

# Living Letters – Level 1 Syllabus

## Scope and Objectives

*Living Letters – Level 1* is a 10-lesson primer designed to introduce students the foundational skills needed to read and write biblical Hebrew. The course covers all 22 consonants of the Hebrew Aleph-Bet, their final (sofit) forms, and the complete set of vowel points (nikudot). Students will learn correct pronunciation, some basic vocabulary, and the concept of three-letter root words (shoresh). Instruction includes both visual recognition and handwriting practice, preparing students for continued study in Level 2.

### Scope:

- *Hebrew reading and script basics.*
  - *Letter names, sounds, meanings, and numerical values.*
  - *All vowel points and vowel-consonant combinations.*
  - *Final letter forms and their usage.*
  - *The BeGaD KePHaT letters and dagesh rules.*
  - *Recognition of shoreshim in biblical text.*
  - *Practice reading simple words and short verses.*
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## Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. *Recognize and correctly name all Hebrew consonants and their final forms.*
2. *Pronounce each consonant with correct sound, including distinctions between hard and soft forms.*
3. *Identify and pronounce all vowel points (nikudot) in combination with consonants.*
4. *Write Hebrew letters accurately in block script.*
5. *Read and sound out basic biblical Hebrew words without transliteration aids.*
6. *Recognize and understand the concept of the shoresh (three-letter root).*
7. *Build and maintain a personal Hebrew vocabulary lexicon.*
8. *Read simple Hebrew words and short biblical verses.*

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## Living Letters – Level 1

- **Introduction** – Basics of the Hebrew Language
- **Lesson 1** – The Silent Letters: Aleph & Ayin (ע/א)
- **Lesson 2** – Beyt, Kaf, Pey & Sofit Forms (ב/בּ, כ/כּ, פ/פּ)
- **Lesson 3** – Hey, cHeyt, Tav (ה, ח, ת)
- **Lesson 4** – Vav, Yod & YHWH (ו, י, יהוה)
- **Lesson 5** – Nun, Gimel, Zayin (נ, ג, ז)
- **Lesson 6** – Dalet & Reish (ד, ר)
- **Lesson 7** – Teyt, Mem, Samekh (ט, מ/ם, ס)
- **Lesson 8** – Lamed, Tzadi, Qoof (ל, צ/ץ, ק)
- **Lesson 9** – Shin and Sin (ש, שׁ)
- **Lesson 10** – Level 1 Reader, Letter Meanings & Syllabication

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## Lesson Outline

### Introduction – Basics of the Hebrew Language

- Overview of the Aleph-Bet and Hebrew as a living language.
- The threefold meaning of letters: sound, meaning, numerical value.
- Reading direction (right-to-left) and the role of shreshim (roots).
- Introduction to nikudot (vowel points).
- Understanding matres lectionis.
- Overview of dagesh, mappiq, and te'amim.

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### Lesson 1 – The Silent Letters: Aleph & Ayin (ע/א)

- Sounds: Silent letters acting as vowel carriers.
- Meanings and symbolism.

- Vocabulary: אב (father), אור (light), אחד (one), עוז (strength), עם (people).
- Writing practice in block script.

## **Lesson 2 – Beyt, Kaf, Pey & Sofit Forms (ב/בּ, כ/כּ, פ/פּ)**

- BeGaD KePHaT concept and dagesh kal.
- Sofit forms: כּ, כ; פּ, פ; בּ, ב.
- Vocabulary: ברא (created), כל (all), פה (mouth), פרי (fruit).
- Writing practice and recognition of final forms.

## **Lesson 3 – Hey, cHeyt, Tav (ה, ח, ת)**

- Hey as definite article and mappiq.
- Guttural cHeyt pronunciation rule.
- Tav sound and meaning.
- Vocabulary: הוא (he), חי (life), תורה (Torah).
- Reading and copying words with correct nikud.

## **Lesson 4 – Vav, Yod & YHWH (ו, י, יהוה)**

- Vav as conjunction, vowel holder.
- Yod inflecting vowels.
- Introduction to the Tetragrammaton.
- Vocabulary: ויאמר (and he said), יום (day), יהוה (Yehovah).
- Copying and pronunciation exercises.

## **Lesson 5 – Nun, Gimel, Zayin (נ/נּ, ג, ז)**

- Sofit form of Nun.
- Gimel and Zayin pronunciation and meanings.
- Vocabulary: אמן (amen), גוי (nation), זהב (gold).
- Writing and root recognition.

## **Lesson 6 – Dalet & Reish (ד, ר)**

- Visual differences between Dalet, Reish, and Kaf sofit.

- Vocabulary: דבר (word), ראשית (beginning).
- Reading practice in short phrases.

### **Lesson 7 – Teyt, Mem, Samekh (ט, מ/ם, ס)**

- Sofit Mem form and visual comparisons.
- Vocabulary: טוב (good), מים (water), ספר (book).
- Practice identifying similar-shaped letters.

### **Lesson 8 – Lamed, Tzadi, Qoof (ל, צ/ץ, ק)**

- Lamed as prefix (to/towards).
- Tzadi sofit form.
- Vocabulary: לא (no), צדיק (righteous), קול (voice).
- Handwriting and recognition drills.

### **Lesson 9 – Shin and Sin (ש, שׁ)**

- Dot placement and pronunciation changes.
- Vocabulary: שבת (Shabbat), שבע (seven), שדה (field).
- Exercises distinguishing /sh/ and /s/ sounds.

### **Lesson 10 – Level 1 Reader, Letter Meanings & Syllabication**

- Combining consonants and vowels into full words.
- Introduction to interlinear reading format.
- Reading Genesis 1:1 in Hebrew.
- Understanding shoresh letters in context.
- Preparing for Level 2 Reader.

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### **Course Materials**

- Living Letters Level 1 Workbook & Reader.
- Printable Aleph-Bet flashcards.
- Aleph-Bet chant audio/video.

- Daily Quick Quizzes booklet.
  - Lexicon for vocabulary building.
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### **Suggested Schedule**

- Self-paced: 1 lesson/day for 10 days.
  - Group class: 2–3 lessons/week over 4–5 weeks.
  - Daily handwriting and reading practice critical for retention.
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### **Assessment**

- Completion of lesson exercises.
- Lexicon entries for all learned vocabulary.
- Final reading quiz (Hebrew-only text from Level 1 Reader).