

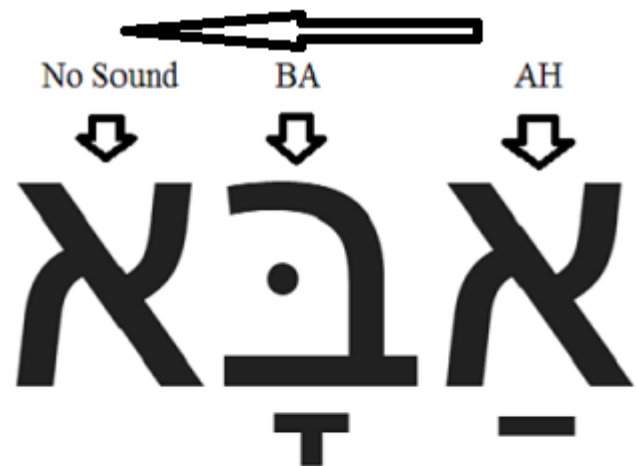
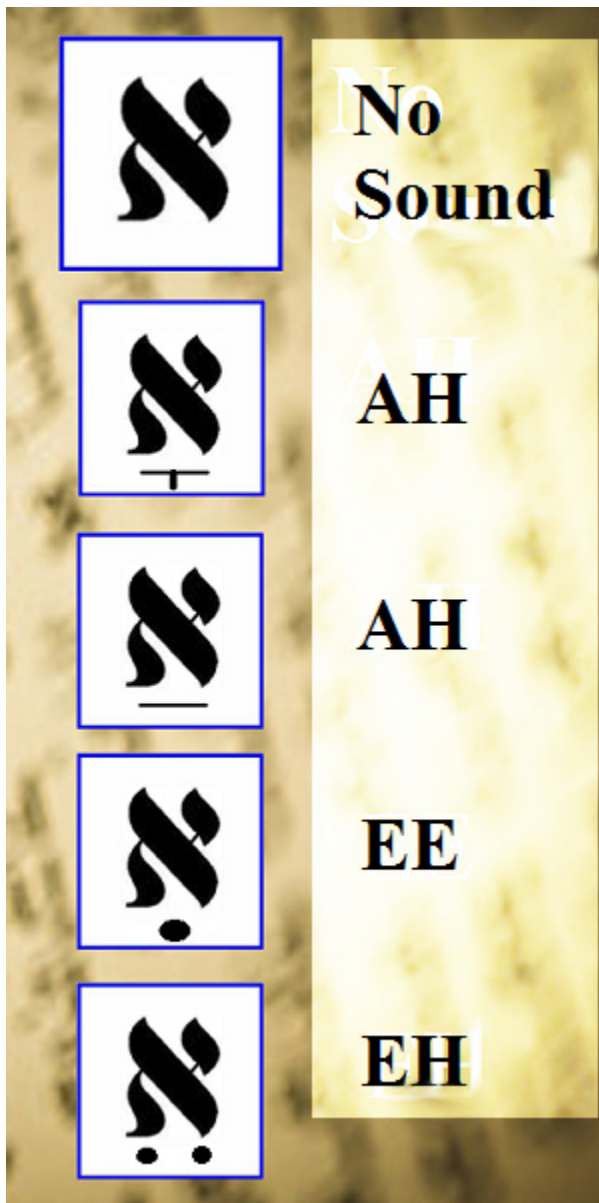
Aleph Lesson 1



Hebrew is written from right-to-left, backwards from English. Don't get frightened. It becomes normal after a couple of lessons. Be sure and watch the videos accompanying this workbook

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The aleph is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. By itself, it has no sound. You will find a vowel accompanying the aleph in the beginning and middle of a word. The aleph found at the end of a word has no sound and no vowel.



DADDY

abba

Remember that Hebrew reads right to left and there are no capital letters.

Familiarize yourself with the first four vowels we will use.

The aleph replaces the numeral one (1) at the beginning of each chapter of the Torah and Tanakh.

Aleph replaces Number 1

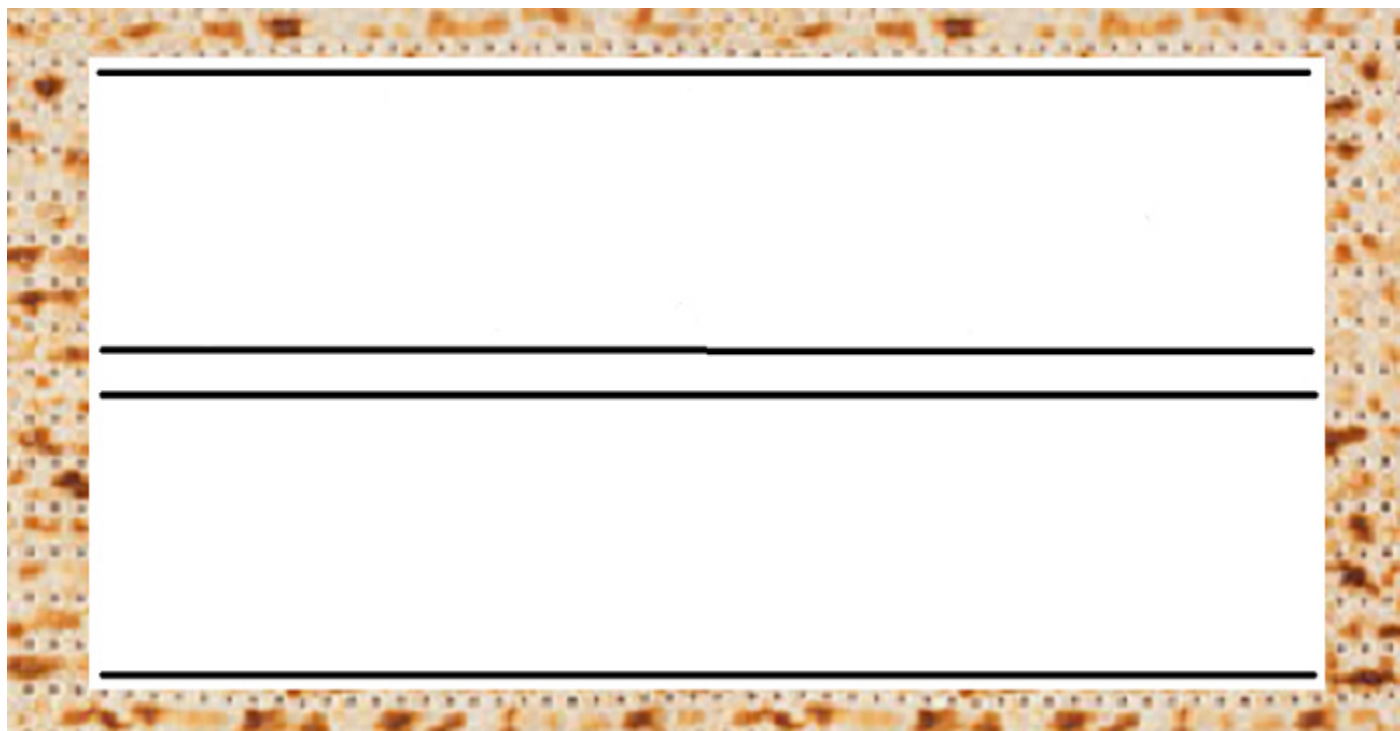
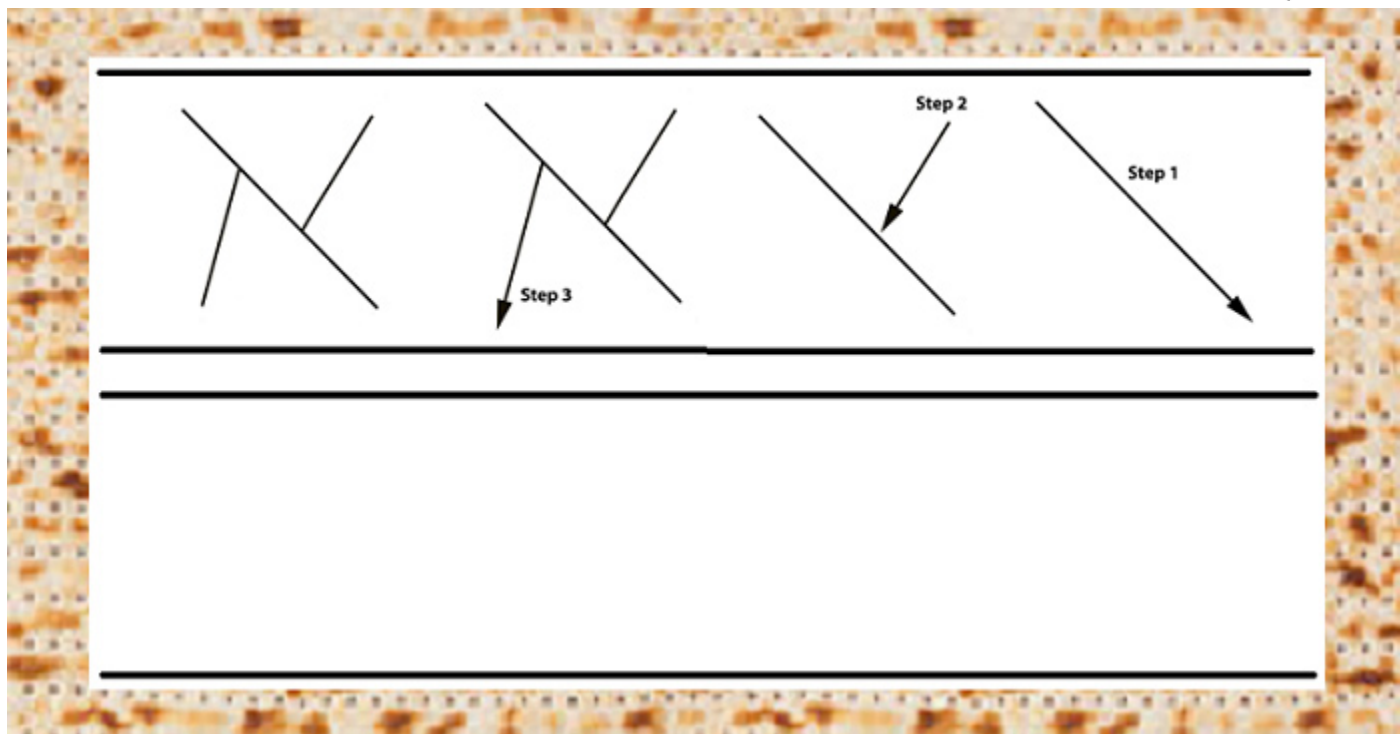
↓
א בראשית
ברא אלהים
In the beginning,
G-d created the
heavens....

Early Hebrew did not have vowels and the dots and dashes accompanying the vowels. They were added by the rabbis after the Jews were expelled from Israel. Literacy had declined. The dots and dashes are referred to as nikkud (points).

←
No Sound MA EE
אמא
T ●
MOMMY
eema

Remember, the aleph at the end is
always silent (There is no vowel).

Practice writing the aleph.



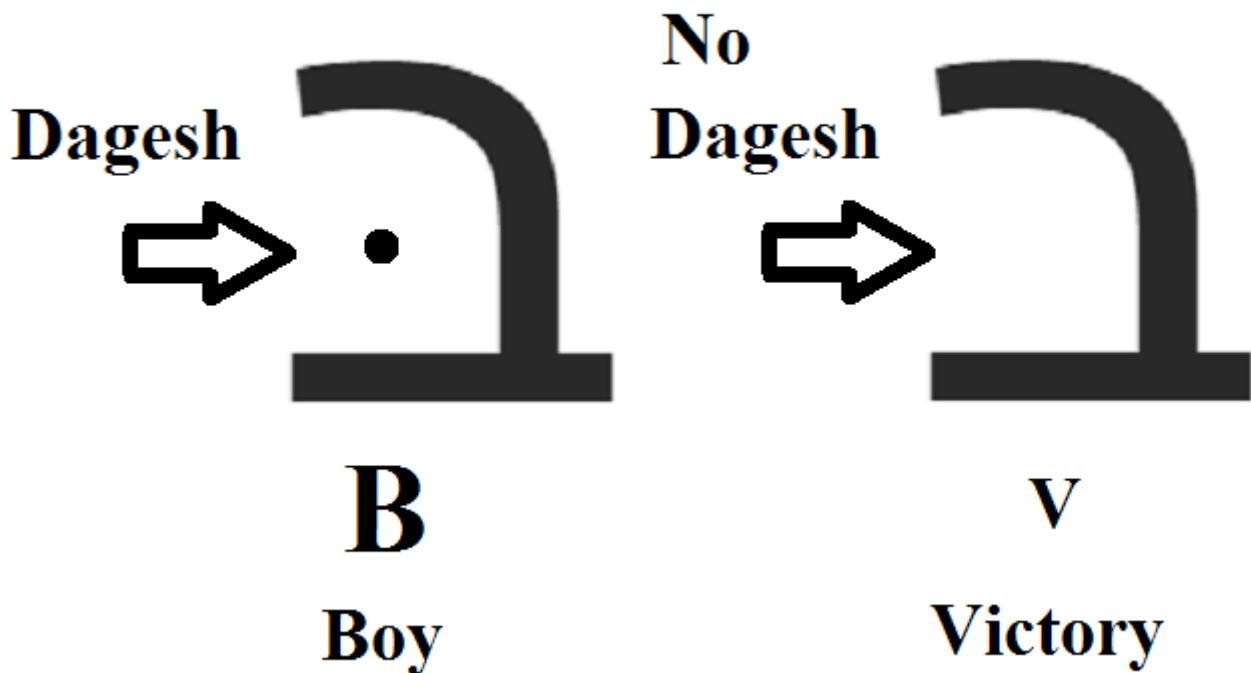
Bet Lesson 2



The Hebrew alphabet is also called the alefbet, derived from the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The dot appearing in the middle of some letters is called a dagesh. Though the dagesh appears in many letters, there are only three letters pronounced differently when a dagesh is present. The letter in this lesson is one of those three.

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The bet is the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet. With the dagesh (dot) it makes the “B” sound, like boy. When it appears without the dagesh, it makes the “V” sound, like victory. Without the dagesh, it is called a vet.



Letters with Nikkud (vowels).

ב
T
BAH

ב
•
VEE

Words using the bet/vet.

BIMAH

בִּימָה
— •
MAH BEE

A bimah (also, bema) is a raised platform in a synagogue. The Torah and Prophets are read from the bimah during worship.

Remember, read the words from right-to-left. This form of the word love is found in Genesis 37:3.

LOVE
אהב
↑ — T
V HA AH

NEW VOWEL



This vowel may be silent or spoken. When spoken, it makes a short "e" or slight "eh" sound.

There are several rules concerning this vowel, but we will focus on a few of the major ones.



Sheva Rules

Pronounce at the beginning of a word. *You pronounce the letter and sheva.*

Pronounce when a dagesh is present.



It is silent when closing a syllable.

BLESSING



KHAH

RA BE



The bet at the beginning has a sheva. Together they make the "be" or slight "beh" sound.

A sheva at the beginning is vocal.

Second Syllable

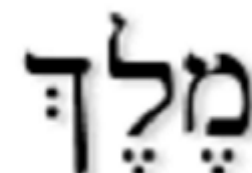
First Syllable



Pronounce shin (sh) but no sheva (eh).

It is silent at the end of a word.

kh leh meh

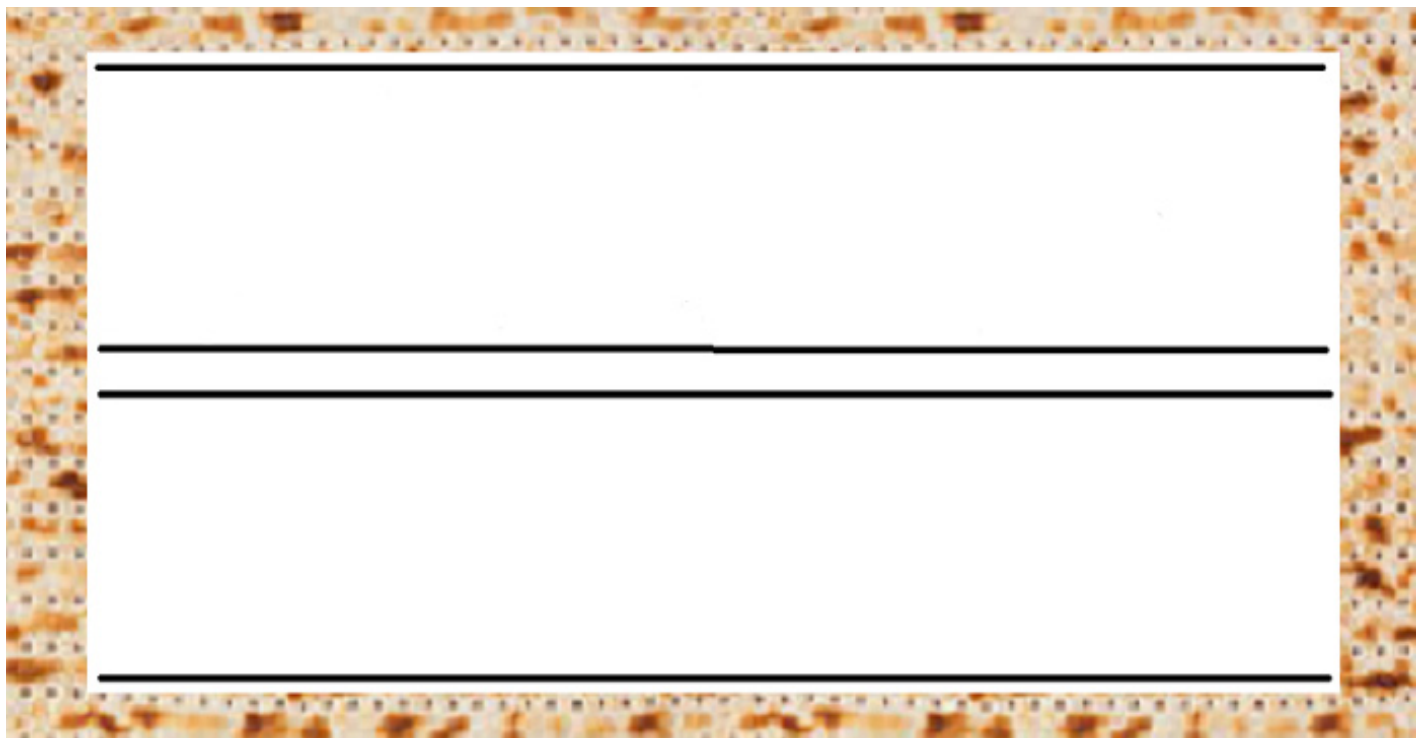
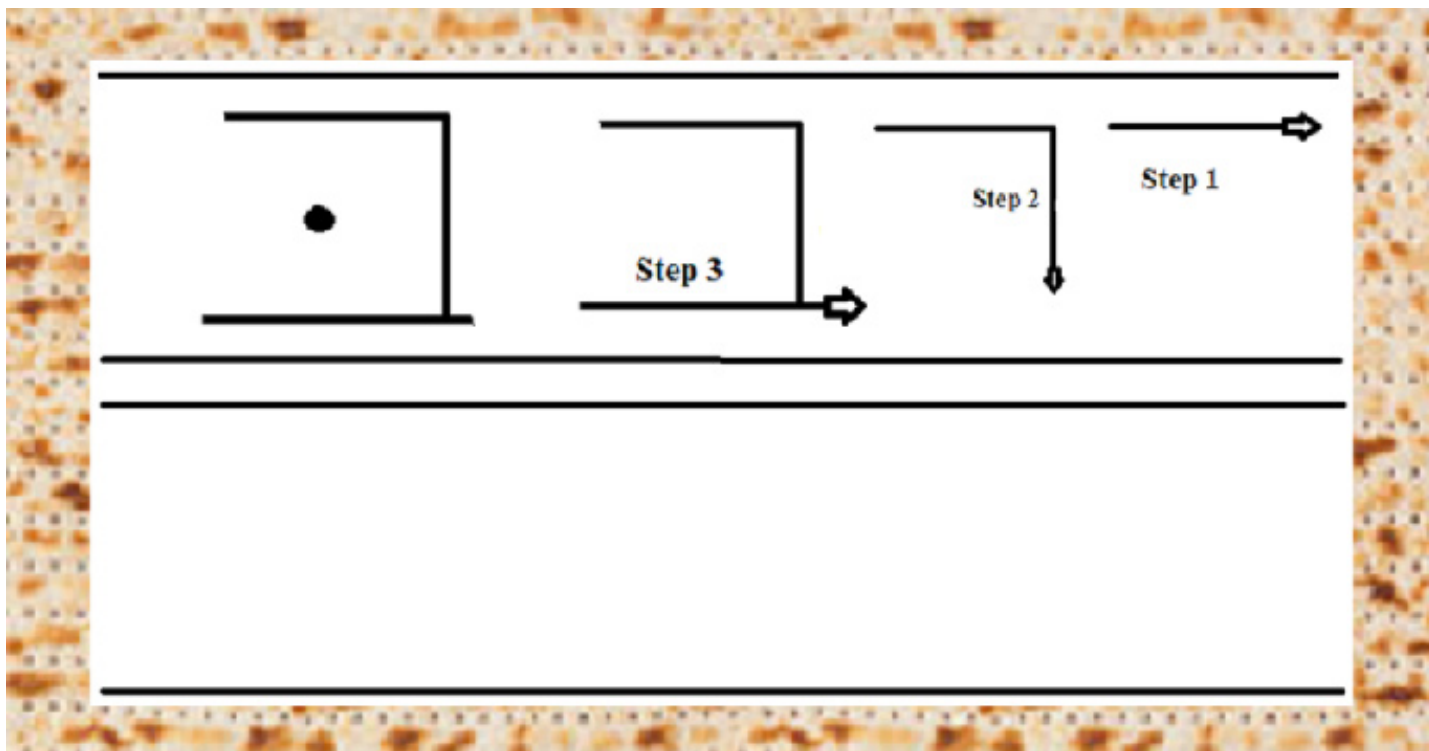


Only the sound of the end consonant (No EH).

Review/Practice



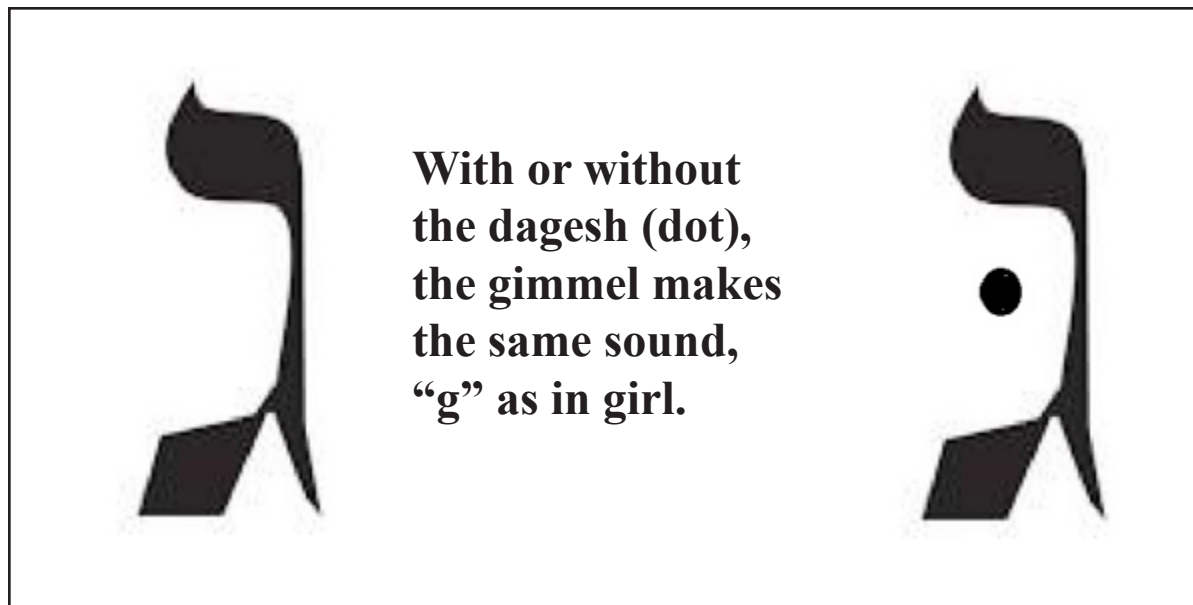
The bet makes the “b” sound as in boy. When the dot (dagesh) is removed, the bet becomes a vet and makes the “v” sound as in victory. The sheva is a vowel that has a sound and sometimes does not have a sound. When spoken, it makes an “eh” sound and combines with the letter it is under. For example a bet with a sheva would make the “beh” sound. If it was under a vet the sound would be “veh”.



Gimmel Lesson 3



The third letter of the Hebrew alphabet is called the “Gimmel” (geeh-mel). It has the “g” sound like girl. The letter has a numerical value of three (3) and is used as a subheading in chapters of the Tanakh. The letter often appears with a dot (gimmel), which does not affect its pronunciation. With or without the dagesh, the gimmel makes the “g” sound.



Gimmel and Vowels

Remember, by itself the gimmel makes the “g” sound, like girl. But, you will often see the gimel with a vowel. Be sure and pronounce the “g” sound first and then the vowel sound. Practice making these sounds.



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Check out the words and vowels using the gimmel.

Without a vowel, it is "g" as in girl.





CAMEL
 ↓
 ל מ ל
 T T
 L MAH GAH
 GAH-MAL



↓
 ש ג ד
 • • T
 SH GEH DA
 DAH-GESH



GEE
 ↓
 מ ג ד
 • T
 M GEE DAH
 DAH-GEEM

Review/Practice



Handwriting practice area for the letter 'A'. The area is framed by a brown, textured border. It contains three horizontal lines (top, middle, and bottom) and a large white space for writing. Above the lines, the letter 'A' is shown with arrows indicating the stroke order: 'Step 1' is a downward diagonal stroke from the top right to the bottom left, and 'Step 2' is a downward diagonal stroke from the top left to the bottom right.

Handwriting practice area for the letter 'A'. The area is framed by a brown, textured border. It contains three horizontal lines (top, middle, and bottom) and a large white space for writing.

Watch the video and take the quiz.