

STUDY GUIDE

ספר עזר

Teaching Hebrew / גישה חדשה
a New Approach להוראת השפה העברית

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<u>VOWELS</u>			<u>התנועות</u>		
<u>SHORT VOWELS</u>			<u>LONG VOWELS</u>		
<u>pronunciation</u>	<u>name</u>	<u>sign</u>	<u>sign</u>	<u>name</u>	<u>pronunciation</u>
a as in card	פֶּתַח	⌘	⌘	פֶּתַח	a as in card
e as in pen	סֶגוּל	⌘	⌘	צִירָה	e as in they
i as in sit	חִירִיק	⌘	⌘	חִירִיק מְלֵא	ee as in feet
oo as in soon	קֶבֶץ	⌘	⌘	שׁוּבָה	oo as in soon
o as in cord	קֶסֶף	⌘	⌘	חֹלֶם	o as in cord

At present, the difference between the long and short vowels does not represent a significant difference in pronunciation. However, the knowledge of the division between long and short vowels will be of help in clarifying certain grammatical phenomena.

THE COMPOSITE אָרְשׁ

In order to facilitate the pronunciation of the mobile אָרְשׁ (אָרְשׁ אָרְשׁ) when it comes under a guttural letter (א, ב, ג, ד) the mobile אָרְשׁ (אָרְשׁ אָרְשׁ) is supplemented by an auxiliary vowel, either אָ, אָ or אָ yielding a composite

אָרְשׁ: אָרְשׁ, אָרְשׁ, אָרְשׁ

<u>sign</u>	<u>name</u>
G*	אָרְשׁ-אָרְשׁ
G*	אָרְשׁ-אָרְשׁ
G*	אָרְשׁ-אָרְשׁ

The "G" and "G" are pronounced practically like a regular "G" and "G". However, in the case of G, it is pronounced like אָרְשׁ אָרְשׁ "ô" as the "o" in "cord". Also note that any אָרְשׁ preceding a אָרְשׁ-אָרְשׁ is pronounced like a אָרְשׁ אָרְשׁ: אָרְשׁ אָרְשׁ Tsôhôrayim.

* G refers to any guttural letter א, ב, ג, ד

THE ׁ

A dot placed in a consonant is called a ׁ

The two types of ׁ are:

1. ׁ, Light ׁ

It comes only in the consonants ב, ג, ד, כ, פ, ת.

Originally the ׁ indicated a change in pronunciation. In modern Sephardi Hebrew the ׁ affects the pronunciation only of the consonants ב, כ, פ. The ת, ד, ג are pronounced the same with or without the ׁ. When the consonants אבגדהוז טכפתצקא come at the beginning of a word or syllable, a ׁ is placed in them (only if preceded by a closed syllable*)

e.g., אִבְרָהִם, אִתְּכֶם, אִתְּלֶם. The use of the ׁ or its absence is solely phonetic and does not change the meaning.

2. ׂ, Strong ׁ

It may come in any consonant except ו, ח, ה, ר and ל-- either to compensate for a missing letter (somewhat akin to an apostrophe in a contraction in English), e.g., אִבְרָהִם for אִבְרָהִם, or to indicate a doubling of the consonant e.g., אִתְּכֶם really stands for אִתְּכֶם consisting of a closed syllable and an open one.

Note: a) אִבְרָהִם or a ׁ follows every short vowel.
 b) No ׁ ever appears in a guttural.
 c) ׁ does not appear after long vowels nor after a וֹ אִבְרָהִם

* A closed syllable is one which ends in a vowel-less consonant. An open syllable is one which ends in a consonant + vowel.

PRONUNCIATIONתּוֹרַת

There are two main systems of pronunciation of Hebrew: The Ashkenazi or German, which originated among Central and East European Jews and was carried to all countries to which these Jews have emigrated; and the Sephardi or Spanish, used by Jews of Spanish and Portuguese origin living in Europe and America and by Jews in Middle Eastern countries. In Israel, and in universities throughout the world, the Sephardi pronunciation has been adopted and will be used in this course.

VOCALIZATION OR POINTINGתּוֹרַת

The various signs used to indicate the vowels, the וַיִּשְׁמַע and the distinction between ו' and וּ are collectively called תּוֹרַת or in English, pointing or vocalization. Except for poetry, the Bible, children's literature and books for beginners, these aids to reading are usually omitted. The knowledge of the structure of the language and its various patterns is what helps the reader to make sense of a basically vowel-less text.

VOWEL LETTERSתּוֹרַת תּוֹרַת

The letters ו,י,ה,א are sometimes employed as vowels to facilitate the pronunciation. If they follow a vowel and are not themselves vocalized, they are considered vowel letters and part of the preceding vowel, e.g., וַיִּשְׁמַע, וַיִּשְׁמַע, וַיִּשְׁמַע, וַיִּשְׁמַע.

In each of these four examples the syllable with ר, ג, ה, א is an open syllable i.e., a syllable ending in a vowel (see below).

The letters "ר" and "ג" are often inserted in unpointed writing (even in places where classical Hebrew calls for the vowel signs only—and not the vowel letters).

Thus the word קָוָה may appear unpointed as קוּוּה

It is furthermore usual in unpointed writing to write the consonants ב and ג as בּ and גּ so as to distinguish them from the vowels. In Israel there is no consistency in this. In this text we shall use vocalized or pointed writing only.

SYLLABLES

הַרְוֹה

Each vowel combined with one or more consonants forms a syllable, e.g., לֹו, אִישׁ, אֶיךָ . Each of these words is composed of one syllable. In the words $\text{בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ, בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ, בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ}$ there is more than one syllable. The number of syllables in a word is determined by the number of its vowels. The אֵשׁ and composite vowels are not regarded as vowels, and are not taken into account in the number of syllables.

A syllable that is formed by a vowelless consonant followed by a vowel-less consonant or נָשׂוּא (e.g., קִצְחָק or לֵי) is a closed syllable. The Hebrew syllable formed by a consonant and a vowel following that consonant is an open syllable, e.g., אֶיךָ, אֵשׁ

