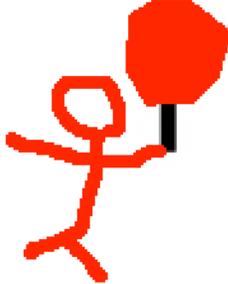
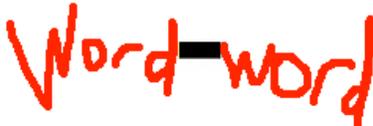


A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Dagesh (דָּגֶשׁ)— but a dot in a Hey is a Mapik (מַפִּיק), and a dot in a Vav without a vowel is a Shuruk (שׁוּרוּק)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ך</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">הֶ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">וֹ</p>	<p>1. כּ, פּ, and שׂ each make a sound that cannot be held—as opposed to the sounds of כ, פ, and ש.</p> <p>2. הֶ (Heh with <i>Mapik</i>, which looks like <i>Dagesh</i>) sounds like the “h” in “hi.”</p> <p>3. If וֹ has a vowel under it, over it, or immediately to its left, this is a <i>Vav</i> with a <i>Dagesh</i>—and you can pronounce it like a regular <i>Vav</i>. Otherwise is a <i>Shuruk</i> vowel that makes the sound “u” like in “tutu.”</p> <p>4. For all other letters, ignore.</p> <p>Example: כֶּאֱיִוָּהּ = <i>ke'ivu-YAH</i></p>	<p>A <i>Dagesh</i> looks like a dot in the centre of a letter.</p>

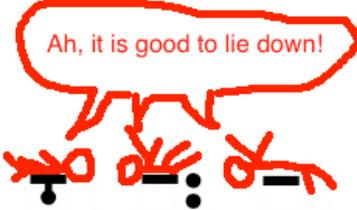
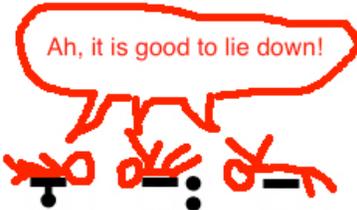
A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Meteg (מֶתֵג)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ך</p>	<p>A mark that tells us that a syllable should be more stressed than other syllables in the word.</p> <p>Example: מֶקֶצֶרֶת = <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> 
<p>Makef (מֵקֵף)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p>	<p>It doesn't sound like anything; it connects words, and we count those connected-words as just-1-word.</p> <p>Example: מִן כָּל בְּרַכָּתָא = <i>MIN KOL birkha-TA</i></p>	<p><i>Makef</i> is like a bridge that connects two (or more) words.</p> 

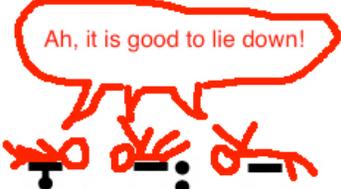
A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Sheva Nach (שְׁוָא נָח)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ךְ</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: וּבְנֵיכֶם = <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 (חֹטֵף-פָּתָח)</p> <p>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 = <i>A-LEH</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> 
<p>Patach (פָּתָח)</p> <p>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 = <i>ha-LAKH</i></p> <p>One exception: For some reason, there is a hidden ׀ in the word יְרוּשָׁלַם (yerusha-LA-yim—meaning “Jerusalem” and usually spelled with the ׀ printed today).</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>Kamatz Gadol (קָמֵץ 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>One exception: For some reason, there is a hidden ׀ in the word יְרוּשָׁלַם (yerusha-LA-yim—meaning “Jerusalem” and usually spelled with the ׀ printed today).</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;">׀</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-סֶגוּל)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">אֵ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in “den.”</p> <p>Example: הֶחֱזִיר = <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); some say it looks like five eggs.</p> 
<p>Segol (סֶגוּל)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ֶ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in “den.”</p> <p>Example: הֶחֱזִיר = <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. Some say it looks like three eggs.</p> 

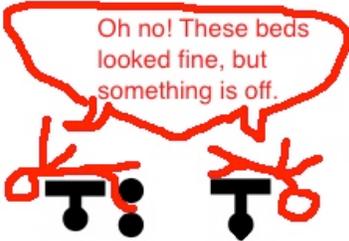
A Basic Chart of the Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

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: דִּבֵּר = <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’?” It also sounds like a Canadian saying, “Good maple syrup, eh?”</p> 
<p>Chirik (not followed immediately by a Yod without a vowel) (חִירֵיק)</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>One hidden vowel: For some reason, there is a hidden ׀ in the words יְרוּשָׁלַיִם and יְרוּשָׁלַיִם (yerusha-<i>LA-yim</i>—both of which mean “Jerusalem” and are usually spelled with the ׀ printed today).</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>Chirik (immediately followed by a vowel-less Yod) (חִירִיק)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">יְ</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>
<p>Chataf Kamatz (חֲטַף־קָמֶץ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">אֲ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: לְמִחְרַת = <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> 

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

Name + Sample	How it Sounds (& Some Notes)	Mnemonics
<p>Kamatz Katan (קָמֶץ קָטָן)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ɀ</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;">ֿ</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>
<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;">ךְ</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: “Ooh!!!” 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!