



HEBREW HANDBOOK

For Studying & Reading the
Hebrew Language

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LANGUAGES

Hebrew Handbook

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Scripture taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB).

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About this book

- This booklet is designed to be tucked in a notebook and/or Bible to keep information easily accessible while reading and studying your Hebrew Bible.
- It contains all the information you need to be able to read and pronounce the Hebrew language.
(so you **don't** have to remember all this information since it is all **here** in this handy little book)
- The underlined ch is always pronounced in the back of throat, like a hissing cat noise.

How to print this booklet

These instructions should work for all printers.

Go into your printer settings and select:

- 1. Print all pages**
- 2. Booklet, side fold**
- 3. Letter**
- 4. Print on both sides - Flip on short side**
(select flip on both sides even on manual)

Hebrew Consonants

Alephbeit

/ah-lef bate/

Here is the Hebrew Alephbeit. The name, pronunciation of the name, and letter sound are under each consonant. This chart reads from right to left, just like Hebrew reads.



ה ד ג ב ב א

Hey Dalet Gimel Veit Beit Aleph

hay dah-let gih-mole vate bate ah-lef

/h/ /d/ /g/ /v/ /b/ /silent/

כ י ט ח ז ו

Kaf Yod Teit Cheit Zayin Vav

coff yode tate chate zy-in vahu

/k/ /y/ /t/ /ch/ /z/ /v/

ע ס נ מ ל כ

Ayin Samech Nun Meim Lamed Khaf

eye-in sah-mech noon maym lah-med choff

/guttural g/ /s/ /n/ /m/ // /ch/

Here is an example similar to how I do a word study. I like this structure but as you study yourself, you'll find a method that best fits you.

שלום **shalom** /shaw-lome/

Root word and meaning: (Shalem) שלם

Draw out, complete, restore or make right through payment/restitution, recompense, restore, amend, etc

Letter pictures: teeth, staff/rod, hook/nail, water

Deeper meaning: whole, full, health, finish, perform, rest, prosperity, safety, happy, perfect, just, greeting

Strong's number: H7999

Similar words and/or numbers: H8001, H8002, H8003

Scripture passages: Judges 6:23; Numbers 6:24-26; 1 Samuel 16:4-5; Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 119:165;

Notes and thoughts: Shalom can be used as a greeting to say "hello" or "goodbye". The letter Meim can mean chaos, so one of my understandings of the meaning of this word is to draw out chaos.

It also wasn't just to wish someone a lack of war, but also "to make something whole". Not just regarding physical things like possessions, but in mind and body as well. It also means to pay or restore which also implies 'peace' in our relationships with others.

Ways I can practice shalom: By obeying and meditating on His word - keeping my mind "stayed" on Him (Is. 26:3).

How to do a word study

One way to study Hebrew more in depth is by pulling apart a word or passage. By taking apart every letter in a word, we grasp a deeper understanding of its meaning than what we can see in English.

Things to have handy:

- ◇ This book
- ◇ Hebrew Bible
- ◇ Notebook and pen
- ◇ Hebrew lexicon or Strong's concordance

1. Pick the passage or word(s) you want to study.
2. Using this book as a guide, write down all the letter meanings. Put the meanings of the letters together to form a deeper interpretation of the word/passage in Hebrew.

At this time, I look up the root word in a Hebrew dictionary or lexicon and write down what it means as well.

(In a Hebrew word, the first two letters have a meaning by themselves and so do the last two letters. By putting them together, we get a deeper meaning of the word.)

3. Look up the word in English a Strong's concordance. Write down an thing you'd like to make note of.
4. Write out thoughts/application and/or add more passages or words with similar meanings.



שׁ	ר	ק	צ	פ	פּ
Shin	Reish	Koph	Tsade	Fey	Pey
sheen	raysh	kofe	tsah-dee	fay	pay
/sh/	/guttural r/	/k/	/ts/	/f/	/p/
				ת	שׂ
				Tav	Sin
				tahv	seen
				/t/	/s/

Sofit/Final forms

A handful of Hebrew letters take a different form when they appear at the end of a word. These are called Sofit or Final form. Read them below.

ץ	ף	ן	ם	ך
Tsade	Fey	Nun	Meim	Khaf
sofit	sofit	sofit	sofit	sofit
tsade	fay	noon	maym	<u>Ch</u> off
so-feet	so-feet	so-feet	so-feet	so-feet
/ts/	/f/	/n/	/m/	/ch/

Hebrew Vowels

Nekudot

/neh-koo-dote/

Here are the Hebrew vowels. The name, sound, and an English word that has the same sound in it are under each vowel. Most of the vowels have the sound of its vowel found in its name. It will be shown as the underlined part of the name. The Aleph represents any Hebrew consonant, it is just the letter I am using for an example. Some vowels don't always follow all the vowel rules, so be on the lookout for the couple that don't

אֲ

Tsere

/ay/

(bay)

אֱ

Segol

/eh/

(pet)

אָ

Kamets

/aw/

(Father)

אִ

Patach

/ah/

(olive)

אָ

Cholem

/oh/

(know)

אִ

Kibuts

/oo/

(book)

אֵ

Chirek

/ih/

(igloo)

Vav and Yod as vowels

Sometimes the letter Vav can act as a vowel. When it is acting as a vowel, it does NOT make the Vav consonant sound /v/ but it makes the vowel sound instead.

Below is Genesis 1:1 in Hebrew. You can see the accents in this verse and what they look like next to the vowels. When an accent is placed in a word, the place where it is placed is the syllable you emphasize when reading.

For example, the first word in this passage is "Beresheet" /bear-ay-sheet/. The accent is placed under the Shin, so the last syllable would be emphasized as "B'resheet".

It is most common that the accent/emphasis of a Hebrew word be on the last syllable of the word.

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת
הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

The two dots at the end of the verse is called a Sof Pasuk and indicates the end of a verse, like a period in English.

As you read your Hebrew Bible, you may also find the letter Fey placed after some verses. This is a paragraph mark and marks the end of a paragraph. Here is an example of that using Genesis 1:8 in Hebrew.

וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְרָקִיעַ שָׁמַיִם
וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם שֵׁנִי: פ

Tips & Helps

Reading & Studying your Hebrew Bible

Once you know all your consonants, vowels, and meaning of each letter, here are some tips to help you actually start reading and studying Hebrew.

How to read in Hebrew

When reading in Hebrew, remember it reads right to left (opposite of English).

Pronounce the consonant sound first, and then the vowel sound.

For example, the word for Hello (also goodbye and peace) in Hebrew is Shalom /shaw-lome/.

First you pronounce the /sh/ sound that Shin makes with the /aw/ sound the Kamets makes after it.

שלום

Shalom

ש+ל+ום

Sh - aw - l-oh - m



Cantillation (Accents) and other markings

In your Hebrew Bible, there are accents next to the vowels. Here are what some of them look like:



אוי

Cholem Yod

/oy/

(boy)

או

Shurek

/ooH/

(true)

או

Cholem Vav

/oh/

(know)

When a Yod is placed beside a consonant with a vowel underneath it, it changes the vowel sound. These are the vowels that a Yod can attach to.

אוי

Cholem Yod

/oy/

(boy)

אוי

Patach Yod

/igh/

(high)

אוי

Tsere Yod

/ay/

(bay)

אוי

Chirek Yod

/eel/

(tree)

The Sheva and Sheva rules

*The Sheva sound is the smallest sound you can make with the consonant sound. When a Sheva is placed next to a vowel, it shortens that vowel sound. Some call these "half vowels" since they are a shorter than normal vowel sounds.

אוי

Chateph

Segol

/short eh/

אוי

Chateph

Patach

/short ah/

אוי

Chateph

Kamets

/long oh/

אוי

Sheva

/*/

Hebrew Alephbeit Pictures

Ancient Print & Pictures/Meaning

Every letter in Hebrew represents a picture and has a deeper meaning in accordance with their picture. Here are all the letters in their Ancient form and the meanings of the letters to help you better understand the meaning of each letter better. These help us study scripture in a depth greater than what we can understand in English.



Door Path, enter, hang, needy, weak, move	Foot/Camel Walk, carry, gather, benefit, pride, arise	House/Tent Family, inside, dwelling, in, within	Ox head Leader, power, strength, first, master
Fence Outside, divide, enclose, wall, protect	Sword/Axe Food, armed, nourish, cut, harvest	Hook/Nail Secure, spear, add, unity, connection	Raised arms Look, behold, breathe, reveal, window

Staff/Rod Authority, yoke, bind, control, train, teach	Palm Bend, curve, hand, bowl, open, allow	Arm/Hand Throw, deed, work, praise, create, worship	Basket/Snake Mud, clay, store, surround, contain
Eye Fountain, spring, know, watch, see	Thorn Spike, pierce, shield, support, sharpen, grab	Seed sprout Son, offspring, continue, life, fish, multiply	Water Chaos, liquid, ocean, blood, mighty, people
Head Beginning, top, first, highest, chief, captain	Sun on horizon Season, circle, time, gather, revolve, cover	Fishhook Righteous, hunt, trap, chase, catch	Mouth Speak, blow, edge, portion, opening, breath
	Crossed sticks Mark, sign, cross, border, sea, covenant	Teeth Sharpen, cut, eat, change, press, two, both, again	