

# Read Hebrew in simple steps

## Lesson 6

ש ח

 **jonathan frate**

## Lesson 6



The following letter is the letter “Ḥet”, which has a strong guttural sound, similar to “H” as in House, but stronger. It is stronger than the sound of the letter “Hey” ה.

ח

The “Ḥet” looks a little bit like the letter “Hey”, but notice the difference:

ח

Ḥet

ה

Hey

Take care not to mistake it for the letter “Tav” as well. The letter Tav has a “foot” on the left side.

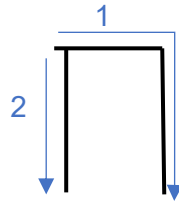
ח


Ḥet

ת

Tav

Look how to write it by hand:




 Copy it several times in order to practice:



---

---

---

 We usually transliterate the letter with “Ch”, but its sound has nothing to do with English “Ch”. Here we are representing it with ח. It has a strong throaty sound, stronger than English “H”. It’s the sound that starts the name of the Jewish festival “Chanukkah”, or the Yiddish expression “Chutzpah”.

ח חַ



חֶּ HĚ

חֵי HĚE

חוֹ HŌ

חוּ HŌO

Make clear the difference between the sound of “Ĥet” ח and the sound of “Hey” ה . The first one is strongly throaty sound, the second one is just a gentle aspirated H. Practice pronouncing the difference:

חַ Ha      חָ Ha

חֶ He      חֵ He

חֵי Hee      חֵי Hee

חוֹ Ho      חוֹ Ho

חוּ Hoo      חוּ Hoo

✍ Read and copy. Practice until you get confident.

חור חור חור חור חור

חנה

חמור

חדר

חבור

אח

אחות

חגורה

חקה

הקה

רחל


הַהַר

6

הַרְחֵמָה

הַרְחֵהָה

חֵלָה

 The next letter is the letter “Shin”:



This letter may sound “Sh” (as in “show”) or “S” (as in “sandwich”). When there is a dot on the right side, it sounds “Sh”, and is called “Shin”. When it has a dot on the left side, it sounds “S”, and is called “Sin”.

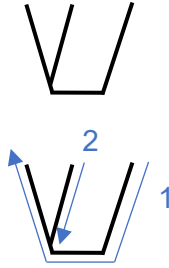


Sin



Shin

Look how to write it by hand:



✍ Copy it several times in order to practice:

V V V

---

---

---

■ Check how to read the following syllables:

שָׁ SHA

שָׂ SA

שֶׁ SHE

שֵׁ SE

שֵׁי SHEE

שֵׂי SEE

שׁוּ SHO

שׁוּ SO

שׁוּ SHOO

שׁוּ SOO

✍ Read and copy. Practice until you get confident.

שַׁבַּת / שַׁבָּת / שַׁבַּת

שָׁמַשׁ

שָׁלַג

דָּגַשׁ

יִשְׂרָאֵל

שִׁמָּה

שָׂרִית

שִׁנְיָה





שׁוֹתָה

חָדָשׁ

גִּישָׁר

שׁוֹשְׁנָה

שׁוֹלָה

שַׁחַר

שַׁחֲרִית

שְׁלֵמָה

מִנְשָׂה

בְּשָׂר

מִשְׁאִית

☞ Have you noticed the following word?

שְׁחֵרִית

Below the letter ח there is a line, which is the vowel “AH”, as you already know, and two dots beside (The “shvah”). What does it means? How do I read that?

Read as “AH”, normally.

The same way, if you find the vowel “E” (three dots) with “shvah”, read “E” normally.

אֵי A

אֵי E

בֵּי BA

בֵּי BE

תֵּי TA

תֵּי TE

Etc

☞ Did you remember that the upper dot is “O”?

שְׁלֹמֹה

SHLOMO

Even with final ה the vowel is “O”, the letter ה doesn’t have any sound.

There is still another way to represent the vowel “O”. It is exactly the same as one of the symbols that represent “A”.

אָ A or O?

תָּ TA or TO?

רָ RA or RO?

Don’t worry about that. All the times you see this signal, read “AH”. Just know that in some words it will sound “O”, you will know this when you know the word. But most of the time it is AH.

About the other symbol, אַ , it is always “AH”.

But you can find the following:



זִי

In this case read “O”. All the times this signal appears with “shvah”, it sounds “O”. Keep calm! Check the following:

זִי A

זִי A

זִי A (or O)

זִי O

זִי E

זִי E

- Practice the reading:

אֲנִי

נִהְרִיָּה

אֶמֶת

אֱלֹהֵינוּ

מִחְרַת