

The Hebrew Alphabet

Consonants

א alef	Alef is silent. It carries vowels. See below.	ט tet	Like <i>t</i> .	פ פּ פֿ peh	With dot (פּ), like <i>p</i> . Without it (פֿ), like <i>f</i> .
בּ בְּ בִּ bet	With a dot (בּ), bet sounds like <i>b</i> . Without it (בְּ), like <i>v</i> .	י yud	Like <i>y</i> . Also stands for a vowel. See below.	צ צִ tsadi	Like <i>ts</i> in <i>hits</i> .
גּ גְ גִ gimel	Like <i>g</i> in <i>give</i> in all situations.	כּ כְּ כִּ kaf	With dot (כּ), like <i>k</i> . Without it (כְּ), like <i>ch</i> in <i>Bach</i> .	ק kuf	Like <i>k</i> .
דּ דְּ דִּ dalet	Like <i>d</i> .	ל lamed	Like <i>l</i> .	ר resh	Like <i>r</i> (in the throat).
הּ הֶ הִ heh	Like <i>h</i> in <i>hello</i> . Also stands for a vowel. See below.	מּ מְ מִ mem	Like <i>m</i> .	שׁ שׂ ש׃ shin/sin	With dot on right (שׁ), like <i>sh</i> . On left (שׂ), like <i>s</i> .
וּ וֶ וִ vav	Like <i>v</i> . Also stands for a vowel. See below.	נּ נְ נִ nun	Like <i>n</i> .	תּ תְּ תִ tav	Like <i>t</i> .
ז zayin	Like <i>z</i> .	ס samech	Like <i>s</i> .		
ח chet	Like <i>ch</i> in <i>Bach</i> .	ע ayin	Basically silent.		

Don't forget that Hebrew goes FROM RIGHT TO LEFT!!!

א ← ב ← ג ← ד ← ה ← ו

Vowels



All of these marks under a letter represent the sound of *a* as in the word *father*. At the end of a word, heh may be added.



A dot to the top left of a letter (or on top of a vav) represents the sound of *o* in *hope*.



All of these marks under a letter (with or without yud) represent something between the *e* in *met* and the *e* in *they*.



Both the three dots in a diagonal line and a vav with a dot in the middle of it represent the *u* sound in *flute*.



Either of these marks (a single dot – with or without a yud) represents the *i* in *unique*.



This symbol generally closes a syllable. Sometimes it represents the short *e* like the first *e* in *believe* [ə].

Notice: ◌ represents any letter of the alphabet.

Similar Letters

Be careful to pay attention to the shapes of the following letters, which look similar to one another. Notice which is longer, which has a point that the other doesn't, which has a foot, etc.

ג ו ז נ

ב כ

ד ך ר

ס ם

ט צ ע

ח ה ת

Final Forms

There are five letters that have a different shape when they come at the end of a word. These are the following:

כ ך

מ ם

נ ן

פ ף

צ ץ

Pointers for Learning the Hebrew Alphabet

1. Hebrew is written right-to-left. The vowels go under the consonant, so you must first read the consonant and then the vowel that's underneath it. For example, שׁ is read first as ש (s) and then as א (a). So, we read שׁ as "sa." Similarly, מַרְבֵּה is read as *marbeh*. In ם the o-dot is read after the consonant upon which it sits. בִּרְאֵי is read as *boré*.
2. Listen to the recording of the alphabet song and the Hebrew alphabet sounds until you're comfortable with the sounds and attempt to reproduce them yourself. Also, memorize the order of the alphabet with the song.
3. Be careful with the letters that are similar and with the final forms of the five letters mentioned above.