



עברית

HEBREW - VOCAL SHEVA

A SHEVA IS VOCAL...

∞ When a Sheva begins a word, it is always pronounced. Notice the 2 examples to the right.

שְׁמַע

sh'ma
(listen, hear)

∞ When the same word is preceded with a Vav (meaning "and"), the Sheva is NOT vocal.

Keep in mind that the conjunction Vav is NOT a long vowel in this example, it is the conjunction "and".

וּשְׁמַע

ushma

∞ When two Shevas occur side-by-side, the second one is always vocal (Sheva Na). Notice the rafe above the Vocal Sheva.

מִשְׁפָּחֹת

mishp'chot
(family)

∞ When a Sheva is under a Dagesh Forte. The letter is Dagesh Forte when it is not one of the begadkephat letters (בגדכפת).

הַמְלָכִים

ham'lachim
(kings, sovereigns)

∞ When two letters are side by side and the first has a Sheva, that Sheva will be spoken.

הַלְלוּהוּ

hal'luhu
(praise Him)

∞ When following a long vowel and it is the only spelling of a word. (See chart on the following page.)

מַלְכוּתְךָ

malchu-t'cha
(Your majesty)

If a word has received a modified spelling by being the last word of a phrase and becoming pausal. If this example had not been the last word in the phrase, it would be spelled גַּאֲלֵתְּ.

גַּאֲלֵתְּ
 גַּ : אַ : לֵתְּ
 ga-al-ta
 (redemption)

In some cases there are exceptions, with the word "lai-lah" for example.

לַיִלָּה
 לַי : לָּה
 lai-lah
 (night)

When a Sheva is on the last letter of a word, it is ALWAYS silent even if the above rules apply.

Most of the time these rules will apply when speaking Aramaic, however refer to the Siddur for exact instances when not used, in the Kaddish for example.

Short Vowels (הַתְּנוּעוֹת הַקְּטָנוֹת)	Long Vowels (הַתְּנוּעוֹת הַגְּדוֹלוֹת)
Patach בַּ	Kamatz בָּ
Segol בֶּ	Tzere & Tzere Gadol בֵּ בֵי
Chirik Katan בְּ	Chirik Gadol בִּי
Kamatz Katan בֻּ	Cholam & Cholam Gadol בּוּ בּוֹ
Kibbutz בִּי	Shuruk בּוּ