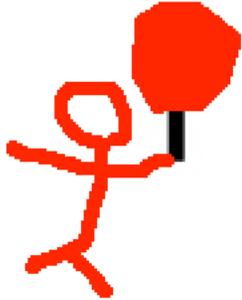


Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Dāgēsh (דָּגֵשׁ)—but a dot in a He’ is a Mappiq (מֵפֵיק)</p> <p>ך</p>	<p>1. כּ, גּ, דּ, טּ, פּ, תּ, and sometimes ך make sounds that can’t be held—unlike the ancient sounds of כ, ג, ד, ט, פ, ת, and ט. 2. ך (with a <i>Map-piq</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 ך sometimes). (ך with a vowel over or under it or immediately to its left has a <i>Dāgēsh</i>; ך is otherwise a vowel.)</p> <p>Example: כֵּיִוּוּ-יָאֵחַ = <i>kē’ivvū-YĀH</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NOWADAYS</p> <p>It is extremely common today to pronounce a כּ as a כ; a דּ as a ד; and a תּ as a ת. It is also very common today to pronounce ך as ך (and—because ך can only come as the last letter of a word—many people do not pronounce ך at all since ך 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 VĀV?</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 ך (or at least some letter that sounded a little bit like ך but was a ך), and nobody ever batted an eye. (How was ך pronounced? I’ll let you imagine that one!) The ך 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—הַרְיָ as Σάρρα, which sounds something like “<i>SARH-ra</i>.”) Over time, the whole ך thing got to be too much for some reason, and we have very little remaining evidence that this ך ever was such a common thing in Hebrew. It is, by the way, often unclear whether the dot in the ך is a <i>Dāgēsh Qal</i> (which distinguishes a כּ from a כ, a גּ from a ג; a דּ from a ד; a פּ from a פ, and a תּ from a ת), 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 ך is found). Either way, ך 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 (מֶטֶג)</p> <p>ך</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: מֶטֶגְרַת = <i>mēqutz-TZERet</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: מְצַבֹּתָם = <i>mēṣavō-TAM</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 מְצַבֹּתָם—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>zākhē-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>Shēvā</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>Shēvā</i> becomes a <i>Shēvā Nā</i>). (Applying this rule requires some knowledge of Hebrew vocabulary.) Examples: נִשְׁוֹ = <i>vaṣṣyīrē-SHŪ</i>; גְּנֻבִי = <i>gēnūyē-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>Shēvā</i> beneath it, the <i>Shēvā</i> beneath the letter immediately after the definite article prefix is a <i>Shēvā Nā</i>. (Applying this rule requires some knowledge of Hebrew vocabulary.) Example: בְּמִסְלָהּ = <i>bamēsil-LĀH</i>. V: There are those who say that the combination of a <i>Meteg</i> and a <i>Shēvā</i> used to make a vowel sound that was determined based on the consonant immediately following it. Before a <i>Yōd</i>, a <i>Meteg-Shēvā</i> combination produced the vowel <i>Chīrīq</i>, such that וַיְיָדָע (in Exodus 7:5) would be pronounced <i>vīyāḏē-U</i>; before <i>Āleph</i> (א), <i>Hē</i> (ה), <i>Ayin</i> (ע), or <i>Rēysh</i> (ר), a <i>Meteg-Shēvā</i> combination produced the vowel of the next consonant, such that וַאֲמַרְתָּ (in Joshua 7:13) would be pronounced <i>vā'āmar-TĀ</i>, וְהָנֹחַ (in Judges 1:7) would be pronounced <i>bōhō-NŌT</i>, וַעֲדֵה-הַנָּהָר (in Joshua 1:4) would be pronounced <i>va-'AD hannā-HĀR</i>, and וַרְדְּפִים (in Judges 8:4) would be pronounced <i>vōrōḏē-FĪM</i>; and, before any other letter, a <i>Meteg-Shēvā</i> combination produced the vowel <i>Pattāch</i>, such that וַנְּבִיחַ (in I Samuel 14:36) would be pronounced <i>vanā-VŌ-zā^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: רִצְוִי = <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> 

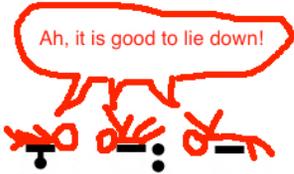
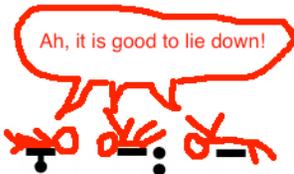
Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
Maqqēf (מקף) -	<p><i>Maqqēf</i> produces no sound of its own. It connects whatever word is to its immediate left and its immediate right (sometimes connecting multiple words), which makes us count those connected words as just-1-word (and this string of words has only one primary accent).</p> <p>Example: אֶל-כָּל-שִׁמְךָ = 'al-kol-shim-KHĀ</p>		<p><i>Maqqēf</i> is like a bridge that connects two (or more) words.</p> <p style="color: red; font-family: cursive;">Word—word</p>

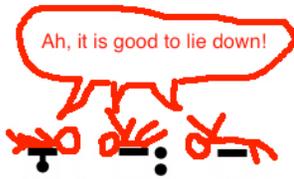
Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Sh^evā' Nāch (שָׁוֹן אֲחַ) ("ultra-short")</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 style="text-align: center;">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: שְׁוֹן אֲחַ = <i>uvshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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: שְׁוֹן אֲחַ = <i>vay-YĒSHT</i>; שְׁוֹן אֲחַ = <i>vay-YAR</i>. 2. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> under 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 “alef [א]” with no vowel under 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: הַדָּבָר = <i>'āy^e-DĀ^H</i>; תְּזַעַצְעוּ = <i>tzē^e-t^e-KHĀ</i>; תְּזַעַצְעוּ = <i>tzīq^e-LĀG</i>; תְּזַעַצְעוּ = <i>yō^e-DŌT</i>; תְּזַעַצְעוּ = <i>tzō^e-FĀM</i>; תְּזַעַצְעוּ = <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: אֶלֶף = <i>v^e-LŌ</i>. 5. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> under any letter (except for a word's last letter) with a <i>dāgēsh</i> in it, is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: הַמְלִיכָה = <i>ham^elā-KHĪM</i>. 6. If a letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under it appears immediately before another letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under 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: מַחֲשֵׁבֶת = <i>mach-sh^evō^e-TĀM</i>. 7. Rarely and only in the He-brew 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: שְׁוֹן אֲחַ = <i>vayyīr^e-SHŪ</i>; גִּנְיָן = <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: בְּמִסְלָה = <i>bam^esil-LĀ^H</i>; יָמָנָא = <i>'yam^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: תְּזַעַצְעוּ = <i>ta'vōrnā^H</i>; הַלְלוּ = <i>HĀ-yē^elā^H</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOW THINGS SHAKE OUT:</p> <p>1. Most books print <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i> and <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> identically (like שְׁוֹן אֲחַ = <i>uvshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>). 2. Some books print a line over any consonant with a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: (שְׁוֹן אֲחַ = <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: שְׁוֹן אֲחַ = <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 style="text-align: center;">GOD'S NAME:</p> <p>Very often God's name is spelled הַיְהוָה (looking like <i>y^ehō-VĀ^H</i>) or הַיְהוָה (looking like <i>y^e-YĀ</i>), but it is pronounced אֲדוֹנָי (<i>'ado-NAI</i>)</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' Nā'</i> looks like the developing bubbles before the thought bubble rises, helping you figure out how to respond.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="color: red; font-size: small;">I loved the Fantastic Four movie. My famous cousin directed it. What did you think?</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>Ch^aṭaf Pattāch (חֲטַף פָּתַח) (ultra-short)</p> <p>אֵ</p>	<p>Pronounced most commonly like the “ah” in “Ah, it is good to lie down” or the “a” in “father.”</p> <p>Example: הַלֵּךְ = “a-LĒH</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>ַ</p>	<p>Pronounced most commonly like the “ah” in “Ah, it is good to lie down” or the “a” in “father.”</p> <p>Example: הַלֵּךְ = <i>hā-LAKH</i></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> (ם). In all other cases, a <i>Pattāch</i> is pronounced exactly as expected.</p> <p>Examples: כֹּחַ = <i>KŌ-ach</i>; מַלְמַד = <i>lā-MAD</i>.</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> 

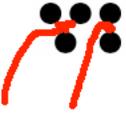
Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Qāmātz Gādōl (קָמָץ גדול) (long vowel)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">THE WAY WE DO THINGS:</p> <p>In this packet, we always make the bottom vertical line of a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> (ס) (slightly) longer than the bottom vertical line of a <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i> (ס).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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: וַיָּקֹם = <i>vay-YĀ-qom</i>; וַיִּגְדֹּל-לִי-סֵד = “<i>gdol-CHĀ-sed</i>”; וַיִּשְׁחֹ = <i>qodshō</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: לֹלְךְ = <i>po^o-LO</i>; קֹלְךְ = <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: שְׁרָשִׁים (<i>shorā-SHĪM</i>); קְדוּשִׁים (<i>qodā-SHĪM</i>); וְשֵׁרָשֵׁיָהּ (<i>v^eshorā-SHE-ha</i>); מִקְדוּשֵׁינִי (<i>miqqodā-SHĒY-nū</i>).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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: פֿ . More commonly, a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> looks like a <i>Qāmātz</i> with an elongated bottom vertical line: פֿ .</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' (שָׁוֹן אֲוֵי) (ultra-short)</p> <p>קֶ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in “den.”</p> <p>Example: תִּזְעַרְתָּ = <i>m^equtz-TZE-ret</i></p>	<p>THE WAY WE DO THINGS: In this chart, we put a line above <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i> to make distinct-looking any <i>Sh^evā'</i> that makes a sound. Example: וּבְשׁוֹכְחָהּ = <i>uvshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>.</p> <p>THE RULES:</p> <p>1. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> under any word's last letter with a vowel is always a <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i> (and a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under the letter right before a last letter with no pronounced vowel is also <i>Sh^evā' Nāch</i>). Examples: וַיִּשָׁא = <i>vay-YĒSHT</i>; וַיִּשָׁא = <i>vay-YAR</i>. 2. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> under a letter identical to the letter that comes right after it is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: הַלֵּל = <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 under or above it and between the long vowel and the consonant with the <i>Sh^evā'</i> keeps the <i>Sh^evā'</i> a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>). Examples: הַדָּג = <i>'āy^e-DĀH</i>; תְּזַעֲרָהּ = <i>tzē'ē-KHĀ</i>; תְּזַעֲרָהּ = <i>tzīq^e-LĀG</i>; תִּזְעַרְתָּ = <i>yōr^e-DŌT</i>; צִוְרָם = <i>tzōr^e-FĀM</i>; עֵת-קֹל-גִּוּלֵי-כַחַשׁ = <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: לֹלֶךְ = <i>v^e-LŌ</i>. 5. A <i>Sh^evā'</i> under any letter (except for a word's last letter) with a <i>dāgēsh</i> in it, is a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: חַמְלָה = <i>hamm^elā-KHĪM</i>. 6. If a letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under it comes right before another letter with a <i>Sh^evā'</i> under 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: מַחֲשֵׁהוּ = <i>machsh^e-yō-TĀM</i>. 7. Rarely and only in the Hebrew Bible (<i>TaNakh</i>): if a <i>Meteg</i> is 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 normally spelled with a long vowel, the <i>Meteg</i> renders the short vowel 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: וַיַּיִטְרֵם = <i>vayyitr^e-SHŪ</i>; תִּזְעַרְתָּ = <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: בַּמִּסְלָה = <i>bam^esil-LĀH</i>; וַיָּמְנָהּ = <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 right before the <i>Sh^evā'</i>'s consonant and that long vowel appears only because the word is in “pausal form” (which is when, in classical Hebrew, to make a nice sound at the end of a phrase, a word is altered slightly—and noticing this requires knowing Hebrew well), the <i>Sh^evā'</i> makes no sound. Example: גֵּאֲלֵתִי = <i>gā-'ĀL-tī</i> (as the non-pausal form of this pausal word has a short vowel before the <i>Sh^evā'</i>: גֵּאֲלֵתִי = <i>gā-'AL-tī</i>). 10. Some say that a <i>Meteg-Sh^evā'</i> used to make a vowel sound determined by the letter just after it. Before <i>Yōd</i> (י), a <i>Meteg-Sh^evā'</i> produced a <i>Chīrīq</i>; before <i>'Alef</i> (א), <i>Hē</i> (ה), <i>'A-yin</i> (ע), or <i>Rēysh</i> (ר), <i>Meteg-Sh^evā'</i> produced the vowel of the next letter; and, before any other letter, a <i>Meteg-Sh^evā'</i> yielded a <i>Pattāch</i>. Examples: וַיִּזְעַרְתָּ = <i>vi-yāz^e-U</i>; וַיִּזְעַרְתָּ = <i>vā'āmar-TĀ</i>; וַיִּזְעַרְתָּ = <i>bōhō-NŌT</i>; וַיִּזְעַרְתָּ = <i>va-'AD hannā-HĀR</i>; וַיִּזְעַרְתָּ = <i>vōrôd^e-FĪM</i>; וַיִּזְעַרְתָּ = <i>vanāYŌ-zā^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 וּבְשׁוֹכְחָהּ = <i>uvshokhb^e-KHĀ</i>). 2. Some books print a line over any consonant with a <i>Sh^evā' Nā'</i>. Example: (בְּשׁוֹכְחָהּ = <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: (בְּשׁוֹכְחָהּ = <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 (חֹטֵף סֵגוֹל) (ultra-short)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ֵ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “eh” in “meh” or the “e” in “den.”</p> <p>Example: חֶזֶר = <i>hech^e-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 red curved line starting from the bottom left, curving upwards and to the right, then curving downwards and to the right again. At the top of the curve, there are five black dots arranged in a slightly curved line, representing the shape of the Chaf Segol vowel mark.</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: חֶזֶר = <i>hech^e-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 red curved line starting from the bottom left, curving upwards and to the right, then curving downwards and to the right again. At the top of the curve, there are three black dots arranged in a slight arc, representing the shape of the Segol vowel mark.</p>

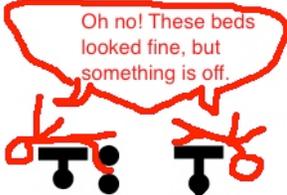
Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hebrew Vowels (and a Few Marks)

Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Tzēyrēy (long) (צִירֵי)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ךְ</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: דִּבְרַר = <i>di-BĒR</i></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: לְעֵרָה = <i>l^evā-’ĒR</i>; קֹרֵי = <i>qōr^e-ĒY</i>.</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;">ךְ</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 = <i>bit-TŌ</i></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 ךְ right after it—such as מִין (<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) (חִירִיק)</p> <p>יְ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “ee” in “green.” (We’ll transliterate it as <i>i</i>.)</p> <p>Example: יָדַי = <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 יָדַי (<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 ’ right after it—such as מִיָּדַי (<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>
<p>Ch^aṭaf Qāmātz (ultra-short) (חֲטַף קָמָץ)</p> <p>ֶ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: לְמֹחַת = <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>. <i>Qāmātz Qāṭān</i> and <i>Ch^aṭaf 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>Qāmātz Qātān (קָמָץ קָטָן) (short)</p> <p>אָ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: תַּמְחָרָה = <i>l^emoch^o-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> (אָ) (slightly) longer than the bottom vertical line of a <i>Qāmātz Gādōl</i> (אֱ).</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: וַיָּקָם = <i>vay-YĀ-qom</i>; וַיִּגְדֹּל-לְיִשְׂרָאֵל = <i>“gdol-CHĀ-sed</i>; וַיִּשְׁחֹךְ = <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: לֹלְפוֹ = <i>po^o-LŌ</i>; קָחֶלֶךְ = <i>po^ol-KHA</i>. 3. Many Jews pronounce the first <i>Qāmātz</i> in the plural words שְׁרָשָׁיִם (“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: שְׁרָשָׁיִם (<i>shorā-SHĪM</i>); קְדוּשִׁים (<i>qodā-SHĪM</i>); הַשְּׁרָשָׁיִם (<i>v^eshorā-SHE-ha</i>); מִקְדוֹשָׁיִם (<i>miqqodā-SHĒY-nū</i>).</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: אָ. More commonly, a <i>Qāmātz Qātān</i> looks like a <i>Qāmātz</i> with an elongated bottom vertical line: אָ.</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> 
<p>Chōlām (חֹלָם) (above and to the left of a consonant) (long)</p> <p>וֹ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: וֹכַח = <i>KŌ-ach</i></p>	<p>HOW THINGS SHAKE OUT:</p> <p>וֹ is a <i>Chōlām</i> vowel, but it can look like וּ; וּ is a vowel (וֹ) or a consonant-with-a-vowel (וּוֹ). VOWEL: וֹ is just a vowel if a) וֹ is after the 1st letter of the word; and b) וֹ comes right after a consonant with no vowel over or under it. Example: מוֹרִים = <i>mō-RĪM</i>.</p> <p>CONSONANT-WITH-VOWEL:</p> <p>וּ is a consonant-with-a-vowel if a) is the 1st letter of a word; and/or b) comes right after a consonant with a vowel over or under it. Example: נוֹנוֹת = <i>“vō-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>Chōlām (חֹלָם) (over a Vāv and immediately after a consonant with no vowel over or beneath it) (long)</p> <p>וְ</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “o” in “pro.”</p> <p>Example: יְוֹדִים = <i>yōd-ē-</i> <i>DĪM</i></p>	<p>HOW THINGS SHAKE OUT: יְ is a <i>Chōlām</i> vowel, but it can look like יִ; יִ is a vowel (<i>ō</i>) or a consonant-with-a-vowel (<i>vō</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: מֹרִים = <i>mō-RĪM</i>.</p> <p>CONSONANT-WITH-VOWEL: יְ is a consonant-with-a-vowel if יְ a) is the 1st letter of a word; and/or b) comes right after a consonant with a vowel over or under it. Example: עֹנֹת = <i>“vō-NŌT</i>.</p>	<p><i>Chōlām</i> is a dot over a letter that makes the sound of the “o” in “oh.”</p>

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Name (& Length) + Sample	How it Sounds	Notes & Other Appearances	Mnemonics
<p>Qubbütz (קבוץ) (short)</p> <p>ך</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “u” in “lucid” or the “oo” in “boot.”</p> <p>Example: מקצרת = <i>m^equtz-TZE- ret</i></p>		<p><i>Qubbütz</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;">רִי</p>	<p>Pronounced like the “u” in “lucid” or the “oo” in “boot.”</p> <p>Example: מִימָהּ = <i>û-MŪM</i></p>	<p>י 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 consonant). VOWEL: י is a <i>shūrūq</i> vowel a) if the י has no vowel under or over it and doesn’t come right before a י vowel or <i>shūrūq</i>; and b) if the י is either the 1st letter of a word or right after a consonant that has no vowel under or over it. CONSONANT: The consonant י—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!