The b^eghadhk^ephath letters are the six letters in the Hebrew alphabet that are pronounced either as stops (hard) or as fricatives (soft) according to their position. These letters are beth (ב), gimel (ג), daleth (ד), kaph (כ), pe (פ), and tau (ת).

B. Name of the Letters

The six letters above (ב, ג, ד, כ, פ and ת) have been formed into the word תפכדגב for convenience in remembering them. The name "b^eghadhk^ephath" is a transliteration of that word.

C. Hardening of the Letters

The b^eghadhk^ephath letters are hardened by inserting a dot in the middle of them called a daghesh lene or hardening dot. This dot is only used in these six letters, and these letters always have it when they are not preceded by a full or half vowel. Either a full or half vowel will soften a following b^eghadhk^ephath letter.

IX. Daghesh Forte

A. Identification of the Daghesh Forte

The daghesh forte is a dot that is inserted in the middle of a letter to double or strengthen it. This doubling dot may be used in all the letters of the Hebrew alphabet except the laryngeals (aleph - א, he - ה, ḥeth - ח, and ayin - ע) and the letter resh (ר). When it is used, the letter in which it appears must be pronounced twice. When it is used in a b^eghadhk^ephath letter, it not only doubles the letter, but hardens it as well.

B. Rule for Using the Daghesh Forte

When the daghesh forte is used, the letter in which it appears must be preceded by a full vowel and followed by either a full or half vowel.

C. Method for Distinguishing a Daghesh Forte from a Daghesh Lene

Look before the letter that has a dot in it. If there is a full vowel before that letter, the dot is a daghesh forte. If there is no vowel before that letter, the dot is a daghesh lene.

X. Definite Article

A. Identification of the Definite Article

The definite article consists of the letter he (ה).

B. Translation of the Definite Article

The definite article is translated by the English word "the."