

Hebrew Vowels & Diphthongs

אָ	a as in far קָמָץ kamats—long מָקוֹם makom, place
אַ	a as in hut פָּתַח pataḥ—short עַד ad, until
אֵ	u as in utterly חָטַף פָּתַח hataf pataḥ—very short מוֹעֲדִים mo'edim, festivals
אִ	i as in it חִירֵק hirik—short מִשְׁפָּחָה mishpacha, family
אִי	i as in ski חִירֵק hirek—long פְּרִי pri, fruit
אֶ	e as in tell צֵרֵי tserē—long חֵבֵר haver, friend
אֶ֫	e as in bed סֵגוֹל segol—short עֶרֶב erev, evening
אֶ֫	e as in bed חָטַף סֵגוֹל hataf segol—very short אֱלֹהִים Elohim
אוּ or אוֹ	o as in row חֹלָם holam—long מֹשֶׁה Moshe, Moses
אֹ	o as in cone חָטַף קָמָץ kamats ḥatuf—short כֹּל kol, all, the whole
אֹ֫	o as in pope חָטַף קָמָץ hataf kamats נְעֻמִי Na'omi
אוּ	oo as in pool שׁוּרוּק shuruk—long סִדּוּר siddur, prayer book
אֹ	oo as in blue קִבּוּץ kubuts—short צִרִים tsurim, rocks
אִי	ai as in buy אֲחֵלַי Oh that! (biblical)
אִי	aiy as in buy יַיִן yayin, wine
אוי	oi as in boy גּוֹי goy
אִי	ei as in grey לִפְנֵי lifnei, in front of
אִי	ei as in bray בָּנֵיךָ baneikha, your children
אִי	ai as in aisle אֲדֹנָי adonai, my lord
אוי	uy as in gooey בִּטּוּי bituy, phrase
אִיו	av as in ave יָדָיו yaday, his hands
אָה	a as in torah
אָ	sh'va—silent, or short, slurred “e”
אָחַח	when the last letter is ח the vowel is “ach” not “cha”

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