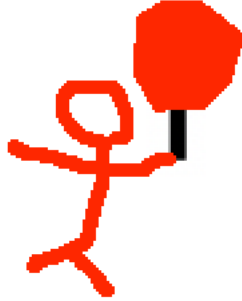



Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Dāgēsh (דָּגֵשׁ)—but a dot in a He’ is a Mappiq (מִפְּיָק)</p> <p>ךְ</p>	<p>1. ב, ג, ד, ה, ו, ז, ח, ט, and sometimes י make sounds that can’t be held—unlike the ancient sounds of ב, ג, ד, ה, ו, ז, ח, ט, and י. 2. ה (with a <i>Mappiq</i>, which looks like a <i>Dāgēsh</i>) sounds like the “h” in “hi.” 3. People used to lengthen or to double the sound of all other letters with <i>Dāgēsh</i> (even י sometimes). (י with a vowel over or under it or immediately to its left has a <i>Dāgēsh</i>; י is otherwise a vowel.)</p> <p>Example: קֵינְוִי־יָאֵחַ = <i>kē’ivvū-YĀH</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NOWADAYS</p> <p>It is extremely common today to pronounce a ג as a א; a ד as a ה; and a ה as a ו. It is also very common today to pronounce ה as ו (and—because ה can only come as the last letter of a word—many people do not pronounce ה at all since ה with no vowel beneath it at the end of the word is silent). It is rather uncommon for anybody to lengthen or to double the sound of a letter in which a <i>Dāgēsh</i> may be found. There are also many folks who still make these distinctions and keep these little things alive.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHAT ABOUT VAV?</p> <p>ו is just a vowel or is a consonant with a <i>Dāgēsh</i>. VOWEL: ו is a <i>shūrūq</i> vowel a) if the ו has no vowel under or over it and doesn’t come right before a ו vowel or <i>shūrūq</i>; and b) if the ו is either the 1st letter of a word or right after a consonant that has no vowel under or over it. CONSONANT: The consonant ו—always has a vowel a) under or over it or b) immediately to its left.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LET’S TALK ABOUT RĒYSH IN SOCIETY—THEN & NOW</p> <p>The most popular theory goes a little like this: Hebrew used to have a commonly doubled or lengthened ר (or at least some letter that sounded a little bit like ר but was a ר), and nobody ever batted an eye. (How was ר pronounced? I’ll let you imagine that one!) The ר is still remembered—but rarely and with no consistency—in the Masoretic Text, which is the now-standard Hebrew text of the Hebrew Bible. (The Septuagint—the Greek translation of the Torah—transliterates the name of Sarah—רַרְרָה as Σάρρα, which sounds something like “<i>SARH-ra</i>.”) Over time, the whole ר thing got to be too much for some reason, and we have very little remaining evidence that this ר ever was such a common thing in Hebrew. It is, by the way, often unclear whether the dot in the ר is a <i>Dāgēsh Qal</i> (which distinguishes a ב from a ב, a ג from a ג; a ד from a ד; a ה from a ה, and a ו from a ו), a <i>Dāgēsh Chāzāq</i> (which lengthens a consonant), or something else. (And what this dot is might depend on the individual words in which the ר is found). Either way, ר has nearly gone the way of one of the mightiest of birds: the dodo.</p>	<p>A <i>Dāgēsh</i> looks like a dot.</p>

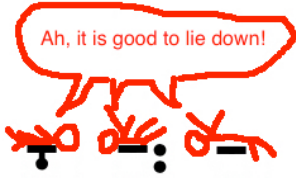
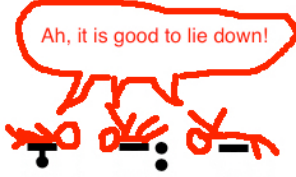
Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Meteg (מֵטֵג)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">⋈</p>	<p>No vowel sound; a mark in the <i>TaNaKh</i> (the Hebrew Bible) telling us on what syllable a word's stress falls.</p> <p>Example: מִקְצֵרֶת = <i>m^equtz-TZE-ret</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ORIGINALLY</p> <p>In the <i>TaNaKh</i> (the Hebrew Bible), the <i>Meteg</i> can serve a few different purposes. I. A <i>Meteg</i> often appears beneath a letter to indicate that the syllable that that letter begins is an accented syllable (but not the most heavily accented syllable—but rather a secondary or even a tertiary accent). Example: מְצַבְּחֵם = <i>m^eẓv^eḥ^e-TĀM</i> (and note that when a <i>Meteg</i> is on the same word as the Torah reading mark of <i>Silluq</i>—as is the case with the word מְצַבְּחֵם—the second vertical mark—which looks identical to a <i>Meteg</i>—is the <i>Silluq</i>, and the first one is a <i>Meteg</i>). II. A <i>Meteg</i> next to a <i>Qāmātz</i> (and beneath the same letter as the <i>Qāmātz</i>) indicates that the <i>Qāmātz</i> is a <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i>. Example: זָכְרָהּ = <i>zākh^e-RĀH</i>. III. In a few rare cases, if a <i>Meteg</i> appears under a letter with a short vowel that is both followed immediately by a letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> and as part of a word that would typically be spelled with a long vowel, the <i>Meteg</i> makes the short vowel be pronounced as a long vowel (and the <i>Sh^evā'</i> becomes a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>). (Applying this rule requires some knowledge of Hebrew vocabulary.) Examples: וַיִּשְׁרֹט = <i>vayy^eṣr^e-SHŪ</i>; גְּנֻבָּהּ = <i>g^enūv^e-TĪ</i>. IV: If a <i>Meteg</i> appears underneath a definite article prefix and the letter after the definite article prefix is a letter without a <i>dāgēsh</i> but with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> beneath it, the <i>Sh^evā'</i> beneath the letter immediately after the definite article prefix is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. (Applying this rule requires some knowledge of Hebrew vocabulary.) Example: בְּמִסְלָהּ = <i>bam^esil-LĀ^H</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BEYOND THE BIBLE</p> <p>If a <i>Meteg</i> appears outside of the <i>TaNaKh</i>, it almost exclusively is placed beneath the letter that starts the most heavily stressed syllable of a word. In Hebrew, most words are stressed on their last syllable, and many books place—in words where the most stressed syllable of a word is not where one might expect—a <i>Meteg</i> beneath the first letter of the most stressed syllable.</p> <p>Example: רִצְוּ = <i>RŪ-tzū</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> 

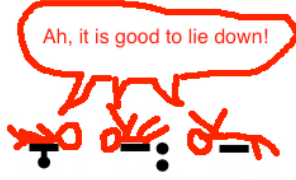
Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Sh^evā' Nāch (שָׁוֹן נָח) ("ultra-short")</p> <p>?</p> <p>Example: סִיפּוֹ = <i>sif-RÖ</i></p>	<p>No vowel sound. (Just say the consonant as if no vowel were beneath it.)</p>	<p>THE WAY WE DO THINGS: In this packet, we usually put a line above a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> to make distinct-looking any <i>Sh^evā'</i> that makes a sound. Example: שְׁוֹןִי = <i>uvshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>.</p> <p>THE RULES:</p> <p>1. Without exception—a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under the last letter with a vowel in a single word is always a <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i> (and a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under the letter immediately before a last letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under it is also a <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i>). Examples: שְׁוֹןִי = <i>vay-YĒSHT</i>; שְׁוֹןִי = <i>vay-YAR</i>. 2. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> beneath a letter that is the same as the letter that comes right after it is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: הַלֵּוֹ = <i>hal^e-LŪ</i>. 3. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> if it comes right after any "long" vowel (and an 'alef[א] with no vowel beneath or above it coming between the long vowel and the consonant with the <i>Sh^evā'</i> still keeps the <i>Sh^evā'</i> a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>). Examples: הַדָּשָׁן = <i>'āy^e-DĀ^H</i>; הַתְּשִׁיבָה = <i>tzē^e-t^e-KHĀ</i>; הַתְּשִׁיבָה = <i>tzīq^e-LĀG</i>; הַתְּשִׁיבָה = <i>yōr^e-DŌT</i>; הַתְּשִׁיבָה = <i>tzōr^e-FĀM</i>; הַתְּשִׁיבָה-לְכָל-תָּא = <i>'et-kol-g^evūl^e-KHA</i>. 4. If a word's 1st consonant has a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under it, then the vowel is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: הַלֵּוֹ = <i>v^e-LŌ'</i>. 5. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> under any letter (except for a word's final letter) with a <i>dāgēsh</i> in it, is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: הַמְּלִיכָה = <i>hamm^elā-KHĪM</i>. 6. If a letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> beneath it appears immediately before another letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> beneath it, the 2nd consecutive <i>Sh^evā'</i> (as long as it is not in the word's last letter) is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: הַמַּחֲשֵׁבָה = <i>mach-sh^evā^e-TĀM</i>. 7. Rarely and only in the Hebrew Bible: if a <i>Meteg</i> appears under a letter with a short vowel that is both followed immediately by a letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> and as part of a word that would typically be spelled with a long vowel, the <i>Meteg</i> makes us pronounce the short vowel as a long vowel, and the <i>Sh^evā'</i> becomes a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. (Applying this rule requires knowing many Hebrew words.) Examples: הַשְׁוֹןִי = <i>vayy^evā^e-SHŪ</i>; הַשְׁוֹןִי = <i>g^enūy^e-TĪ</i>. 8. In the <i>TaNakh</i>: if a <i>Meteg</i> is under a definite-article-prefix (הַ, הַ, הַ, הַ, הַ, or הַ) and the letter immediately after said prefix has a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under it, the <i>Sh^evā'</i> is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. (Applying this rule requires knowing some Hebrew grammar.) Examples: הַבְּמִסְכָּה = <i>bamm^esil-LĀ^H</i>; הַבְּמִסְכָּה = <i>yamm^ena'a-FĪM</i>. 9. If a long vowel comes immediately before the <i>Sh^evā'</i>'s consonant, and if this long-vowel-with-<i>Sh^evā'</i> combination is the most accented syllable of a word, and if this most accented syllable of a word is the syllable that would be most stressed if the word were followed by a multisyllabic word accented on its last syllable—the <i>Sh^evā'</i> is a <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i>. (Applying this rule requires knowing some Hebrew vocabulary.) Examples: הַתְּשִׁיבָה = <i>ta^avōrnā^H</i>; הַתְּשִׁיבָה = <i>HĀ-y^etā^H</i>.</p> <p>HOW THINGS SHAKE OUT:</p> <p>1. Most books print <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i> and <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> identically (like שְׁוֹןִי = <i>uvshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>). 2. Some books print a line over any consonant with a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: שְׁוֹןִי = <i>b^eshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>. 3. Some books often distinguish between <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> and <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i> with a line but don't overline over a word's first consonant if it has a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: שְׁוֹןִי = <i>b^eshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>. 4. Some books print the <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> as a boldened or squarer (or diamond-like) version of the <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i>—and you might have to look really closely to tell the difference. Example: ◈ would be <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>, and ● would be <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i>. This is hard on some eyes; try comparing (at a more realistic size) : vs. :</p>	<p>The <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i> makes the sound that you might make when you are silent, and the <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</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>Sh^evā'</i> looks like the developing bubbles before the thought bubble rises, helping you figure out how to respond.</p> 


Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Ch^aṭaf Pattāch (חֶטֶף פָּתַח) (ultra-short)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ֿ</p>	<p>Pronounced most commonly like the “ah” in “Ah, it is good to lie down” or the “a” in “father.”</p> <p>Example: הָלֵךְ = ^a-LĒ^H</p>		<p>The <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i>, the <i>Ch^aṭaf Pattāch</i>, and the <i>Pattāch</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>Pattāch (פָּתַח) (short)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ַ</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 = hā-LĀKH</p>	<p>The sound of the <i>Pattāch</i> (ַ) always precedes that of the consonant when the <i>Pattāch</i> (ַ) appears under any of the following “guttural” (as in, “throaty”) letters appearing as the final letter of a word: <i>Chēyt</i> (י), ‘<i>ayin</i> (ע), and <i>Hē’</i> with <i>Mappiq</i> (מ). In all other cases, a <i>Pattāch</i> is pronounced exactly as expected.</p> <p>Examples: קָח = KŌ-ach; מָלַךְ = lā-MĀD.</p>	<p>The <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i>, the <i>Ch^aṭaf Pattāch</i>, and the <i>Pattāch</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> 



Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Qāmātz Gādōl (קָמָץ גדול) (long vowel)</p> <p>ךָ</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 = <i>hā-LAKH</i></p>	<p>THE WAY WE DO THINGS:</p> <p>In this packet, we always make the bottom vertical line of a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> (קָ) (slightly) longer than the bottom vertical line of a <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i> (קָ).</p> <p>THE RULES:</p> <p>Almost every <i>Qāmātz</i> is a <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i>, but three rules tell us if a <i>Qāmātz</i> is a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i>: 1. <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> is any <i>Qāmātz</i> in an unaccented syllable that is “closed” (meaning, with a consonant right before the vowel and, right after the vowel, with a consonant that is not attached to any other vowel) is a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i>. Examples: וַיִּקְרָא = <i>vay-YĀ-qom</i>; וַיִּגְדֹּל-לִי = “<i>gdol-CHĀ-sed</i>”; וַיִּקְדֹּשׁ = <i>godshō</i>. 2. Many Jews pronounce any unaccented <i>Qāmātz</i> that comes right before either a <i>Chataf Qāmātz</i> or another <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> as a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i>. Examples: וַיִּפְּלוּ = <i>po^o-LŌ</i>; וַיִּפְּלוּ = <i>po^o’ol-KHA</i>. 3. Many Jews pronounce the first <i>Qāmātz</i> in the plural words שְׁרָשִׁים (“roots”) and קְדוּשִׁים (“holy objects”)—and the first <i>Qāmātz</i> in any word with these two plural nouns at the centre, plus any prefixes and modified by any possessive suffixes. Examples: שְׁרָשֵׁי (shorā-SHĪM); קְדוּשֵׁי (qodā-SHĪM); וְשְׁרָשֵׁי (v^eshorā-SHE-ha); מִקְדוּשֵׁי (miqqodā-SHĒY-nū).</p> <p>HOW THINGS SHAKE OUT:</p> <p>1. Books often print the vowels <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i> and <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> as looking the same. In fact, they originally were drawn identically, and, way back when, folks (hopefully) knew the rules of Hebrew grammar so well that they just knew whether a <i>Qāmātz</i> was <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i> or <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i>. 2. In some books, a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> looks like a cut-through <i>Qāmātz</i>, like a horizontal line with a dot beneath it: קָ. More commonly, a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> looks like a <i>Qāmātz</i> with an elongated bottom vertical line: קָ.</p>	<p>The <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i>, the <i>Chataf Pattāch</i>, and the <i>Pattāch</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> 


Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Sh^evā' Nā' (שָׁוֹא נֶאֱ) (ultra-short)</p> <p>ךָ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in “den.”</p> <p>Example: תְּזַעַרְתְּ = <i>m^equtz-TZE-ret</i></p>	<p>THE WAY WE DO THINGS:</p> <p>In this packet, we usually put a line above a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> to make distinct-looking any <i>Sh^evā'</i> that makes a sound. Example: שְׁוֹקְחָהּ = <i>uvshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>.</p> <p>THE RULES:</p> <p>1. Without exception—a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under the last letter with a vowel in a single word is always a <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i> (and a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under the letter immediately before a last letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under it is also a <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i>). Examples: שְׁוֹשְׁתִּי = <i>vay-YĒSHT</i>; שְׁוֹשְׁתִּי = <i>vay-YAR</i>. 2. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> beneath a letter that is the same as the letter that comes right after it is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: הַלְלוּ = <i>hal^e-LŪ</i>. 3. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> if it comes right after any “long” vowel (and an <i>'alef</i> [א] with no vowel beneath or above it coming between the long vowel and the consonant with the <i>Sh^evā'</i> still keeps the <i>Sh^evā'</i> a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>). Examples: הַדְּבָרִים = <i>'āv^e-DĀ^H</i>; הַחֶמֶץ = <i>tzē^e l^e-KHĀ</i>; הַלֶּחֶם = <i>tzīq^e-LĀG</i>; וְיֹדְעוּ = <i>yōr^e-DŌT</i>; הַזֶּרֶם = <i>tzōr^e-FĀM</i>; הַקֹּל-גְּוִיל^e-כְּתוּבָה = <i>'et-kol-g^evūl^e-KHA</i>. 4. If a word's 1st consonant has a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under it, then the vowel is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: הַלֵּל = <i>v^e-LŌ</i>. 5. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> under any letter (except for a word's final letter) with a <i>dāgēsh</i> in it, is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: הַחֲמִילָה = <i>hamm^elā-KHĪM</i>. 6. If a letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> beneath it appears immediately before another letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> beneath it, the 2nd consecutive <i>Sh^evā'</i> (as long as it is not in the word's last letter) is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: מַחֲשָׁבוֹת = <i>mach-sh^evō^e-TĀM</i>. 7. Rarely and only in the Hebrew Bible: if a <i>Meteg</i> appears under a letter with a short vowel that is both followed immediately by a letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> and as part of a word that would typically be spelled with a long vowel, the <i>Meteg</i> makes us pronounce the short vowel as a long vowel, and the <i>Sh^evā'</i> becomes a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. (Applying this rule requires knowing many Hebrew words.) Examples: שְׁוֹשְׁתִּי = <i>vayyō^r-SHŪ</i>; שְׁוֹשְׁתִּי = <i>g^enūy^e-TĪ</i>. 8. In the <i>TaNakh</i>: if a <i>Meteg</i> is under a definite-article-prefix (הַ, הָ, הֵ, הֶ, הִ, or הֵ) and the letter immediately after said prefix has a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under it, the <i>Sh^evā'</i> is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. (Applying this rule requires knowing some Hebrew grammar.) Examples: הַבַּמְסִילָה = <i>bam^esil-LĀ^H</i>; הַיַּמָּנָא' = <i>'yam^ena'a-FĪM</i>. 9. If the one reason a <i>Sh^evā'</i> looks like a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> is a long vowel immediately before the <i>Sh^evā'</i>'s consonant and that long vowel is only there because the word is in a “pausal form” (which is when, in classical Hebrew, to make things sound nice at the end of a phrase, a word is altered very slightly—and identifying this requires knowing Hebrew well), the <i>Sh^evā'</i> makes no sound. Example: גֵּאֲלֵי = <i>gā-'ĀL-tī</i> (as the non-pausal form of this pausal word has a short vowel before the <i>Sh^evā'</i>: גֵּאֲלֵי = <i>gā-'ĀL-tī</i>).</p> <p>HOW THINGS SHAKE OUT:</p> <p>1. Most books print <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i> and <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> identically (like שְׁוֹשְׁתִּי = <i>uvshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>). 2. Some books print a line over any consonant with a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: שְׁוֹשְׁתִּי = <i>b^eshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>. 3. Some books often distinguish between <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> and <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i> with a line but don't overline over a word's first consonant if it has a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: שְׁוֹשְׁתִּי = <i>b^eshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>. 4. Some books print the <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> as a boldened or squarer (or diamond-like) version of the <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i>—and you might have to look really closely to tell the difference. Example: ◈ would be <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>, and ● would be <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i>. This is hard on some eyes; try comparing (at a more realistic size) : vs. :</p>	<p>The <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i> makes the sound that you might make when you are silent, and the <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</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>Sh^evā'</i> looks like the developing bubbles before the thought bubble rises, helping you figure out how to respond.</p> 

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Ch^aṭaf Segōl (חֶטֶף־סֵגוֹל) (ultra-short)</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>hech^a-ZĪR</i></p>		<p><i>Ch^aṭaf Segōl</i> is pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in the word “petals,” and a <i>Ch^aṭaf Segōl</i> also looks like a bunch of petals (technically five petals):</p>  <p>The diagram shows a central black dot with five red lines extending outwards, resembling a flower with five petals.</p>
<p>Segōl (short) (סֵגוֹל)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ֵ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in “den.”</p> <p>Example: סֵגוֹלִים = <i>hech^a-ZĪR</i></p>		<p><i>Segōl</i> is pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in the word “petals,” and a <i>Segōl</i> also looks like the petals of a three-petaled flower.</p>  <p>The diagram shows a central black dot with three red lines extending outwards, resembling a three-petaled flower.</p>

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Tzēyrēy (long) (צִירֵי)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">יְ</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: דִּבֵּר = di-BĒR</p>	<p>There is some disagreement over whether a <i>Tzēyrēy</i> is pronounced the same way whether or not a <i>Yōd</i> with no vowel beneath, over, or immediately beneath the <i>Yōd</i> immediately follows the <i>Tzēyrēy</i>. Although nearly all folks pronounce a <i>Tzēyrēy</i> followed immediately by a <i>Yōd</i> with no vowel beneath, over, or immediately beneath the <i>Yōd</i> like the “ey” in “hey,” some folks would also pronounce a <i>Tzēyrēy</i> not followed immediately by a <i>Yōd</i>-without-vowel like the “ey” in “hey;” other folks pronounce a <i>Tzēyrēy</i> not followed immediately by a <i>Yōd</i>-without-vowel like the “eh” in “It’s a sunny day, eh?”</p> <p>EXAMPLES: לְבָאֵר = l^vā-’ĒR; קוֹרֵי = qōr^e-ĒY.</p>	<p><i>Tzēyrēy</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>Chīrīq (not followed immediately by a <i>Yōd</i> without a vowel) (חִירִיק) (short)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">יְ</p>	<p>Usually pronounced like the “ee” in “green;” sometimes pronounced somewhere in between the “i” of “bin” and the “ee” of “green.” (We’ll transliterate it as <i>i</i>.)</p> <p>Example: בִּיתוֹ = bit-TŌ</p>	<p>Some folks distinguish between the vowel of a consonant with a <i>chīrīq</i> with a consonant right after it—like מִן (<i>MIN</i>), which can sound somewhere in between the “min” of “mini” and the word “mean”—vs. the vowel of a consonant with a <i>chīrīq</i> with a יְ right after it—such as מִיִן (<i>MĪN</i>), which can sound like the English word “mean.”</p>	<p><i>Chīrīq</i> is just one teeny weeny dot beneath a letter and makes the sound of “ee” in “green.”</p>


Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Chīrīq (immediately followed by a vowel-less Yōd) (long) (חיריק)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">יְ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “ee” in “green.” (We’ll transliterate it as <i>ī</i>.)</p> <p>Example: יִי = <i>DĪN</i></p>	<p>Some folks distinguish between the vowel of a consonant with a <i>chīrīq</i> with a consonant right after it—like יָן (<i>MIN</i>), which can sound somewhere in between the “min” of “mini” and the word “mean”—vs. the vowel of a consonant with a <i>chīrīq</i> with a ך right after it—such as יִן (<i>MĪN</i>), which can sound like the English word “mean.”</p>	<p><i>Chīrīq</i> is just one teeny weeny dot beneath a letter and makes the sound of “ee” in “green.”</p>

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Ch^aṭaf Qāmātz (ultra-short) (חטף קמץ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">א</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: לקמץרת = <i>l^emoch^o-RAI</i></p>		<p><i>Qāmātz Qāṭān</i> (either with an elongated bottom line or looking the same as a <i>Qāmātz Gāḏōl</i>) and <i>Ch^aṭaf Qāmātz</i> have flat lines like the “ah” vowels (<i>Ch^aṭaf Pattāch</i>, <i>Pattāch</i>, and <i>Qāmātz Gāḏōl</i>). <i>Ch^aṭaf Qāmātz</i> looks like a <i>Qāmātz</i> next to a <i>Sh^evā</i>’.</p> <p><i>Qāmātz Qāṭān</i> and <i>Ch^aṭaf Qāmātz</i> both make an “oh” sound.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="color: red; font-size: small;">Oh no! These beds looked fine, but something is off.</p> </div>




Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Qāmātz Qātān (חָמָץ חָטָן) (short)</p> <p>חָ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: חָמָץ = <i>l'moch'-RAT</i></p>	<p>THE WAY WE DO THINGS:</p> <p>In this packet, we always make the bottom vertical line of a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> (חָ) (slightly) longer than the bottom vertical line of a <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i> (גָּ).</p> <p>THE RULES:</p> <p>Almost every <i>Qāmātz</i> is a <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i>, but three rules tell us if a <i>Qāmātz</i> is a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i>: 1. <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> is any <i>Qāmātz</i> in an unaccented syllable that is “closed” (meaning, with a consonant right before the vowel and, right after the vowel, with a consonant that is not attached to any other vowel) is a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i>. Examples: חָמָץ = <i>vay-YĀ-qom</i>; חָטָן = “<i>gdol-CHĀ-sed</i>”; חָשׁוּ = <i>qodshō</i>. 2. Many Jews pronounce any unaccented <i>Qāmātz</i> that comes right before either a <i>Ch^ataf Qāmātz</i> or another <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> as a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i>. Examples: חָלוּ = <i>po^o-LŌ</i>; חָלָהּ = <i>po^o’ol-KHA</i>. 3. Many Jews pronounce the first <i>Qāmātz</i> in the plural words חָשׁוּ (‘‘roots’’) and חָטָן (‘‘holy objects’’)—and the first <i>Qāmātz</i> in any word with these two plural nouns at the centre, plus any prefixes and modified by any possessive suffixes. Examples: חָשׁוּי (shorā-SHĪM); חָטָןי (qodā-SHĪM); חָשׁוּיִי (v^eshorā-SHE-ha); חָטָןיִי (miqqodā-SHĒY-nū).</p> <p>HOW THINGS SHAKE OUT:</p> <p>1. Books often print the vowels <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i> and <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> as looking the same. In fact, they originally were drawn identically, and, way back when, folks (hopefully) knew the rules of Hebrew grammar so well that they just knew whether a <i>Qāmātz</i> was <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i> or <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i>. 2. In some books, a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> looks like a cut-through <i>Qāmātz</i>, like a horizontal line with a dot beneath it: חָ. More commonly, a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> looks like a <i>Qāmātz</i> with an elongated bottom vertical line: חָ.</p>	<p><i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> (either with an elongated bottom line or looking the same as a <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i>) and <i>Ch^ataf Qāmātz</i> have flat lines like the ‘‘ah’’ vowels (<i>Ch^ataf Pattāch</i>, <i>Pattāch</i>, and <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i>). <i>Ch^ataf Qāmātz</i> looks like a <i>Qāmātz</i> next to a <i>Sh^evā</i>. <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> and <i>Ch^ataf Qāmātz</i> both make an ‘‘oh’’ sound.</p> 

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Chōlām (חֹלָם) (above and to the left of a consonant) (long)</p> <p>ךְ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: כֹּחַ = <i>KŌ-ach</i></p>	<p>HOW THINGS SHAKE OUT: יְ is a <i>Chōlām</i> vowel, but it can look like יֶ; יֶ is a vowel (<i>ō</i>) or a consonant-with-a-vowel (<i>vo</i>). VOWEL: יְ is just a vowel if a) יְ is after the 1st letter of the word; and b) יְ comes right after a consonant with no vowel over or under it. Example: מוֹרִים = <i>mō-RĪM</i>.</p> <p>CONSONANT-WITH-VOWEL: יְ is a consonant-with-a-vowel if יֶ a) is the 1st letter of a word; and/or b) comes right after a consonant with a vowel over or under it. Example: עוֹנוֹת = “<i>vo-NŌT</i>.”</p>	<p><i>Chōlām</i> is a dot over a letter that makes the sound of the “o” in “oh.”</p>
<p>Chōlām (חֹלָם) (over a Vāv and immediately after a consonant with no vowel over or beneath it) (long)</p> <p>וֹ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: יְוֹדִים = <i>yōrē-DĪM</i></p>	<p>HOW THINGS SHAKE OUT: יְ is a <i>Chōlām</i> vowel, but it can look like יֶ; יֶ is a vowel (<i>ō</i>) or a consonant-with-a-vowel (<i>vo</i>). VOWEL: יְ is just a vowel if a) יְ is after the 1st letter of the word; and b) יְ comes right after a consonant with no vowel over or under it. Example: מוֹרִים = <i>mō-RĪM</i>.</p> <p>CONSONANT-WITH-VOWEL: יְ is a consonant-with-a-vowel if יֶ a) is the 1st letter of a word; and/or b) comes right after a consonant with a vowel over or under it. Example: עוֹנוֹת = “<i>vo-NŌT</i>.”</p>	<p><i>Chōlām</i> is a dot over a letter that makes the sound of the “o” in “oh.”</p>

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Qubbūtz (קבוץ) (short)</p> <p>ך</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “u” in “lucid” or the “oo” in “boot.”</p> <p>Example: מְקַצֵּרֶת = <i>m^equtz-TZE-ret</i></p>		<p><i>Qubbūtz</i> is the sound of people who are impressed by a baseball getting knocked out of the ballpark: “Ooooh!!!” It also looks like the baseball getting knocked out of the ballpark:</p>  <p>See also:</p>  <p>Or dangerously:</p> 

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Shūrūq (שׁוּרֻק) (long—except it is [ultra?]-short when appearing as the 1st letter of a word)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">רָן</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “u” in “lucid” or the “oo” in “boot.”</p> <p>Example: מִוּם = <i>MŪM</i></p>	<p>ר is just a vowel or is a consonant with a <i>dāgēsh chāzāq</i> (the dot that, in proper Hebrew, lengthens or doubles the sound of the conso-nant). VOWEL: ר is a <i>shūrūq</i> vowel a) if the ר has no vowel under or over it and doesn’t come right before a ר vowel or <i>shūrūq</i>; and b) if the ר is either the 1st letter of a word or right after a consonant that has no vowel un-der or over it. CONSONANT: The consonant ר—always has a vowel a) under or over it or b) immediately to its left.</p>	<p><i>Shūrūq</i> is a vowel that makes the sound of the “oo” in “boo” or the “ough” in “through,” <i>Shūrūq</i> has a dot that runs through a <i>Vāv</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!