

Handout #3 - The Definite Article and Its Forms

Regular Form of the Definite Article:

- ה + dagesh in the first root consonant
 - example: הַטֶּפֶר

Irregular Forms of the Definite Article:

If the first consonant of the word is	א	ר	ה	ח	ע	י	מ
and (1) that consonant DOES NOT have a QAMATS after it:	הָ	הָ	הָ	הָ	הָ		
and (2) that consonant DOES have a QAMATS after it AND is UNACCENTED :	הֶ	הֶ	הֶ	הֶ	הֶ		
and (3) that consonant DOES have a QAMATS after it AND is ACCENTED :	הֶ	הֶ	הֶ	הֶ	הֶ		
and (1) that consonant has a SHEWA after it:						הֶ (+ no dagesh)	הֶ (+ no dagesh)

Irregular nouns with the definite article:

- for each of these nouns, the vowel underneath the first root consonant becomes a QAMATS.
- all other vowels in the noun remain the same
- any changes to the vowel underneath the definite article apply, except with הַר < הָרָה
- אֶרֶץ פֶּרֶז חֶג פֶּר גֶּן עֵם הָר אֶרֶץ