

Welcome to Hebrew Basics

Session 1

How do you glean all of these nuggets from the Scripture and how can I learn to study like that?

LEARN HEBREW!

"An impatient man cannot teach and a shy man cannot learn." – Rabbinic adage

Why did God communicate His Word to us in Hebrew?

Why should we learn Hebrew?

The answer to the second question is found in the first one.

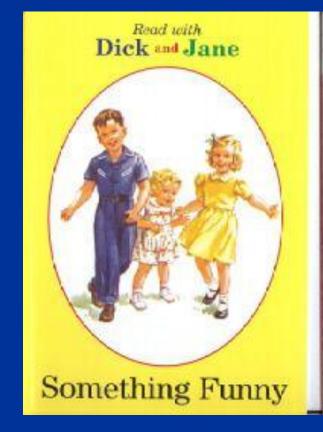
Another reason may be alluded to by the prophet Zephaniah:

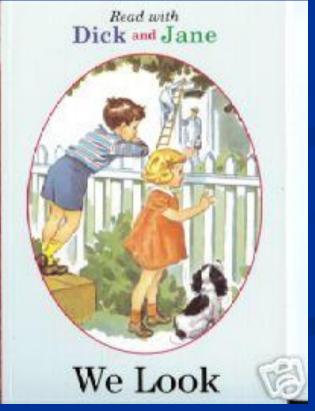
"For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord."

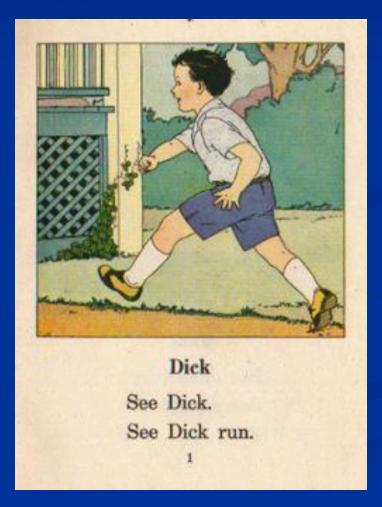
- Zeph. 3:9 (NKJV)

- 1. Our goal is to equip you with a basic knowledge of Hebrew in order to enhance your study of the Scriptures.
- 2. You'll get out of it what you put into it.
- 3. For now, we will focus on modern Hebrew.
- 4. This is what will be encountered in most all Hebrew literature you will study at least in the beginning.
- 5. More specifically, we will focus on modern Sephardic Hebrew.
- 6. Later we will look at Hebrew script and paleo-Hebrew and other facets of the language.
- 7. But for now, these sessions will assume you know nothing or very little about Hebrew.

Who remembers these?







- I. Nikud (Vowel Points)
- 1. The Hebrew alef-bet contains twenty-two consonants and no vowels.
- 2. Nikud or "vowel points" were developed to help those in the exile to properly read and sustain the Hebrew language.
- 3. The *nikud* also helps the beginner know what vowel sounds to attach to consonants.
- 4. Hebrew is read from right to left.

Nikud (Vowel Points)







Patach

Kamatz

Segol

"a" as in "father" "a" as in "father"

"e" as in "red"



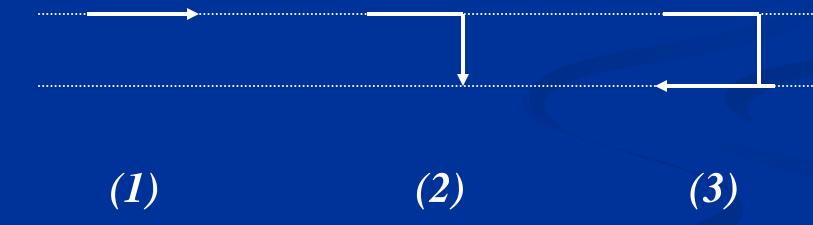
Consonants: Beit (Veit)

Beit Veit

Beit, signified by the dagesh, has B sound as in "boy." Veit has V sound as in "victory."

Phonic Reading: Beit (Veit) with nikud

Consonants: Writing Beit (Veit)





Consonants: Alef



Alef
Silent letter.

Typically takes the sound of the vowel attached to it.

Why does Hebrew have silent letters? Isn't that kind of confusing and silly?

Pronounce this word:

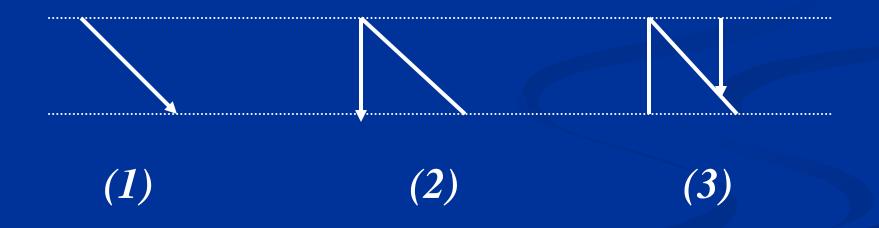
KNIFE

Enough said?

Phonic Reading: Alef & Beit with nikud

Phonic Reading: Alef & Beit with nikud

Consonants: Writing Alef





Consonants: Yud

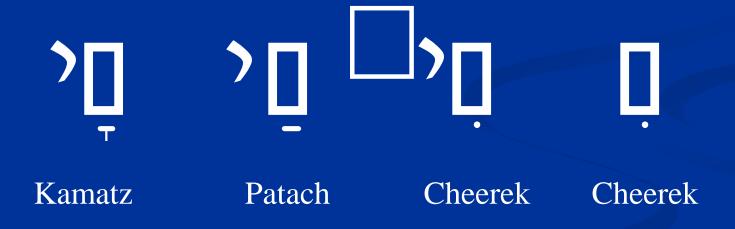
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Yud

Y sound as in "Yah."

Also affects vowel sounds.

Nikud followed by Yud



I as in "tie"

I as in "tie" EE as in "feet" I as in "big"

Phonic Reading: Alef, Beit and Yud

Consonants: Writing Yud

(1) (2)

Vocabulary Words

אָב

(a) father

אבַא

(my) father, Dad

בָא

(is) coming

אַבִיב

spring



End of Session 1