

Hebrew – Lesson 6

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקשרשת

Mr Mason's Puzzle

ow
;hslf m fN hslf dnN ,snb m fN nb n sN shT
e: y o e::a eo y o eo i i
.nM fN tN nkt sw hs scb ,nmW dlle b llhs hS
a o ou ea a e eaue a o e:a e::a e
DG m DG ht dnN ,lpp m b llhs lpp hT
o y o y ::a e:eo y e::a e:eo y
.slN knrd slmc ht vg llw N dnN ,knrD
o:a ::i: ::ea y ei::i i::a ::i:
.ht htsruc tht h sN dsruc dnN ,ht htsslb tht h sN dsslb
ee e: a e i e: ::a ee e:e: a e i e:e:
.lluf tn sN s ht ty ;s ht tnN nur srvr ht llN
:: o iea e e eae o:i ::eie ::a
.sprup rvN t mt N dnN ,nss N sN rht guht rvN T
eo: yee oeia ::a oeaa i ee ::i yee o
.dsslb b htrN ht fN slmf ht llN llhs ds ht nN dnN ht nN
e:e: e ::ea e o ieia e ::a ::a ee y i::a ee i
.rp ht htrdsnc tht h sN dsslb
oo e e ei:o a e i e:e:
ow
.tpw dnN nd ts w nlbB fN srvr ht B
::e ::a a e oya o::eie y
.dsrp b llhs hs ,DRL ht htrf tht nmw N tub ;nv sN tb dnN ,luftcd sN rvF
eai: e ::a e : :o e eea a a o a ai iyeau::a :eie i oua

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Hebrew Vocalisation

The Aleph-Bet is not a complete and unambiguous system for reading and writing Hebrew. Rather than being an alphabet, it is what is known as an abjad: a system of consonant symbols from which words can be formed, with the vowels and vocalisation being supplied by the reader from their knowledge of the language and the context of the word within a text. This may be adequate for native speakers, but for those lacking familiarity with the Hebrew language it presents a bit of a challenge.

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The Jewish people have a long historical association with the land of Israel and this has been their ancestral homeland since the time of Joshua about 3500 years ago. In Israel Hebrew was used for both religious and everyday purposes. However, Jewish life in Israel did not continue uninterrupted, there were periods of exile and Jewish communities began to spring up in other countries. These dispersed groups of Jews are known as the Diaspora. When the Romans destroyed the Temple in 70AD and later when the Bar-Kochba Revolt was defeated in 136AD, many more Jews joined them. As generations succeeded one another, Hebrew ceased to be the native language for these communities, although it was still used for religious purposes, such as reading the scriptures in the synagogues.

אבגדה וזחטי כל מנסעפצקשת

The Masoretes

Between the 6th and 10th Centuries AD groups of Jewish scribes, primarily based in the land of Israel, (then called Palestine) undertook to develop a system of notation to help preserve the traditional pronunciation of the text, as well as paragraph and verse divisions and punctuation and cantillation marks to assist with chanting or singing the words. They were responsible for what became known as the Masoretic Text, which was considered an authoritative version of the Hebrew scriptures. The word Masorah (מסורה) means tradition in Hebrew. The pronunciation marks are known as Niqqud (dotting or pointing) and they are used today in Bibles and prayer books, children's books, dictionaries or books for students of Hebrew.

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Niqqud

Because the Hebrew language was considered sacred - it is known as the Holy Tongue (לשון קודש); the Masoretes did not want to disturb the position of the letters by inserting vowels. Instead they respectfully positioned markers in and around the letters to indicate how the words should be pronounced.

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

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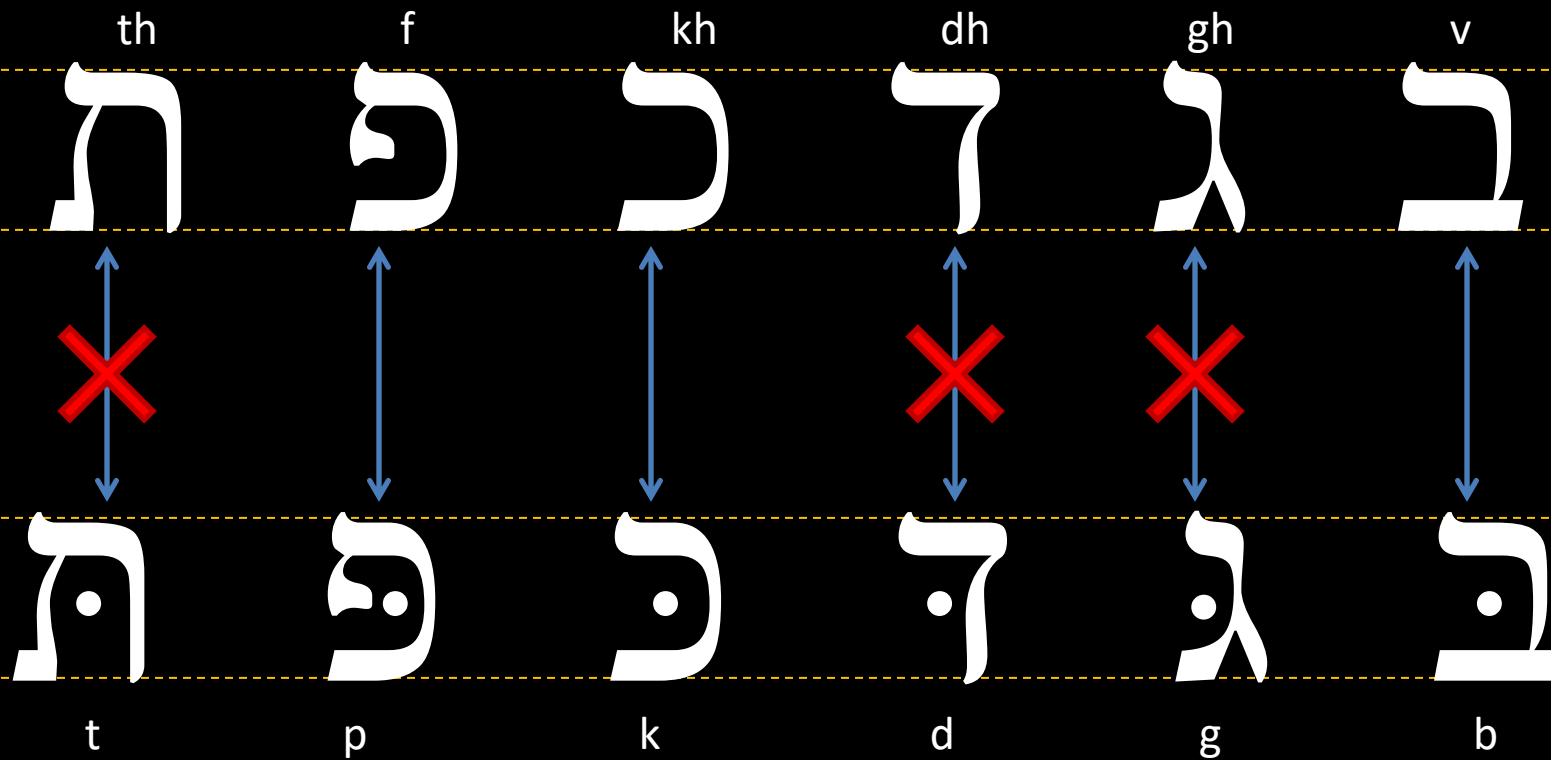
The Dagesh

When Hebrew is written with Niqqud some letters have a dot inside them. This dot is known as a dagesh. In pointed Hebrew there are two types of Dagesh: Dagesh Lene (Weak Dagesh) and Dagesh Forte (Strong Dagesh). Although the mark is the same, they serve two different purposes.

Let us first look at Dagesh Lene. This can only occur in six Hebrew letters which are known as the begadkephat letters.

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Dagesh Lene



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Dagesh Forte

The other type of dagesh is known as dagesh forte and it can occur in any letter except the following.

א, ה, ח, ע, ר

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Rules for Dagesh

The dagesh lene can only occur on the begad-kephat letters and

- 1) only at the beginning of a syllable
- 2) only when not preceded by a vowel.

The dagesh forte can only occur following a vowel

If dagesh forte occurs on the begat kephat letters it will also have the effect of making the them plosives rather than fricatives as it the case of dagesh lene.

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Vowels

Type		Long	Short	Reduced
A	ה	הֶ	הֵ	הִ
E	י	יֵ (י)	יֶ	יִ
I		יִ	יֶ	
O	ו	וֵ וֹ	וֶ	וִ
U		וֹ	וֶ	וִ

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Vowels

Type		Long	Short	Reduced
A	ה	Qametz	Patach	Chateph Patach
E	י	Tsere	Segol	Chateph Segol
I		Chiriq	Chiriq Yud	
O	ו	Cholem	Qametz Chatuph	Chateph Qametz
U		Shureq	Qibbutz	Sh'va

אבגדהוזהחטיכלמנסעפצקשת

The dot on the Shin

The letter shin can be pronounced with an 'sh' sound or an 's' sound (in which case it is often called sin).

This difference can be distinguished by the use of a dot.

If the dot occurs on the top right of the letter it is shin, while on the top left it is sin.

שׁ=sh, שׂ=s

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Sham

שם

那里

There

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Shem

שֵׁם

名字

Name

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Sam

שם

放

(He) Put

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Et

ואת

? Particle denoting accusative

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At

את

你

You (feminine singular)

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Im

עִם

同, 与

With

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת

Am

עַם

民族

People

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Davar

דָּבָר

字, 事

Word, thing

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Dabeir

דַּבֵּר

说话

Speak!

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Dibeir

דִּבֵּר

(他)说

(He) Spoke

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Abba

אבא

爸爸

Dad

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Ba

בא

(he) comes, is coming, came

(他) 来(了)

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Av

אב

父亲

Father

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Avee

אָבִי

我的父亲

My father

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Aveev

אָבִיב

春天

Spring

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת

Mee

מי

谁

Who

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת

Imma

אָמאָ

妈妈

Mum

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת

Em

אם

母亲

Mother

אבגדהוזהחטיכלמנסעפצקשרשת

Immee

אמִי

我的母亲

My mother

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת