

# Hush

**English - Hush**  
To be silent or quiet.

**Hebrew - הָשִׁיב - שָׁב - Hash, Khasa**  
Be silent or still.

Because this is largely an interjection in European languages the roots have not been preserved in the written record. We have only speculation as to its origins. Guesses include back formation from Middle English husht or imitative origin from huisht. Two different but cognate forms were used in Hebrew, and recognized in those texts as solid words.

**From TWOT:**

**be silent, hold peace, tongue, (keep) silence, still.**

An interjection with imperative force meaning "be silent," "hush." It is used seven times: to command people to refrain from speaking (Amos 6:10) or weeping (Neh 8:11); to demand awesome or respectful silence before the Lord (Hab 2:20); in grief for the dead (Amos 8:3).

The ASV tends to translate "hold one's peace" where the RSV renders "keep quiet." The basic meaning of the root is "to keep quiet," i.e. to be inactive, especially with reference to speaking; it is used also of wares (Ps 107:29). This is a poetical root with strong parallels (cf. Isa 42:14).

The Psalmist gives insight into the nature of sin by reporting that his silence in the face of aggravation left him with sin within (Ps 39:2).

Among the prophets, only Isaiah uses this word. God, comparing himself to a warrior, says that formerly he was silent, but now he will speak against the sin of his people (Isa 42:14). When he did not speak they ignored him (Isa 57:11; cf. Rom 2:4). Now he will speak in judgment (Isa 65:6). The judged, however, are to remonstrate against his silence as the cause of their affliction. In the eschaton the Servant of the Lord pledges himself to tireless activity until the righteous of Jerusalem shine forth as brightness (Isa 62:1). He will appoint watchmen upon her gates to call out continually to God on her behalf (Isa 64:6) until God responds. Restoration does not rest upon man either as to instigation (man needs a mediator) or accomplishment. Justification is an act of God).

**OT:2013 hacah** (haw-saw'); a primitive root; to hush:

**KJV** - hold peace (tongue), (keep) silence, be silent, still.

In Nu 13:30 Caleb *stilled* the people.

**OT:2814 khashah** (khaw-shaw'); a primitive root; to hush or keep quiet:

**KJV** - hold peace, keep silence, be silent, (be) still.

*Exhibit silence, be silent:* 2 K 2:3,5; 7:9; Ps 39:3.

Note the parallel between the "h" and the "kh." This is found many places in the Hebrew text, and in borrowing to other languages. Similarly, between "c" (pronounced "s") and "sh."