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- Before ה and נ, the definite article usually remains ה, though still with no following gemination/doubling. In other words, there is no “compensatory lengthening” in these cases.
 - Exception: Whenever a letter ה, נ, or ׀ is followed by an unaccented *qamats* (long [ā] vowel), the vowel of the preceding definite article is the short [e] vowel *seghol*.

Prepositions ל / כ / ב

Any Hebrew word that consists of only one letter is attached to the word that follows it, as we saw with the definite article ה. Other single-letter words include the prepositions ב “in, with,” כ “like, as,” and ל “to, for,” which are typically pointed with a shewa when they are prefixed to a word without the definite article (e.g. בְּמִגְדָּל “in a tower”). When one of these prepositions appears before the definite article, the ה of the definite article is omitted, but the vowel and *dagesh* (if applicable) of the definite article remain. For example, בְּמִגְדָּל = “in *the* tower.”