Hebrew Step-By-Step

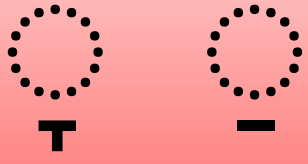
By Rae Antonoff, MAJE
Distributed by JLearnHub & ShalomLearning

Packet 1

NEW LETTERS:

מ ש ב ת

NEW VOWELS:



Practice online with JiTap or at

www.JLearnHub.com → StudyHub → Hebrew Letters

◇ © Rae Antonoff ◇ www.JLearnHub.com ◇

How to Read Hebrew

When we read English, we read from left to right.

English →

Hebrew, however, goes from right to left.

← עִבְרִית

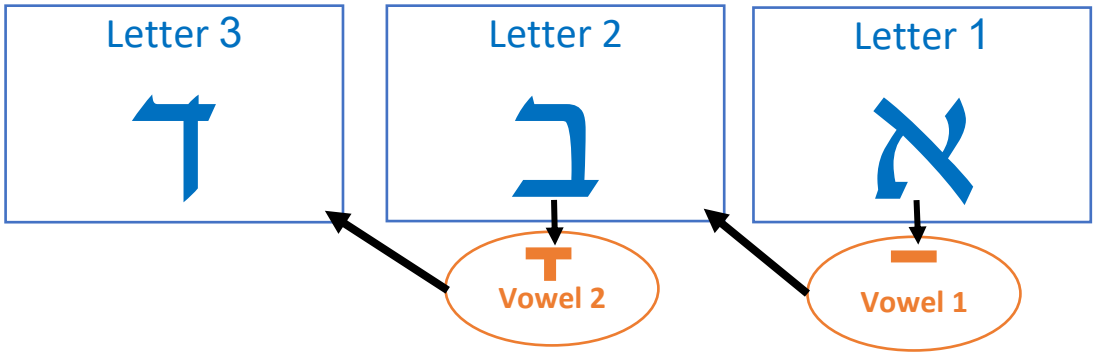
Draw an arrow through each line below to show the direction you would read it:

The first two have been done for you!

1. ~~Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe~~
2. ~~בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם~~
3. Who brings forth bread from the earth.
4. הַמּוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.
5. שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ אֶחָד!
6. Hear, Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One!
7. May you all have a happy and sweet new year!
8. שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה לְכֻלָּם!

This is what the Hebrew in the Torah scroll looks like! There are very strict rules about how a *Sofer*, a scribe, writes the Torah.

Every Hebrew written word has two "levels" – the letters (consonants) on the top level, and the vowels on the lower level. We read Hebrew words in an up-and-down, zig-zag pattern:



Draw arrows through each letter and vowel in the order you would read them if you knew what sounds they made:

The first one has been done for you as an example!

1. אַתָּה
2. פְּרִי
3. הַזֶּה
4. בְּרָכָה

Lesson 1: Tav ת /Ah

Now meet your first letter, the **Tav**!

ת ת ת

ת ת ת

The first row are the most common fonts you would see in a *siddur*/ prayerbook.

Which one does your community's *siddur* use?

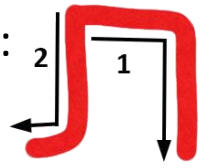
The second row has some calligraphy fonts you might see in other places like the Torah, on a tallit, in artwork…

The **Tav** makes the same sound as the English letter **T**

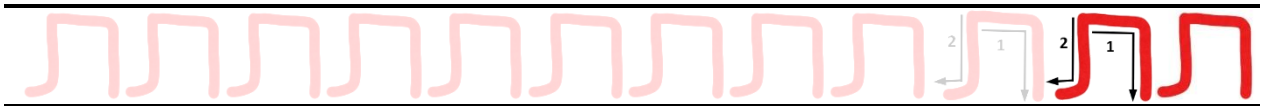
No matter what font the Tav is in, Tav always has that "**toe**" at the bottom-left, even if other parts of the letter are slightly different!

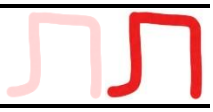
Circle the "toe" of each Tav above!

Write the Tav with two penstrokes:



Trace the Tav across the first line, then copy it across the second line on your own!





Meet your first vowels:

ah = ◌ַ = ◌ָ

Now put them together with the Tav…

tah = תַ = תָ

In Hebrew, both "ah" vowels are **always** pronounced like the A in "father" – also called an "open a." It's **never** the "flat a" like it is in "apple."

Sometimes the Tav gets a dot in the middle, but that doesn't change its sound. (It used to, in older versions of Hebrew, but not anymore!)

תּ = ת

Read the following lines out loud:

1 תָ תַ תָ תַ תָ תַ תָ תַ

2 תַ תָ תַ תָ תַ תָ תַ תָ

under

Read the Hebrew on the right out loud, then match each one to its English sound on the left!

TA	תָתַתָ
TAT	תַ
TATA	תָתַת
TATAT	תַתָ
TATATA	תַת

under

The puzzles and reading pages in your packets sometimes use "fake" words just to give you some practice making the sounds – these are grey. Any word that's all **black** is a real Hebrew word – it's translated below or next to it!

Meet your second letter, the **Bet**!

Lesson 2: Bet ב

ב ב ב

ב ב ב

This first font in the second row is the one you would see in the Torah. Torah letters often get decorative "crowns" to make them beautiful and special!

The **Bet** makes the same sound as the English letter **B**

No matter what font the Bet is in, Bet always has that wide "**b**ase" and a "**b**elly **b**utton," even if other parts of the letter are slightly different!

Circle the wide "base" or "tail" of each Bet above!

Now you can read your first Hebrew word:

בַּת = daughter

When you read that word, what phrase do you think of?

(Hint: What many Jewish girls do when they turn 12 or 13!)

Read the Hebrew out loud:

(You can also hear them on JiTap or the StudyHub on www.JLearnHub.com!)

1 בָּ תַּ בָּבּ בַּבָּ בַּת תָּתַ

daughter

2 תַ בָּ בַּבַּת תָּבּ בָּתַּתָ

on/at the daughter

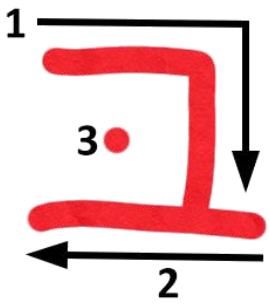
Read the Hebrew on the right, then match each one to the English on the left that sounds the same!

BAT	תַּבּ	
TABAT	בַּבַּת	on/at the daughter
TAB	בַּת	daughter
BATATA	תָּבַּת	
BABAT	בַּתָּתָ	

The puzzles and reading pages in your packets sometimes use "fake" words just to give you some practice making the sounds – these are grey. Any word that's all **black** is a real Hebrew word – it's translated below or next to it in small type!

Writing Practice

Write the letter Bet with a right angle, a line, and a dot:



Did You Know..?

Drawing a shape on paper helps the human brain remember that shape more easily. That's why writing Hebrew can actually speed up your reading!

Now you try: trace the letter across the first line, then copy it all the way across the second line on your own!

בּ בּ בּ בּ בּ בּ בּ בּ

בּ בּ

Copy the words at least **twice** each:

בַּת בַּת daughter

בַּבָּה בַּבָּה --

בַּתָּה בַּתָּה --

Reading Strategy:

Syllables

Every word has at least one **syllable** in it.
Syllables are the "beats" of the word.

For example, the word "cat" has **one** syllable,
but the word "paper" has **two** syllables:

c a t	p a | p e r

And "ladybug" has **three**:

l a | d y | b u g

You can figure out a word's syllables by clapping as you say it, or by placing your hand under your chin: every time you feel your chin go down as you say the word, that's a syllable!

How many syllables does each of these English words have?
Draw lines between them.

The first one has been done for you as an example!

1 g o l\|d e n\|r o d 3 2 H e b r e w ___

3 b a s k e t b a l l ___ 4 J e w i s h ___

5 b a n a n a ___ 6 e l e p h a n t ___

Sometimes in English, it can be tricky to figure out where the syllable breaks go:

straw | ber | ry or **straw | be | rry**

Of course, you get the same number of syllables either way – drawing the lines can just be a little confusing sometimes!

But Hebrew syllables are easier to figure out:

the number of vowels = the number of syllables!

For example, look at the word בַּבַּת:

How many syllables does each of these Hebrew words have?
Draw lines between them if there's more than one.
The first has been done for you as an example!

1 בַּ|בַּ ת 2

2 בַּ תַּ ב ___

3 תָּ בַּ ת ___

4 תַּ תָּ ___

5 בַּ תָּ תָּ ___

6 תַּ תָּ ת ___

Drawing lines between syllables can help you figure out long words – keep this strategy in mind anytime you have trouble piecing a word together!

Read Aloud!

Read the Hebrew out loud.
The blue lines separate the syllables for you on the top.
(You can also hear them on JiTap or the StudyHub on www.JLearnHub.com!)

1 בַּת תַּב

daughter

2 תַּבַּת | בַּבַּת

on/at the daughter

3 בַּתָּתָ | תָּתָב

Can you divide the words into syllables on your own?

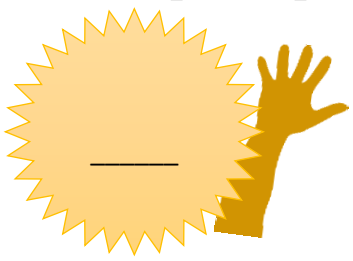
4 תַּב בַּת בַּבַּת

on/at the daughter

daughter

5 תָּתָב תַּבַּת בַּתָּתָ

Whenever you see this yellow badge, → **raise your hand** and ask a teacher to hear you read from this page before moving on!



Lesson 3: Shin ש

The next letter you get to meet is the **Shin:**

ש ש ש

ש ש ש

This is the font you would see in the Torah. Torah letters often get decorative "crowns" to make them beautiful and special!

The **Shin** makes the same sound as the English letter combination **SH**

No matter what font the Shin is in, Shin always has those three branches and a dot on the **right**, even if other parts of the letter are slightly different!

Circle the dot that makes each Shin "always right"!

Now you can read the name of the Jewish holiday that we celebrate the most often:

שַׁבָּת

How often do we celebrate this holiday? _____

Practice reading the Hebrew out loud:

(You can also hear them on JiTap or the StudyHub on www.JLearnHub.com!)

1 שָׁ שַׁ תַּ בָּ שָׁ בַּ תָּ

2 שָׁת תַּשׁ שָׁב שַׁשָׁ שָׁתָּ

weakened put/placed

3 שַׁשׁ תַּשָׁב תַּבָּשׁ בָּשָׁת

If a word is **black** but not translated… you probably know its meaning just from the sound!

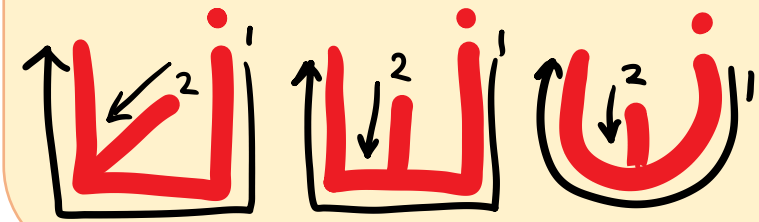
4 בָּשַׁשׁ שַׁבָּב בַּבַּת שַׁבָּת

on/at the daughter

Writing Practice

Make the letter Shin with a U, a line, and a dot:

Handwriting in Hebrew, like in English, can be very personalized: there are often many "right" ways to write a letter. Although the big illustration shows the most common way to write each letter in block Hebrew, here are a few alternatives as well:



Now you try: trace the letter across the first line, then copy it all the way across the second line on your own!

Copy the words at least **twice** each:

שַׁבָּת שַׁבָּת Shabbat

בֻּשָּׁת בֻּשָּׁת --

תַּשְׁעִים תַּשְׁעִים --

Matching

Remember:

ַ \ ָ \ "A"

always sound like "AH" as in "f**A**ther," *never* as in **a**pple.

Read the Hebrew on the right out loud, then match each one to the English that sounds like it on the left. One's been done for you!

A	BAT	שָׁתָ	1	
B	SHABBAT	שַׁבָּבָ	2	
C	BASHASH	בַּת	3	daughter
D	SHATA	תָּשָׁ	4	
E	BABAT	שָׁשַׁבָ	5	
F	TABASH	בַּתָּתָ	6	
G	BASHA	בַּשָׁ	7	
H	TASHA	שַׁבָּת	8	
I	SHASHABA	בַּבַּת	9	on/at the daughter
J	SHATATA	תַּבָּשׁ	10	
K	SHABABA	שַׁתָּתְּ	11	you flowed
L	BATATA	בָּשַׁשׁ	12	

Read Aloud!

Read the Hebrew out loud.
The blue lines separate the syllables for you on the top.
(You can also hear them on JiTap or the StudyHub on www.JLearnHub.com!)

1 שַׁ|בָּת בָּ|שָׁת

2 תָּ|שׁ בַּ|בַּת

on/at the daughter

3 שַׁ|תָּ|תָּ תָּ|שַׁב

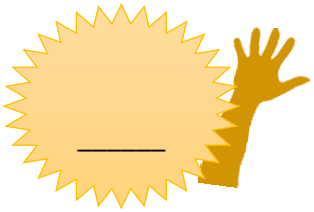
Can you divide the words into syllables on your own?

4 תָּשׁ שַׁבָּת בָּשָׁת

5 תָּשַׁב שַׁתָּתָּ בַּבַּת

on/at the daughter

Whenever you see this yellow badge, →
raise your hand and ask a teacher to hear you read from this page before moving on!

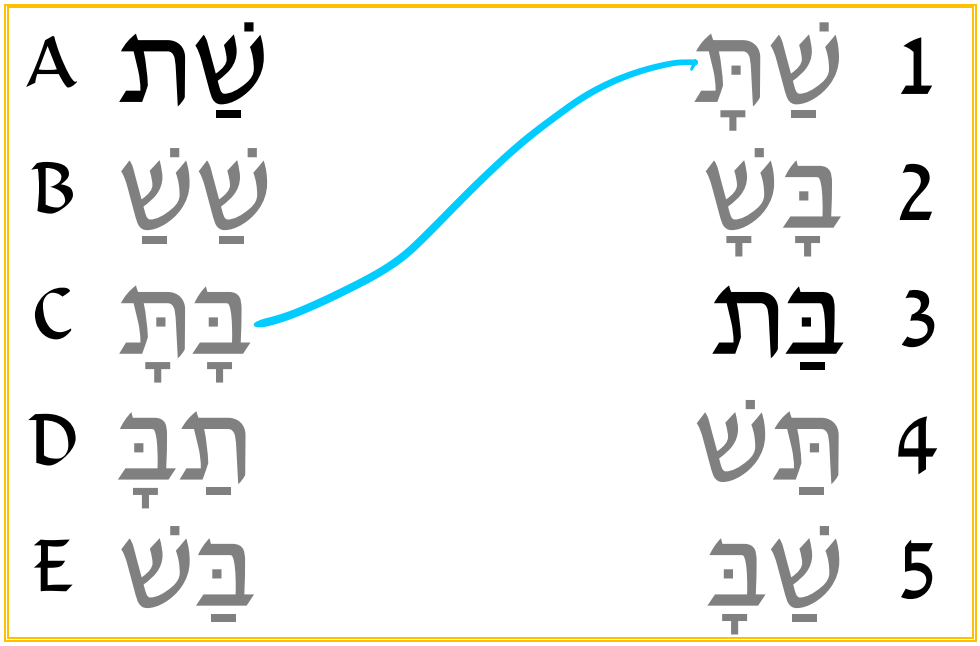


Match-A-Rhyme

Read the Hebrew words match the ones that rhyme!

(For instance, בַּת could match to תַּת. One's been done for you!)

put/placed



daughter

A	בַּשׁ	בָּשׁ	1
B	שַׁבָּ	בַּתָּ	2
C	שַׁשׁ	תָּשָׁ	3
D	תַּב	תַּבָּ	4
E	שָׁתָּ	שַׁב	5

If you are having a LOT of trouble figuring out what rhymes, then read the Hebrew out loud for practice and move on!

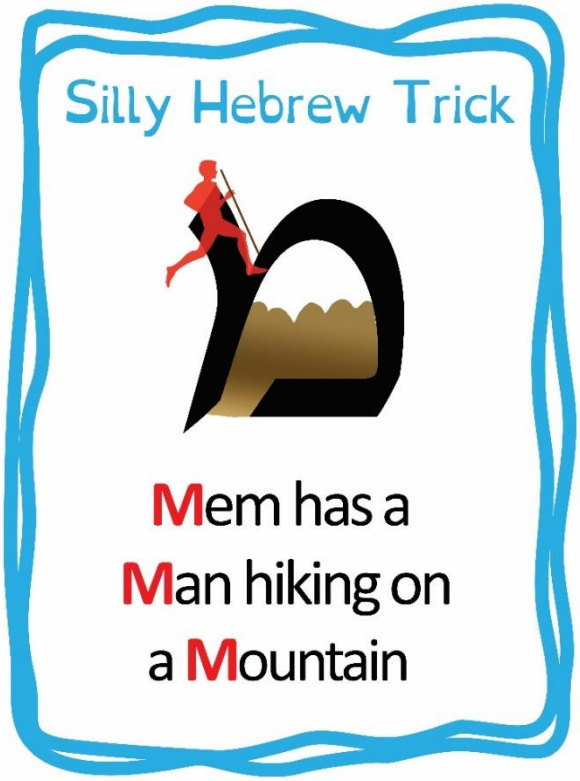
Lesson 4: Mem מ

Now meet your fourth letter, the **Mem!**

מ מ מ

מ ע מ

The **Mem** makes the same sound as the English letter **M**



No matter what font the Mem is in, Mem always has a **"man"** hiking on a **"mountain,"** even if other parts of the letter are slightly different!

Circle the Man on each Mem's Mountain!

Now you can read the name of the helper candle on the Chanukiah (the menorah we light on the holiday of Chanukah):

שַׁמָּשׁ

Traditionally, the שַׁמָּשׁ is raised higher up than all the other candles on a Chanukiah, though some modern designs find other ways to set the שַׁמָּשׁ candle apart. We use the שַׁמָּשׁ to light the other candles, rather than lighting all the candles from a match.

Circle the שַׁמָּשׁ in each *Chanukiah*!

One has been done for you!

Practice reading these lines out loud:

(You can also hear them on JiTap or the StudyHub on www.JLearnHub.com!)

1 מָ מַ מַ מַת מָשׁ מַבָּ מַמַ

moved/departed

2 מָתַ שָׁמָ תָּמָ בַּמָ מָשָׁ

3 מַמַת שַׁמָּשׁ מַמָּשׁ בַּמָּשׁ

at the (point of) departing | very/much | helper candle

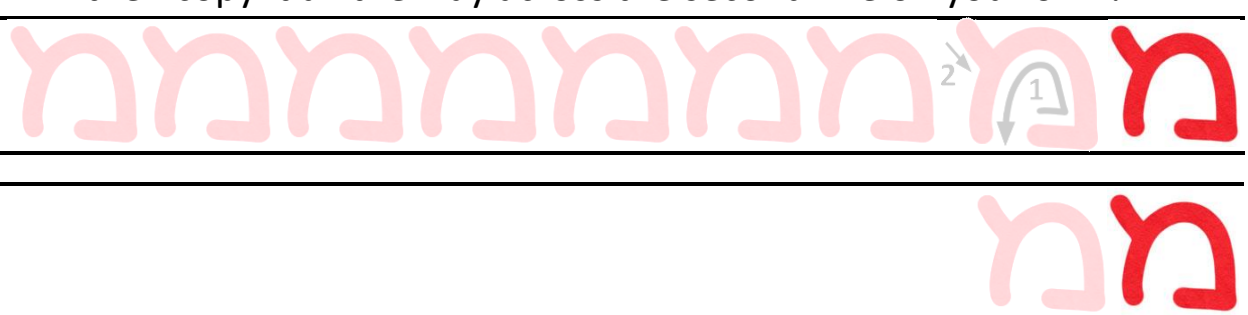
Writing Practice

Make the letter Mem with a line, an arc, & another line:

Some people also write Mem like this:

Feel free to use whichever pattern is easiest for you!

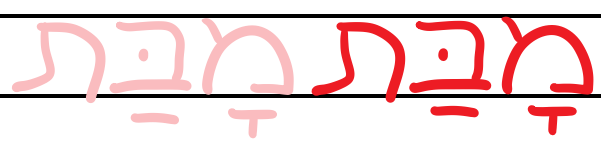
Now you try: trace the letter across the first line, then copy it all the way across the second line on your own!



Copy the words at least **twice** each:

helper candle

very/ much



--

--

Read Aloud!

Read the Hebrew out loud.
The blue lines separate the syllables for you on the top.
(You can also hear them on JiTap or the StudyHub on www.JLearnHub.com!)

1 שַׁ|מָשׁ מָ|שָׁת

helper candle

2 מַ|בַּת בָּ|מַת

stage/theater (of)

3 מָ|תַּת מַ|מָשׁ

gift much/very

Can you divide the words into syllables on your own?

4 מָשָׁת שַׁמָשׁ מַבַּת

helper candle

5 בָּמַת מַמָשׁ מָתַּת

stage/theater (of) much/very gift

Notice that as you learn more letters, you can read more real Hebrew words!
Soon you'll know enough that we won't need any "**fake**" practice words!

One-Off Matching

Read the Hebrew and match the words that sound the same but have one spelling difference.
BONUS: Circle the difference!
(For instance, בַּת would match to בָּת and the vowel would be circled. *One's been done for you as an example!*)

A	מַמַּשׁ	בָּמַת	1	
B	בָּמַת	שַׁמָּשׁ	2	helper candle
C	מַבָּת	מַמָּשׁ	3	much/very
D	שַׁמַּשׁ	מַמַּת	4	
E	מָמַת	מַבַּת	5	

A	מָתַת	שַׁמָּתָּ	1	
B	מַשַּׁת	מָשָּׁתָּ	2	
C	מַתַּתָּ	מַשַּׁת	3	
D	שַׁמַּתָּ	מָתַּת	4	gift
E	מָשָּׁתָּ	מַתַּתָּ	5	

Reverse It!

Write out the words out in Hebrew letters.
The first one has been done for you as an example!

TAMASH	תָּמַשׁ	1
SHABAT	_____	2
MABASH	_____	3
BAMAT	_____	4
TABAT	_____	5
SHAMATA	_____	6
MATATA	_____	7
BASHATA	_____	8
TABASHA	_____	9

Vowels	Letters
◌ָ ◌ַ	ב מ שׁ ת

Name Matching

Match the Hebrew letter to its name!

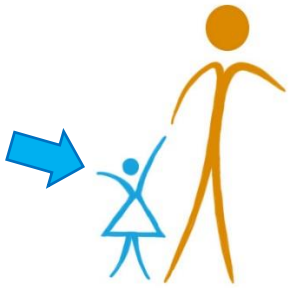
A	Tav	ש	1
B	Shin	ב	2
C	Mem	ת	3
D	Bet	מ	4

Bonus: Point out the Silly Hebrew Trick for each letter!

Vocab Bonus

You've met a few Hebrew words already – write the Hebrew word next to the picture of what it means using the Word Bank at the bottom! (Look back through the packet if you have trouble remembering any of them!)

Page 7



Page 18

Page 13

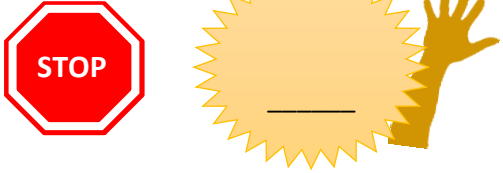
WORD BANK

שַׁבָּת בַּת שֶׁמֶשׁ

Packet 1 Reading Review

Time yourself to see how long it takes you to read this whole page.
It's okay if you read very slowly the first time!
Read this page to a teacher to earn your Packet 1 Award!
(You can also hear it on JiTap or the StudyHub on www.JLearnHub.com!)

1	שַׁבָּת	שַׁמָּשׁ helper candle	מַבַּת
2	בָּמַת stage/theater (of)	מַמָּשׁ much/very	מַתָּתָ
3	בַּבַּת on/at the daughter	מָשָׁת	מַמַּ
4	שָׁמַּ	בָּשַׁת	שַׁתָּתָ
5	בָּשַׁשׁ	שַׁמָּתָ	שַׁמָּשׁ helper candle
6	שַׁבָּת	בַּתָּתָ	מָתַּת gift



Mazal Tov! מַזָּל טוֹב!

This award certifies that

1 א

_____

has completed ***Packet 1***

in the Hebrew Step-By-Step program,

now knows four letters:

בּ מ שׁ ת

two vowels:

ָ ַ

...and is ready to learn more in Packet 2!

Teacher Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____