

Vowels							
Class	“a”	“i”			“u”		
Length							
Long vowels with <i>matres lectionis</i> (“mothers of reading”)	הָ קָמֶזֶץ הַי qāmeṣ hē ā(h) “father”	הֵי שֶׁרֵי הַי šerê hē ē(h) “hey”	יֵי שֶׁרֵי יוֹד šerê yōd ê “hey”	יִי חִירֶק יוֹד hîreq yōd î “beet”	הֹ חֹלֶם הַי hōlem hē ō(h) “snow”	וֹ חֹלֶם וּו hōlem wōw ô “snow”	וּ שׁוּרֶק šûreq û “boot”
		הֶ סֶגוֹל הַי səgōl hē e(h) “vein”	יֶ סֶגוֹל יוֹד səgōl yōd ê “vein”				
Long vowels	ָ קָמֶץ qāmeṣ ā “father”	ֵ שֶׁרֵי šerê hē ē “hey”		ִ חִירֶק hîreq î “beet”	ֹ חֹלֶם hōlem ō “boat”		ּ קִבּוּץ qibbûṣ û “boot”
Short vowels	ַ פְּתַח pátaḥ a “cat”	ֶ סֶגוֹל səgōl e “fed”		ִ חִירֶק hîreq i “bit”	ֹ קָמֶץ חָטוּף qāmeṣ hātûp o “off”		ּ קִבּוּץ qibbûṣ u “boot”
Hateph vowels	ֶ חֹטֵף פְּתַח hāteṗ pataḥ ā “cat”	ֶ חֹטֵף סֶגוֹל hāteṗ səgōl ē “fed”			ֹ חֹטֵף קָמֶץ hāteṗ qāmeṣ ō “off”; (aw “awe”)		
Shewa ^b (looks like the hateph in the hateph vowels)		ֶ שׁוּא šawā ə “severe” (no sound at end of closed syllable)					

^a Words that are accented other than on the last syllable are shown in this chart with the accented syllable in **colored** type.

^b The shewa can be either vocal or silent. “Vocal shewa” is a very short vowel, pronounced like the first “e” in “severe” or the “e” in “stupefy.” The “silent shewa” is not pronounced at all and merely closes a syllable. Remember this rule: **short and silent**. If a short vowel comes before a consonant under which there is a shewa, the shewa is silent. Thus: (1) If a shewa is under the first consonant of a word, the shewa is vocal. (This shewa is not preceded by a short vowel.) (2) If there are two shewas in a row, the first is silent and the second is vocal. (The first is preceded by a short vowel and is silent, the second is not and is vocal.)

← song vowels קָמֶץ (ָ) פְּתַח (ַ) צִירֵי (ֵ) סֶגוֹל (ֶ) חִירֶק (ִ) חֹלֶם (ֹ) שׁוּרֶק (ּ) קִבּוּץ (ּ) שׁוּא (ֶ)