From the Aleph-Bet

LESSON 2

Letters

aleph - א (4)  
(SILENT Letter)

(final) Mem - מ (5)

Lamed - ל (6)

Vowels

o (as in coke) - ئ (2)  
(cholem)

Words

שָׁלוֹם (2)  
PEACE

אֲבָד (3)  
FATHER, DADDY
There is one set of dots which is *not a vowel* and which is *never counted as a vowel*!

It is called a “SH’VAH.”

1) Sometimes the sh’vah is SILENT.

2) Sometimes the sh’vah is PRONOUNCED as a short “i” – as in the English word “fish”)

   Even when the sh’vah is pronounced, *a sh’vah is never counted as a vowel*!

Every Hebrew *syllable must have one vowel*.

Since a sh’vah is *never counted as a vowel*, a sh’vah can never create a Hebrew syllable – even if it is pronounced.

**What does the SH’VAH do?**

1) The SILENT SH’VAH EXTENDS A SYLLABLE BY THE LETTER OVER THE SH’VAH – and ENDS (or “CLOSES”) the syllable.

   BahSH-Tah ְֶשֶׁת 2 vowels, 2 syllables

2) The PRONOUNCED SH’VAH BEGINS A SYLLABLE and is added to the FOLLOWING LETTER AND VOWEL. The PRONOUNCED SH’VAH (and the letter under it are pronounced QUICKER – similar to a “grace note” in music).

   B’SHah-BahT ְֶשֶׁת 2 vowels, 2 syllables
   (on the Sabbath)

3) Sometimes, a VOWEL-SOUND is added to a PRONOUNCED SH’VAH to give it more of a sound.

   Pronounced “ah” (but NOT a vowel!)

   The sh’vah is never counted as a vowel – even if a vowel-sound is placed next to it!
A. LETTERS. Circle the sound each letter makes (or circle “silent” if the letter makes no sound at all).

SILENT M B L ...ל (6) SILENT SH L M ...ש (1)
SILENT M B T ...ם (7) SILENT B M SH ...ש (2)
SILENT M B SH ...ב (8) SILENT L B SH ...ש (3)
SILENT M L T ...ט (9) SILENT L T B ...ט (4)
SILENT M L T ...ל (10) SILENT M T L ...מ (5)

B. VOWELS. Circle the sound each vowel makes (or circle “silent” if the letter makes no sound at all).

ah (as in father) o (as in coke) .... (1)
ah (as in father) o (as in coke) .... (2)
ah (as in father) o (as in coke) .... (3)
ah (as in father) o (as in coke) .... (4)

C. NAMES of LETTERS. Write the name of each Hebrew letter.

_______ - ב (3) _________ - ל (2) _________ - ש (1)

D. SYLLABLES. How many syllables does the following word have? (Remember: same as the number of vowels in the word.)

______ שלום

E. TRANSLATION. Put the letter of the picture next to the correct Hebrew word.

____ - עזר (C) ____ - שלום (B) ____ - שבת (A)

1) 2) 3)

F. TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH: __________________________ - שבת שלום
From the Aleph-Bet

ANSWER SHEET

A. LETTERS. Circle the sound each letter makes (or circle “silent” if the letter makes no sound at all).

SILENT M B L ...ל (6) SILENT SH L M ...ש (1)
SILENT M B T ...ת (7) SILENT B M SH ...ב (2)
SILENT M B SH ...ב (8) SILENT L B SH ...ש (3)
SILENT M L SH ...ש (9) SILENT L T B ...ת (4)
SILENT M L T ...ת (10) SILENT M T L ...ל (5)

B. VOWELS. Circle the sound each vowel makes (or circle “silent” if the letter makes no sound at all).

ah (as in father) o (as in coke) ...ו (1)
ah (as in father) o (as in coke) ...ו (2)
ah (as in father) o (as in coke) ...ו (3)
ah (as in father) o (as in coke) ...ו (4)

C. NAMES of LETTERS. Write the name of each Hebrew letter.

MEM - ב (3) LAMED - ל (2) ALEPH - צ (1)

D. SYLLABLES. How many syllables does the following word have? 2 - שבת
(Remember: same as the number of vowels in the word.)

E. TRANSLATION. Put the number of the picture next to the correct Hebrew word.

2 - שבת (C) 1 - שלום (B) 3 - שבת שלום (A)

1) 2) 3)

F. TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH: Sabbath Peace - שבת שלום

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