

**INTRODUCTION TO
HEBREW GRAMMAR; FOR
THE USE OF BEGINNERS**

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Introduction to Hebrew grammar; for the use of beginners by A. McCaul

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A. MCCAUL

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COMPILED

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TO THE
REV. JOHN RICHARDSON MAJOR, D.D.,
HEAD MASTER OF KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL,

THE FOLLOWING COMPENDIUM,

IS INSCRIBED,

WITH SINCERE ESTEEM AND RESPECT,

BY THE AUTHOR.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following compilation is strictly what it professes to be, "AN INTRODUCTION" to Hebrew Grammar. No language can be acquired by means of a compendium. But experience has taught me, that a large and comprehensive grammar may impede the progress of beginners, especially when the chief part of their time and strength is necessarily devoted to other subjects. For such the following pages may serve as a practical outline. The original intention was that it should not exceed two sheets. But having learned that the study of Hebrew was to be introduced into King's College School, it seemed necessary to add more complete tables. Mr. Duncan obligingly allowed me the use of the stereotype plates of the tables of verbs, reprinted from Gesenius' "Lehrgebäude," by the Rev. Dr. Lee. The larger Grammars recommended for the study of the advanced student are those of the Rev. Dr. Lee, Professor Ewald, and the late Dr. Gesenius.

A. M^cC.

INTRODUCTION

TO

HEBREW GRAMMAR.

HEBREW LETTERS. CONSONANTS.

THE Hebrew alphabet consists of twenty-two letters, all consonants.

Figure.	Name.	Pronunciation.	Nu- meric value.	
א	Aleph	Spiritus lenis	1	<p>§ 1. The six letters אבגדה (B'gadk'phath) are pronounced with or without an aspiration. The removal of the aspiration is marked by a point in the letter; this point is called Dagesh Lene; a point in ה is called Mappik, and shows that ה is sounded as a consonant.</p> <p>§ 2. Five have a different form at the end of words, א, ב, ג, ד, ה, included in the memorial word קמנפצז (kannephetz).</p> <p>§ 3. As the Hebrews do not divide words at the end of the line, an empty space would sometimes remain. This is prevented by enlarging the letter, א, ב, ג, ד, ה; memorial word, אהלתם (ahaitem).</p> <p>§ 4. The letters ו, ז, י, י', are called quiescent, because they sometimes lose all sound, except what they derive from the preceding vowel, like our W in <i>flow</i>, <i>throw</i>, &c.</p> <p>ו quiesces in Kametz, Tsere, Segol, sometimes in Hholem.</p> <p>י at the end of words also. י' in Hholem and Shurek. י' in Tsere and Hhirik and Segol.</p>
ב and בּ	Beth	BH and (B)	2	
ג and גּ	Gimel	GH and (G)	3	
ד and דּ	Daleth	DH and (D)	4	
ה	He	H	5	
ו	Vau	V and W	6	
ז	Zain	Z	7	
ח	Hheth	Hh	8	
ט	Teth	T	9	
י	Yod	Y	10	
כ, כּ, ^{final} ך	Kaph	KH and (K)	20	
ל	Lamed	L	30	
מ, מּ	Mem	M	40	
נ, נּ	Nun	N	50	
ס, סּ	Samech	S	60	
ע, עּ	Aiin	Soft GH	70	
פ, פּ	Pe	PH and (P)	80	
צ, צּ	Tsade	TZ	90	
ק	Koph	Q	100	
ר	Reah	R	200	
ש	Sin	S	300	
שׁ	Shin	SH		
ת, תּ	Thau	TH and (T)	400	

§. 5. The usual division of the consonants in reference to organ is:—

- a. Gutturals, א, ק, ג, ח, [Ahachagh].
- b. Labials, פ, ב, מ, [Bumaph].
- c. Palatals, צ, נ, י, ש, [Gichag].
- d. Linguals, ל, ר, ז, ו, ט, [Datléneth].
- e. Dentals or Sibilants, שׁ, זׁ, דׁ, יׁ, [Zastzash].

א in some respects resembles the first class.

The Liquids are א, נ, מ, ל.

The three א, נ, ל, are intimately related.

§. 6. The Hebrews have signs (a) for five long or *perfect* vowels, i. e., which can be sounded without a consonant following; (b) five short or *imperfect* vowels, i. e., which cannot be sounded without a consonant following or a helping accent, and (c) four semi-vowels.

VOWELS.

LONG OR PERFECT.

	Name.	Sound.	Example.
1. A	אָ	Kametz	אָ in balm
2. E	ֵ	Tsere	ֵ in bay
3. Ī	ִ	Great Hhirik	ִ in lee
4. O	וּ or ׁ	Hholem	וּ in Rome
5. U	וּ	Shurek	וּ in fool

SHORT OR IMPERFECT.

	Name.	Sound.	Example.
6. ַ	Pathach	a in bad	ַ in bad
7. ֶ	Segol	e in bed	ֶ in bed
8. ִ	* Little Hhirik	i in hit	ִ in hit
9. ֹ	Kametz Hhatuph	o in hot	ֹ in hot
10. ֻ	* Kibbutz	u in pull	ֻ in pull

N.B.—These vowels are properly divided into three classes, those belonging to the A sound, 1, 6, 7; those of the I sound, 3, 8, 2, 7; and those of the U sound, 4, 5, 9, 10.

SEMI-VOWELS.

- i. Simple Sh'va אַ as אַ the e in the French *second*, or German *Gnade*, as אַלֵּג g'loo, אֶנֶן b'no, אֶשֶׁי sh'mee.
- ii. Compound Sh'va.

* This may also be long.

2. Hhateph Pathach = very short A, as חָלוֹם Hhālóhm, עָשָׂה Ghásóo, חָלָה Ghäláy.
3. Hhateph Segol = very short E, חָמֵץ Ēméth, חָכֵל Ēkhól, חָהָה Ēhée.
4. Hhateph Kametz = very short O, חֹנֵה Ghönée, חֹלֵה Hhölée, חֹהָה Róée.

§. 7. The syllables ending in a vowel are called simple, or open, syllables; those ending in a consonant, *compound*, or *closed*, syllables.

Examples according to the Vowels.

KAMETZ.		TSERE.		GRT. HIRIK.		HHELEM.		SHUREK.	
	Pronoun.		Pronoun.		Pronoun.		Pronoun.		Pronoun.
בָּ	bah	מִי	may	פִּי	pee	לוֹ	loh	לוֹ	loo
כָּ	ahv	אִם	aim	בֵּין	been	אוֹר	ohr	אוֹר	oor
קָ	kahm	בַּן	bayn	גֵּיל	geel	בוֹר	bohr	בוֹר	goor
יָ	yahd	אֵד	ayd	שֵׁם	seem	דוֹב	döhv	דוֹב	hoo

Short Vowels.

יָד	yäd	פֶּן	pen	בֵּן	bin	קֹדֶשׁ	köd shó	יָלֵד	yül-läd
קָל	käl	בֵּל	bel	מִן	min	חֹכְמָה	hhökh-máh	בֹּטֵל	but-täl
עָם	äm	אֵת	eth	אִם	im	אֶמֶר	äm-ró	עָמַד	ghum-mäd
בָּר	bär	הֵן	hen	צֵד	tsid	בְּתִים	böt-tím	נֹגֵשׁ	nug-gásh
צָר	tsär	מֵן	men	עָם	ghim	קָוָם	yá-kóm	הֹגֵד	hug-gäd

§. 8. Kametz and Kametz-Hhatuph are represented by the same sign $\bar{}$. To distinguish them accurately it is necessary to know whether this vowel has been derived from Hholem or Shurek. The general rule is,—

a. In a closed unaccented syllable, it is Kametz-Hhatuph, as in the examples in the fourth column, where are three cases, (i.) before a simple Sh'va, as קֹדֶשׁ; (ii.) before a Dagesh-forte, as בְּתִים; (iii.) in a final syllable without accent, as קָוָם.

b. In an open syllable, (i.) before Hhateph-Kametz, as קֹדֶשׁ; (ii.) before another Kametz-Hhatuph, as קֹדֶשׁ; (iii.) in two words, קוֹדֶשִׁים kö-da-shim and שְׂרָשִׁים shó-ra-shim, where it really stands for Hhateph Kametz, $\bar{}$.

§. 9. In the middle of a word, or in the first letter when the word is joined to the preceding, a point in a consonant is called Dagesh-forte, it doubles the letter, as קִיטֵי kit-táy, מַזְזֵה maz-zeh; in the

[Illegible vertical text]