Hebrew Vowels[1]

2.2   **Hebrew Vowel Charts**. In the following charts, Hebrew vowels are presented in three major categories: long, short, and reduced. Within these vowel types, there are five vowel classes (a, e, i, o, u), though not all classes are attested in each of the vowel types. Each vowel will appear with the consonant בּ in order to show the position of the vowel with respect to its consonant. It is important to note that the vowel is pronounced after the consonant with which it is associated. For example, בַּ is pronounced *ba* and not *ab*, and בֹּ is pronounced *bo* and not *ob.*

For each vowel, you should be able to give its vowel class, vowel type, and vowel name. For now, do not be concerned about the physical similarity between the Qamets (בָּ, long *a*) and the Qamets Hatuf (בָּ, short *o*). You will learn how to distinguish between them in the next chapter. Finally, you should begin the process of becoming familiar with the pronunciation of each vowel. Learning the sound for each vowel will take some time. Be patient.

2.3   **Hebrew Vowel Chart 1: Long Vowels**. In this type, i-class and u-class vowels are not attested. These vowels are often called "changeable" long vowels.

	Symbol	Vowel Name	Pronunciation
a-class	בָּ	Qamets	**a** as in f**a**ther
e-class	בֵּ	Tsere	**e** as in th**ey**
o-class	בֹּ	Holem	**o** as in r**o**le

2.4   **Hebrew Vowel Chart 2: Short Vowels**. In this type, all five classes of vowels (a, e, i, o, u) are attested.

	Symbol	Vowel Name	Pronunciation
a-class	בַּ	Pathach	**a** as in b**a**t
e-class	בֶּ	Seghol	**e** as in b**e**tter
i-class	בִּ	Hireq	**i** as in b**i**tter
o-class	בָּ	Qamets Hatuf	**o** as in b**o**ttle

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[1] 1 Pratico, G. D., & Van Pelt, M. V. (2019). *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* (Third Edition, pp. 8-9). Zondervan.

u-class	בֻ	Qibbuts	**u** as in r**u**ler

2.5 **Hebrew Vowel Chart 3: Reduced Vowels.** In this type, i-class and u-class vowels are not attested.

	Symbol	Vowel Name	Pronunciation
a-class	בֲ	Hateph Pathach	**a** as in **a**muse
e-class	בֱ	Hateph Seghol	**e** as in m**e**tallic
o-class	בֳ	Hateph Qamets	**o** as in c**o**mmit

2.6 **Summary Vowel Chart: Long, Short and Reduced Vowels.**

	a	e	i	o	u
long	בָ Qamets	בֵ Tsere		בֹ Holem	
short	בַ Pathach	בֶ Seghol	בִ Hireq	בָ Qamets Hatuf	בֻ Qibbuts
reduced	בֲ Hateph Pathach	בֱ Hateph Seghol			בֳ Hateph Qamets[2]

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[2] Pratico, G. D., & Van Pelt, M. V. (2019). *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* (Third Edition, pp. 8–9). Zondervan.