

Vowels (Nikud)

ah= אַ אָ אֲ אִ

All grouped into five sounds

eh= אֵ אֶ אֹ אִי אִי

ee= אֵי אֵי

oh= אִי אִי

oo= אִי אִי

The Syllable

Every syllable begins with a consonant.

Every syllable is made up of a consonant + vowel or consonant + vowel + consonant

Most Hebrew words have the stress on the last syllable

Exercise:

הוֹדוּ לַאֲדֹנָי הָאֲדֹנִים כִּי לְעֶלְמָם חֶסֶד׃<sup>1</sup>

Ho•du la•Ado•néy ha•ado•nim ki le•o•lam chas•do. Psalms 136:3

### Transliteration rules

1. The letter “a” always sounds like “ah” - as in the words Mama or Papa.
2. The letter “e” always sounds like “eh” - as in the words merry, head or let.

---

<sup>1</sup> [\*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: with Westminster Hebrew Morphology.\*](#) (1995). (Ps 136:3). Stuttgart; Glenside PA: German Bible Society; Westminster Seminary.

3. The letters “ee” always sound like “ee” - as in the words deer or seed.
4. The letters “oo” always sound like “oo” - as in the words: moon or cool.
5. Likewise, the letter “u” always sounds like “oo” - as in the words: sure or tour.

## *The DAGESH*

### בגדכפת

There is a unique application of the dagesh for these six characters.

In order to remember them we refer to them as the bgdcft or begadkephat letters. (בְּגִדְכֶפֶת)

When these letters received the dagesh they have a special effect on ב, כ and פ - the sound of the letter changes. But when the dagesh is in ת, ד, ג then there is no change at all. When the Dagesh is found in all other letters then the letter is doubled; ex: נ would be the same as ננ .

There is an exception to this rule because א, ה, ח, ע, ר will never receive a dagesh.