

Chapter 5a - Definite Article

In Hebrew, a noun is made definite by prefixing the definite article which consists of הַ plus a Daghesh Forte in the first consonant of the noun.

הַּ מֶלֶךְ = הַּמֶּלֶךְ

Definite Article

הַּמֶּלֶךְ



Chapter 5b - Definite Article

with begadkephat consonants

When adding the definite article to words with an initial *begadkephat* consonant, the Daghesh Lene is replaced by a Daghesh Forte.

Indefinite Noun

Definite Noun

בַּיִת	a house	➤	הַבַּיִת	the house
דֶּרֶךְ	a road	➤	הַדֶּרֶךְ	the road
גִּבּוֹר	a warrior	➤	הַגִּבּוֹר	the warrior



Chapter 5c - Definite Article

with guttural consonants

Compensatory Lengthening

With initial א, ג and ע, the guttural rejects the Dagesh Forte and *Pathach lengthens to Qamets*.

אִישׁ a man > אִישׁ־ the man

Virtual Doubling

With initial ה or ח, the guttural rejects the Dagesh Forte but the Pathach *does not lengthen* to Qamets.

הַיְכָל a palace > הַיְהִיכָל the palace

Irregular Seghol

Before unaccented ע, ה or ח (ח may also be accented), the definite article appears with the Seghol vowel and *without* the Dagesh Forte.

חָכָם a wise man > חָחָם־ the wise man

Chapter 5d - Definite Article

with initial י and מ

Words that begin with י or מ usually give up the Daghesh Forte that is associated with the definite article.

יְלָדִים	boys	➤	הַיְלָדִים	the boys
מַרְגְּלִים	spies	➤	הַמַּרְגְּלִים	the spies

Chapter 5e - Conjunction וְ

(and, but, also, even)

Before most consonants
the conjunction will appear as וְ

וְעֶבֶד	and a servant
וְאִשָּׁה	and a woman
וְהָאִשָּׁה	and the woman
וְאִישׁ	and a man
וְהָאִישׁ	and the man



Chapter 5f - Conjunction וְ

other spellings

Before בּ, מּ or פּ it is spelled with **Shureq** (וְ)

מֶלֶךְ + וְ > וּמֶלֶךְ and a king
פַּרְעֹה + וְ > וּפַרְעֹה and Pharaoh

Before Vocal Shewa it is spelled with **Shureq** (וְ)

סְפָרִים + וְ > וּסְפָרִים and books
שְׁמוּאֵל + וְ > וּשְׁמוּאֵל and Samuel

Before Hateph vowels it is spelled with
the **corresponding short vowel**

אֲנָשִׁים + וְ > וְאֲנָשִׁים and men
אֶמֶת + וְ > וְאֶמֶת and truth

Before monosyllabic words and words with initial accent
it is spelled with **Qamets** (וְ)

צֶאֱן + וְ > וְצֶאֱן and sheep
לֶחֶם + וְ > וְלֶחֶם and bread