

TBD&TR

Review and reminder: The HEI with and without a dot, at the end of a word

HEI with no dot in it and with no vowel under it, at the end of a word, is silent - totally silent.

With a dot in it - called a MAPIK (HEI), the letter is sounded. Aspirated.

Often, sounding the MAPIK HEI or not, will not change the meaning of the word or pasuk. But sometimes it does.

Parshat Emor provides a well known (classic) example of a MAPIK making a big difference in the meaning of a word and pasuk.

ISHA is a woman. ALEF-SHIN-HEI, no MAPIK in the HEI. There is no H sound at the end of the word.

ISHAHHH means 'her husband'. ALEF- YUD-SHIN-(MAPIK)HEI. There is a MAPIK in the HEI, hence the HHH at the end of the transliteration.

The YUD hardly makes a difference in the way most people would say the word. The HEI at the end makes all the difference.

If a BK (Baal Korei or Baal K'ri'a) says ISHA when it should be her husband, or vice versa, he should be told (quietly and without embarrassing him) to repeat the word or pasuk.

As we said earlier, in many cases, the MAPIK yes or no does not change the meaning of a word. So not aspirating the HEI when there is a MAPIK would not require the BK's repeating of the word. But it still isn't pronounced properly.

We must train ourselves to sound the HEI when there is a MAPIK and to keep it silent when there is no dot in it.

This is part of our fine-tuning our davening and Torah reading. For the uninitiated, it takes effort.