

## BBH Workbook p. 7 #17

וְ

The vowel וְ could be either:

- **Qamets**, which is a long a-class vowel and is transliterated ā,  
or
- **Qamets Hatuf**, which is a short o-class vowel and is transliterated o.

### Distribution of Qamets Hatuf

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With a few exceptions, Qamets Hatuf only occurs in closed unaccented syllables.

### Distribution of Qamets

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Qamets, on the other hand, may occur in open syllables (accented or unaccented) and in closed accented syllables. Otherwise put, Qamets can occur in every kind of syllable except closed unaccented syllables. Or to say it another way, Qamets

and Qamets Hatuf (with the few exceptions alluded to above) can never occur in the same kind of syllable.

## **Distinguishing Between Qamets and Qamets Hatuf**

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Therefore, if we can determine what kind of syllable (closed or open, accented or unaccented) the vowel  $\square$  occurs in, this will almost always tell us whether it is Qamets or Qamets Hatuf.

Because of the ambiguity of the symbol  $\square$ , the Masoretes often marked Qamets with a small vertical line called Metheg ( $\square$ ) in cases where the reader might mistake Qamets for Qamets Hatuf. For example, the Metheg in שמֶרֶיִן tells us that the vowel under the Shin is Qamets and not Qamets Hatuf.