SQiN eM, LeVY

This is a mnemonic to remember the consonants which often (not always) lose their Dagesh Forte when they have a reduced vowel (almost always a vocal shewa).

S	Q	i	N	e	M	L	e	V	Y
ס	ק		נ		מ	ל		ו	י
צ									
שׁ									
שׂ									

Note that the 'S' in 'SQiN' refers to the sibilant consonants.[1]

Examples:
- Exod 2:3 הַיְאֹר 'the Nile'. The article הַ◌ typically adds a Dagesh in the consonant that follows the ה, so one might expect it to be spelled הַיְּאֹר (with a Dagesh in the י). But because י is a "SQiN eM LeVY" consonant and has a Shewa under it, it loses its Dagesh.
- 2 Sam 17:10 וַיְבַקְשׁוּ 'they searched'. This is the Piel imperfect waw consecutive, so one might expect it to be spelled וַיְּבַקְּשׁוּ, with one Dagesh Forte in the י and another in the ק. But because י and ק are "SQiN eM LeVY" consonants and have Shewas under them, they lose their Dageshes.
- Num 32:12 מִלְאוּ 'they followed'. Since the Piel perfect should have a Dagesh Forte in the ל (מִלְּאוּ), this looks like a Qal imperative 2mp 'fill!' Nonetheless, context indicates that it is the Piel perfect 3cp 'they followed'. Because ל is a "SQiN eM LeVY" consonant with a Shewa under it, it lost its Dagesh.
- Ruth 2:7 אֲלַקֳטָה־נָּא. The vowels indicate that this is a Piel cohortative, but we expect a Dagesh Forte in the ק. But because ק is a "SQiN eM LeVY" consonant with a reduced vowel (◌ֳ), it lost its Dagesh.

This is discussed in the following grammars:
- Garrett and DeRouchie §8d on page 47
- Gesenius §20m on page 74
- Joüon-Muraoka §18m
- Lambdin §149 remark (2) on page 197
- Pratico and Van Pelt §26.16
- van der Merwe, Naudé, and Kroeze §8.2.5

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[1] Because ז is a sibilant, in theory it can lose its Dagesh when it has a reduced vowel. But in practice it almost never does. For example, when the Piel of a 2-ז verb has a Shewa under the Zayin, it loses its Dagesh Forte only in 2 Sam 22:40, whereas it keeps it in Deut 3:28; Judg 9:24; 16:28; 2 Sam 11:25; 2 Kgs 12:6, 7, 8; 12:15; 2 Chr 11:12, 17; etc.