

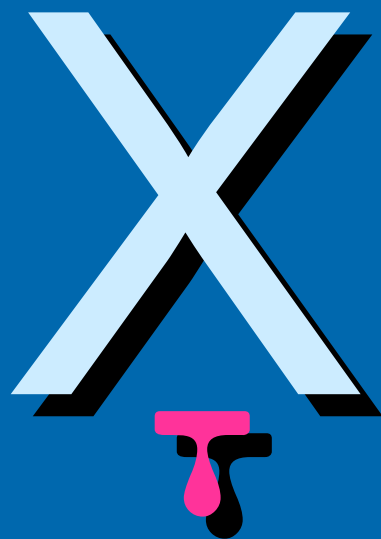
Hebrew Vowels



L
O
n
g

Vowels





quamats

a as in father

a-class



hireq-yod

i as in machine

i-class



Tsere

e as in they

i-class



or



holam

o as in row

u-class



shuruk

oo as in cool

u-class

Notice that two of the long vowels,



are consonants used as vowels.

These are known as
matres lectionis
(mothers of reading)

SHORT

Vowels

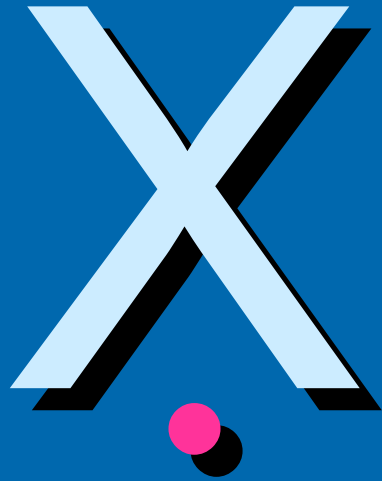




patah

a as in father

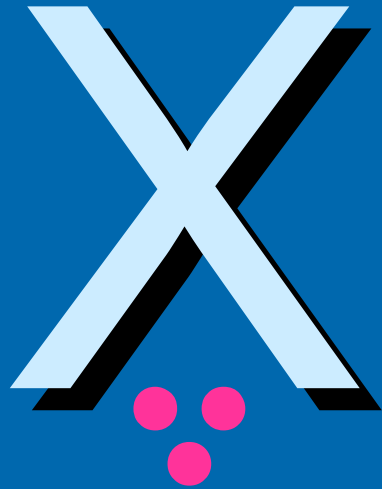
a-class



hireq

i as in bit

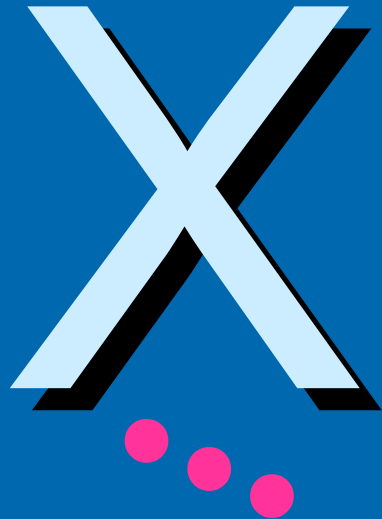
i-class



segol

e as in bed

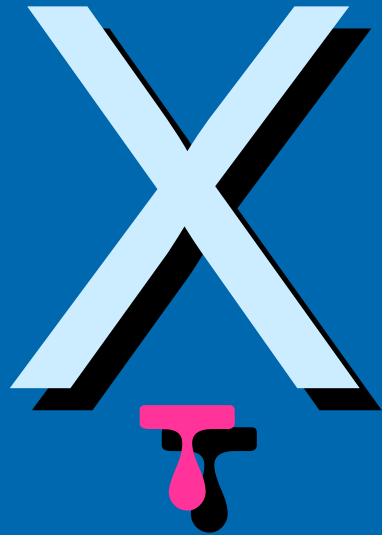
i-class



qubbutts

u as in put

u-class



qamats hatuf*

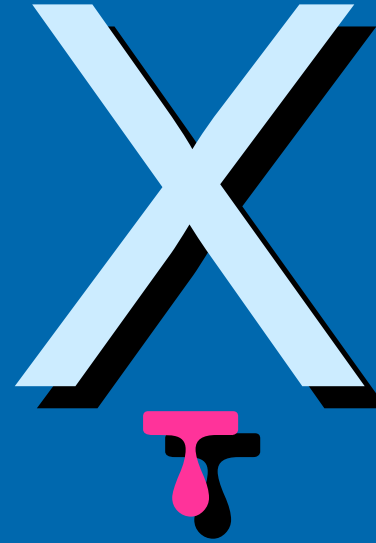
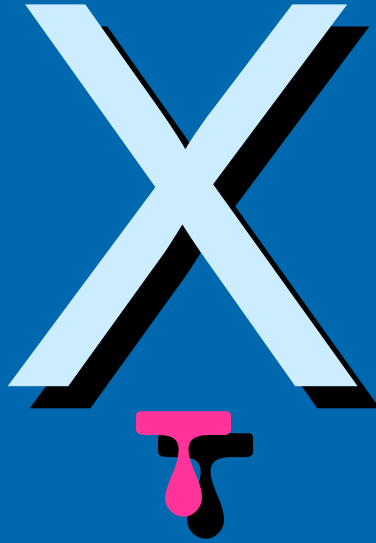
o as in hold

u-class

* unaccented, closed syllable

The *qamats*...

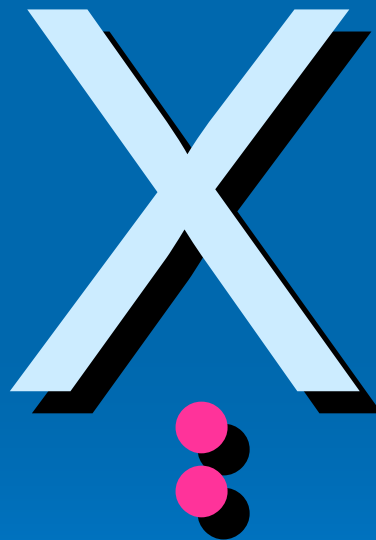
and the *qamats hatuf*...

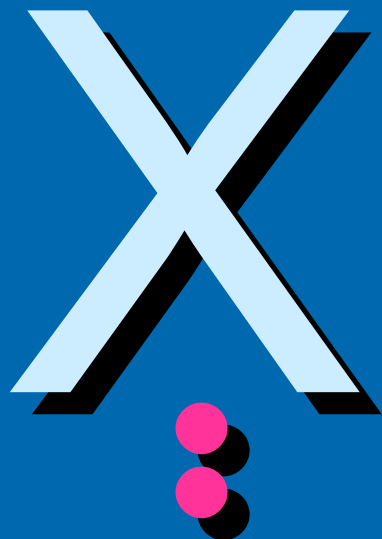


have the same symbol: 

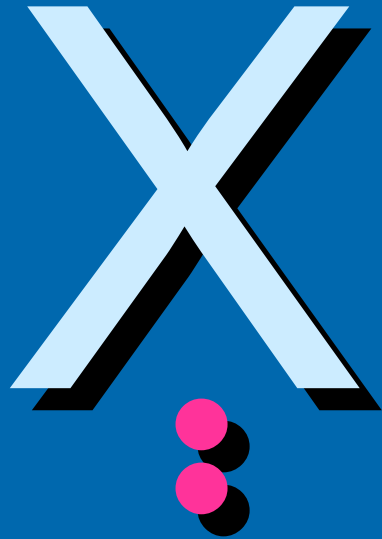
but two different sounds.

Sheva

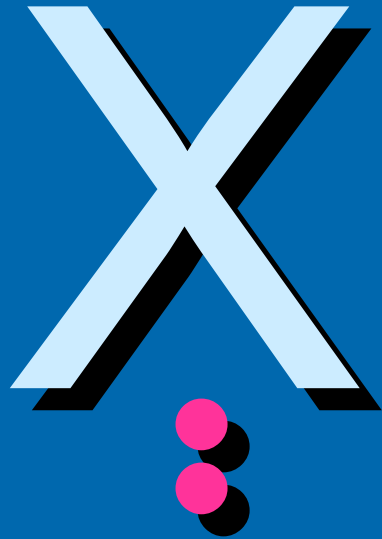




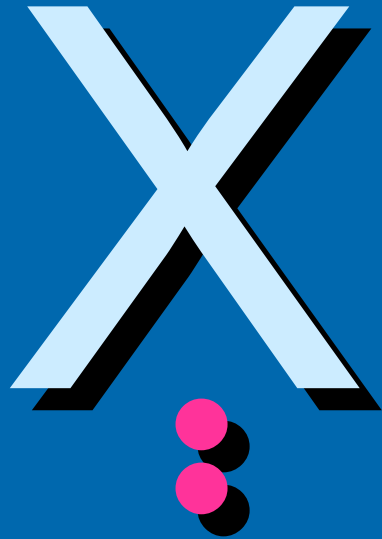
➤ *Sheva* may be silent or vocal



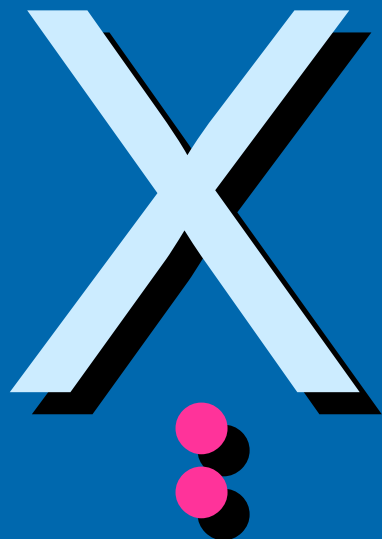
- The silent *sheva* occurs after a closed syllable



- *The vocal **sheva** is pronounced as a very short **e** (as in **severe**)*



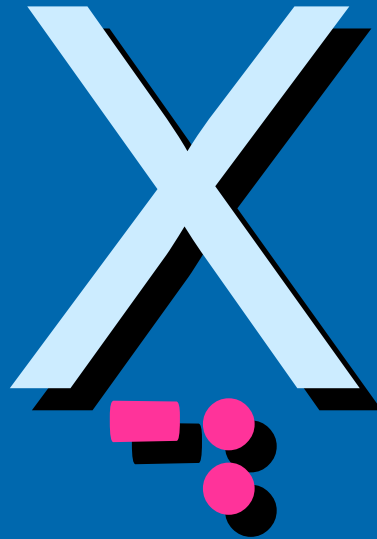
- A vocal *sheva* is used after a consonant, except gutturals, in which case a *composite sheva* is used.



- *Words that end in a consonant do not have a sheva, except*



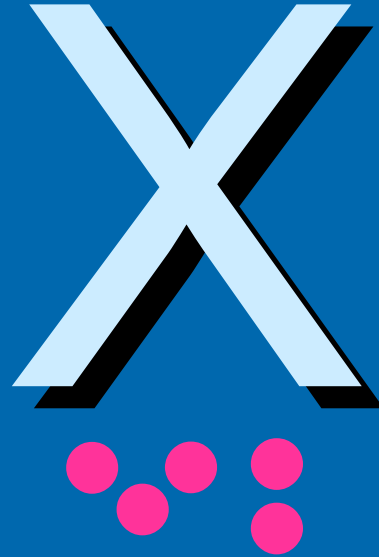
Composite shevas



Hataf patah

a as in **a**long

Composite shevas



Hataf segol

e as in **e**ffect

Composite shevas



Hataf qamats

o as in only