



עברית

HEBREW - ALEFBET

Hebrew is known as the Lashon HaKodesh (literally "The Holy Tongue"), and according to Kabbalah, it is the DNA of Creation. Each letter has a unique energy and when these letters are put into combinations, worlds are created.

Please note that the transliteration in our lessons follow our Kabbalah4All Transliteration style.

PART 1 - THE LETTERS

The Hebrew alefbet consists of 22 letters, also known as consonants. It is written from right to left and thus starts on the right-side of the page. Before we can read Hebrew, we need to learn the alefbet. Below you will find a chart with all of the Hebrew letters. Five of the Hebrew letters have final forms, meaning they are used only when that letter comes at the end of a word. It is important to become familiar with all the letters in the following charts. The biggest hurdle to learning Hebrew is to know the alefbet.

Hebrew Letter	Name	Pronunciation	Transliteration
א	אָלֶף Alef	SILENT	Depends on the vowel that comes under it.
בּ / ב	בֵּית / בֵּית Bet/Vet	B like book/V like vote	B/V
ג	גִּמֶל Gimel	G like good	G
ד	דָּלֶת Dalet	D like door	D

Hebrew Letter	Name	Pronunciation	Transliteration
ה	הָא Hei	H like hay	H
ו	וּ Vav	V like very	V
ז	זַיִן Zayin	Z like zebra	Z
ח	חַיִת Chet	CH like Bach	CH
ט	טִית Tet	T like today	T
י	יוֹד Yud	Y like you	H
כ	כָּף\כֶּף Kaf/Chaf	K like king/CH like Bach	K/Ch
ל	לָמֶד Lamed	L like lion	L
מ	מֶם Mem	M like Mishnah	M
נ	נוּן Nun	N like nice	N

Hebrew Letter	Name	Pronunciation	Transliteration
ס	סָמֶךְ Samech	S like sort	S
ע	עַיִן Ayin	SILENT	Depends on the vowel that comes under it.
פּ / פ	פֵּא / פֶּא Pei/Fei	P like parrot/F like frog	P/F
צ	צָדִי Tzadi	TZ like waltz	TZ
ק	קוֹף Kuf	K like king	K
ר	רֵישׁ Reish	R like rain	R
שׁ / שׂ	שֵׁין / שִׁין Shin/Sin	SH like ship/S like sing	SH/S
ת	תָּו Tav	T like Torah	T
כּ / ךּ	כָּף / כֶּף סוּפִית Kaf/Chaf Sofit	K like king/CH like Bach	K/CH
ם	מֶם סוּפִית Mem Sofit	M like Mishnah	M

Hebrew Letter	Name	Pronunciation	Transliteration
ן	נון סופית Nun Sofit	N like nice	N
ף	פא סופית Fei Sofit	F like frog	F
ץ	צדי סופית Tzadi Sofit	TZ like waltz	TZ

Here are the letters written from right to left to help you see them all together.

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשתךםןףץ

PART 2 - SIMILAR LETTERS

For someone who is just learning Hebrew, some letters may look similar. Below you will see the letters that are often confusing.

Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name
ב	Bet	כ	Chaf		
ג	Gimel	נ	Nun		
ה	Hei	ח	Chet	ת	Tav
ם	Mem Sofit	ס	Samech		

Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name
ד	Dalet	ר	Reish		
צ	Tzadi	ע	Ayin		
ו	Vav	ז	Zayin	ן	Nun Sofit
ך	Chaf Sofit	ן	Nun Sofit		

PART 3 - LETTERS THAT SOUND ALIKE

As you may have noticed by now, some Hebrew letters sound alike. The following chart shows the like-sounding letters.

Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Pronunciation
ט	Tet	ת	Tav	T like today
כ	Kaf	ק	Kuf	K like king
ס	Samech	ש	Sin	S like soft

PART 4 - VOWELS NIKUD

Hebrew in its original form has no written vowels. If you were to go to a synagogue and look at the Torah that is contained in the ark, you will see that there are no vowel marks (nikud). Even though written Hebrew did not originally have nikud, the vowels were always present in spoken Hebrew. For example, someone who knows English well could say the following sentence without the vowels: Th dg rn acrss th rd (The dog ran across the road). Between the 7th and 11th centuries a group of scribes, called the Masorettes, developed a system of vowel notation called pointing (nikkud in Hebrew). This system was developed to preserve the spoken system of vowels in the written text. Because the scribes regarded Torah as sacred, they designed this system of pointing in such a way as to not alter the original consonantal text.

Here is an example of text with and without nikud:

שלום
שֶׁלֹּוֹם

Below you will see a chart of the Hebrew Nikud (vowel marks). It is important to memorize the Nikud and their sounds. We will use the Alef as an example to show how the vowel points look with a letter. Because the Alef is silent, you will only make the sound of the Nikud.

NIKUD NAME	NIKUD	SOUND	TRANSLITERATION
קָמֶץ Kamatz	אָ	AH <i>as in Father</i>	A
קָמֶץ קָטָן Kamatz Katan	אֶ	OH <i>as in Grow</i>	O
חֶטֶף קָמֶץ Chataf Kamatz	אֲ	OH <i>as in Grow</i>	O

NIKUD NAME	NIKUD	SOUND	TRANSLITERATION
פַּתַּח Patach	אֲ	AH <i>as in Father</i>	A
חֶטֶף פַּתַּח Chataf Patach	אֱ	AH <i>as in Father</i>	A
צִירֵה Tzereih	אֵ	EH <i>as in Egg</i>	E
סֶגוֹל Segol	אִ	EH <i>as in Egg</i>	E
חֶטֶף סֶגוֹל Chataf Segol	אִי	EH <i>as in Egg</i>	E
שֶׁוּא Sheva	אִי	EH or Silent <i>as in Egg</i>	E or SILENT
חֹלָם Cholam	אֹ	OH <i>as in Grow</i>	O
חֹלָם מָלֵא Cholam Male	אוֹ	OH <i>as in Grow</i>	O
חִירִיק Chirik	אִי	EE <i>as in Cheese</i>	I
קִבוּץ Kubutz	אִי	OO <i>as in Boo</i>	U

NIKUD NAME	NIKUD	SOUND	TRANSLITERATION
שׁוּרֶק Shuruk	אָ	OO <i>as in Boo</i>	U

VOWEL SOUNDS THAT CHANGE WITH YUD

In most cases when a Nikud is followed by a Yud, it changes the sound slightly. See the chart below for variations.

NIKUD	SOUND	TRANSLITERATION
אִי י	AI <i>as in Hi</i>	AI
אֵי י	EI <i>as in Hey</i>	EI
אֹי י	OY <i>as in Joy</i>	OY
אֲי י	UI <i>as in Gooley</i>	UI or UY