

## Hebrew Rules!

### 1. Syllable formation (GKC §26, esp. f/ for exceptions)

1. All Hebrew syllables have at least a consonant and a vowel (C V) and all Hebrew syllables have to begin with a consonant (or a consonantal vowel, initial וַיְ [GKC 5b<sup>1</sup>]).
  2. Syllables consisting of only a consonant and a vowel (C V) are open syllables and normally take a long vowel.
  3. Syllables consisting of a consonant, a vowel, and a consonant (C V C) are closed syllables and normally take a short vowel.
2. Shewa – (GKC §10) a simple shewa is vocal unless it follows a short vowel (composite shewas are all vocal)
1. Vocal (transliterated with a superscript e – <sup>e</sup>)
    1. When it begins a word or a syllable דבר (d<sup>e</sup> bār)
    2. When it comes after a long vowel, thus beginning a new syllable. דָּבָרִים (dō b<sup>e</sup> rīm)
  2. Silent (not transliterated with a character)
    1. When it comes after a short vowel מִדְבָּר (mid bār)  
(short vowels normally come in closed syllables and so the shewa would be under the consonant that closes the syllable)
    3. When two shewas come in the middle of a word, the first is silent, the second is vocal יִקְטָלֵן (yiq t<sup>e</sup> lū)
    4. A shewa under a letter with a dagesh forte is vocal יִקְטָלֵן (y<sup>e</sup> qat t<sup>e</sup> lū)  
(this is a modification of # 3 as the word would be יִקְטָלֵן without the dagesh)
  3. Dagesh (GKC §12) - a dagesh in any letter preceded by a vowel is forte
    1. Dagesh Lene is only found in ב נ ד כ פ ת letters
    2. ב נ ד כ פ ת letters with a dagesh following a vowel is forte and lene (GKC 13.3[d])
    3. A dagesh in a ב נ ד כ פ ת letter not preceded by a vowel is lene
    4. Guttural letters do not take a dagesh, but when one would occur, the vowel preceding the guttural letter is lengthened.
  4. Qames/Qames Hatuf (GKC §9u,v)
    1. Qames (long vowel)
      1. Occurs in open syllables - first syllable in this case דבר (dā bār)
      2. This includes a qames found with a metheg as the metheg makes the syllable open הָאֲרֶץ (hā 'ā reṣ)
      3. Occurs in closed accented syllable - second syllable in this case דָּבָר (dā bār)
    2. Qames hatuf (short vowel) - is found in closed, unaccented syllable הָאֲמָה (hōk māh)
  5. Guttural Letters (GKC §22) (ח ט ע) אַהֲרֹן

1. Do not take a Dages forte (or lene!)
2. They prefer before (and after at times) A class vowels (mostly short).
3. They take a composite/compound/hateph shewa.