



How Hebrew Works Quick Guide

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1. HEBREW IS READ FROM RIGHT TO LEFT.

Regular English:

→ MOM CAN SEE A NEW FLOWER IN THE GARDEN.

How right-to-left would look in English:

.NEDRAG EHT NI REWOLF WEN A EES NAC MOM ←

2. A FEW LETTERS HAVE A "FINAL" FORM USED ONLY WHEN THAT LETTER IS AT THE END OF A WORD.

Hebrew letters such as N and M have this unique "final" form.

How special ending letters would look in English:

.NEDRAG EHT ןI REWOLF WEN A EES ןNAC ןMOM

3. VOWELS GO BELOW CONSONANTS, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS.

Vowels can't be alone, they are always paired with a consonant. For a vowel to make a sound on its own, Hebrew has 2 silent consonant letters. The ◊ represents silent consonants here.

How relocated vowels would look in English:

. ןDRG HT ן◊ RWLF WN ◊ S ןC ןM
E A E I E O E A EE A O

4. GOOD NEWS!

Hebrew is phonetic. Once you know the consonant sounds and vowel sounds, it is smooth sailing in terms of successful phonetic reading, unlike English which has very irregular pronunciation.

SIDE NOTE:

Learning phonetic reading of Hebrew can enable pronouncing written Hebrew in prayerbooks successfully. If you come across Hebrew in other contexts, you may notice that the vowels are missing. This is standard for most written Hebrew.

In modern Hebrew in Israel, if you picked up a newspaper, it would read like this version of English:

. ןDRG HT ן◊ RWLF WN ◊ S ןC ןM

TRY IT OUT! WHAT ARE THE CREATURES SAYING?

(answer key is on right-edge)

Consonants

"B" = ב

Boy & Ball

"M" = מ

Mouse & Mall

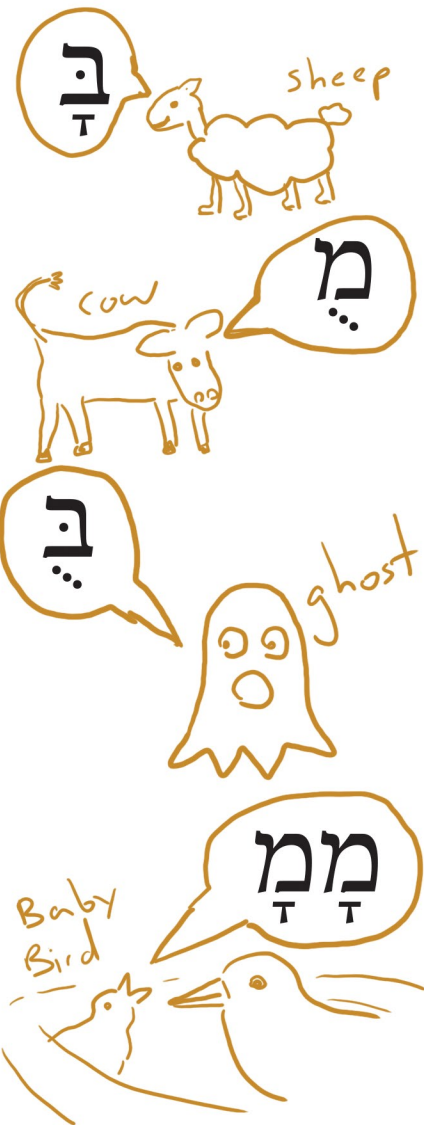
Vowels

"OO" = וּ

Moon & Woo

"AH" = א

Fall & Paw



Sheep: Baa, Cow: Moo, Ghost: Boo, Baby Bird: Mama