

EXERCISES

1. Write each letter of the alphabet with each of the vowel signs given in the table of full vowels.

2. Practice pronouncing the letters with the vowels until you are thoroughly familiar with the sounds.
3. The following combinations of Hebrew letters and vowels sound like English words with which you are familiar. However, the combinations for the most part have no meaning in Hebrew. See if you can discover an English word that matches each of the sounds.

Example:

፳ = 'ěg, pronounced like "egg"

אָר = 'ar, pronounced like "are"

בֵּית = *bēt*, pronounced like “bait”

II EXERCISES

(1)	אָגָּ	(9)	גִּימָּט	(17)	שָׁפָּר	(25)	לָתָּה	(33)	סָרָּ
(2)	אָרָּ	(10)	הָנָּ	(18)	טָוָּל	(26)	לִיןָּ	(34)	סָוִּן
(3)	בִּיתָּ	(11)	דָּוָּר	(19)	יִטָּ	(27)	מָטָּ	(35)	פִּיאָּ
(4)	בִּידָּ	(12)	הִיטָּ	(20)	יִוָּסָּ	(28)	מִיןָּ	(36)	פֶּטָּ
(5)	בּוֹתָּ	(13)	הָגָּ	(21)	יִשָּׁ	(29)	מָןָּ	(37)	רוֹתָּ
(6)	בְּלָּ	(14)	הָוָּלָּ	(22)	כָּקָּ	(30)	נִידָּ	(38)	שָׁלָּ
(7)	בָּנָּ	(15)	וַיְלָּ	(23)	כָּרָּ	(31)	נָתָּ	(39)	שָׁלָּ
(8)	גָּנָּ	(16)	וַתָּ	(24)	כִּילָּ	(32)	גָּנָּטָּ	(40)	תּוֹלָּ

4. We learned that ' and וּ can function not only as consonants but also as vowels (*matres lectionis*). See if you can determine which of the following words use וּ as a consonant and which use it as a vowel.

(1)	וַיְהִי	(3)	לִיןָ	(5)	מִוּתָּ	(7)	וַיְהִי
(2)	קוֹם	(4)	רוֹתָּ	(6)	בּוֹשָׁ	(8)	וַיְהִי

5. See if you can determine which of the following words employ יְ as a consonant and which employ it as a vowel.

(1)	יָדָ	(2)	יָמָם	(3)	אִישָׁ	(4)	יִשְׁ	(5)	בִּיתָּ	(6)	שִׁיםָּ
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6. Point the following words (supply them with vowels) by consulting a dictionary or word list.

(1)	אַדְמָה	(3)	חָלוּם	(5)	חָמוֹר	(7)	נְחָלָה
(2)	אֱלֹהִים	(4)	חָלֵי	(6)	חָצֵי	(8)	עֲרָבָה

7. Listed below are the letters of the alphabet written in their full Hebrew forms. Transliterate the Hebrew names for these letters and practice pronouncing them.

Example: אַלְף, *álēf*; בִּית, *bēt*; etc. [The accent mark used in אַלְף and elsewhere in this list is explained in 8.1(1).]

(1)	אַלְףָ	(7)	זִיןָ	(13)	מָםָ	(19)	קֹרָּ
(2)	בִּיתָּ	(8)	חִיתָּ	(14)	נוֹןָ	(20)	רִישָׁ
(3)	גִּימְלָ	(9)	טִיתָּ	(15)	סְמָךָ	(21)	שִׁיןָ
(4)	דָּלָתָּ	(10)	יְוָדָּ	(16)	עַזָּןָּ	(22)	שִׁיןָ
(5)	הָאָ	(11)	כָּרָבָּ	(17)	פָּאָ	(23)	תָּוָּ
(6)	וּ	(12)	לְמָדָּ	(18)	צָדָּיָּ		

8. Here is a similar list of the vowels. Transliterate these and practice pronouncing them.

(1)	קָמִין	(5)	סָגָול	(9)	חוֹלָם וּוּ
(2)	פָּתָח	(6)	חִירָק יֹד	(10)	קָמִין חַטּוֹף
(3)	אָרִי	(7)	חִירָק	(11)	שָׁוֹרָק
(4)	אָרִי יֹד	(8)	חוֹלָם	(12)	קָבוּץ

9. Transliterate the proper names listed below and practice pronouncing them in Hebrew.

(1)	בֵּית לְחָם	(9)	לְבָנָן	(17)	שָׁרָה
(2)	גָּד	(10)	מֹשֶׁה	(18)	שְׁבָם
(3)	גַּשְׁן	(11)	נָתָן	(19)	שְׁלָמָה
(4)	דָּוָד	(12)	סָדָם	(20)	שָׁם
(5)	הָגָר	(13)	עִשּׂוֹ	(21)	שְׁפָנָן
(6)	כָּנָעַן	(14)	פָּאָרָן	(22)	תַּל אֲבִיב
(7)	כָּלָב	(15)	קָדְשָׁ	(23)	תַּמְרָר
(8)	לְאָהָה	(16)	רְחָלָה	(24)	יִשְׂרָאֵל

- (a) Vāv functions as a *vowel* when it occurs immediately after a consonant and is pointed either as šúrēq (ׁ) or hōlēm vāv (ׂ). Examples in this exercise are **לֹן**, **בּוֹשׁ**, **רוֹת**, and **קוֹם**.
- (b) Vāv functions as a *consonant* when it occurs at the beginning of a word or a new syllable within a word. In all such cases, vāv must be written with an accompanying vowel, which may be either a half-vowel or a full vowel. Examples in this exercise of vāvs that begin words are **וַיְהִי**, **וַיְשִׁם**, and **וַיְהִי**. An example of vāv at the beginning of a new syllable with a word is found in **מוֹתָה**. The division of words into syllables will be studied later in Lesson IV (cf. G.12, pp. 19ff.).
- (c) Yôd functions as a *vowel* when it occurs in a median or final position in a word and is written without an accompanying vowel. In this situation yôd combines with the full vowel written beneath the preceding consonant and forms a diphthong. The vowels that may occur with diphthongal yôd are pâtâh (sometimes lengthened to qâmêš), sêgôl, sérê, and hîrêq. The resultant diphthongs are **אַיִלְתָּה**, **אַיִלְתָּה**, **אַיִלְתָּה**, **אַיִלְתָּה**, and **אַיִלְתָּה**. Examples in this exercise of yôd functioning as a *vowel* are **אַיִשׁ**, **בְּיִתְּ**, and **שִׁים**. Other examples are **שְׁנִין**, **צְדִי**, **צְדִי**, and **צְדִי**.

(d) Yôd functions as a *consonant* when it stands at the beginning of a word or a new syllable within a word. In all such cases yôd must be followed immediately by its supporting vowel. Usually this is a full vowel, but it may also be a half-vowel. Examples in this exercise of yôd as a *consonant* are יְדָ, יְמָ, and יְשָׁ. Other examples are יְאֹרֶ (with half-vowel), יְיַן (twice), and בְּיַתְּ (median yôd beginning a new syllable). The constant factor in all these examples is that yôd is always followed immediately by a vowel.

(e) Compound shevas occur almost exclusively with gutturals.

(f) In Modern Hebrew, no appreciable difference is made between the pronunciation of pâtâh and of qâmêš. For our purpose, however, pâtâh will be transcribed as “ă” and qâmêš as “ă” (cf. G.2.2, p. 7). This will enable students to reconstruct Hebrew words with greater accuracy when words occur with either pâtâh or qâmêš.

Suggestions for Further Testing

1. Transliterate the names for the letters of the alphabet, marking accented syllables where indicated, and supplying the vowels with appropriate accent marks. In the second blank give the consonant that each name designates. Hint: the first letter of the name designates the consonant.

	Name	Consonant		Name	Consonant
(1)	אֵלִיָּהּ		(13)	מֵם	
(2)	בֵּיתָ		(14)	נֵזֶן	
(3)	גִּימֶלְ		(15)	סֵמֶךְ	
(4)	דְּלִתְ		(16)	עֵיןְ	
(5)	הֵאָהָ		(17)	פֵּאָהָ	
(6)	וֹוֹ		(18)	צֵדְיָהָ	
(7)	זֵיַןְ		(19)	קֵוֹרְ	
(8)	חֵיתְ		(20)	רֵישְׁ	
(9)	טֵיתְ		(21)	שֵׁיןְ	
(10)	יֵוֹדְ		(22)	שֵׁיןְ	
(11)	כֵּףְ			תֵּוֹתְ	
(12)	לֵמֶדְ				

2. Transliterate the names for the vowels and write the vowels as they occur in the Hebrew Bible.

	Name	Vowel		Name	Vowel
(1)	קָמִץ	_____	(7)	חִירָק	_____
(2)	פָּתָח	_____	(8)	חֹלָם	_____
(3)	צָרִי	_____	(9)	חֹלָם יוֹ	_____
(4)	צָרִי יֹד	_____	(10)	קָמִץ חַטּוֹף	_____
(5)	סָנוּל	_____	(11)	שֹׁוּרָק	_____
(6)	חִירָק יוֹד	_____	(12)	קָבּוֹץ	_____

3. Indicate which of the following words employ yôd as a consonant (C) and which employ it as a vowel (V).

(1)	אָנִי	()	(5)	הָיָה	()	(9)	כִּי	()
(2)	בְּרִית	()	(6)	יּוֹם	()	(10)	מֵי	()
(3)	בֵּין	()	(7)	זְיַן	()	(11)	שְׁנִים	()
(4)	כִּי	()	(8)	יְשֻׁעָה	()	(12)	שִׁית	()

4. Indicate which of the following words employ vâv as a consonant (C) and which employ it as a vowel (V).

(1)	אָוֶר	()	(5)	גּוֹר	()	(9)	וּבָהָז	()
(2)	גּוֹאֵל	()	(6)	וְנָבִיא	()	(10)	סִים	()
(3)	תְּקֻנָּה	()	(7)	הָוָא	()	(11)	קוּם	()
(4)	תּוֹרָה	()	(8)	וְהָאָרֶץ	()	(12)	שְׁלֹום	()

5. From your study of the Glossary (cf. G, pp. 424ff.), define the following terms:

(1) Compound Sheva	(6) Matres Lectionis
(2) Diphthong	(7) Munah
(3) Half-Vowel	(8) Pointed Text
(4) Masoretes	(9) Scriptio Plena
(5) Masoretic Text	(10) Transliteration