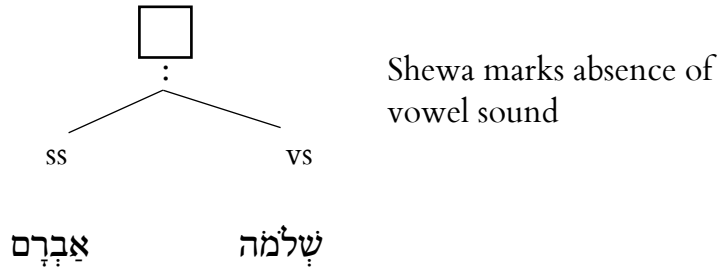
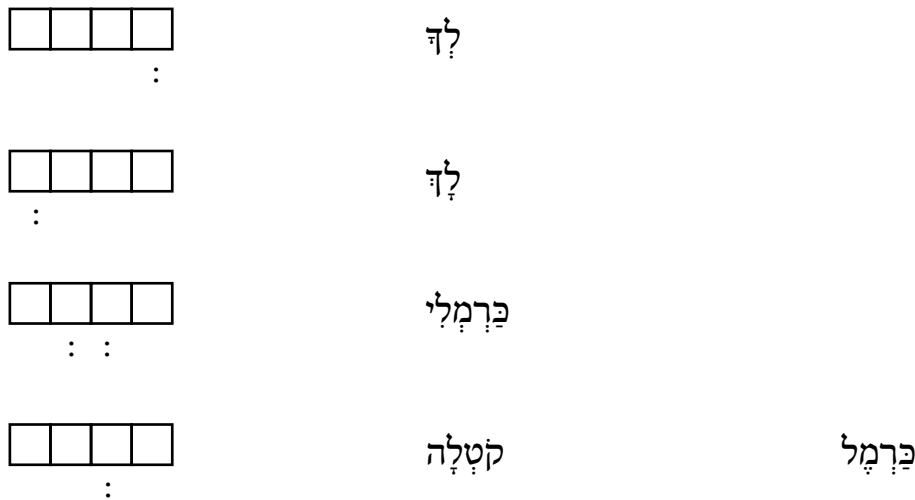


## Ross Lesson 3: Shewas, Syllables, Prepositions LECTURE NOTES

### 1. Simple Shewa (Ross 3.1)



### 2. Distinguishing between SS and VS (Ross 3.2)



### 3. Compound Shewa (CS) (Ross 3.3) Note: the dotted circle = place-holder for a consonant

ֶ	ă	אַדְמָה	Under gutturals: א ע ח ע
ֶ	ě	אַלְהִים	CS in place of normal VS
ֶ	õ	עֲנִי	SS is OK

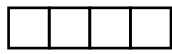
Exx of English preps:  
on the top  
over the rainbow

### 4. Inseparable Prepositions: (לְ בִּי בִּי) (Ross 3.4)

לְ	to, for	Insep preps “come standard” w/ VS
בִּי	in, with, by	Ex.: add preps to מְלִדָּה
כִּי	like, as	

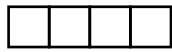
## 5. Rule of Shewa, or “The Red Ryder Problem” (Ross 3.5)

Problem: 2 VSs cannot ever stand side by side (also, CS is a type of VS!)



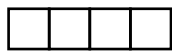
שְׁלֵמָה

:



אֲדָמָה

—:



אֲדָוָם

∴

## 6. Shewa and Syllables

6.1. Please take note of the fact that I differ from Ross in that I do not consider vocal shewa to be a *vowel*, and therefore vocal shewa does not constitute a syllable (since Heb. syllables, by definition, always consist of at least one vowel [V] with a leading consonant [C]). Consider on p.44 Ross’ example for the word “Samuel”:

שְׁמוּאֵל š<sup>e</sup>/mû/’ēl

Acc. to Ross = 3 divisions, 3 vowels, and so 3 syllables. His division of the Heb word would look like this: שְׁ/מו/אֵל.

6.2. I will have you treat a C with *vocal shewa* as part of a consonant cluster that *always* piggybacks onto the *following full syllable*.

שְׁמוּ/אֵל š<sup>e</sup>mû / ’ēl 2 divisions, 2 vowels, and so only 2 syllables

שׁוּ/פְטִים šô / p<sup>e</sup>tîm 2 divisions, 2 vowels, and so only 2 syllables

כָּר/מְלִי kar / m<sup>e</sup>lî 2 divisions, 2 vowels, and so only 2 syllables

6.3. Why do I not consider vocal shewa to constitute a syllable?

- Because only *real vowels* can form a syllable, and VS is not a full vowel.
- Because only *real vowels* can form an accented syllable (take the tone), and VS is never accented in Hebrew.

c. Because if you treat VS as a vowel and as a separate syllable, then the 4 syllable rules you have learned would be broken all the time. In other words, the 4 rules hold up only if you treat VS as I'm suggesting.

6.4. Dividing syllables. Our strategy for dividing syllable is as follows:

- a. Begin at the *front (far right) of the word* and identify the consonant (C) and its vowel (V). Often, the CV will form an open syllable, and you'd draw a line to the left. But,
- b. First check to the left of that CV and see what's under the next C. If there's a V, then the first syllable is Open; go ahead and draw a line to the Left of the initial CV.

Examples:

דָּבַר

רָחַל

c. However, if there's a shewa under that next C, don't divide yet! First determine whether it's SS or VS by looking back to the V to the Right. If it's short, the shewa is SS. The C is closing the syllable, so divide to the Left of that C with SS. (A SS in the middle of a word always marks a closed syllable!)

d. If it's long, the shewa is VS. The C is NOT closing the syllable, but beginning to open a new syllable, so divide to the Right of that C with VS.

e. Next, continue reading toward the left for the next C with its V, and repeat steps a-d until you're all the way at the end (the word will end with a V creating an open syll., or with a C creating a closed syll.).

f. REMEMBER: Always divide to the Left of a SS, and to the Right of a VS.

Examples: קוֹטְלוֹת

יִשְׂרָאֵל

יִקְטְלוּ

מִדְבָּר

## 7. Practice with Shewa

7.1. Label the shewas and divide the syllables in the following words:

בְּרִית

קָטַלְתָּם

יִשְׁבֹּת

תִּקְטְלִי

עֲבַדְתָּן

covenant

you killed

he will rest

you will kill

they served

7.2. Attach the inseparable preposition בְּ to the following words:

בְּרִית

שְׁבֹת

עֲבַד