

VOCALIZATION



S B-C Write each of the following vowel sounds two ways:

? hope _____ flute _____ sleigh _____ machine _____ ⁸

? Writing right to left, transliterate the following sentences into Hebrew:

Use ו for “w” ת for “th,” and י for “j”

Adam ate fruit and so did Eve _____

Moses talked to God face to face _____

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho _____

David was king, but he did not build the temple in Jerusalem _____

The Philistines gave Delilah many pieces of silver _____

§ C **What constitutes a syllable in Hebrew?**

A syllable is a unit of a word that begins with a consonant and ends with another consonant or with a vowel.

The word אָמַר has two syllables. The first is אָ It cannot be אָמ because that would mean that the second syllable would start with the vowel ׀ and a syllable must begin with a _____. The second syllable is מַר

Consonant + sheva ׀ can close a syllable. מִצְרַיִם (which, by the way, means *Egypt*) has three syllables מִ צְרַ יִם

? Draw lines between the syllables of the words below:

יְצַא אֶרֶץ עֵינַן אֲנִי פְּנִים נְתַן יָד אֲשֶׁר אֱלֹהִים ⁹

⁸ hope ו or ׀ flute ו or ׀ sleigh י or ׀ machine י or ׀

⁹ יְצַא אֶרֶץ עֵינַן אֲנִי פְּנִים נְתַן יָד אֲשֶׁר אֱלֹהִים

S C.1 When is a syllable closed and when is it open?

- 1) Generally speaking, a syllable is closed when it ends with a consonant and open when it ends with a vowel or a vowel sound.¹⁰

? Divide the words below into syllables and identify the syllables as open or closed:

קָמַתְּ בְּלִי מְלֶךְ מְלֵא אֲדָמָה קוּם¹¹

- 2) When a consonant has dagesh forte, it closes one syllable and begins the next: יִדְבֵּר syllabically is בֵּר יִדְבֵּר. Thus, how to demarcate the syllables in בֵּי is a problem.

- 3) **Meteg** (a small vertical line written next to a vowel; it denotes an open syllable) causes a bit of a difficulty.

In a word such as אָכְלָה^כ *she ate*, the meteg distinguishes the first qamats from qamats hatuf seen in אָכְלָה^ח *food*. That is not the problem. The problem is whether in אָכְלָה^ח there are two or three syllables. According to Gesenius, the “usual view” is that the meteg separates the syllables and the shewa is vocal (§9u.1a), but he goes on to explain in a later section (§16i) that Jewish grammarians do not consider the meteg to be opening the syllable. Thus the shewa is silent and the word has two syllables. Then there is the compromise position: shewa after meteg creates half a syllable.

§ D There are two situations in which it is unclear whether a shewa is vocal or silent: when it is after a meteg and when shewa has made dagesh forte disappear What is the beginner, to do?

Treat them as vocal and blame it on me. (For more detail see discussion on meteg in the paragraph just above, Vocalization D item 5 in the textbook, and Lesson 2:12.)

? In the words below, identify the vocal shewas:

אֲשֶׁר יִתְּנוּ פְּקֻדָּתִי וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעֲמֵד נִגְאָל¹²

¹⁰ For example, both כָּה— and קִ— are open. For more on the syllable, see Joüon, §27.

¹¹ קָמַתְּ בְּלִי מְלֶךְ מְלֵא אֲדָמָה קוּם
open closed open open closed open open open open open open closed

¹² אֲשֶׁר יִתְּנוּ פְּקֻדָּתִי וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעֲמֵד נִגְאָל
אֶ תֶּ not vocal לֶ וֹ not vocal עֶ not vocal

NOT SO PROPER READING EXERCISE



Transliterate into English the following consonant-vowel combinations:

אי אם לְרַנִּיג טו רְעֵד הַבְּרוּ _____
הוא עז יור פיבְרֵש פְרָפֶת _____
מְנוי סְטוּדֵנִץ קם פְרֵם אל עוֹבֵר _____
נוע יֵרֶק חו לֶץ עב אֲבְרִיתִינֵג _____
רַחֵל וּז בְּרוּ בִיתִיפּוּל _____
דוא יו נוע גְרִיק אַנְד אַרְמִיק _____
מִי פְרִנְדֵס אַנְד עִי לִיק תּא אִיש פִינְצָה _____
אַסְתֵר בִּיקָם כְּבִין אַפְטֵר וְשֵׁתִי _____
סְטֵאִינֵג עָף אל נֵאִית מְקָס אַה פְרֵשֵׁן טְוֵרד תֵע נְכָצַת דְאִי _____
מִי נִיבּוּר פְלִיז מְזֶק עַת פּוּר אִי-אַם _____