

III. Vowels

A. Unchangeable Vowels

1. Vowels with Vowel Letters (ױ, ײ, ׳, ״, ׵, ׶, ׷, ׸, ׹, ׺)
2. Vowels Resulting from Compensatory Heightening (e.g. ף ץ ף)
3. Short Vowels in Closed, Unaccented Syllables (e.g. ף ץ ף) closed, unaccented syllable

B. Changeable Vowels

1. Short Vowels

- a. Pathah
- b. Short Hireq
- c. Seghol
- d. Qibbuş
- e. Qameş Haţuph

2. Tone Long Vowels

a. Identification of the Tone Long Vowels

- (1) Qameş
- (2) Şere
- (3) Holem

b. Rules Governing the Tone Long Vowels

- (1) If there is a closed, accented syllable with a short vowel in it, the tone causes the short vowel to lengthen to a long vowel except in verbs (e.g. ף ץ ף but ף ץ ף). This is called "tone lengthening."
- (2) If there is an open syllable immediately before the tone syllable with a short vowel in it, the short vowel lengthens to a long vowel, usually qameş, except in verbs with vocalic sufformatives (e.g. ף ץ ף but ף ץ ף). This is called "pre-tone lengthening."
- (3) If there is an open syllable two syllables before the tone syllable with a tone long vowel in it, the tone long vowel drops to a half vowel unless it is maintained by a metheg (e.g. ף ץ ף but ף ץ ף).

Note: If there is a short vowel in a closed, accented syllable of a verb and there is an athnah or sillug beside it, the athnah or sillug causes the short vowel to lengthen to a long vowel.

Note: An athnah or sillug will cause a short vowel in a closed, accented syllable of a verb to lengthen to a long vowel.