

Using Cantillation Marks to Break Biblical Verses into Units for Teaching Purposes

Adapted by Naama Zahavi-Ely from Mordechai Breuer, Ta'amei Hamikra (Hebrew, Jerusalem 1989); any errors are mine.

Mark	Name	Rank	Where it occurs	Significance
סוף פסוק: אתנח <<<<	Sof Pasuk (end of verse) Etnach	Emperors	end of verse mid-verse (only one per verse)	>>>> very high
טפחה	Tifcha	King	always last break before an emperor; never missing.	usually minimal
זקף קטון סגול <<<<	Zakef Katon Segol	Kings	There is always a tifcha between them and the Emperor	>>> usually very high; the most useful other than Emperors
זקף גדול	Zakef Gadol	King	Like a Zakef Katon, but on a single word	less important
תביר	Tevir	Prince	Always last prince (if there is one) before a Tifcha	less important
פשטא זרקא	Pashta	Prince	Always last prince before a Zakef Katon and Segol respectively	minimal importance
יתב	Yetiv	Prince	Always last prince before a Zakef Katon, on a single word	less important
<<רביעי	Revi'i	Prince	There is always another prince between it and the next king	>> Next meaningful break after zakef or segol, but doesn't break unit
גרש	Garesh	Minister	last minister before a prince	minimal except for indicating a long unit
גרשׂים	Grashayim	Minister	like Garesh, but on a single word	minimal except for indicating a long unit
<פזר תלישה גדולה	Pazer Tlisha Gdola	Ministers	come before another minister	> minimal break, belongs to a significantly long unit

Short Rule: search for pairs of dots (Zakef and Segol). Each breaks the area between itself and the following Etnach or Sof Pasuk. If necessary, break the resulting sections at single dots (revi'i).