

## The Hebrew Vowels

Class		Sign	Trans- literation	Name	Pronun- ciation	Example
a	Short	ַ	a	patach	that	בַּת
	Long	ָ	ā	qamets	father	אָבִי
i	Short	ֵ	e	shegol	let	אֵל
	Long	ֶ	ē	tserere	they	אֵת
		ֹ	ê	tserere yod		אֵין
	Short	ִ	i	hireq	pin	בִּית
	Long	ֵי	î	hireq yod	machine	אֵישׁ
o	Short	ֻ	o	qamets-hatuph	top	חֻכְמָה
	Long	ֹ	ō	holem	note	קוֹל
	Long	ֻוּ	ô	holem vav		
	Short	ֹ	u	qibbuts	bull	סֻלָּם
	Long	ֻי	û	shureq	flute	מוֹת
Half Vowels	Regular	ְ	e	shewa	because	קָטַל
	a class	ֱ	a	hateph-patach	about	חָמֹר
	e class	ִי	e	hateph-shegol	because	אָמַר
	o class	ֹי	o	hateph-qames	about	חָלִי

Additionally, the alphabetic signs ך ם and ן frequently function as markers of long vowels. When the signs are used this way, they are *not* consonants. They are called *matres lectionis*, “mothers of reading.” (Seow, 7; Mitchel, xxii)