

Worksheet 2. *Additional marks.**Vowel marks.*

Vowels are written above, below, or beside the character itself. They are *not* part of the alphabet. They are absent in ancient manuscripts, but were added much later in the middle ages.

<i>Short vowel.</i>	<i>Pronunciation.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Long vowel.</i>	<i>Pronunciation.</i>	<i>Name.</i>
1. ◌◌, ◌◌◌, or ◌◌◌◌	'a' like had.	Pathach.	6. ◌◌◌, ◌◌◌◌, or ◌◌◌◌◌	'a' like yard.	Qamets.
2. ◌◌◌, ◌◌◌◌, ◌◌◌◌◌, or ◌◌◌◌◌◌	'e' like bed.	Seghol.	7. ◌◌◌◌, ◌◌◌◌◌, ◌◌◌◌◌◌, or ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌	'e' like they.	Tsere.
3. ◌◌◌	'i' like lid.	Short Hireq.	8. ◌◌◌◌◌	'i' like machine.	Long Hireq.
4. ◌◌◌◌	'u' like bull.	Qubbutz.	9. ◌◌◌◌◌◌, ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌, or ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌	'u' like flute.	Shureq.
5. ◌◌◌◌◌	'o' like top.	Qamets-Hatuf.	10. ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌, ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌, ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌, or ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌	'o' like hole.	Cholem.

Reduced vowel mark.

The reduced vowel mark (Shewa) ◌◌◌, may indicate a quick half vowel-like sound which fills the space after a letter without a vowel. Shewa is silent when it simply ends a syllable. A composite Shewa appears beside another vowel mark, for example, ◌◌◌◌◌, ◌◌◌◌◌◌, or ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌—it produces a reduced, shortened vowel sound.

Pause mark.

A short vertical stroke (Methgeh) signifies a guttural pause, for example, ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌ 'the man'.

Hard mark.

Some characters may take a hard mark (Daghes), ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌, namely, a dot in the middle of the character. Characters with a Daghes are pronounced hard, but without the Daghes are pronounced soft. When Daghes appears at the end of a syllable, the character both ends the first syllable, and also begins the next syllable.

Compound mark.

Closely related words are joined together by the compound-word mark (Maqqeph) ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌, for example, ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌ 'man'. The Maqqeph indicates that the two words are closely related. The first word is deprived of its accent, and its final character and vowel may shorten.

Chanting, accent, and punctuation marks.

Most words take an accent on the last syllable, for example, ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌ 'word'. However, there are many words that take an accent on the next-to-last syllable, for example, ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌ 'kindness'. The accent is always on one of the last two syllables. The different accent marks dictate how to chant the text. These marks appear either above, below, or beside the character. The most important punctuation marks are the end of verse (Soph Passuk) ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌, and a middle position in the verse (Etnachta) ◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌◌.