

There are 22 letters in the Alef-beith ... אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת
 Five of these have special forms for ending words ... כדמםנוןצץפף
 Seven have two soundings ... בבגגדדככפפששתת
 One has four soundings ... וו (the ו has two sounds)

Five sounds are originated in the throat ... אהחער (Guttural)
 Four originate in the mouth cavity ... קגיכק (Palatal)
 Five with the tongue ... דטלנת (Lingual)
 Four with the teeth ... צשז (Dental)
 Four with the lips ... פבומפ (Labial)

The symbols that signify vowels are called Niqudoth, their sounds are T'nuoth.
 The strong T'nuoth are Qamatz, Tzere, Shureq (ו) and Cholam (ו).

The weak T'nuoth are Patakh, Segol, Khiriq, and Qubutz.
 Weaker are Pathakh-Chataf, Segol-Chataf and Qamatz-Chataf.
 The weakest of all is the Shi'wa.

The Shi'wa has two characteristics ... slightly audible (Nau) and silent (Nach).
 It is Nau if it begins a syllable, meaning there is a faint i' or e' sound for it.

A Shi'wa is inferred when an isolated letter ends a syllable -- it is Nach ... resting.
 If there are two Shi'waim in succession, the first is Nach and the second is Nau.
 If Shi'waim are in succession on the last two letters of a word, both are Nach.

It is Nau (vocal) if it follows a Strong T'nuah (Vowel) or a guttural letter.
 It is also Nau if it is coupled with a letter that has a Dagesh.
 And it is Nau if it is coupled with the first of two identical letters.
 It is Nach if it follows a weak vowel (T'nuah Qetana).
 Nach if it ends any syllable, or if it follows an accented vowel (T'nuah Gegolah).

Following a Shi'wa Nach (silent), a ב-ג-ד-כ-פ-ת (letter) would get a weak Dagesh.
 בגדכפת can be remembered by pronouncing and memorizing it as "bi-gad-ke-fath".

The strong letters are א-ה-ח, and the weak are ו-י, and נ when it starts a syllable.
 A strong letter will weaken a preceding vowel, and it will carry a strong vowel.
 A weak letter as a suffix will weaken a prefix letter of the next word.

A vowel (vocalization) is a T'nuah (תנועה). A consonant is an Itz'ur (עצור).
 A syllable is the combination of the two, and it is called an Ha'vorah (הברה).
 A simple (פשוטה/P'shutoh) Ha'vorah has only one manifesting Itz'ur ... בא-מי-לו-לא
 A complex (מורכבת/Mur'keveth) Ha'vorah has two or more Itz'urim ... דן-אל-כוס-כדור