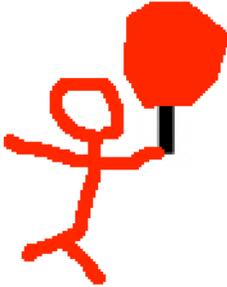


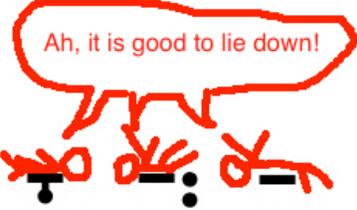
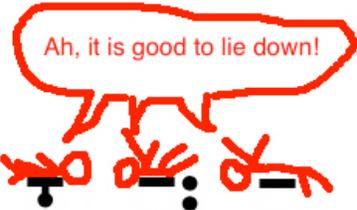
A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Dagesh (דָּגֶשׁ)—but a dot in a He’ is a Mapik (מַפִּיק)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ךְ</p>	<p>1. ב, כ, and פ each make a sound that cannot be held—as opposed to the sounds of בּ, כּ, and פּ.</p> <p>2. הּ (Heh with Mapik, which looks like Dagesh) sounds like the “h” in “hi.”</p> <p>3. For all other letters, ignore.</p> <p>Example: כְּאִוּיָּהּ = <i>ke’ivu-YAH</i></p>	<p>A <i>Dagesh</i> looks like a dot.</p>
<p>Meteg (מֶתֵג)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ךְ</p>	<p>A mark that tells us that a syllable should be more stressed than other syllables in the word.</p> <p>Example: מְקַצֵּרֶת = <i>meku-TZE-ret</i></p>	<p>A <i>Meteg</i> looks like the bottom of a stop sign being held by a stressed stop-sign-holder telling you to slow down for the stress(ed syllable).</p> 

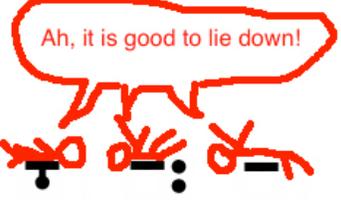
A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Sheva Nach (שְׁוָא נָח)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">׀</p>	<p>No vowel sound. (Just say the consonant as if no vowel were beneath it.)</p> <p>Example: סִפְרוּ = <i>sif-RO</i></p> <p>In this packet, we always put a line above a <i>Sheva Na</i> to make distinct-looking any <i>Sheva</i> that makes a sound. Example: וּבְשִׁכְחֶךָ = <i>uvshokhbe-KHA</i>.</p>	<p>The <i>Sheva Nach</i> makes the sound that you might make when you are silent, and the <i>Sheva Na</i> makes the sound of you saying a really short “Eh” after someone asks you for your opinion about something you disliked. Either way, the <i>Sheva</i> looks like the developing bubbles before the thought bubble rises, helping you figure out how to respond.</p> 

A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Chataf Patach (חֵטף־פְּתָח)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">אֶ</p>	<p>Pronounced most commonly like the “ah” in “Ah, it is good to lie down” or the “a” in “father.”</p> <p>Example: אֱלֹהִים = A-LEH</p>	<p>The <i>Kamatz Gadol</i>, the <i>Chataf Patach</i>, and the <i>Patach</i> all have a flat line at the top on which somebody could lie down to rest and say, “Ah, it is good to lie down!”</p> 
<p>Patach (פְּתָח)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">אֲ</p>	<p>Pronounced most commonly like the “ah” in “Ah, it is good to lie down” or the “a” in “father.”</p> <p>Example: הָלַךְ = ha-LAKH</p>	<p>The <i>Kamatz Gadol</i>, the <i>Chataf Patach</i>, and the <i>Patach</i> all have a flat line at the top on which somebody could lie down to rest and say, “Ah, it is good to lie down!”</p> 

A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Qamatz Gadol (קָמֶץ גָּדוֹל)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ךְ</p>	<p>Pronounced most commonly like the “ah” in “Ah, it is good to lie down” or the “a” in “father.”</p> <p>Example: הַלַּךְ = <i>ha-LAKH</i></p>	<p>The <i>Kamatz Gadol</i>, the <i>Chataf Patach</i>, and the <i>Patach</i> all have a flat line at the top on which somebody could lie down to rest and say, “Ah, it is good to lie down!”</p> 

A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Sheva Na (שְׁוָא נָע) (ultra-short)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ךְ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in “den.”</p> <p>Example: מְקַצֵּרֶת = <i>m^equtz-TZE-ret</i></p>	<p>The <i>Sheva Nach</i> makes the sound that you might make when you are silent, and the <i>Sheva Na</i> makes the sound of you saying a really short “Eh” after someone asks you for your opinion about something you disliked. Either way, the <i>Sheva</i> looks like the developing bubbles before the thought bubble rises, helping you figure out how to respond.</p> 

A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Chataf Segol (חֶטֶף-סֶגוֹל)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">אֵ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in “den.”</p> <p>Example: חֶטֶף זַיִר = <i>heche-ZIR</i></p>	<p><i>Chataf Segol</i> is pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in the word “petals,” and a <i>Chataf Segol</i> also looks like a bunch of petals (technically five petals):</p> 
<p>Segol (סֶגוֹל)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ֵ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in “den.”</p> <p>Example: זַיִר = <i>heche-ZIR</i></p>	<p><i>Segol</i> is pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in the word “petals,” and a <i>Segol</i> also looks like the petals of a three-petaled flower.</p> 

A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Tzeyrey (צִירֵי)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">׀</p>	<p>Pronounced pretty close to the “ey” in “hey” and possibly even more closely to the “eh” in “It’s a sunny day, eh?”</p> <p>Example: דְּבַר = <i>di-BER</i></p>	<p><i>Tzeyrey</i> looks like two heads of people meeting up, and one of them (probably now living in New Jersey but originally from Brooklyn) says, “Ey! ‘Ow’s it goin’?”</p> 
<p>Chirik (not followed immediately by a Yod without a vowel) (חִירִיק)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">׀</p>	<p>Usually pronounced like the “ee” in “green.” (We’ll transliterate it as <i>i</i>.)</p> <p>Example: בִּתּוֹ = <i>bi-TO</i></p>	<p><i>Chirik</i> is just one teeny weeny dot beneath a letter and makes the sound of “ee” in “green.”</p>
<p>Chirik (immediately followed by a vowel-less Yod) (long) (חִירִיק)</p> <p>׀</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “ee” in “green.” (We’ll transliterate it as <i>i</i>.)</p> <p>Example: דִּין = <i>DIN</i></p>	<p><i>Chirik</i> is just one teeny weeny dot beneath a letter and makes the sound of “ee” in “green.”</p>

A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Chataf Qamatz (ultra-short) (חֶטֶף-קָמָץ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">אָ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: לֶמְחֶרֶת = <i>lemocho-RAT</i></p>	<p><i>Kamatz Katan</i> (either with an elongated bot-tom line or looking the same as a <i>Kamatz Gadol</i>) and <i>Chataf Kamatz</i> have flat lines like the “ah” vowels (<i>Chataf Patach</i>, <i>Patach</i>, and <i>Kamatz Gadol</i>). <i>Chataf Kamatz</i> looks like a <i>Kamatz</i> next to a <i>Sheva</i>. <i>Kamatz Katan</i> and <i>Chataf Kamatz</i> both make an “oh” sound.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Qamatz Katan (קָמֶץ קָטָן)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">אָ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: לְמַחֲרַת = <i>lemocho-RAT</i></p>	<p><i>Kamatz Katan</i> (either with an elongated bottom line or looking the same as a <i>Kamatz Gadol</i>) and <i>Chataf Kamatz</i> have flat lines like the “ah” vowels (<i>Chataf Patach</i>, <i>Patach</i>, and <i>Kamatz Gadol</i>). <i>Chataf Kamatz</i> looks like a <i>Kamatz</i> next to a <i>Sheva</i>. <i>Kamatz Katan</i> and <i>Chataf Kamatz</i> both make an “oh” sound.</p> 
<p>Cholam (חֹלָם) (above and to the left of a consonant)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">וֹ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: כֹּחַ = <i>KO-ach</i></p>	<p><i>Cholam</i> is a dot over a letter that makes the sound of the “o” in “oh.”</p>

A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Cholam (חֹלָם) (over a Vav and immediately after a consonant with no vowel over or beneath it)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">וֹ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: יֹרְדִים = <i>yore-DIM</i></p>	<p><i>Cholam</i> is a dot over a letter that makes the sound of the “o” in “oh.”</p>

A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Kubutz (קבוץ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">רֿ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “u” in “lucid” or the “oo” in “boot.”</p> <p>Example: מְקַצֵּרֶת = <i>meku-TZE-ret</i></p>	<p><i>Kubutz</i> is the sound of people who are impressed by a baseball getting knocked out of the ball-park: “Ooooh!!!” It also looks like the baseball getting knocked out of the ballpark:</p>  <p>See also:</p>  <p>Or dangerously:</p> 

A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Shuruk (שׁוּרוּק)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">וּ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “u” in “lucid” or the “oo” in “boot.”</p> <p>Example: מוֹם = <i>MUM</i></p>	<p><i>Shuruk</i> is a vowel that makes the sound of the “oo” in “boo” or the “ough” in “through;” <i>Shuruk</i> has a dot that runs through a <i>Vav</i>.</p>

Many thanks to my awesome spouse Rabbi Dr. Raysh Weiss and my excellent mother Ellen Rank for many of these mnemonics. Some of these are my own too!