
Mastering Biblical Hebrew

A Living Language Grammar



Hélène M. Dallaire

So many Hebrew grammars work on variations of the same pedagogical model. But this is something genuinely new, encouraging students through its living language approach not only to learn basic translations but to appreciate how the language works. The basics are all still covered but are now integrated into a model that genuinely helps students work toward mastering the language.

—DAVID G. FIRTH, Lecturer in Old Testament, Trinity College, Bristol

Learning Hebrew is hard for most students! H el ene Dallaire’s *Mastering Biblical Hebrew: A Living Language Grammar* helps students learn Hebrew in a way that fully engages the student not just through reading and memorization but also through speaking, listening, and writing. This expanded version of what it means to learn Hebrew will inspire students to connect with Hebrew on a deeper level and stay well-versed in Hebrew long after their class ends.

—CHARLIE TRIMM, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Biola University

Mastering Biblical Hebrew provides an engaging approach to teaching the language. Not only does Dallaire’s textbook give students a solid understanding of grammar, but it does so with helpful pedagogy and, dare we admit, fun! Students and instructors alike will benefit from her meaningful lessons and appealing exercises.

—JENNIFER E. NOONAN, Instructor of Hebrew and Old Testament, Columbia International University

H el ene Dallaire’s *Mastering Biblical Hebrew* embodies decades of effective teaching. Its presentation of Biblical Hebrew grammar is clear, engaging, and pedagogically informed. In a market saturated with teaching grammars, this resource stands out as a trustworthy, go-to textbook appreciated by both students and instructors.

—BENJAMIN J. NOONAN, Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, Columbia International University

Combining concise grammatical explanations with numerous exercises, this SLA-inspired textbook is designed to be useful both for classrooms and personal study. The numerous exercises balance reading aloud, grammar analysis, creative writing, and translation into and out of Hebrew, incorporating real biblical passages from the very beginning.

—KATHRYN MEDILL, Associate Teaching Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, University of Washington

Dr. H el ene Dallaire’s *Mastering Biblical Hebrew* revolutionizes ancient language learning through immersive, interactive methods. Treating Hebrew as living speech, students learn by listening and speaking—making the process intuitive, enjoyable, and far more effective than traditional approaches. The effort is richly rewarded: deeper, lasting fluency in the language God chose to reveal himself to the world. Highly recommended!

—ANDR E VILLENEUVE, Associate Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages, Sacred Heart Major Seminary

Dallaire’s new grammar will be a gift to those seeking to learn Hebrew. She masterfully weaves together the best practices of second language acquisition (SLA) with much of the traditional terminology associated with learning Hebrew. With the increase in research showing the effectiveness of “living language” methods, this textbook is a welcome addition to the field. Dallaire does not jettison technical aspects of the Hebrew language (*dagesh lene* vs. *dagesh forte*; Masoretic accents; weak roots as early as chapter 4), but rather provides engaging resources (exercises, videos, audio files, etc.) to help students learn those technicalities faster and retain them longer. Whether you are a self-paced learner or a professor in higher education, your time in this grammar will be a worthwhile endeavor.

—ADAM HOWELL, Associate Professor of Old Testament Interpretation, Boyce College

This volume energizes the expected content of an introductory grammar with an impressive range of creative activities to engage students' minds, their senses, and the imagination and harnesses emerging online tools—all to facilitate language acquisition. Dallaire's work might be the catalyst for raising up a new generation of lovers of the Hebrew language!

—M. DANIEL CARROLL R., Scripture Press Ministries Professor
of Biblical Studies and Pedagogy, Wheaton College

Mastering Biblical Hebrew combines the best of Hebrew pedagogy with innovative SLA techniques to create a fun and effective learning experience. All learning styles are engaged as the professor interacts with students in an immersive Hebrew environment. Hebrew concepts are learned incrementally giving students confidence to immediately and continually interpret the Hebrew Bible as the life-giving source of God's truth.

—JAMES GREENBERG, Adjunct Professor of Old Testament, Denver Seminary

With *Mastering Biblical Hebrew*, Hélène Dallaire invites students—and the professors who lead them on this innovative journey of biblical language acquisition—into a language that breathes, speaks, and works its way down into our bones. More than rote memorization, this textbook facilitates an engaging and holistic mastery of Hebrew.

—REBECCA W. POE HAYS, Associate Professor of Christian Scriptures,
George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University

This new textbook is a wonderful and welcome resource for learning Biblical Hebrew. By drawing on techniques from second language acquisition pedagogy, Dallaire incorporates creative activities into each chapter, making learning Hebrew interactive, accessible, dynamic, and fun. Through this approach, Dallaire lays a strong foundation for life-long engagement with the Hebrew Scriptures.

—REBECCA G. S. IDESTROM, Professor of Old Testament, Tyndale University

Accessible, creative, and interactive, *Mastering Biblical Hebrew* is a brilliant tool in the pedagogy of classical Hebrew as a living language. This exceptional Hebrew grammar fosters an immersive learning experience for beginning and intermediate students of Biblical Hebrew. It does so by successfully integrating Hebrew reading skills with conversational Hebrew. Highly recommended!

—IGAL GERMAN, Professor of the Hebrew Bible and Founder of
the International Biblical Apologetics Association

Mastering Biblical Hebrew is a highly innovative pedagogical textbook that engages the interest of students by teaching Biblical Hebrew as a living language. Hélène Dallaire is internationally recognised as a leading scholar of Biblical Hebrew with many years of experience in teaching the language. Here she offers us the fruits of her scholarly knowledge and teaching skills.

—GEOFFREY KHAN, Regius Professor of Hebrew, Cambridge University

I've used the prepublication version of this book in the classroom, and it is an outstanding resource. It focuses on the essentials of Hebrew grammar, helping students grasp what truly matters in a clear, conversational way. Best of all, it leads learners beyond passive knowledge to active mastery—thinking and forming sentences in Biblical Hebrew.

—JAN VERBRUGGEN, Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature, Western Seminary

I have long sought a Biblical Hebrew textbook that effectively applies concepts of second language acquisition, and Hélène Dallaire's *Mastering Biblical Hebrew* accomplishes this. Through lessons that actively incorporate listening, speaking, writing, translating, and sentence formulation, this book will help students experience and learn Biblical Hebrew as a living language.

—KAZ HAYASHI, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Bethel University

MASTERING
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A LIVING LANGUAGE GRAMMAR

HÉLÈNE M.
DALLAIRE

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- 21.4 דָּבַר חָדָשׁ: Hithpael Stem–Special Forms
- 21.5 דָּבַר חָדָשׁ: Functions of the Hithpael Stem
- 21.6 דָּבַר חָדָשׁ: Hithpael Stem–Weak Verb
- 21.7 עֲבָדָה: Hithpael Stem
- 21.8 מְלִים הַדְּשׁוֹת

Chapter כא Assignment

Chapter כב

- 22.1 נִקְרְאָה בְּעִבְרִית: Numbers 24:5; Psalms 26:8; 95:6
- 22.2 מִיכָה תִּמְרָ וּשְׁלָמָה
- 22.3 דָּבַר חָדָשׁ: Hebrew Syntax–Word Order, Verbal Sequences, and Direct Discourse

Chapter כב Assignment

Chapter כג

- 23.1 נִקְרְאָה בְּעִבְרִית: Ecclesiastes 12:13–14
- 23.2 מִיכָה תִּמְרָ וּשְׁלָמָה
- 23.3 דָּבַר חָדָשׁ: Textual Criticism and the Critical Apparatus

- 23.4 דְּבַר חֵדֶשׁ: Hebrew Syntax–Temporal Clauses
23.5 דְּבַר חֵדֶשׁ: Hebrew Syntax–Relative Clauses

Chapter כג Assignment

Chapter כד

- 24.1 נִקְרָאָה בְּעֵבְרִית: Psalm 134:1–3
24.2 מִיָּכָה תִּמְרֵי וְשִׁלְמָה
24.3 דְּבַר חֵדֶשׁ: Hebrew Syntax–Purpose Clauses
24.4 דְּבַר חֵדֶשׁ: Hebrew Syntax–כִּי Clauses

Chapter כד Assignment

Chapter כה

- 25.1 נִקְרָאָה בְּעֵבְרִית: Numbers 6:24–26
25.2 מִיָּכָה תִּמְרֵי וְשִׁלְמָה
25.3 דְּבַר חֵדֶשׁ: Hebrew Poetry

Chapter כה Assignment

Appendices

Vocabulary Lists by Chapter
Books of the Bible
Proper Names in the Hebrew Bible
Place Names in the Hebrew Bible
Parts of the Body in Hebrew
Hebrew Numbers
The Hebrew Noun
The Hebrew Adjective
Verb Charts
The Verb הָיָה “to be”
The Verb חָיָה “to live”
The Verb יָכוֹל “to be able to”
Tips for Learning Vocabulary
How to Prepare a Text
Fictional Narrative

Glossary: Hebrew to English

Glossary: English to Hebrew

Bibliography of Resources

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Mastering Biblical Hebrew: A Living Language Grammar is one of few textbooks that promote the use of modern methods of second language acquisition (SLA)—listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing—and Total Physical Response (TPR) for the acquisition and integration of Classical or Biblical Hebrew.¹ Used in a classroom or in a live online session, TPR is an effective language method that mimics how humans learn their mother tongue—first, through listening to live instructions in the target language (e.g., Hebrew) and then, by responding with physical actions. This approach develops listening comprehension while reinforcing the memory and understanding of words, sentences, and concepts.

For decades Hebrew grammars have offered deductive and grammar–translation approaches with success, but today’s generation of students is eager to learn through interactive language pedagogy that involves listening, speaking, singing, acting, using visual tools, and completing hands-on exercises. I began to experiment with these teaching methods several years ago after studying Modern Hebrew in Israel, where language learning is dynamic, interactive, and practical. This experience confirmed to me that the integration and long-term retention of any language (ancient or modern) is done more successfully when one engages actively with authentic text in the target language—in this case, Biblical Hebrew.

Mastering Biblical Hebrew provides a variety of ideas for dynamic classroom teaching and learning (e.g., songs, interactive learning activities [ILA], and TPR). The textbook is designed for teachers and students who wish to use a blended pedagogy. Included in the chapters are oral, aural, written, performative, reading, and grammar/syntax learning activities. Instructors and students who use this textbook should not limit themselves to the ideas provided in this book and its accompanying materials. They should feel free to (1) develop creative activities for teaching and learning the language (e.g., use videos, pictures, props); (2) use objects for spontaneous discussion in the classroom (e.g., a funny hat, kitchen utensil); (3) invite students to join them in teaching specific linguistic features (e.g., teaching assistant for a day); (4) act out features

1. Resources on living language Hebrew pedagogy are included in the Bibliography of Resources. These resources provide the philosophy behind the use of SLA and TPR pedagogies for the teaching and learning of Biblical Hebrew. They offer an abundance of ideas for classroom and online use.

of the language (e.g., climbing on a desk, falling on one’s knees); (5) borrow a student’s object to create conversation (e.g., a coffee mug, a snack); and (6) use games for interactive learning (e.g., Jeopardy, Simon says [*Shimon ’omer*]). With this approach to language teaching and learning, the sky is the limit!

This textbook includes access to ancillary materials designed to assist instructors and students in their teaching and learning of Biblical Hebrew, including a manual for instructors, teaching videos with PowerPoints for every chapter, visual vocabulary PowerPoints, audio files, exercises for all new grammatical and syntactical features, images and videos for discussions and exercises in Hebrew, and answer keys to chapter assignments. This material is available for free at Zondervan Academic’s TextbookPlus, <https://zondervanacademic.com/products/mastering-biblical-hebrew>.

This textbook is designed for undergraduate or graduate-level, one-year introductory courses. The primary goal is to develop reading competency in the Hebrew Bible at the intermediate level. Secondary objectives include proficiency in listening comprehension (aural), speaking (oral), and writing. In language acquisition, fluency and long-term retention require ongoing engagement with the language through listening comprehension and speaking exercises. Every chapter invites students to immerse themselves into the Biblical Hebrew language through a variety of exercises.

Mastering Biblical Hebrew introduces the Hebrew Bible early in the student’s learning. The goal is to keep students as engaged as possible with authentic text—in this case, the Hebrew Bible. Beginning with chapter 1 of this textbook, the Hebrew Bible serves as the primary text for learning Biblical Hebrew.

New grammatical features are introduced in each chapter. Students should understand that to become proficient in Hebrew not all grammatical details need to be mastered in one sitting. New features are repeated throughout the textbook and reinforced by the teaching videos and ancillary materials that accompany each chapter.

Mastering Biblical Hebrew is ideal for students and instructors who wish to engage with AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Bing Copilot, Supergrow, Midjourney, Luma) to teach and learn Biblical Hebrew. This novel approach can assist with listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, vocabulary review, personalized quizzes, tailored assignments with assessment, and much more. AI systems of speech recognition with immediate feedback are currently being used in modern language acquisition. Chatbots fluent in Biblical Hebrew can be created and personalized based on the student’s needs and the material in this textbook. Chatbots can create dialogues, compose comprehension questions, respond to live comments, correct pronunciation, and highlight grammatical and syntactical features in a Hebrew text. AI tools can be used by instructors and students in a classroom, in a live online class, and in an asynchronous course. AI tools provide limitless potential for learning and teaching Biblical Hebrew.

Finally, the bibliography at the end of this textbook provides resources for Hebrew word studies and exegesis.

FEATURES OF CHAPTERS

Key features of the following chapters, designed to build confidence in the learner and guide users of the textbook, include (1) engaging reviews of previously learned materials; (2) the introduction of new grammatical features; (3) exercises; (4) new vocabulary; and (5) assignments that reinforce the chapter’s content. Additional practice resources—including exercises, quizzes, images, videos, podcasts, and charts—are provided in the ancillary resources that accompany this textbook.²

The chapter content is organized under the following headings:

- **נְקַרְאָה בְּעִבְרִית**: “Let Us Read Hebrew”

After chapter 1, each chapter opens with a reading from the Hebrew Bible, with a recording of the passage on a lecture video. Some of the Hebrew texts in this section are available in song. Students are encouraged to listen to the recordings as often as they wish and to start reading or singing them out loud as soon as possible.

- **מִיכָה תָמָר וְשְׁלֹמֹה**: “Micah, Tamar, and Shlomo”

Following the Hebrew reading, Micah, Tamar, and Shlomo (three fictional characters) appear in illustrations designed to engage the material learned in previous chapters and prepare students for the new material. In these sections, students are asked to translate comments and answer Hebrew questions posed by one or more of the characters.

- **נְשׁוּבָה**: “Let’s Review”

Review is accomplished with a variety of exercises and illustrations with questions in Hebrew.

- **דִּבְרֵי חֲדָשׁ**: “New Feature”

Each chapter introduces one or more new elements of grammar and syntax. These new features are explained in detail in the chapters.

- **עֲבֹדָה**: “Exercise”

Practice exercises on the new grammatical features appear throughout the chapters. These exercises serve to reinforce the learning of new features and the review of previously learned concepts.

- **מְלִים הַדְּשׁוֹת**: “New Vocabulary”

Most chapters end with a list of new words and expressions for memorization. An appendix, Vocabulary Lists by Chapter, compiles this vocabulary in one place for quick

2. This material can be found at Zondervan Academic’s TextbookPlus, <https://zondervanacademic.com/products/mastering-biblical-hebrew>.

reference. Another appendix, *Tips for Learning Vocabulary*, provides helpful tools for acquiring Hebrew vocabulary. Finally, two comprehensive glossaries are provided in the back of this grammar so that students can quickly look up vocabulary according to spelling, Hebrew to English and English to Hebrew.

- **Chapter Assignments**—Assignments on new material appear at the end of each chapter. The format for chapters 22–25 differs from the rest of the textbook. The new features in these chapters include an introduction to clause types, textual criticism, the *BHS* critical apparatus, and Hebrew poetry. The translation and parsing exercises in these four chapters are based on Genesis 1–3. For further study of Hebrew texts, students can follow the instructions in the appendix, *How to Prepare a Text*.

HEBREW EXPRESSIONS AND BLESSINGS

The following Hebrew phrases should be repeated often until they become familiar and generate natural active responses. The more students give voice to the phrases, the more Hebrew comes to life and is experienced as a living language.

EXPRESSIONS

בְּרוּכִים הַבָּאִים:	“Welcome!” For ms בְּרוּךְ הַבָּא; for fs בְּרוּכָה הַבָּאָה
הַשְּׁלוֹם לְךָ (fs)/הַשְּׁלוֹם לְךָ (ms):	“How are you?”
נְשִׁירָה בְּיַחַד:	“Let us sing together!”
פְּתַחוּ־נָא אֶת הַתַּנְךְ בְּסֵפֶר . . .	“Please open the Hebrew Bible to the book of . . .”
פְּתַחוּ־נָא אֶת הַסֵּפֶר:	“Please open the book.”
סִגְרוּ־נָא אֶת הַסֵּפֶר:	“Please close the book.”
שְׁמְעוּ לִי:	“Listen to me!”
עֵינַיִם עָלַי:	“Look at me!” (literally, “Eyes on me!”)
קְרָאוּ בְּקוֹל גָּדוֹל:	“Read out loud!”
כְּתַבוּ בְּעִבְרִית:	“Write in Hebrew!”
נְשׁוּבָה:	“Let’s review.” (literally, “Let us return.”)
עֲנוּ אֶת הַשְּׁאֵלוֹת:	“Answer the questions!”
הֵי־שָׁאֵלוֹת:	“Are there questions?”
יֵשׁ־לִי שְׁאֵלָה:	“I have a question.”
הֵי־שָׁאֵלָה לְךָ (fs)/הֵי־שָׁאֵלָה לְךָ שְׁאֵלָה/	“Do you have a question?”
הֵי־שָׁאֵלָה לְכֶם (mp):	
מָה כָּתוּב בַּתַּנְךְ:	“What is written in the Hebrew Bible/TaNaK”
מָה מִי אֵיךָ לָמָּה:	“What? Who? Where? Why”
קוּם בּוֹא לֵךְ שׁוּב שֵׁב:	“Get up! Come! Go! Return! Sit!” (ms)

BLESSINGS

It is customary in Judaism to recite a blessing before and after the study of Scripture.

Blessing before the study of Torah

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ לְעַסּוֹק בְּדַבְרֵי תוֹרָה

Blessed are you O LORD our God, King of the universe
Who sanctifies us by his commandments
And has commanded us to engage with the words of Torah.

Blessing after the study of Torah

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת וְנָתַן לָנוּ חַיֵּי עוֹלָם
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה

Blessed are you O LORD our God, King of the universe
Who gave us the Torah of truth and has given us eternal life.
Blessed are you O LORD, giver of the Torah.

APPENDICES

Vocabulary Lists by Chapter

Books of the Bible

Proper Nouns in the Hebrew Bible

Place Names in the Hebrew Bible

Parts of the Body in Hebrew

Hebrew Numbers

The Hebrew Noun

The Hebrew Adjective

Verb Charts

The Verb **הָיָה** “to be”

The Verb **חָיָה** “to live”

The Verb **יָכוֹל** “to be able to”

Tips for Learning Vocabulary

How to Prepare a Text

Fictional Narrative

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ALPHABET

Learning the Hebrew Alef-bet

The Hebrew *alef-bet* has twenty-three consonants and is read from right to left. This section will walk you through each letter of the Hebrew *alef-bet*. The charts have Hebrew words that include the new letter (with vowels), the pronunciation of the Hebrew word, followed by its meaning. The ancillary material that accompanies this textbook includes a video that demonstrates how each letter of the *alef-bet* is written.¹ Hebrew is written from right to left in the following order—consonant, vowel, consonant, vowel, etc. Learn to read and write each letter with confidence before proceeding to chapter 1.

ALEF א

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have an *alef*. The *alef* by itself has no sound. It needs a vowel for pronunciation.

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
בָּא אֵל	<i>ba</i>	“he came”	אָבָא
אֵף אֵל	<i>af</i>	“also”	_____
אָז אֵל	<i>az</i>	“then”	_____
אֵל אֵל	<i>el</i>	“to, toward”	_____

1. This material can be found at Zondervan Academic’s TextbookPlus, <https://zondervanacademic.com/products/mastering-biblical-hebrew>.

MASTERING BIBLICAL HEBREW

BET ב ב

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *bet*. The *bet* appears with or without a *dagesh* (dot). A *bet* with a *dagesh* (dot) is pronounced “b,” and a *bet* without a *dagesh* is pronounced “v.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
בָּא	<i>ba</i>	“he came”	בָּא
בַּא	<i>va</i>	“he came”	_____
בִּי	<i>bee</i>	“in me”	_____
בֵּן	<i>ben</i>	“son”	_____

GIMEL ג ג

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *gimel*. The *gimel* appears with or without a *dagesh* (dot). A *gimel* with and without a *dagesh* is pronounced as a hard “g.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
גַּם	<i>gam</i>	“also”	גַּם
גָּג	<i>gag</i>	“roof, top”	_____
גְּבוּהַ	<i>govah</i>	“height”	_____
גִּיל	<i>gil</i>	“rejoice”	_____

DALET ד ך

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *dalet*. The *dalet* appears with or without a *dagesh* (dot). A *dalet* with and without a *dagesh* is pronounced “d.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
דב	<i>dov</i>	“bear”	דב
דבר	<i>davar</i>	“word, thing”	_____
דגל	<i>degel</i>	“banner”	_____
די	<i>dayy</i>	“enough”	_____

HEH ה

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *heh*. As a rule, the *heh* does not take a *dagesh* (dot). A *heh* is pronounced “h.” When it appears at the end of a word, it is not pronounced.

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
היה	<i>hayah</i>	“he was”	היה
היך	<i>heykh</i>	“how”	_____
היכל	<i>heychal</i>	“temple”	_____
הלך	<i>halach</i>	“he went”	_____

VAV ו ׀ ׁ

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *vav/waw*. The *vav/waw* functions both as a consonant and a vowel. When the *vav/waw* has a dot above it, it is a vowel called *holem vav* and is pronounced “o.” When the *vav/waw* has a dot to the left of it, it is a vowel called *shureq* and is pronounced “oo.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
וְ	<i>ve</i>	“and”	וְ
וּ	<i>vav</i>	“hook, pin”	_____
וַשְׁתִּי	<i>vashti</i>	“Vashti”	_____

ZAYIN ז

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *zayin*. The *zayin* is pronounced “z.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
זֶה	<i>zeh</i>	“this” (ms)	זֶה
זָהָב	<i>zahav</i>	“gold”	_____
זֹאת	<i>zot</i>	“this” (fs)	_____

CHET ח

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *chet*. The *chet* is pronounced from the throat as “**ch**” (not like the English “ch”).

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
חַי	<i>chay</i>	“alive, living”	חַי
חַיָּה	<i>chayah</i>	“he lived”	_____
חַיִל	<i>chayil</i>	“valor”	_____
חָלַל	<i>chalal</i>	“pierce”	_____

TET ט

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *tet*. The *tet* is pronounced as “**t**.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
טוֹב	<i>tov</i>	“good”	טוֹב
טַל	<i>tal</i>	“dew”	_____
טַף	<i>taf</i>	“children”	_____
טָבַח	<i>tavach</i>	“slaughter”	_____

YOD י

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *yod*. The *yod* is pronounced as “y.” This consonant is also used in forming long vowels such as יֹ *hireq yod* (pronounced “ee”), יֶ *patach yod* (pronounced “ayy”) and יְ *tsere yod* (pronounced “[h]ay” or “é”).

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
בִּי	<i>bee</i>	“with me”	בִּי
יָד	<i>yad</i>	“hand”	_____
יוֹנָה	<i>yonah</i>	“Jonah, dove”	_____

KAF כ כּ כף

Copy each form of this letter at least 10 times. The *kaf* with the long tail (final form) always appears at the end of a word. It is called *kaf sofit* (final *kaf*).

The following Hebrew words have a *kaf*. The *kaf* appears in two forms: (1) כ appears at the beginning and within a word (with or without a *dagesh* [dot]); and (2) the כף always appears at the end of a word and is called *kaf sofit* (final *kaf*). The tail of the *kaf sofit* extends below the line. The *kaf* without *dagesh* is pronounced from the throat as “ch” (not like the English “ch”). The *kaf* with *dagesh* is pronounced “k.” The *kaf sofit* has a *sheva* כֶּ or *qamets* כֵּ.

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
כָּל	<i>kol</i>	“all, every”	כָּל
כֹּה	<i>koh</i>	“thus”	_____
בָּכָה	<i>bachah</i>	“he cried”	_____

LAMED ל

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *lamed*. The *lamed* is pronounced “l.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
כָּל	<i>kol</i>	“all, every”	כָּל
לֵב	<i>lev</i>	“heart”	_____
לוֹ	<i>loo</i>	“if, O that”	_____
לָן	<i>lan</i>	“he lodged”	_____

MEM מ ם

Copy each form of this letter at least 10 times. The *mem* on the right (final form) always appears at the end of a word. It is called *mem sofit* (final *mem*).

The following Hebrew words have a *mem*. The *mem* is pronounced “m.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
מָה	<i>mah</i>	“what?”	מָה
מוֹאָב	<i>Mo'av</i>	“Moab”	_____
מוֹרָה	<i>morah</i>	“fear”	_____
בָּם	<i>bam</i>	“in them”	_____

NUN נ ן

Copy each form of this letter at least 10 times. The *nun* on the right (final form) always appears at the end of a word. It is called *nun sofit* (final *nun*). The tail of the *nun sofit* extends below the line.

The following Hebrew words have a *nun*. The *nun* is pronounced “n.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
נָא	<i>na</i>	“please”	נָא
נָבִיא	<i>navi</i>	“prophet”	_____
נֶגֶד	<i>neged</i>	“against”	_____
מִן	<i>min</i>	“from”	_____

SAMECH ס

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *samech*. The *samech* is pronounced “s” (like the *sin* שׁ).

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
סֹד	<i>sod</i>	“council”	סֹד
סְדוֹם	<i>Sedom</i>	“Sodom”	_____
סָגַר	<i>sagar</i>	“he closed”	_____

AYIN ע

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *ayin*. The *ayin* is a guttural consonant that is almost silent, except for its “glottal stop” sound. It needs a vowel for proper pronunciation.

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
עד	<i>ad</i>	“until”	עד
עד	<i>eyd</i>	“witness”	_____
עוד	<i>od</i>	“other”	_____
עוף	<i>off</i>	“bird”	_____

PEH פ פ ף

Copy each form of this letter at least 10 times. The *peh* with the long tail that extends below the line is called *peh sofrit* (final form) and always appears at the end of a word.

The following Hebrew words have a *peh*. The *peh* appears with or without a *dagesh* (dot). A *peh* with a *dagesh* (dot) is pronounced “p,” and a *peh* without a *dagesh* is pronounced “f.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
פה	<i>pay</i>	“mouth”	פה
פה	<i>po</i>	“here”	_____
אף	<i>af</i>	“also”	_____

TSADE צ ץ

Copy each form of this letter at least 10 times. The *tsade* with the long tail that extends below the line is called *tsade sofit* (final form) and always appears at the end of a word.

The following Hebrew words have a *tsade*. The *tsade* is pronounced “ts.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
עץ	<i>ets</i>	“tree”	עץ
צד	<i>tsad</i>	“side”	_____
צדד	<i>tsad</i>	“he hunted”	_____
פוצ	<i>puts</i>	“dispersing”	_____

QOF ק

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *qof*. The *qof* is pronounced “q.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
קול	<i>qol</i>	“voice”	קול
קם	<i>qam</i>	“he arose”	_____
קמה	<i>qoma</i>	“height”	_____
רקע	<i>raqa</i>	“he beat”	_____

RESH ר

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *resh*. The *resh* is pronounced “r.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
רַב	<i>rav</i>	“great”	רַב
בְּרִית	<i>berit</i>	covenant”	_____
רָאָה	<i>ra’ah</i>	“he saw”	_____
רָקַע	<i>raqa</i>	“he beat”	_____

SIN ש

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *sin*. The *sin* is pronounced “s.” Notice that the dot on the consonant is on the left (the *shin*’s dot is on the right).

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
שֶׁה	<i>seh</i>	“sheep”	שֶׁה
שָׂם	<i>sam</i>	“he put”	_____
שִׂשׂוֹן	<i>sasson</i>	“joy”	_____
שָׂגָא	<i>saga</i>	“he grew”	_____

SHIN ש

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *shin*. The *shin* is pronounced “sh.” Notice that the dot on the consonant is on the right (the *sin*’s dot is on the left).

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the Word</u>
שִׁיר	<i>shir</i>	“song”	שִׁיר
שָׁת	<i>shat</i>	“to put”	_____
שׁוּם	<i>shoom</i>	“garlic”	_____
שָׁב	<i>shav</i>	“to return”	_____

TAV ת ת

Copy this letter at least twenty times.

The following Hebrew words have a *tav*. The *tav* appears with or without a *dagesh* (dot). A *tav* with and without a *dagesh* is pronounced as a hard “t.”

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Write the word</u>
תֵּל	<i>tel</i>	“heap”	תֵּל
תָּם	<i>tom</i>	“completeness”	_____
מָת	<i>met</i>	“to die”	_____
שָׁת	<i>shat</i>	“to put”	_____

Dr. Dallaire has devoted a lifetime to teaching the language of Biblical Hebrew. She has a deep insight and understanding of this ancient language, the texts written, and the best way for students to learn and master Hebrew. It is exciting to see the work of this master at last available. For the most efficient and most enjoyable experience in learning Hebrew, this is the grammar to use.

RICHARD S. HESS,
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