

Shevah Help!  
Prepared by Dick Rubin November 2002  
Revised September 2006  
Revised March 2008

Close this window after you finish reading or printing or saving!

When reading Hebrew, the shevah has two possibilities, it is:

1. Silent, or
2. Vocalized.

When the shevah is vocalized, you **sound the consonant** above it. Here are some additional rules to help:

1. When the shevah is under a consonant at the beginning of word, it is vocalized. (shevah na)
2. When the shevah is under a consonant at the end of a word, it is silent. (shevah nach)
3. In the middle of a word, the shevah often comes at the end of a closed syllable. In this case, it is silent. (shevah nach)
4. When the double shevah occurs (usually in the middle of a word): a) the first shevah is silent; b) the second shevah is vocalized.  
“When two shevahs go walking, the second does the talking.”  
-anonymous (from Rabbi Greenstein)