

EXERCISES

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

Example: אַ אֵ אִ אֹ אָ אֶ אִי אִי אִי אִי אִי אִי
etc. בִּי בֵּי בִּי בֵּי בִּי בֵּי

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:

אֵג = 'ěg, pronounced like "egg"
אֶר = 'ār, pronounced like "are"
בֵּית = bêt, pronounced like "bait"

II EXERCISES

(1) אָג	(9) גִּיט	(17) טָר	(25) לֶת	(33) סָר
(2) אָר	(10) דֶּן	(18) טוּל	(26) לִין	(34) סוֹן
(3) בֵּית	(11) דּוֹר	(19) יֵט	(27) מָט	(35) פִּיא
(4) בִּיד	(12) הֵיט	(20) יוֹס	(28) מִין	(36) פֶּט
(5) בּוֹת	(13) הֶג	(21) יֶש	(29) מֶן	(37) רוֹת
(6) בָּל	(14) הוּל	(22) פֶּק	(30) נִיד	(38) שָל
(7) בֶּן	(15) נִיל	(23) פֶּר	(31) נֵת	(39) שָל
(8) גֶּן	(16) נֶת	(24) פִּיל	(32) נָט	(40) תוּל

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

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| (1) לִין | (3) וְשֵׁם | (5) מִנֹּת | (7) וַיְהִי |
| (2) רוֹת | (4) וַיְהִי | (6) בּוֹשׁ | (8) קוֹם |

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

- (1) יָד (2) יוֹם (3) אִישׁ (4) יֶשׁ (5) בֵּית (6) שֵׁם

6. Point the following words (supply them with vowels) by consulting a dictionary or word list.

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| (1) אדמה | (3) חלום | (5) חמור | (7) נחלה |
| (2) אלהים | (4) חלי | (6) חצי | (8) ערבה |

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: אֶלֶף, *ālēf*; בֵּית, *bēt*; etc. [The accent mark used in אֶלֶף and elsewhere in this list is explained in 8.1(1).]

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| (1) אֶלֶף | (7) זֵין | (13) מֶם | (19) קוֹף |
| (2) בֵּית | (8) חֵית | (14) נוֹן | (20) רֵישׁ |
| (3) גִּמְלָל | (9) טֵית | (15) סִמְקָד | (21) שִׁין |
| (4) דָּלֶת | (10) יוֹד | (16) עֵין | שִׁין |
| (5) הָא | (11) פֶּף | (17) פֶּא | (22) תּוֹ |
| (6) וָו | (12) לִמְדָד | (18) צִדִּי | |

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

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| (1) קֶמֶץ | (5) סָגוֹל | (9) חוֹלָם נוּ |
| (2) פֶּתַח | (6) חִירֶק יוֹד | (10) קֶמֶץ חֲטוּף |
| (3) צִרֵי | (7) חִירֶק | (11) שׁוּרֶק |
| (4) צִרֵי יוֹד | (8) חוֹלָם | (12) קֶבוֹץ |

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

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| (1) בֵּית לֶחֶם | (9) לֵבָן | (17) שָׂרָה |
| (2) גֹּד | (10) מוֹשֶׁה | (18) שָׁכֶם |
| (3) גִּישָׁן | (11) נֶתַן | (19) שְׁלֹמֹה |
| (4) דָּוִד | (12) סָדֶם | (20) שֵׁם |
| (5) הָגָר | (13) יֵשׁוּ | (21) שָׁפָן |
| (6) פְּנֵעַן | (14) פָּאֶרֶן | (22) תֵּל אָבִיב |
| (7) פֶּלֶב | (15) קִדְשׁ | (23) תָּמָר |
| (8) יֵלָאָה | (16) רַחֵל | (24) יִשְׂרָאֵל |

- (a) Vāv functions as a *vowel* when it occurs immediately after a consonant and is pointed either as šūrēq (וְ) or ḥólēm vāv (וֹ). Examples in this exercise are לֵוִן, קוֹם, בּוֹשׁ, and רוֹת.
- (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 וְשֵׁם, וְיָהּ, and וְיָהּ. An example of vāv at the beginning of a new syllable with a word is found in מוֹת. 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 pătāḥ (sometimes lengthened to qāmēš), sēgôl, šērê, and ḥîrēq. The resultant diphthongs are יַ, יֶ, יֶּ, יֶֹ, and יֶֹֹ. Examples in this exercise of yôd functioning as a *vowel* are אִישׁ, בֵּית, and שֵׁים. Other examples are צִדִּי, צִרִּי, and שִׁין.

- (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 יָד, יוֹם, and יֵשׁ. Other examples are יְאוֹר (with half-vowel), יֵינ (twice), and בֵּית (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 pătāḥ and of qāmēš. For our purpose, however, pătāḥ will be transcribed as “ă” and qāmēš as “ā” (cf. G.2.2, p. 7). This will enable students to reconstruct Hebrew words with greater accuracy when words occur with either pătāḥ or qāmēš.

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)	אֶלֶף	_____	_____	(13)	מֶם	_____	_____
(2)	בֵּית	_____	_____	(14)	נוֹן	_____	_____
(3)	גִּמְלוֹ	_____	_____	(15)	סָמֶךְ	_____	_____
(4)	דָּלֶת	_____	_____	(16)	עֵין	_____	_____
(5)	הָא	_____	_____	(17)	פֶּא	_____	_____
(6)	וָו	_____	_____	(18)	צָדִי	_____	_____
(7)	זֵינ	_____	_____	(19)	קוֹף	_____	_____
(8)	חֵית	_____	_____	(20)	רֵישׁ	_____	_____
(9)	טֵית	_____	_____	(21)	שֵׁין	_____	_____
(10)	יּוֹד	_____	_____		שֵׁין	_____	_____
(11)	כָּף	_____	_____	(22)	תּוֹ	_____	_____
(12)	לָמֶד	_____	_____				

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)	חֵירֶק	_____
(2)	פֶּתַח	_____	(8)	חֹלֶם	_____
(3)	צֵרִי	_____	(9)	חֹלֶם וּ	_____
(4)	צֵרִי יוֹד	_____	(10)	קָמִץ חֹטֵף	_____
(5)	סְגוּל	_____	(11)	שׁוּרֶק	_____
(6)	חֵירֶק יוֹד	_____	(12)	קְבוּץ	_____

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) יוֹם ()	(10) מִי ()
(3) בֵּין ()	(7) זֵין ()	(11) שְׁנַיִם ()
(4) דִּי ()	(8) יְשׁוּעָה ()	(12) שִׁית ()

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

(1) אֹר ()	(5) גֹּר ()	(9) וְבָהּ ()
(2) גֹּאֵל ()	(6) וְנָבִיא ()	(10) סוֹס ()
(3) תִּקְוָה ()	(7) הוּא ()	(11) קוֹם ()
(4) תּוֹרָה ()	(8) וְהָאָרֶץ ()	(12) שְׁלוֹם ()

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