

Introductory Biblical Hebrew I (BIBL 33900)

Handout #1 - Consonants and Vowels

Consonants [final forms in brackets]

<i>name</i>	<i>block letter form</i>		<i>cursive letter form</i>		<i>sound</i>	<i>transliteration</i>
Aleph	א		א		no sound	ʾ
Bet	ב/ב		ב		b/v	b/b̄
Gimmel	ג/ג		ג		g	g/ḡ
Dalet	ד/ד		ד		d	d/d̄
Heh	ה		ה		h	h
Waw	ו		ו		v	w (or zero if vowel)
Zayin	ז		ז		z	z
Het	ח		ח		kh (hard guttural)	ḥ
Tet	ט		ט		t	ṭ
Yod	י		י		y	y
Kaf	כ/כ	[ד]	כ	[כ]	k/ch (soft guttural)	k/k̄
Lamed	ל		ל		l	l
Mem	מ	[ם]	מ	[ם]	m	m
Nun	נ	[ן]	נ	[ן]	n	n
Samek	ס		ס		s	s
Ayin	ע		ע		no sound	ʿ
Peh	פ/פ	[ף]	פ	[ף]	p/f	p/p̄
Tsade	צ	[ץ]	צ	[ץ]	sz	ṣ
Qof	ק		ק		k	q
Resh	ר		ר		r	r
Sin	ש		ש		s	ś
Shin	ש		ש		sh	š
Tav	ת/ת		ת		t	t/t̄

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Vowels

<i>name</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>pronunciation</i>	<i>transliteration</i>
Patach	ַ	ba (like the a in “father”)	a
Qamats	ָ	ba (like the a in “father”)	ā
Seghol	ֶ	be (like the e in “bet”)	e
Tsere	ֵ	bey (like the e in “they”)	ē
Hireq	ִ	bi (like the i in “bit” or e in “be”)	i (if short), ī (if long)
Qibbutz	ׁ	boo (like the oo in “book”)	u (if short), ū (if long)
Shuruq	ׂ	boo (like the oo in “book”)	û
Holem	׃	bo (like the o in “bow”)	ō
Holem Waw	ׄ	bo (like the o in “bow”)	ô
Hateph Qamats	ֲ	bo (like the o in “bow”)	ö
Hateph Patach	ֱ	same as patach, shorter	ă
Hateph Seghol	ֳ	same as seghol, shorter	ě
Shewa	ְ	silent or very short “eh”	ə

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	<b>a</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>i</b>	<b>o</b>	<b>u</b>	<b>other</b>
<b>Long</b>	ָ (qamats)	ֵ (tsere)	ִ (hireq-yod)	׃ / ׄ (holem-waw and holem)	ׁ (shuruq)	
<b>Short</b>	ַ (patach)	ֶ (seghol)	ִ (hireq)	ָ (qamats qatan)	ׁ (qibbutz)	
<b>Reduced</b>	ֱ (hateph- patach)	ֳ (hateph- seghol)	—	ֲ (hateph- qamats)	—	ְ (shewa)

Note: both hireq and qibbutz can be either long or short; for the purposes of this chart I have listed them as short, which is more common.