

LESSON VI

I. Combinations of Half Vowels

A. Two Vocal Shewas in a Row

When there are two vocal shewas in a row, the first one changes to a short hireq and the second one remains a vocal shewa except in the Qal Infinitive Construct when it is used with an inseparable preposition in which case it becomes a silent shewa (e.g.

לְפָנָי; כַּכֵּן - "according to the word of the LORD").

B. A Vocal Shewa and a Hataf Vowel in a Row

When there is a vocal shewa and a hataf vowel in a row, the vocal shewa changes to a full vowel to match the hataf vowel following it (e.g. לְפָנָי; כַּכֵּן - "for the brother of the king").

C. A Hataf Vowel and a Vocal Shewa in a Row

When there is a hataf vowel and a vocal shewa in a row, the hataf vowel changes to a full vowel to match itself (e.g. לְפָנָי; כַּכֵּן - "she was caused to serve").

NOTE: When there are two half vowels in a row, it is always the first half vowel that changes.

II. Verbs with a Laryngeal as the First Letter of the Verbal Root

A. A short hireq before a laryngeal changes to a seghol except when the laryngeal is to be doubled in which case compensatory heightening occurs and the short hireq changes to a sere (e.g. לְפָנָי; כַּכֵּן - "he was served").

B. When a laryngeal is the first letter of the verbal root and has a silent shewa under it, the laryngeal rejects the silent shewa and takes a hataf vowel in its place to match the preceding full vowel (e.g. לְפָנָי; כַּכֵּן - "he was served").

III. A Full Vowel Followed by a Half Vowel under an Aleph or Yodh

When a full vowel is followed by a half vowel and the half vowel is under an aleph (א) or yodh (י), the aleph or yodh frequently drops the half vowel under it, becomes a vowel letter, and causes the preceding short vowel to lengthen to a long vowel (e.g. לְפָנָי; כַּכֵּן - "for God").

drops out ↓

NOTE: When the aleph or yodh becomes a vowel letter, it is quiescent, i.e. it is silent.