middle of the paper so it swings open.
2. A parent writes a big ד on the door.
3. Open the door and draw King David with his harp behind it.
4. Close it, say dalet, open it, and say David!

Tips

- Look at the sharp corner at the top right of the dalet.

Check your work

☐ My door has a ד with a sharp corner.

☐ I can say dalet, delet and David.

LETTER BOOK

1. Draw a door on a new page. A parent writes ד on it and דָּלֶת underneath.
2. Draw David with his harp and a parent writes דָּוִד.

> **From history.** Dalet became the Greek delta, which is shaped like a triangle, and then our letter D.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find the two dalets in David's name: דָּוִד

▼ **Show solution**

1. Dalet has a line on top and a line down on the right.
2. Look at the first letter and the last letter.

Answer: The first (right) and the last (left) letters are both ד.

Example 2. What does delet mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It begins with the door letter.

Answer: Door.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What picture did dalet begin as?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A door.

2. Easy Say dalet and delet.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   DAH-let, DEH-let.

3. Easy What did David play?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The harp.

4. Medium Point to dalet: ג ד ב

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ד, the middle letter.

5. Medium Say the first four letters.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Alef, bet, gimel, dalet.

6. Hard How many dalets are in דָּוִד?

▼ **Show answer**

Two.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing dalet ד with resh ר. Dalet has a sharp corner; resh is round.
- Saying the first four letters out of order. Practice: alef, bet, gimel, dalet.

> **Make it a game · Door count.** Walk through the house and touch every door you find, saying dalet each time. How many doors are in your house? Then the parent hides the ד card behind one door; find it.

> **Scripture.** "A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד יְהוָה רֹעִי
>
> This is the start of David's shepherd psalm. In Hebrew it begins: a Psalm of David. Find the two dalets in David's name, the second word from the right.

UNIT 3 · DOORS AND WINDOWS · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

3.2 He and Vav

OBJECTIVES

- Point to he and vav and say their names.
- Say that he is the letter of "Behold!" and vav is a tent peg.
- Say the first six letters in order.

> **Warm-up.** Throw your arms up high and shout Look! Then pretend to hammer a peg into the ground for a tent: tap, tap, tap. Today's two letters are a shout and a tent peg.

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 the parts for he and vav (the 5th and 6th letters) and draw them in the air.

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

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:33

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:58

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-KBo83_sx4

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:33 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

ה he (HAY)

Sound: h (silent at the end of a word). Picture: a person with arms raised, shouting Behold!.

ו vav (VAHV)

Sound: v (in Bible times probably w); it also helps write the vowels o and u. Picture: a tent peg or hook.

הַר har (HAHR)

Mountain.

וְ ve (veh)

And. Vav with a little vowel, joined to the front of the next word.

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.

ה *he* **HAY** letter the letter he: h	ו *vav* **VAHV** letter the letter vav: v
הַר *har* **HAHR** noun mountain	הִנֵּה *hinneh* **hin-NAY** word behold! look!

CORE IDEAS

The story. When the angel came to the shepherds at Christmas, they were told: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. Behold means Look! The Old Testament uses that word too: in Hebrew, הִנֵּה, hinneh, and it starts with the letter he. The letter he may have begun as a picture of a person with arms raised, shouting Look! The letter vav began as a tent peg or hook, the little peg that holds a tent to the ground. In the Bible God told Moses to make hooks of gold and silver for the tabernacle, the tent where God met with Israel.

How Hebrew sounds. He says h, as in הַר, har (mountain). At the end of a word it is usually silent. Vav says v. Vav also helps write the vowels o and u, and when it is joined to the front of a word it means “and.” He looks like a little room with a gap at the top left; vav is a tall, thin peg.

Say it and move. Arms up: **He! Hinneh!** Make a mountain with your arms: **har!** Stand straight and thin like a peg: **Vav!** Now say all six from right to left: **alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav.**

ACTIVITY

A tent with pegs

Build a little tent and pin it down with vav pegs.

You will need

- A dish towel or small blanket
- Chairs, or a table to drape it over
- Clothespins or blocks for pegs
- Index cards

Steps

1. Drape the cloth over two chairs to make a tent.
2. Write ו on each index card (a parent helps) and tape them to the clothespins or blocks.
3. Peg down the corners with your vavs, saying vav each time.
4. Put a ה card at the door and shout Hinneh, look! when someone comes in.

Tips

- Vav is tall and thin, with a small hook at the top.

Check your work

☐ My tent has vav pegs and a he at the door.

☐ I can say he and vav.

LETTER BOOK

1. Draw a mountain. A parent writes ה and הַר beside it.
2. Draw a tent and its pegs, and write ו on each peg.

> **From history.** Vav became the Greek digamma, a letter the Greeks later dropped, and it is the great-grandparent of our letter F. Our letters U, V, W and Y also come down from the same family.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find he and vav: ו ד ה

▼ **Show solution**

1. He is like a little room with a gap at the top left; vav is a thin peg.

Answer: ה is on the left; ו is on the right.

Example 2. What does har mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It begins with he.

Answer: Mountain.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What picture is vav?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A tent peg or hook.

2. Easy Shout the word for Behold!

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Hinneh!

3. Easy Say he and vav.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   HAY, VAHV.

4. Medium Point to vav: ה ו ד

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ו, the thin middle letter.

5. Medium What does vav mean when it is joined to the front of a word?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And.

6. Hard Say the first six letters without help.

▼ **Show answer**

Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing he ה with chet ח (next unit). He has a gap at the top left; chet is closed.
- Saying the h at the end of a word. At the end, he is usually silent.

> **Make it a game · Hinneh!.** One person hides a toy. When the other finds it, they throw up their arms and shout Hinneh! (Look!). Then swap. Every time someone says hinneh, everyone holds up the ה card.

> **Scripture.** "Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end." (Psalm 119:33, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> הוֹרֵנִי יְהוָה דֶּרֶךְ חֻקֶּיךָ וְאֶצְּרֶנָּה עֵקֶב׃
>
> This verse begins the he part of Psalm 119. Find the he, the first letter on the right. It asks: Teach me, O LORD.

UNIT 4

It Is Good

In Lesson 4.1 your child meets zayin, the letter of זָהָב (zahav, gold), and chet, the rough throat sound in חַלּוֹן (chalon, window): Noah opened the window of the ark.

In Lesson 4.2 your child meets tet, the first letter of טוֹב, tov, good. On the first day God made light and saw that it was good. Bierstadt's painting of a mountain lake fills with light. The unit ends with a Tov! show-and-tell.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3: alef to vav.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can point to zayin, chet and tet and say their names.
- ☐ I can say the throaty ch of chet.
- ☐ I can say tov and tell what it means.
- ☐ I can say the first nine letters in order.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**Zayin and Chet**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
4.2	**Tet: It Is Good**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 4 review

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

1. **5 pts**
   Point to tet: ז ט ח
2. **5 pts**
   Say chet with the rough throat sound.
3. **5 pts**
   What does tov mean?
4. **5 pts**
   Say the letters from alef to tet.

ANSWER KEY

1. ט, the middle one.
2. KHAYT (like the ch in Bach).
3. Good.
4. Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: TOV! SHOW-AND-TELL

Gather three good things God made (a leaf, a stone, a flower, a picture of the sky). Hold up each one and say: Tov! Then show the ט card and the word טוֹב. Finish by naming the letters from alef to tet while you point to each card, from right to left.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The child names ח ,ז and ט.
Words	The child says zahav, chalon and tov.
Sounds	The ch of chet is said in the throat.
Cheer	The child says everything out loud, with smiles.

UNIT 4 · IT IS GOOD · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

4.1 Zayin and Chet

OBJECTIVES

- Point to zayin and chet and say their names.
- Say the throaty ch of chet.
- Hear zayin in zahav (gold) and chet in chalon (window).

Warm-up. Go to a window and look out. What can you see? Now pretend you are Noah inside the ark after forty days of rain, opening the window for the first time. What would you hope to see?

WATCH

Easy Story 34 - Noah the Righteous & the Floodwaters נֹחַ הַצַּדִּיק וּמֵי הַמַּבּוּל

Aleph with Beth · 6:28

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoR1Xg6CkoE

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; watch for the ark and its window.

Note: Aleph with Beth's easy story of Noah the righteous and the flood, told in simple Hebrew with pictures.

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

ז zayin (ZAH-yeen)

Sound: z. Picture: a weapon or tool.

ח chet (KHAYT)

Sound: kh, the rough throaty sound of Bach. Picture: a fence or wall.

זָהָב zahav (zah-HAHV)

Gold.

חַלּוֹן chalon (khal-LOHN)

Window.

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.

ז *zayin* **ZAH-yeen** letter the letter zayin: z	**ח** *chet* **KHAYT** letter the letter chet: kh, the rough throaty sound of Bach
זָהָב *zahav* **zah-HAHV** noun gold	**חַלּוֹן** *chalon* **khal-LOHN** noun window

CORE IDEAS

The story. After the flood, the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat. The Bible says that after forty days Noah opened the window of the ark, and sent out a raven, and then a dove. The word for window, חַלּוֹן, chalon, begins with chet. Later, when Israel built the tabernacle, God told them to cover the ark of the covenant with pure gold: זָהָב, zahav, which begins with zayin.

How Hebrew sounds. Zayin says z, like a bee: zzz. It looks like a little sword or tool, a line with a cap. Chet says a rough, throaty kh, the sound at the end of the name Bach, as if you were gently clearing your throat. It looks like a fence or a gate: two posts with a roof, and no gap at the top.

Say it and move. Buzz like a bee: **Zayin! zahav!** Clear your throat gently: **Chet! chalon!** Make a window with your fingers and peek through it.

ACTIVITY

Noah's window

Make a window that opens on the ark, with a chet on the shutter and a dove behind it.

You will need

- Paper
- Crayons
- Tape
- Child-safe scissors (a parent helps)

Steps

1. Draw the ark. A parent cuts a flap for a window.
2. Write ח on the flap.
3. Behind the window, draw a white dove with a leaf.
4. Open the window and say chalon!
5. Color a golden zayin ז on the roof for zahav.

Tips

- Chet is closed at the top; he has a gap. Check your chet.

Check your work

☐ My window has a ח on the shutter.

☐ I can say chet with the throaty sound.

LETTER BOOK

1. Draw a gold crown and a parent writes ז and זָהָב.
2. Draw a window and a parent writes ח and חַלּוֹן.

> **From history.** Zayin became the Greek zeta and our letter Z; chet became the Greek eta and our letter H.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which is chet, and which is he? ח ה

▼ **Show solution**

1. Chet is closed on top.
2. He has a little gap at the top left.

Answer: ח (right) is chet; ה (left) is he.

Example 2. What does zahav mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It begins with zayin.

Answer: Gold.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Buzz the zayin sound.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Zzz.

2. Easy Say chet with the rough throat sound.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   KHAYT.

3. Easy What did Noah open after forty days?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The window of the ark.

4. Medium Point to zayin: ח ז ו

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ז, the middle letter.

5. Medium What does chalon mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Window.

6. Hard Tell how chet and he are different.

▼ **Show answer**

Chet is closed at the top; he has a gap at the top left.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying chet like ch in chair. It is a throaty kh, as in Bach.
- Mixing zayin ז and vav ו. Zayin has a cap that sticks out on both sides; vav has a little hook only on the left.

> **Make it a game · Bee and gate.** When the parent holds up ז, buzz around the room like a bee. When the parent holds up ח, stand still like a gate and say khhh. Mix in the earlier letters too.

> **Scripture.** "And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made:" (Genesis 8:6, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> וַיִּפְתַּח נֹחַ אֶת־חַלּוֹן הַתֵּבָה
>
> This verse is about Noah opening the window of the ark. Find the word chalon, window: it begins with chet, in the third word from the right.

UNIT 4 · IT IS GOOD · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

4.2 Tet: It Is Good

OBJECTIVES

- Point to tet and say its name.
- Say tov and tell what it means.
- Say the letters from alef to tet.

> **Warm-up.** Turn off the lights in the room and sit in the dark for a moment. Now turn them on! What can you see now? On the very first day, God said: Let there be light.

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; give a thumbs-up each time you hear tov.

Note: Aleph with Beth's easy Creation story in simple Hebrew with pictures; listen for tov, good.

BACKUP VIDEO

Genesis 1:4

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:04

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

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 1:4 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

ט tet (TAYT)

Sound: t. Picture: perhaps a basket or a wheel (no one is sure).

אוֹר or (OHR)

Light. It begins with alef.

טוֹב tov (TOHV)

Good.

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.

ט

tet

TAYT

letter

the letter tet: t

טוֹב

tov

TOHV

adjective

good

אוֹר

or

OHR

noun

light

CORE IDEAS

The story. In the beginning, the earth was dark. Then God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good. In Hebrew, good is טוֹב, tov, and it begins with tet. Again and again in Genesis 1, God looks at what He has made and sees that it is tov. At the end, He sees everything He made, and it is very good.

How Hebrew sounds. Tet says t. It looks like a round basket with its top edge curled inward. Say TAYT, then TOHV. Tov is a happy word: when something is good, say tov!

Say it and move. Give a thumbs-up: **Tov!** Spread your hands like the sun rising: **or!** (light). Say the nine letters so far, pointing to each card from right to left.

PICTURE STUDY



Among the Sierra Nevada, California, Albert Bierstadt, 1868 · Oil on canvas · Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Albert Bierstadt traveled into the mountains of the American West and painted them full of light. People who saw his huge paintings felt they were looking at a new world, fresh from God's hand.

Look closely

- Where is the light coming from?
- Find the waterfall.
- Find the deer. How many can you count?
- What is the lake reflecting?

Talk about it

1. Which part of this picture would God call tov?
2. How does the light change the mountains?

ACTIVITY

My tov book

Make a little book of good things God made, with a tet on the cover.

You will need

- Three sheets of paper folded in half and stapled
- Crayons
- Old magazines or stickers (optional)

Steps

1. A parent writes ט and טוֹב on the cover.
2. On each page draw one good thing God made: the sun, an animal, a tree, your family.
3. Read your book aloud, saying tov! on every page.

Tips

- Trace the ט on the cover slowly, starting at the top right.

Check your work

- ☐ My book has ט and טוֹב on the cover.
- ☐ I can say tov on every page.

LETTER BOOK

1. Draw the sun and a parent writes אוֹר (light).
2. Draw something good and a parent writes טוֹב.

> **From history.** Tet became the Greek theta. In Hebrew, tet and tav both say t today, but in Bible times they were said a little differently.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find tet: ז ט ח

▼ **Show solution**

1. Tet is round like a basket with its top curled in.

Answer: ט, the middle letter.

Example 2. God saw the light, that it was ___. Say it in Hebrew.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Think of a thumbs-up.

Answer: Tov (good).

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does tov mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Good.

2. Easy Say tet and tov.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   TAYT, TOHV.

3. Easy What did God make on the first day?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Light.

4. Medium Point to tet: ט ה ד

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ט, the first letter on the right.

5. Medium Which letter begins or (light)?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Alef.

6. Hard Say the letters from alef to tet.

▼ **Show answer**

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

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing tet ט with mem (later). Tet is round with its top curled inside.
- Forgetting the long o in tov. Say TOHV.

> **Make it a game · Tov or not tov?.** The parent names things: a sunny day, a broken toy, a kind word, a mud puddle on the carpet. Give a thumbs-up and say Tov! for the good ones, and shake your head for the others.

> **Scripture.** "And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness." (Genesis 1:4, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> וַיַּ֣רְא אֱלֹהִ֔ים אֶת־הָאֹ֖ור כִּי־טֹ֑וב
>
> On the first day God made light and saw that it was good. Find the word tov in the Hebrew: it is joined to a little word before it, kî-tov, that it was good.

UNIT 5

Hands That Praise

In Lesson 5.1 your child meets yod, the smallest Hebrew letter, which began as a picture of a hand, in יָד (yad, hand) and יוֹם (yom, day). Honthorst's painting of King David with his harp shows hands that praise God.

In Lesson 5.2 your child reviews all ten letters, alef to yod, and learns הַלְלוּ־יָהּ, hallelujah, praise the LORD. The quarter ends with a Hallelujah show for the family.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4: alef to tet.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can point to yod and say its name.
- ☐ I can say yad and yom.
- ☐ I can say all ten letters from alef to yod in order.
- ☐ I can say hallelujah and tell what it means.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**Yod the Hand**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
5.2	**Ten Letters and Hallelujah**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 5 review

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

1. **5 pts**
   Point to yod: אַ יִ וֹ
2. **5 pts**
   What does yad mean?
3. **5 pts**
   Say the ten letters from alef to yod.
4. **5 pts**
   What does hallelujah mean?

ANSWER KEY

1. י, the smallest one, in the middle.
2. Hand.
3. Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet, yod.
4. Praise the LORD (praise ye Yah).

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE HALLELUJAH SHOW

Lay the ten letter cards in a row on the floor from right to left. Walk along them, stepping beside each card and saying its name. When you reach yod, raise both hands and sing or shout Hallelujah! Then tell the family one word you learned for three of the letters (for example: alef, av; bet, bayit; tet, tov).

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	The child names all ten letters in order.
Words	The child gives a word for three of the letters.
Sounds	The ch of chet and the y of yod are clear.
Cheer	The child says everything out loud, with smiles.

UNIT 5 · HANDS THAT PRAISE · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

5.1 Yod the Hand

OBJECTIVES

- Point to yod and say its name.
- Say that yod began as a picture of a hand.
- Say yad (hand) and yom (day).

Warm-up. Hold up your hands. What can hands do? Clap, wave, help, hug, pray, make things. The Bible says God's hands made you. Today's letter began as a picture of a hand.

WATCH

Hebrew Worship - Psalm 134 תְּהִלִּים - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 3:55

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; lift up your hands when you hear the song.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 134 in Hebrew: lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:73

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:47

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

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:73 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

י yod (YOHD)

Sound: y as in yes. Picture: an arm and hand.

יוֹם yom (YOHM)

Day.

יָד yad (YAHD)

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.

י *yod* **YOHD** letter the letter yod: y as in yes	יָד *yad* **YAHD** noun hand	יוֹם *yom* **YOHM** noun day

CORE IDEAS

The story. King David wrote: Thy hands have made me and fashioned me. God made each person with care, the way a potter shapes a pot with his hands. David used his own hands to play the harp and praise God. The Hebrew word for hand, יָד, yad, begins with yod, and so does the word for day, יוֹם, yom: God made the first day.

How Hebrew sounds. Yod says y, as in yes. It is the smallest Hebrew letter, just a little hook that floats near the top of the line. Jesus said that not one jot shall pass from the law; the jot is the yod, the tiniest letter. Say YOHD, YAHD, YOHM.

Say it and move. Wave one hand: **Yod! yad!** Spread your arms like the sun coming up: **yom!**

PICTURE STUDY



King David Playing the Harp, Gerard van Honthorst, 1622 · Oil on canvas · Centraal Museum, Utrecht

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Gerard van Honthorst was a Dutch painter who loved strong light and dark shadows. He painted David close up, looking up to God as he sings, with his hand on the harp strings.

Look closely

- Where is David looking?
- Find his hand on the harp. What is it doing?
- What is on his head?
- Does David look like he is singing?

Talk about it

1. What do you think David is singing about?
2. How can you praise God with your hands?

ACTIVITY

Handprint yod

Make a handprint and turn it into a praise picture with a yod.

You will need

- Washable paint or a crayon to trace your hand
- Paper

Steps

1. Press a painted hand onto the paper, or trace around your hand.
2. A parent writes a small י on the palm and יָד underneath.
3. Draw a harp beside the hand.
4. Hold up your own hand and say yod, yad!

Tips

- Yod is tiny: keep it small, near the top of the line.

Check your work

☐ My handprint has a י and יָד.

☐ I can say yod and yad.

LETTER BOOK

1. Trace your hand on a new page and a parent writes יָד.
2. Draw the sun and a parent writes יוֹם (day).

> **From history.** Yod became the Greek iota, the smallest Greek letter, and that is why we still say “not one iota” or “not one jot” for the tiniest bit.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find the tiny yod: וִיד

▼ **Show solution**

1. Yod is the smallest letter.

Answer: ִ, the middle one.

Example 2. What does yom mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It begins with yod.

Answer: Day.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What picture did yod begin as?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A hand.

2. Easy Say yod and yad.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   YOHD, YAHD.

3. Easy What did David play?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The harp.

4. Medium Which letter is the smallest?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Yod.

5. Medium What does yom mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Day.

6. Hard Tell what Psalm 119:73 says God's hands did.

▼ **Show answer**

They made me and fashioned me.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing yod as big as the other letters. Yod is small and sits high.
- Mixing yod י and vav ו. Vav goes all the way down; yod stays up top.

> **Make it a game · Hand jive.** The parent says a Hebrew word: yad, yom, tov, bayit. For yad, wave your hand; for yom, spread your arms like the sun; for tov, thumbs-up; for bayit, make a roof. Go faster and faster.

> **Scripture.** "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments." (Psalm 119:73, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> יָדֶיךָ עָשׂוּנִי וַיְכוֹנְנוּנִי הֲבִינֵנִי וְאֶלְמְדָה מִצְוֹתֶיךָ׃
>
> This verse begins the yod part of Psalm 119. The first word, on the right, is yadeka, thy hands. Find the little yod at the very start.

5.2 Ten Letters and Hallelujah

OBJECTIVES

- Say the ten letters from alef to yod in order.
- Say hallelujah and tell what it means.
- Give a word for at least three letters.

> **Warm-up.** Clap your hands and sing any praise song you know. Have you ever heard the word hallelujah in church? It is a Hebrew word! Today you learn what it means.

WATCH

Hebrew Worship - Psalm 117 - הַלְלוּ אֶת־יהוה Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 1:47

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the review; sing along and raise your hands at hallelujah.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 117, the shortest psalm, which begins and ends with hallelujah.

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

הַלְלוּיָהּ hallelujah (hah-leh-loo-YAH)

Praise ye the LORD: hallelu means "praise!" and Yah is a short form of God's name.

alef-bet

The Hebrew alphabet, named after its first two letters.

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.

הַלְלוּיָהּ

hallelujah

hah-leh-loo-YAH

phrase

praise ye the LORD

ENGLISH hallelujah

יוֹם

yom

YOHM

noun

day

טוֹב

tov

TOHV

adjective

good

בַּיִת

bayit

BAH-yeet

noun

house

CORE IDEAS

The story. The very last psalm in the Bible ends with these words: Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. In Hebrew, the last words are הַלְלוּ־יָהּ, hallelujah. Christians all over the world still sing hallelujah in Hebrew, the same word David and the singers in the temple used. Now you know ten Hebrew letters, and you can find some of them in that word.

How Hebrew sounds. Hallelujah: hah-leh-loo-YAH. It begins with he, the letter of Behold!, and ends with yod and he, Yah. In between are lameds and a vav, which you will meet next year.

Say it and move. Lay the ten cards in a row from right to left and point as you say: **alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he, vav, zayin, chet, tet, yod**. Then raise both hands: **Hallelujah!**

ACTIVITY

Ten-letter praise banner

Make a banner with your ten letters and hallelujah.

You will need

- A long strip of paper (or several taped together)
- Crayons or markers
- String and tape

Steps

1. A parent writes the ten letters across the strip from right to left: א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י.
2. Color each letter and draw its little picture underneath: ox, house, camel, door, “look!”, peg, gold, window, good, hand.
3. A parent writes הַלְלוּ־יָהּ in big letters at the bottom.
4. Hang the banner and sing hallelujah under it.

Tips

- Start on the right!

Check your work

☐ My banner has all ten letters in order from right to left.

☐ I can say all ten and hallelujah.

LETTER BOOK

1. On the last page, a parent writes הַלְלוּ־יָהּ. Find the he and the yod in it and color them.
2. Draw yourself praising God.

> **From history.** The word alphabet comes from alpha and beta, the Greek names for alef and bet. Hebrew speakers call their alphabet the alef-bet in the same way.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which letter comes after tet?

▼ **Show solution**

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

Answer: Yod.

Example 2. Find the yod and the last he in הַלְלוּ־יָהּ.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Start on the right; the end is on the left.
2. Yod is tiny; he has a gap at the top.

Answer: At the left end: יָהּ, yod then he.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does hallelujah mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Praise ye the LORD.

2. Easy Say the first five letters.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Alef, bet, gimel, dalet, he.

3. Easy Which letter is the house?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Bet.

4. Medium Say the last five of your ten letters.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Vav, zayin, chet, tet, yod.

5. Medium Give a word that begins with tet.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Tov, good.

6. Hard Say all ten letters without looking.

▼ **Show answer**

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

COMMON MISTAKES

- Skipping zayin or chet in the middle of the list. Practice the middle: vav, zayin, chet.
- Saying hallelujah from the left. Hebrew words start on the right.

> **Make it a game · Letter line-up.** Mix up the ten cards. Race the timer to put them back in order from right to left. Then the parent takes one card away while you close your eyes: which letter is missing?

> **Scripture.** “Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.” (Psalm 150:6, KJV)
>
> In Hebrew, from the Leningrad Codex:
>
> כֹּל הַנְּשָׁמָה תְּהַלֵּל יָהּ הַלְלוּ־יָהּ
>
> This is the very last verse of the book of Psalms. Its last word, on the left, is hallelujah: praise ye the LORD.