

- c. It consists of a word (or, words) in the construct state followed by a word with a definite article or a proper name.

NOTE: The sign of the object is read in Hebrew, but it is not translated.

XII. Shewas

A. Silent Shewa

1. Identification of the Silent Shewa

The silent shewa consists of two dots that are placed under a letter (ψ).

2. Function of the Silent Shewa

The silent shewa marks the end of a closed syllable.

NOTE: The silent shewa is not a vowel, and it has no sound at all.

3. Requirements for the Use of the Silent Shewa

- a. The letter under which it appears must be a consonant.
- b. The letter under which it appears must not be the last letter of a word except in the case of the final kaph where it is used to distinguish the final kaph from the final nun.

B. Vocal Shewa

1. Identification of the Vocal Shewa

The vocal shewa is a half vowel, and it consists of two dots that are placed under a letter (ψ).

2. Pronunciation of the Vocal Shewa

The vocal shewa has a short, indistinct vowel sound like the "o" in the word "democrat."

3. Rule for Distinguishing a Vocal Shewa from a Silent Shewa

When a shewa comes after the first letter of a word, or after a letter with a daghesh forte in it, the shewa will always be vocal.

4. Transliteration of the Vocal Shewa

The vocal shewa is transliterated by writing a small "e" above the line.