

## Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest

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## Contents

Tables	4
Figures	4
Biblical Hebrew Grammar, the Holy Language way	5
This is a Preview/Demo Version of Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest	5
Introduction: The philosophy of this book and course	7
Our Learning Philosophy = ACTIVE Engagement . . . . .	7
Relationship to Hebrew Quest . . . . .	8
Three Stages of Preparation . . . . .	9
<i>Practical</i> Preparation: The lay of the Hebrew Grammar land . . . . .	9
<i>Practical</i> Preparation: Equipment Check . . . . .	10
<i>Physical</i> Preparation: Get Hebrew healthy with Anki Aerobics . . . . .	11
<i>Physical</i> Preparation: Combat “the fog” (aka grammar jet lag) . . . . .	13
<i>Spiritual</i> Preparation . . . . .	14
What will a typical lesson look like? . . . . .	14
Let’s get Started! . . . . .	15
1 The Hebrew Aleph-bet	15
Seven Practical Points for Lesson 1 . . . . .	16
1.1 The Hebrew Aleph-Bet . . . . .	16

1.2	Hebrew is written and read from RIGHT-to-LEFT . . . . .	17
1.3	Five letters have final (“sofit”) forms . . . . .	18
1.4	Six letters take a “Daghes Lene” . . . . .	19
1.5	Four letters are classified as guttural consonants (and one is a sometimes-guttural) . . . . .	21
1.6	Look out for look-alike Letters . . . . .	22
1.7	Sephardic vs “Seminary” Pronunciation . . . . .	22
1.8	Lesson 1 ACTIVities . . . . .	24
2	Hebrew Vowels . . . . .	25
	Seven Practical Points for Lesson 2 . . . . .	26
	Equipment Check . . . . .	27
2.1	Vowels that are not vowel letters . . . . .	27
2.2	Vocal silent sheva . . . . .	29
2.3	Vowel letters . . . . .	30
2.4	“Defective” and “plene” writing . . . . .	31
2.5	The Daghes Forte . . . . .	32
2.6	Daghes Forte Rule . . . . .	34
2.7	Gutturals and Resh reject Daghes Forte . . . . .	34
2.8	Lesson 2 ACTIVities . . . . .	35

	3
3 Syllabification and Pronunciation	37
Seven Practical Points for Lesson 2 . . . . .	38
Equipment Check . . . . .	39
3.1 Hebrew Syllables . . . . .	40
3.2 Hebrew Word Accents . . . . .	42
3.3 Silent Sheva . . . . .	43
3.4 Vocal Sheva . . . . .	44
3.5 Hebrew Diphthong = Accented Pathach-Yod-Hiriq . . . . .	46
3.6 Vowels and Syllable Preference . . . . .	46
3.7 Qamets Hatuf, Furtive Pathach, Quiescent Alef . . . . .	47
Conclusion . . . . .	49
3.8 Lesson 3 ACTIVities . . . . .	49
END OF PREVIEW/DEMO COURSE	51
Appendix A: About Anki	52
3.9 The Forgetting Curve . . . . .	55
Appendix B: Questions and Answers about Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest	55
What is the difference between Hebrew Quest and Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest?	55
Do I need to have completed Hebrew Quest before I start Hebrew GRAM- MAR Quest? . . . . .	56
When I complete this course, should I go back and finish Hebrew Quest? . . .	57

There are many books out there to learn Hebrew. What makes Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest different? . . . . .	57
What is a “flipped classroom”? . . . . .	58
What are the ACTIVities? . . . . .	59
How do I access the Anki deck or online course? . . . . .	59
Do I need the online course if I have this book? . . . . .	59
Will I need to buy anything? . . . . .	60
Who will (and who might not) benefit from Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest? . . .	61
About Holy Language Institute	63
Following Yeshua . . . . .	64
In a Hebrew Way . . . . .	64
Together . . . . .	64
About the designer of this book	65
Acknowledgments	66
License	67

## Tables

## Figures

1      Strength . . . . .	53
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2	Endurance . . . . .	53
3	Creative Commons . . . . .	68

## Biblical Hebrew Grammar, the Holy Language way



**This is a Preview/Demo Version of Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest**

This book covers the first three of the thirty-five total lessons:

1. The Hebrew Aleph-Bet
2. The Hebrew Vowels
3. Hebrew syllabification and Pronunciation

In addition, the preface, which outlines our vision for the course, and some Appendices are complete and available.

We have two goals for this version:

1. Create a “proof of concept” version for our Holy Language ministry volunteers.

We want to gather feedback on content and overall direction before proceeding with development of all 35 lessons.

2. Eventually, these three lessons will comprise a “demo” version of Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest to be made available to non-subscribers. The goal is that they will see, like and become supporters of Holy Language Institute, giving them access to not only the entire grammar course, but Hebrew Quest and all the other amazing teaching content.

The anticipated full course availability date is Q2 2021.

Thank you in advance for reading these three lessons. Please email errors, omissions, comments, or suggestions to [holylanguagecourses@gmail.com](mailto:holylanguagecourses@gmail.com)

## Introduction: The philosophy of this book and course



Many Hebrew grammar courses and books treat learning God's Holy Language as if it were just another academic exercise. Listen to a lecture, read a chapter, take a test, and you'll learn Hebrew.

We wish it were that simple.

Hebrew, the Holy Language Way, requires **active** participation.

That's where our Holy Language Learning Philosophy comes in.

Our Learning Philosophy = ACTIVE Engagement

Learning Hebrew the Holy Language Way is designed not just to feed you fish, but to teach you to fish<sup>1</sup>. When someone feeds you fish, you are only passively receiving. When you learn to fish you are being active; being intentional.

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1. Refer to Hebrew Quest, lesson 1.



In other words, we believe you will learn best when you actively (and dare we say “passionately”) **engage** with the Holy Scriptures. If done this way, learning Hebrew will not merely be another academic course you take, but it can be a life-changing experience.

With Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest, Holy Language Institute is offering yet another way for you to actively embrace the Jewishness of our faith.

### Relationship to Hebrew Quest

**Hebrew Quest** took you directly *to* the Hebrew Scriptures and brought you in touch with the Hebraic side of the Bible that, perhaps, you had never experienced before. We introduced you to a different aspect of what you may have known as “the Old Testament.” Maybe before Hebrew Quest, you had kept this “Old Testament” at a safe distance (after all, it was old and you are new!); but now you may have a new appreciation and perhaps you are building a closer friendship with what you now know as the “Tanach” or the “Hebrew Scriptures.”

**Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest** is designed to take you to the next stage of that friendship. It is designed to take you *inside* the Hebrew Scriptures. Maybe it’s like progressing from a “good friend” to an “intimate” friend. A friend for whom you are there during the good and the bad . . . and that friend is there for you offering you wisdom and counsel.

Such a friendship can be challenging, and even difficult at times<sup>2</sup>, but it can also be one of the most rewarding relationships you can have this side of heaven.

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2. see Philippians 2:12

Whether or not you have finished (or even started) Hebrew Quest, we believe you will find Hebrew GRAMMAR quest a fruitful and life-changing experience. See [Appendix Q&A](#) for a larger discussion on how Hebrew Quest and Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest work together.

### Three Stages of Preparation

According to Dr. Wayne Stiles, to get the most out of a tour to Israel, one must actively prepare. In fact, there are three stages of preparation Stiles says a traveler must undertake to gain maximum benefit from a Holy Land tour<sup>3</sup>

1. Practical Preparation
2. Physical Preparation
3. Spiritual Preparation

**We believe these exact principles apply to learning Hebrew the Holy Language way!**

Read on for an explanation.

#### *Practical* Preparation: The lay of the Hebrew Grammar land

Before the big trip to Israel, you need to know some basics.

- You need some basic Holy Land Geography
  - You need some basics as to what happened where

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3. Stiles, Wayne. “How to Prepare for a Holy Land Tour.” Wayne Stiles. February 20, 2013. <https://waynestiles.com/how-to-prepare-for-a-holy-land-tour/>. Accessed September 28, 2020.

- This way, you won’t be completely lost when you arrive at a specific site, say Capernaum or Mount Carmel
- You need to know why that place has meaning and is worth your time

You might call this “getting the lay of the land”.

**Primarily, what this book consists of, is giving you the lay of the Hebrew Grammar land.**

In our application, we will give you “Seven Practical Points.” These are the most significant things you will need to know about the lesson.

Most importantly, our goal is to keep this discussion at a high-level. This means, where other textbooks might spend time explaining concepts to you in great detail, we will not. Our goal is to give you just enough to pique your interest and get you pointed in the right direction.

We believe that you will learn best not from reading it in a book or watching a video, but you will learn best by putting concepts into practice.

This is where *physical preparation* comes in. But first, let’s talk for a minute about safety . . . your “syntactical safety!”

### *Practical Preparation: Equipment Check*

Each lesson of Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest builds upon the previous one.

At the beginning of each chapter, you will see an Israeli stop sign with a few questions.



Use this as an opportunity to check whether you are familiar enough with the major concepts (and memorization where needed) from the previous lesson before you move on with your journey.

We call this “Equipment Check.”

Here, we leave the decision to proceed with your quest up to you. Be honest with yourself. If you are unsure about any area, we strongly encourage you to return to Anki for some more review.

*Physical Preparation: Get Hebrew healthy with Anki Aerobics*

Israel is a rocky, hilly place. Many of the best sites require some walking, or even a small hike from the parking lot. Those who hope to passively see the country from a bus window but who could have done more had they done some exercising beforehand, are going to miss out on the best parts. For maximum benefit, travelers must be ready for a lot of walking.

Most of your class time will be spent not in reading this book or watching lectures. In Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest, your **TRUE** learning will take place during what we call “ACTIVities.”

In fact, we’d like this book to be like be your personal trainer. A trainer shows you how to do your workout safely and effectively. She gives you some “practical” pointers and then turns it over to you to do the actual lifting. In our case, your brain will be doing the lifting instead of your biceps.

- The majority of your learning time will be spent in a free flashcard program called Anki. Please see [About Anki](#) for additional information on Anki if you are not familiar with it.
  - **Anki** is the equivalent of your gym and cardio equipment for Hebrew Health
  - Just like working out is not easy and you don’t always see quick results, don’t expect Anki to be easy or expect to breeze through it
  - Just like physical exercise, if you stick with it, you will see the rewards over time
- In addition to Anki, some lessons will have worksheets to reinforce concepts

### Download the Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest (Preview Version) Anki Deck

- See [Anki discussion in the appendix](#) for additional information on Anki, including installation and settings

*Physical Preparation: Combat “the fog” (aka grammar jet lag)*

For most of us, Israel is close to halfway around the globe away from home. After such a long flight, we are unlikely to completely avoid jet lag, but we can take steps to minimize the effects and work through it as quickly as possible.

Jet lag is similar to a phenomenon we can encounter when we undertake a study of a new language. Dr. Bill Mounce calls “the fog.”

- Many times, things won’t make sense until a lesson or two later
- A strategy suggested by Dr. Mounce is to “look back at your previous victories to assure you of your progress”<sup>4</sup>
- In addition to a steady flow of new material, Anki has an algorithm to deliver structured reviews. These reviews will help you keep working through your grammar jet lag
- Periodically, there will be **Quest Quizzes** in the online course
  - Periodic checkpoints for you to assess your progress
    - \* *Are you OK to continue?*
    - \* *Do you need to review some more before going on?*
      - If you do, that’s perfectly ok
      - It’s all part of working through “the fog”.
  - The quizzes are scored for your assessment, but no grades are “recorded” -

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4. <https://medium.com/@ellingburg/surviving-the-fog-dcb3f148ffa1>

- In fact, no grades are given for the course.

### *Spiritual Preparation*

#### **Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest is a spiritual journey!**

A trip to Israel is not like any other “vacation” - it’s a spiritual journey. If all you do see some cool sites and take some pictures, you would have missed out on a tremendous opportunity to meet Yeshua in His special Land.

*Pray and be open to what Yeshua may be teaching you*

We will be reading a lot of Scripture!

- Ruth Pursuits - learning grammar concepts while learning Ruth 1
- Anki Study Verses - you will read and begin to translate passages in Anki
  - You’ll also listen to the audio by Izzy so you can begin to hear the sound of the language

View each ACTIVity as an act of worship!

What will a typical lesson look like?

1. **Practical Preparation** - Seven key learning objectives from each lesson
2. **Physical Preparation**
  1. Anki Aerobics - This is where your primary vocabulary and grammar learning will occur
  2. Worksheets - opportunities for additional reinforcement (selected lessons only)

3. Quest Quiz - This is your opportunity for a learning check to help you battle through the fog

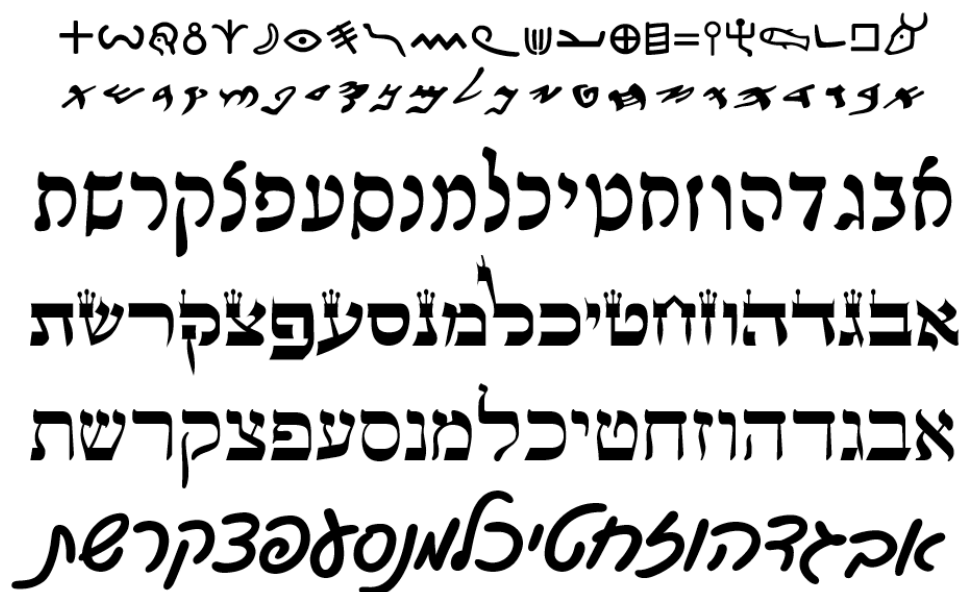
### 3. Spiritual Preparation -

1. Ruth Pursuit - a quest activity where you will identify grammar concepts in Ruth chapter 1
2. Anki Study Verses - Verse comprehension and translation

Let's get Started!

#### 1 The Hebrew Aleph-bet

Knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet opens the door of understanding . . . Pastor Roger Valci<sup>5</sup>



5. Valci, Roger. "The Hebrew Acrostic," in Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar, edited by Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 2007.

6. This graphic shows the evolution of Hebrew. Top to bottom: proto-canaanite (~1600 BCE), paleo-Hebrew (~900 BCE), Rashi (1500 CE), Ketav Stam (used in Torah scrolls and other formal documents),



## Seven Practical Points for Lesson 1

1. Memorize the **Hebrew Aleph-Bet**
2. Understand that Hebrew is written and read from **RIGHT to LEFT**
3. Identify the group of five letters that have **final/Sofit forms**
4. Identify the group of six letters that can take a **Daghes Lene**
5. Identify the group of **four “guttural” letters** that cause significant changes in spelling and punctuation (and the one additional letter that sometimes acts as a guttural)
6. Differentiate among **“look-alike” letters**
7. Note differences between **“Seminary” and “Sephardic” pronunciation**

### Lesson 1 ACTIVities

#### 1.1 The Hebrew Aleph-Bet

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת

Almost every other grammar book would start with a lengthy description of each letter, how to write it and how to pronounce it \* But Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest is not just

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contemporary block. and contemporary cursive. This course will use contemporary block style. For more history and discussion on the other script forms, see Hebrew Quest, lessons 2-11.

another grammar book \* With Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest, **we** are not going to teach you the Aleph-Bet...

*YOU* are going to teach yourself the Aleph-Bet using Anki

This is not to say that we view learning the Aleph-Bet as unimportant. Just the opposite: **you will not want to move on to lesson 2 until you have the Aleph-bet memorized.**

As we said in the Introduction, we believe this type of learning is best accomplished when **you** are learning and challenging (and maybe struggling a bit) yourself. We are just here to give you some pointers so your journey gets started in the right direction.

Notes:

- All letters you see in the picture of the Aleph-Bet above are classified as “consonants”
  - Whereas English has the vowel letters (A, E, I, O, U) as a core part of the Aleph-Bet, Hebrew treats vowels differently
  - We’ll talk about vowels in the next lesson
- This would be a great time to review those introductory lessons in *Hebrew Quest*
  - Practical teaching on how to write the letter
  - Spiritual insights - what the letter teaches us

## 1.2 Hebrew is written and read from RIGHT-to-LEFT



אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקשת

Note the front of a Hebrew book is in the same location as the back of an English book:



- To our western eyes, this looks “backwards” (but Israelis would say *we* are reading backwards!)
- When reading Hebrew, always start at the “back” and go from RIGHT to LEFT

### 1.3 Five letters have final (“sofit”) forms

אבגדהוזחטיכך לממנסעפףצץ קרשת

- Hebrew does not have capital letters the way English does, but it does have a generally similiar concept
- Certain letters take what are called “Final” or “Sofit”<sup>7</sup> forms when they appear at the END of a word
  - Those letters are in red text above
- The names of these letters is quite simple

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7. *Sofit* is just the Hebrew word for final

- Take the letter Kaf , which is the first letter in the Aleph-bet with a sofit form
- The final form is simply named Kaf Sofit . Same for Mem and Mem sofit and so on<sup>8</sup>
- The five letters that have these forms are the letters, kaf, mem, nun, pei and Tsaddi:
- You can remember the acronym, KiMNePaTZ, which is the made-up word you get when you string the five letters in a row
- The KiMNePaTZ sofit forms can look like other letters - your Anki work will give you practice with identifying look-alike letters

#### 1.4 Six letters take a “Daghes Lene”

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת

- The next sub-group of letters you need to study are the “BeGaD Kephath” letters<sup>9</sup>

בגד כפת

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8. “Final Kaf”, “Final Mem”, etc., are also terms you may hear.

9. See also Lesson 3 of Hebrew Quest

- The red dot in the above letters is called a **DAGHESH LENE**
  - It is inserted into the middle of the consonant which makes the pronunciation hard if present, or soft if not present
  - This ONLY to Bet - Gimmel - Dalet - Kaf - Pei - and Tav - we call then “BeGaD KePHaT” letters because that’s what you get when you string the six letters together
  - Only these six can take a Dagheshe Lene<sup>10</sup>
- At one time all six of these letters had different pronunciation - a hard form and a soft form
  - Today only three do:
  - Since the letters without the Dagheshe Lene want to be “lazy” - for example a weak ‘v’ instead of a strong ‘b’- our mnemonic for these is “BuCK uP! You Lazy Letters!”<sup>11</sup>



**Buckup, lazy letters!**

- When will you see a        letter with and without the Dagheshe Forte?
  - There is a rule: A Dagheshe Lene is not used whenever the BDGKPT letter follows a Vowel

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10. If you see a dot in a letter other than these six, then you know it can’t be a Dagheshe Lene

11. You will learn the specific differences in your Anki work for this lesson.

We'll dig deeper into the Daghes Lene, and its twin, the Daghes Forte, over the next few lessons.

### 1.5 Four letters are classified as guttural consonants (and one is a sometimes-guttural)

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת

**Knowing the gutturals and how they behave will turn out to be one of the most important facets of Hebrew grammar**

- Gutturals are everywhere
  - We like to say that the gutturals will be our ‘problem children’ because they tend not to play nice with the other Hebrew rules
- There are four proper gutturals Aleph, Hei, Chet, and Ayin (in red above) \*The letter Resh (in orange above) is not formally a guttural; but since it can’t decide whether to behave or not, it is often grouped in as a guttural
  - The good news is this bad-boy behavior of the gutturals and Resh is entirely predictable
  - We will learn this over the next few lessons (and indeed, the rest of the course)
  - For now just memorize the four guttural consonants in red, and Resh, the sometimes-guttural-like letter in orange.

## 1.6 Look out for look-alike Letters

כ ב	ס ם
נ ג	ר ך
ת ח ה	ע צ
ש ן	ז ן ך

- Hebrew has many letters that can look similar, especially to someone just learning the Aleph-bet
  - The Anki deck will give you practice on distinguishing these.
  - Also, in Hebrew Quest, when Izzy reviewed the Aleph-Bet in lessons 2-11, he also talked about each letter’s “twin” and how to spot the difference
  - If it’s been a while, or if this is new to you, you might want to revisit those letter lessons.

## 1.7 Sephardic vs “Seminary” Pronunciation

אבגדהו זחטיכל מנסעפצק רשת

- There are some notable differences between what we might call academic or “seminary” Hebrew and “real-world” Hebrew.

- Real-world Hebrew is based on Sephardic pronunciation<sup>12</sup>
- We’ve already talked about how only three of the Daghesh Lene letters need to “buckup”<sup>13</sup>
- Another difference between Sephardic and Seminary pronunciation is how to pronounce
  - In academia, the consonant receives the “w” sound and is called “Waw.”
  - In most non-academic circles, it receives the “v” sound and is pronounced “vav”.
- There are also significant differences when it comes to pronouncing vowels, which we will talk about in Lesson 2.
- For the most part, Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest will follow the Sephardic pronunciation
- Some terms like “Waw consecutive” and “wayyiqtol” are prevalent in the field of Hebrew Grammar, including modern Bible software (see image).

VaW <sub>3</sub> MS	P̣	A	NC-SA	NC-SA	C	P̣	A	NC-SA	VaP <sub>3</sub> MS	NC-Ṣ
7121	7121		216	3117				2822	7121	3915
verb, Qal, wayyiqtol (waw-consecutive + imperfect), third person, masculine, singular										

- This course will use “Adonai” or “the LORD” when we encounter the Tetragrammaton<sup>14</sup>.

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12. “Seminary Hebrew” is a term borrowed from Dr. John Beckman. We don’t say “Seminary Hebrew” to be disrespectful; we only mean to differentiate between the two pronunciation types.

13. With “Seminary Hebrew”, the  $\text{waw}$  without the Daghesh Lene receives something like the gh in “aGHast” and the  $\text{ayin}$  and  $\text{lamed}$  without the Daghesh Lene are closer to the English th like “this”.

14. Pronouncing/writing/transliterating the Holy Name of God tends to be much more common in Christian academic circles. If you were to read “Basics of Biblical Hebrew” you would see the name “Y-w-h”



## 1.8 Lesson 1 ACTIVities

- Physical
  - Anki Aerobics
    - \* Vocabulary - Learn (or relearn) the Aleph-Bet with Izzy
    - \* Grammar - Identify look-alike Hebrew letters
  - [Letter Writing worksheet](#) for practice writing the letters one by one
  - [Blank writing paper](#) to practice writing the AlephBet in order. Repeat until you can do it at least five times from memory
- Spiritual
  - Anki Aerobics
    - \* Study-Verses - there is no translation yet but we will learn some grammar shorthand that we will use when we get to the study verses
  - [Ruth Pursuit](#)<sup>15</sup>
  - Instructions:
    1. Identify the four guttural letters (pink)<sup>16</sup>
    2. Identify the one half-guttural (red)

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used frequently. We do know of academicians, such as Dr. John Beckman and Dr. Robert Cargill, who will use the circumlocution of respect instead of pronouncing the name, so this is not a hard and fast “seminary” distinction

15. Click the link (and sign in with a Google account if necessary), then click “Open with Google Docs” to highlight the letters.

16. The color is to let you know what color the answer key will use, but feel free to highlight in any color, underline, change the font color, or otherwise identify anyway you like.

3. Identify the six BeGaD KePHaT letters, both with and without the Daghesh Lene for a total of 12 letters (green)
4. Identify the five final/sofit forms (blue)
5. Identify the remaining letters (yellow)

\* (Ruth Answer Key #1)

- Physical - Quest Quiz #1<sup>17</sup>

— After completing all of the other ACTIVities, complete the Quest Quiz to assess your progress

## 2 Hebrew Vowels

And what is required first of all for training men for such a ministry is that the book should be given them in its very words [Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek] as it has come from God's hand and in the fullness of its meaning, as that meaning has been ascertained by the labors of generations of men of God who have brought to bear upon it all the resources of sanctified scholarship and consecrated thought." —B. B. Warfield<sup>18</sup>

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִקְוּ הַמַּיִם

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17. Please remember that the Quest Quizzes are intended as a checkpoint of your learning after you have completed the Physical and Spiritual Preparation ACTIVities.

18. Warfield, Benjamin Breckenridge. "The Languages of Pastoral Ministry," in Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar, edited by Gary D Pratico and Miles V Van Pelt. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 2007 B.B. Warfield was a Presbyterian minister and professor of theology at Princeton Seminary from 1887 to 1921. ([wikipedia link](#))

## Seven Practical Points for Lesson 2

1. Memorize **vowels that are not vowel letters**
2. Learn **vocal sheva** and **silent sheva**
3. Memorize the **vowel letters**
4. Meet “**defective**” and “**plene**” writing
5. Meet Daghesh Lene’s twin, **Daghesh Forte**
6. Know the **rule for a Daghesh Forte**
7. Know that the **Gutturals and Resh reject Daghesh Forte**

## Lesson 2 ACTIVities

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19. As Izzy says in Hebrew Quest, “Vowels are important.” On your screen, you see Genesis 1:9. The black font shows the text with no vowels. Over time, vowel notation was developed by the Masorites - these are the symbols in red that are usually under, but sometimes in the middle of, or over the affected consonant to preserve the pronunciation passed down for centuries via the oral tradition. The Hebrew name for these diacritical dots and dashes is *nikudot*. The blue font shows additional cantillation marks, which are used for chanting the verses. These marks also show where the word’s accent is.  
 Image Source: Originally uploaded as en:[File:Example of biblical Hebrew trope.svg](#) on 04:27, 19 November 2006 (UTC) by en>User::SyntaxError55.

## Equipment Check



Before continuing, can you name the following letters?

- The twenty-two Aleph-Bet letters
- The four BeGaD KePHaT letters
- The five KiMNePaTZ letters
- The four guttural letters and the one sometimes-guttural letter












## 2.1 Vowels that are not vowel letters

**Vowels come in three types: Long, Short, Reduced | Vowels come in five classes: A, E, I, O, U**

Like the Aleph-bet, we are simply going to have to commit the table below to memory

- The letter  is provided as a placeholder

- Say the vowel *after* saying the associated consonant<sup>20</sup> So the first vowel example is “baw” not “awb”.

Type	Class	Symbol	Name	Pronunciation
Long	A		Qamets	f <u>a</u> ther
Long	E		Tsere	th <u>e</u> y
Long	O		Holem	r <u>o</u> le
Short	A		Pathach	f <u>a</u> ther
Short	E		Seghol	B <u>e</u> tter
Short	I		Hireq	B <u>i</u> tter
Short	O		Qamets Hatuf	r <u>o</u> le
Short	U		Qibbuts	r <u>u</u> ler
Reduced	A		Hateph Qamets	<u>a</u> muse
Reduced	E		Hateph Seghol	m <u>e</u> tallic
Reduced	O		Hateph Qamets Hatuf	c <u>o</u> mmit

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20. We will learn that Hebrew loves to break rules. In the next lesson we will learn about an exception to the “vowel comes after” rule, called the *furtive patach*.

Notes:

- Future lessons will explain the difference between Qamets and Qamets Hatuf
- Only **gutturals** take the “Hateph” vowels - to make it easier, we can pronounce all three Hateph vowels like the A in Amuse
- You might see Kibbutts, Kibbutz, Qibbutz, and Qibbutts used interchangeably

## 2.2 Vocal silent sheva

### 2.2.1 Both are written as: | **VOCAL Sheva is a REDUCED vowel** | **SILENT Sheva is NOT A Vowel**

- Vocal Sheva<sup>21</sup>
  - Only non-gutturals can take a Vocal Sheva
  - Pronounced like the A in Amuse (same as Hateph Pathach)
  - Is a REDUCED Vowel
- Silent Sheva
  - Any letter can take a Silent Sheva
  - Silent/ No sound
  - Is NOT A Vowel
- \_Both Sheva mark the **END** of a syllable
- We will learn how to distinguish between the two kinds of sheva in the next lesson

---

21. Most academic textbooks will use the term “shewa” instead of “sheva”.

### 2.3 Vowel letters

**Vowel letters use a consonant plus a nikkud to form a vowel**

Another table to memorize:

Class	Symbol	Name
A		Qamets Hei
E		Tsere Hei
		Seghol Hei
O		Holem Hei
E		Holem Vav
U		Shureq
A		Qamets Yod
E		Tsere Yod
		Seghol Yod
I		Hiriq Yod

- Shureq is pronounced like Qibbutz (ruler)
- Hireq Yod is pronounced like the i in machine
- All others are pronounced like their non-vowel-letter counterparts
- Yod and Vav vowels
  - These are Long Vowels that do not reduce
  - Therefore they are called “irreducible (unchangeable) long vowels”<sup>22</sup>
  - These occur in the middle or at the end of a word

---

22. We'll explain what this means in the next lesson

- Hey Vowels
  - Seghol Hey is a short vowel - the other Hey vowels are long
  - Hey vowels **ONLY** occur at the end of a word
  - Hey vowels are extremely common in Hebrew

#### 2.4 “Defective” and “plene” writing

**In “defective” writing, letter vowels can sometimes drop their letter and take on the corresponding non-letter vowel. The meaning of word doesn’t change.**

This is the word for “laws” showing both “plene” spelling (left) and “defective” spelling (right):

תּוֹרָה ⇒ תּוֹרָה  
=

laws

- Three vowel letters can take “defective” forms<sup>23</sup>
  - Hireq-Yod can drop the Yod and contract to Hireq
  - Holem-vav can drop the Vav and contract to Holem, as in the example above

---

23. “Defective”, in this sense, does not have a negative connotation.



- Shuruq, can drop the Vav and it's associated nikkud and contract to Qibuts

Over time, you'll start to develop a mental checklist when you encounter something that doesn't make sense. "Could this be a defective spelling?" will be one of those checklist items.

## 2.5 The Daghash Forte

### A Daghash Forte doubles the consonant

Notice the  $\text{הַשִּׁמַּיִם}$  in :



- Since  $\text{הַשִּׁ}$  is not a  $\text{שֶׁ}$  letter, we know this *cannot* be a Daghash Lene, but it is a Daghash **Forte**
- The letter with the Daghash Forte both ends one syllable and begins the next syllable
  - If we were to syllabify  $\text{הַשִּׁמַּיִם}$ , it would look something like the bottom line in the picture above (pronounce: hash-sha-mayim<sup>[Mayim is one syllable as we will learn in Lesson 3.]</sup> means “the heavens”). Going forward, we won't always provide a translation for every new word you encounter. It's more important that you

focus on the concepts. You will have PLENTY of vocabulary work in Anki!]

- A similar word in English might be better = bet | ter
  - If we were to hypothetically transliterate into Hebrew, it might look like:

\* 24

- Notice the syllable breaks in these words that have a Dagesh Forte:

חֶקֶה	≡	* חֶקֶה   חֶקֶה
אֶרֶץ	≡	* אֶרֶץ   אֶרֶץ
תִּפְלֶה	≡	* תִּפְלֶה   תִּפְלֶה
אֶתָּה	≡	* אֶתָּה   אֶתָּה

- Any consonant (except for Gutturals and Resh) can take a Dagesh Forte, including letter, which can take either a Dagesh Lene or a Dagesh Forte
  - The “Buck-up” letters will take the **hard** pronunciation regardless of a Dagesh Lene or Dagesh Forte

\* See the final word in the image above

---

24. The \* means this is not a real Hebrew word, but is only given for illustration.

## 2.6 Daghes Fort Rule

**“A Daghes is a Fort if, and only if, it’s preceded by a vowel<sup>25</sup> that is not a sheva.” —John Beckman**

That’s it. That’s the rule<sup>26</sup>.

Examples:

- = Is the Daghes preceded by a vowel that is not a sheva?<sup>27</sup>
- = Is the Daghes preceded by a vowel that is not a sheva?<sup>28</sup>
- = Is the Daghes preceded by a vowel that is not a sheva?<sup>29</sup>
- = Is the Daghes preceded by a vowel that is not a sheva?<sup>30</sup>
- = Is the Daghes preceded by a vowel that is not a sheva?<sup>31</sup>

## 2.7 Gutturals and Resh reject Daghes Fort

- We said in lesson one that the Gutturals don’t play nice with the other Hebrew Rules, and this rejection of the Daghes Fort is one of those ways
- A Hebrew collision like this means something has to give - the gutturals tend to get their way

---

25. Remember the rule for the Daghes Lene? See Lesson 1.4

26. Strictly speaking, there are exceptions, but you won’t encounter them in a first-year Hebrew course

27. Yes, a pathach. Daghes Fort

28. No. Daghes Lene

29. No. Daghes Lene. The “hyphen” looking mark is called a Maqqef. It has the exact same function as the Hyphen does in English.

30. No, it is preceded by a sheva. Daghes Lene.

31. Yes, a Hiriq. Daghes Fort

- A large chunk of Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest will involve how to resolve these situations - more to come!

## 2.8 Lesson 2 ACTIVities

- Physical
  - Anki Aerobics
    - \* Vocabulary - Learn (or relearn) the Vowels with Izzy
    - \* Grammar - More vowel drills. Learn the material in the “Vocabulary” deck really well and the “Grammar” deck should go smoother.
  - Worksheet
    - \* Practice writing the vowels using the [Vowel Writing worksheet/drill](#)

See note<sup>32</sup>
- Spiritual
  - Anki Aerobics
    - \* Study-Verses - there is no translation yet but we will learn some very common Hebrew names that we will use when we get to the study verses
  - Ruth Pursuit ([blank copy](#))

---

32. ignore the “transliteration” column. An answer key is on page two. Repeat this worksheet until you can complete it correctly entirely from memory.

1. Identify the four UNCHANGEABLE LONG vowels that use YOD in Verse 1 (blue)<sup>33</sup>|
2. Identify the two UNCHANGEABLE LONG vowels that use VAV in Verse 1 (Green)
3. Identify QAMETS HEI in Verse 1. There is a TSERE Hei between Verses 5-10. Can you find it?<sup>34</sup> (Purple)
4. Identify the three LONG vowels in Verse 1 (that are not part of a vowel letter) (pink)|
5. Identify three of the five SHORT vowels in Verse 1 (that are not part of a vowel letter)<sup>35</sup> (red)
6. Find the three REDUCED/HATEPHH vowels, including Hateph Qamets Hatuf<sup>36</sup>. They are in verses 2-4. (grey)
7. One of the more common verbs in the Tanach is      , which means ”(and) he said.

\* Vav-Pathach-**Yod**-Daghesh Forte – to start a verb means  
 ”And he (did or was something)

---

33. In most word processors you won’t be able to isolate the vowel to highlight. Just get as close as you can.

34. The other vowels that use hei are less common, but we will see them when we discuss verbs.

35. We haven’t learned to spot Qamets Hatuf yet, and Qibbuts does not appear in this passage

36. You should be able to make out the word that has the Hateph Qamets Hatuf

\* If we change the second consonant from a Yod to a **Tav**, we get – ”and She (did or was something).

\* Thus,        means “and she said”.

\* Challenge: Find the five instances of        in Ruth Chapter 1<sup>37</sup> (yellow)

\* Ruth Pursuit Answer Key #2

### 3 Syllabification and Pronunciation



Originally, the Bible and other ancient documents, like the “Tel Dan Stele” pictured above<sup>38</sup>, were written without spaces. In addition to vowels, the ancient scribes and readers organ-

---

37. In at least three of the instances, you should be able to figure out who is speaking.

38. The Tel Dan Stele was a significant archaeological find of the late 20th century. Written in Aramaic, closely related to Hebrew, the carving dates to the 9th Century BCE. It is notable for containing a reference to the “house of David”, and is the earliest known extra-biblical reference to King David. Prior to its discovery, many scholars had cast doubt on whether David really existed. It was discovered at the archeological site of “Dan” near the Lebanon border in modern Israel. (Photo Credit: By Oren Rozen - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47055869>)

ically adopted a system of syllables and accents. They knew where one word ended and another began without needing to write it down.

What we call “Hebrew grammar” is truly an exciting journey into the system of spoken and written Hebrew, which had its formation thousands of years ago!

### Seven Practical Points for Lesson 2

1. Learn the two basic concepts of **Hebrew Syllables**
2. Learn the rules and terminology related to **Hebrew Word Accents**
3. Know the Three Rules for Recognizing **Silent sheva**
4. Know the Four Rules Recognizing Vocal sheva: Four Rules Gutturals Reject **Vocal Sheva**
5. Learn the primary **Hebrew Diphthong**
6. Understand **Vowels and Syllable Preference**
7. Learn three simple miscellaneous concepts: **Qamets and Qamets Hatuf, Furtive Pathach Quiescent Alef**

### Lesson 3 ACTIVities

## Equipment Check



Before continuing, can you describe the following concepts?

- The vowels that are not letters, including their type (long, short, reduced) and class (a,e,i,o,u)
- The vowels that are letters, including which are the “irreducible long” type
- The difference between a Daghes Fort and a Daghes Lene

**The authors of Basics of Biblical Hebrew believe Lesson 3 could be the most difficult and time-consuming chapter in the book.**

If you do not have the vowels and, particularly, the vowel types memorized, this chapter is going to be all the more confusing.



Assuming you've checked your equipment as directed above, and everything is in tip-top shape for your Lesson 3 adventure, just take your time. Work through the written material then do a little Anki work and see if it starts to click.

If not, then come back here and re-read the material again. Then go back to Anki. If you find yourself getting frustrated, take a break and come back to it later. Continue to work through "the fog."

You absolutely must have the concepts from this lesson hard-wired before you continue to Lesson 4. The good news is once you get this lesson down, every other lesson is going to be relatively straightforward in comparison to the amount of new concepts you are facing in Lesson 3.

In addition to all of these new concepts, the authors have also seen fit to introduce a full set of vocabulary words AND study verses beginning with Lesson 3. So the overall workload will increase starting with this lesson.

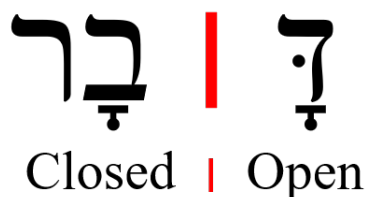
We're praying for you in advance as we compile this section! Now, go climb the mountain!

### 3.1 Hebrew Syllables

There are two basic concepts when it comes to Hebrew Syllables:

Every syllable begins with one consonant and has only one vowel

There are only open or closed syllables



We see the two basic concepts at play in this simple word (pronounced “da-var” and means word, matter, thing):

- The two syllables each begin with a consonant and have one vowel
  - begins with the consonant Dalet, and has one vowel, Qamets
    - \* This is also an example of an “open” syllable - open syllables end with a *vowel*, not a consonant
  - begins with the consonant Bet, and has one vowel, also a Qamets
    - \* This is an example of a “closed” syllable - closed syllables end with a *consonant*, not a vowel
- If you need to know how many syllables are in a Hebrew word, just count the vowels
  - Remember that vowel letters, such as the Hiriq-Yod, and Diphthongs we will later in this lesson count as a single vowel unit

### 3.2 Hebrew Word Accents

Most frequently, Hebrew words are stressed on the last syllable.

If not, then the the accent will be on the next-to-last syllable

Unlike English, Biblical Hebrew words are never stressed anywhere else<sup>39</sup>.

כֶּרֶם | כֶּן      סֵפֶר | סֵפֶר

- The word on the left is stressed on the last syllable
- The word on the right (pronounced “SAY-pher” or “SEH-pher” and means book, scroll, or document) is stressed on the next to last syllable
  - Some texts will place a mark over the syllable to be stressed (except when it is on the last syllable)<sup>40</sup>

### Tonic, Pretonic, and Propretonic Syllables

- We will encounter specific terms for a syllable’s position relative to the word’s accent
- Let’s use the plural of      to illustrate:
  - The **Propretonic** syllable is two (or more) steps away from the accent =

---

39. Modern Hebrew has words (mostly borrowed from other languages) that don’t follow this rule

40. Hebrew has a very elaborate system of [cantillation marks](#) that also serve to indicate where the accent of the word is. are used for chanting and singing. A study of these marks is beyond the scope of this book.

- \* Notice how the vowel changed from the Qamets in      to a Vocal Shewa in
- \* This vowel shortening of the propretonic syllable is called *Propretonic Reduction* and is extremely common in Hebrew
- The **Pretonic** Syllable is the syllable immediately before the accented syllable =
- The **Tonic** syllable is the one with the accent = <sup>41</sup>

### 3.3 Silent Sheva

Learn the three rules for differentiating a SILENT Sheva from a Vocal Sheva:

**SILENT** when previous vowel is short




---

41. Additional info in the textbook that you don't need to know: 1) If there is a syllable AFTER the accented syllable, technically it is called "Posttonic" but you will not encounter this term again for the remainder of this course. 2) There is an additional set of terms that signifies a syllable's position irrespective of the accent: *ultima* = the last syllable; *penultima* is the next to last syllable; *antepenultima* is the syllable before the *penultima*

SILENT when the first of two consecutive Shevas *within a word*

מְנַשְׁפֵּי

SILENT when at the end of a word

כַּתְּבָהּ

### 3.4 Vocal Sheva

Learn the four rules for differentiating a VOCAL Sheva from a Silent Sheva

VOCAL when the initial Sheva in a word:

בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ | בְּרַאשֵׁית

“buh-rei-sheet” and “buh-ra-cha”

VOCAL when the second of two consecutive Shevas *within a word*<sup>42</sup>:

מיִשְׁפָּטִי

“mish-puh-tai”

VOCAL when under a Dagheshe Forte:

הַמְּלָכִים

“ham-muh-la-kim”

VOCAL after an unaccented long vowel:

פַּתְּבִים

---

42. A Sheva at the **end** of a word is **always silent**, even when it is the second of two consecutive shevas.

This one may seem random but it is fairly common with long vowels in a propretonic position<sup>43</sup> The word above is not *kōṭ-vim* but *kō-ṭ -vîm*.

### 3.5 Hebrew Diphthong = Accented Pathach-Yod-Hiriq



- The important concept is that the diphthong is one vowel unit, which means it is only one syllable
  - The words above are not pronounced “BUY-it”, but monosyllabic “BUYIT”; and not “sh-MY-im” but “sh-MYIM”

### 3.6 Vowels and Syllable Preference

Vowel Type Preferences	Tonic	Pretonic	Propretonic
Open	SHORT	LONG	REDUCED
Closed	LONG	SHORT	SHORT

This table may seem like minutiae, but do yourself a favor: memorize it!

- Open/Propretonic *prefer* reduced vowels but this is why the concept of unchangeable long vowels matter.
  - Go back and look at      and

---

43. These vowels often but do not always reduce (see section 3.6). Unchangeable long vowels will never reduce.

- \* The vowel preference table explains why the vowel under the dalet changes from Qamets in the open pretonic to Vocal Shewa (reduced vowel) in the open propretonic when the plural suffix “im” is added
- As we saw with ,      propretonic long vowels do not always reduce (and unchangeable long vowels never will)

### 3.7 Qamets Hatuf, Furtive Pathach, Quiescent Alef

These are three miscellaneous but straightforward rules.

**Qamets Hatuf ONLY occurs in a Closed AND Unaccented syllable**

חַכְמָה      בְּתִים

There are many instances where the vowel could be a short qamets-hatuf vowel in a closed syllable, or the long Qamets, A-class vowel in an open syllable. When this ambiguity occurs, many printings will print a vertical line called a methet. This tells you the vowel is the **long, a-class**



### 3.7.1 Furtive Pathach under final or is said BEFORE the guttural letter and is not a full vowel



- The Furtive Pathach is a significant exception to just about everything else we've discussed related to vowels and syllabification:
  - The vowel is pronounced *before* the guttural - so the above word is **Ruach** not “rucha”
  - The Furtive Pathach is not a full vowel and is counted in syllabification - so the above word is **Ruach** not “ru-ach”

**Quiescent Aleph is silent, neither a consonant nor a vowel**



- When you see an Aleph with no vowels, it is acting as a silent letter
  - English has all kinds of silent letters, like the ‘p’ in receipt - the Quiescent Aleph works the same way

- In terms of syllabification, the Aleph is neither a vowel nor a consonant, so it doesn't count at all - it is just an extra letter

## Conclusion

Congratulations for getting this far! This is a tough chapter and, as is our pace, we moved through the “teaching” aspects of it quickly to allow you to get started and get learning in Anki.

We realize that there are a lot of heavy concepts you face in this Lesson.

Some of you may try to read this lesson then go do the Anki work (perhaps repeated a few times), and you still aren't getting it. The Fog just isn't clearing. If this is the case, and you want a more in-depth lecture covering this material, we can recommend [Dr. John Beckman's hour-long YouTube Lecture on lesson 3](#)

## 3.8 Lesson 3 ACTIVities

- Physical
  - Anki Aerobics
    - \* Vocabulary - first lesson with a full set of vocabulary words, featuring audio by Izzy!
    - \* Grammar - All of the concepts you learned in the sections above will be reinforced in Anki

- Like we said in the Equipment Check section, if you absolutely are getting frustrated, take a break or check out the additional in-depth video by Dr. Beckman
- Spiritual
  - Anki Aerobics
    - \* Study-Verses - welcome to our first grouping of study verses, featuring audio by Izzy
      - These verses are designed to highlight the vocabulary words learned
      - At first, translation might seem difficult. We'll give you hints as to word meanings along the way until you can build up your vocabulary
    - \* Over the entire 35 lesson course, you will learn to translate almost 500 Hebrew Verses. The greatest journey begins with a single step. You are now about to take that step!
  - Ruth Pursuit ([blank copy](#))
    1. Identify |
    2. Identify (Green)
    3. Identify (Purple)
    4. Identify (yellow)
    - \* [Ruth Pursuit Answer Key #3](

## END OF PREVIEW/DEMO COURSE

Please email errors, omissions, comments, or suggestions to [holylanguagecourses@gmail.com](mailto:holylanguagecourses@gmail.com)

The anticipated full course availability date is Q2 2021.

Sign up to receive ministry updates and other news at our [Holy Language Institute website](#).

Additional topics to be covered in the full ***Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest*** book/course:

4 Hebrew Nouns

5 Definite Article and Conjunction Vav

6 Hebrew Prepositions

7 Hebrew Adjectives

8 Hebrew Pronouns

9 Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes

10 Hebrew Construct Chain

11 Numerals/counting

12 Introduction to Hebrew Verbs

13 Qal Perfect - Strong Verbs

14 Qal Perfect - Weak Verbs

15 Qal Imperfect - Strong Verbs

16 Qal Imperfect Weak

17 Vav Consecutive

18 Qal Imperative

19 Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs

- 20 Qal Infinitive Construct
- 21 Qal Infinitive Absolute
- 22 Qal Participle
- 23 Hebrew Syntax
- 24 The Niphal Stem - Strong Verbs
- 25 The Niphal Stem - Weak Verbs
- 26 The Piel Stem - Strong Verbs
- 27 The Piel Stem - Weak Verbs
- 28 The Pual Stem - Strong Verbs
- 29 The Pual Stem - Weak Verbs
- 30 The Hiphil Stem - Strong Verbs
- 31 The Hiphil Stem - Weak Verbs
- 32 The Hophal Stem - Strong Verbs
- 33 The Hophal Stem - Weak Verbs
- 34 The Hithpael Stem - Strong Verbs
- 35 The Hithpael Stem - Weak Verbs

## **Appendix A: About Anki**

Anki is like gym equipment for your brain

If one wants to build strength she might use the weight machine. If one wants to build endurance and overall health, she might use the treadmill. Most people will want to use a



Figure 1. Strength



Figure 2. Endurance

combination of both. What does this have to do with Anki (whatever that is)? I'm glad you asked!

What if I told you you could have the equivalent pieces of equipment, only for your brain instead of your physical health and the machine didn't cost you a penny? It's true! That machine is called Anki.

Anki is a tremendous tool for learning and it is where we will be spending the bulk of your time in the course. In fact it has become the "go to" for many medical school students for learning all the intricate facts they have to know.

Decks	Add	Browse	Stats	Sync
Deck	Due	New		
- Hebrew Grammar Quest	0	200	⚙	
0.Introduction	0	7	⚙	
- 1. Lessons 1-7	0	200	⚙	
Lesson 01 Grammar	0	73	⚙	
Lesson 01 Vocab	0	62	⚙	
Lesson 02 Grammar	0	24	⚙	
Lesson 02 Verses	0	25	⚙	
Lesson 02 Vocab	0	26	⚙	
Lesson 03 Grammar	0	30	⚙	
Lesson 03 Verses	0	17	⚙	
Lesson 03 Vocab	0	21	⚙	

### 3.9 The Forgetting Curve

## Appendix B: Questions and Answers about Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest

What is the difference between Hebrew Quest and Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest?

- Both courses are born of the same Holy Language Learning philosophy: the optimal way to interact with the Sacred Scriptures is by *doing*
- Hebrew Quest was intentionally designed to get students into Hebrew texts with as little “grammar” as possible
- Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest is designed to fill a gap for those students who want to know more about the inner workings of Hebrew, but wish to do so in a fun, low pressure format (as opposed to taking a formal Hebrew course or trying to read an academic-level textbook on their own)
- Also, we know that everyone learns a little differently
  - Many are able view the 40 lessons of Hebrew Quest, and they “get it” with respect to Hebrew
  - Others may have found themselves getting stuck on the “grammar” sections of Hebrew Quest and need some more in-depth grammar preparation before returning to the study passages
  - Still others made it through some or all of Hebrew Quest and just have a desire to know more
- Wherever you find yourself, if you have an interest in digging deeper, you have come to the right place!



Do I need to have completed Hebrew Quest before I start Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest?

- Emphatically - **No!**
  - This grammar course starts from the beginning (with learning the Aleph-bet) and assumes no prior knowledge of Hebrew
- With that said, the more of Hebrew Quest you have completed the easier you may find it is to work through the grammar material
- If we were to categorize as “good”, “better”, “best” in terms of Hebrew Quest completion, here’s what we would say:
  - **Good:**
    - \* You have completed some or no Hebrew Quest lessons
    - \* This means that the first three lessons of Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest might take you a little longer, but, once you have that foundation, you’ll be up to speed
  - **Better:**
    - \* You have completed through Hebrew Quest Lesson 12 (the Aleph-bet and Vowels)
    - \* This means the first three lessons will go a little more quickly for you
  - **Best:**
    - \* You have completed through Lesson 15 (verbs) and beyond

- \* This means that more of the concepts presented in Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest will tend be things you have heard before, versus brand new

When I complete this course, should I go back and finish Hebrew Quest?

- **ABSOLUTELY!**

- In fact, the most logical next step after completing a first-year Hebrew grammar course is to dig into the Scriptures and start reading
- Hebrew Quest, starting with Lesson 16 is all about reading Hebrew<sup>44</sup>
- In other words, Hebrew Quest and Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest compliment each other in a circular (and maybe slightly paradoxical) way:
  - The more Hebrew Quest you have completed, the more you will get out of Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest, and
  - The more Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest you have completed, the more you will get out of Hebrew Quest
  - Either way, you can't go wrong!

There are many books out there to learn Hebrew. What makes Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest different?

- As we say above, we want students to learn by **doing**

---

44. Although, with your deeper knowledge you may be able to go a little faster. If the Hebrew Quest videos are too slow for you, click the “Settings” gear icon in the bottom right corner of the video, then click “Speed”, and then select a faster speed.

- While **Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest** will cover the same concepts as a typical first-year Hebrew textbook, the instructional design team at Holy Language Institute are huge proponents of *active* learning as opposed to passive learning
- Reading a book is largely a passive activity
- Therefore, our goal for this book and the accompanying lectures, is to simply provide a quick orientation to the concepts<sup>45</sup>
- Textbooks have their place, but in our view, your “real” learning will take place when you complete the ACTIVities (see root of the word “active” in there?)
  - This is the impetus behind the current “flipped classroom” philosophy in traditional education

What is a “flipped classroom”?

- Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest applies concepts from what is called a “flipped classroom”
- In a traditional classroom, lecture and exams are the priority
  - What educators have started to notice was that these two aspects of teaching, though valuable for different reasons, are not when the student’s primary learning occurs
- In a flipped classroom, the activities usually thought of as “homework” are the priority

---

45. In fact, if you’re looking for a stand-alone textbook, there is none better than Basics of Biblical Hebrew.

- Interactive reading (with note-taking and active-recall), worksheets, and discussion are much better vehicles for learning than a lecture
- Therefore in Hebrew GRAMMAR quest there is an intentional de-emphasis on lectures and exams and an intentional emphasis on activities - in fact to emphasize this emphasis we call these “ACTIVities”!

What are the ACTIVities?

We cover all of this in the **Preface: the philosophy of this book and course** section!

How do I access the Anki deck or online course?

- The full program including the Anki package and access to the online course, are available to subscribers of Holy Language Institute
- Login to [holylanguage.com](http://holylanguage.com)
- Click on the LEARN button then select “Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest” (*pending development*)

Do I need the online course if I have this book?

- Strictly speaking, no. This book contains the same links to the same activities as the online course does
- The advantages of the course include all of the ACTIVities in a checklist style format with the ability to quickly determine what you have completed and what you still need to do to complete a given lesson or module

- **IMPORTANT** - If you wish to be included in our [Hebrew Quest and Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest graduation process](#), where you will receive certificates upon completion of each of the five modules in each course, as well as a congratulatory gift upon completion of the entire course, there are documentation requirements that can **only** be met by completing the online course

Will I need to buy anything?

- **NO.** Other than being a subscriber to Holy Language Institute, you will not need to purchase anything for this course (unless you want to)
- We would like to disclose that the iOS version of the Anki app requires a one-time purchase through the Apple store of \$25
  - Note: Holy Language Institute has nothing to do with this policy and receives nothing should you decide to purchase the app
  - The developers of Anki provide every other platform for free, and say they use the proceeds from the iOS app to fund these other platforms and program enhancements
  - While the price is steep for an app, most online reviews say the cost is justified (a few pennies a day over the course of a year)
  - If you have an Apple device and do not wish to purchase the app, you may use a web-based version of mobile Anki at no charge (you just can't use it offline)

- There are lots of additional resources available that accompany *Basics of Biblical Hebrew* for free and to purchase - we will incorporate many of the free resources into the online course
- In other words, we have designed this course so that you should not have a need to purchase anything additional by way of learning materials
- With that said, if you wish to purchase *Basics of Biblical Hebrew* or any of the accompanying resources for deeper study, some options are below<sup>46</sup>
  - [Basics of Biblical Hebrew Textbook](#)
  - [Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook](#)
  - [Basics of Biblical Hebrew Laminated Reference Card](#)
  - We would appreciate it if you would use one of the affiliate links, which allows Holy Language Institute to receive a small commission

Who will (and who might not) benefit from Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest?

- Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest is focused on reading and understanding Hebrew for the English speaker
  - If you desire to read the Hebrew Scriptures in the original language and have a greater comprehension of what you read, this course is for you!

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46. Before purchasing, we would like to make our students aware that the authors of these materials take an academic, as opposed to a reverential approach regarding God's Holy Name and you will see the transliteration of the Tetragrammaton printed on yearly every page. While we believe this is unfortunate and unnecessary, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew* remains an excellent resource for a in-depth study of first-year Hebrew grammar

- If one was looking to be a fluent writer or speaker of Hebrew, or teach Hebrew in a formal academic setting, this course probably would not fully meet that person’s goals (although it would be a great first step)
- This course focuses on Biblical Hebrew, not Modern Hebrew
  - If you are looking to translate “can you direct me to the railway station?”, we apologize, but this course will not benefit you!
- Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest is designed to be self-directed and (mostly) stress-free
  - By design, it does not have the accountability and rigor of a traditional academic program
    - \* By saying it does not have “academic rigor”, we are **NOT** saying this course will be easy
    - \* You will likely spend *many* hours on this course, mostly in Anki
    - \* We believe it will be a tremendous investment you can make for the kingdom and the impact you can have on others
    - \* When you start to see your knowledge building up in Anki, we believe you will find it rewarding and perhaps even fun as well
  - Those who seeking more of an academic/seminary type of setting might fare better with a traditional, instructor-led, Hebrew course

### **What if I am a Bible teacher? Should I take this course?**

- We believe this course, in conjunction with **Hebrew Quest**, would prepare a pastor or teacher of a traditional Christian congregation to have a basic under-

standing of the Hebrew text to be able to exegete and communicate beginning and intermediate level Hebrew/Hebraic concepts to a lay audience

- Additionally, for those who have had first-year Hebrew at seminary (perhaps many years ago) but have struggled to apply knowledge of the original language to their vocation, or for those pastors/teachers who may have never taken a grammar course in Hebrew, *our prayer is that this course, along with Hebrew Quest, will give new life to Hebrew application in that person's teaching ministry*<sup>47</sup>

### About Holy Language Institute




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47. This book's author can testify to this!



## ***Jesus is Jewish. {-}***

What if you could get closer to him through Hebrew?

Read on to see what “Following Yeshua, in a Hebrew way, together” means to us.

### Following Yeshua

When the first disciples heard “follow me”, they understood they were being invited into a relationship with this Rabbi from Nazareth. Through this journey of discipleship they would become like him and go on to change the world with him. They knew that following Yeshua was all about knowing Yeshua. That’s what our learning experiences are all about.

### In a Hebrew Way

The disciples of Jesus joined him in reading the Hebrew Bible and praying the Hebrew prayers. That’s why this isn’t just a language - it’s a way of following in the footsteps of the Master, a way of encountering the King of the Jews through the language of his people.

### Together

The men and women who followed Yeshua became a safe and loving community. Same with us! As an organization we’re Holy Language “Institute”. As a community of disciples we’re the Holy Language “Tribe”. Together we’re a movement, making disciples and changing the world.

## ***LEARN MORE:***

[Email sign-up](#)

Become a member to access the full Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest course, as well as our complete library of teaching materials.

### About the designer of this book

- Chris Flanagan has been a member of HLI since 2013 and joined as a ministry volunteer in 2015.
- He has completed Hebrew Quest as a student, which planted a desire to dig deeper into the original languages. He has completed both Hebrew and Greek courses at the seminary level.
- He has worked on a number of projects for HLI from an instructional design standpoint, including leading of “Hebrew Quest Memrise” and now “Hebrew Grammar Quest”
  - This work is simply a compilation of many various first-year Hebrew resources, which he has knitted together to present in an original and engaging format
  - For this reason, he likes to refer to himself as the “designer” or “compiler” of this dynamic Hebrew learning tool, and not the “author” of a static book
- Professionally, Chris has worked in the healthcare compliance field for over 30 years

- Personally, Chris is married and has two men in college. He and his wife, Sarah, love to travel, especially to Israel; (which, as you can tell, has inspired the format of each lesson in this book)



### Acknowledgments

All honor and glory to Yeshua, our Lord.

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Biblical Hebrew text is courtesy of tanach.us (version 26.0).

Our thanks to Dr. Gary Pratico and Dr. Myles Van Pelt for Basics of Biblical Hebrew, the seminary textbook that inspired the format of **Hebrew Grammar Quest**. We encourage any of our students interested in going deeper with Hebrew grammar to purchase the textbook or any related materials.

Additionally our most grateful thanks to Dr. John Beckman for making his extensive library of materials to accompany Basics of Biblical Hebrew freely available for reuse under CC-BY-SA.

As applicable:

- Vocabulary portions of this book are derivatives of [00\\_vocabulary.pdf](#) by John Beckman, used under [CC-BY-SA](#).
- Grammar portions of this book are derivatives of [00\\_study\\_guide.pdf](#) as well as the “overhead” files for each individual chapter (for example [Chapter 1-The Hebrew Alphabet](#), and so on for each successive chapter) by John Beckman, used under [CC-BY-SA](#).
- Study verses portions of this Anki deck are derivatives of [00\\_work-book\\_answers.pdf](#) by John Beckman, used under [CC-BY-SA](#).

Finally, we thank YOU for your interest in this course!

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Figure 3. Creative Commons

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If you received this book and you are not a member of Holy Language Institute, [become a member](#) today! This will give you access to the full Hebrew GRAMMAR Quest course, as well as our complete library of teaching materials.