

The Hebrew Alphabet

Graham G. Thomason
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1. Transliteration and Unicode Coding

Transliterated vowels with length markings (applicable to Hebrew, Greek, Latin...)

													e.g. for
basic	A	E	I	O	U	Y	a	e	i	o	u	y	בְּבִבְבִּ
breve	Ă	Ě	Ī	Ǫ	Ů	Ÿ	ǎ	ě	ĩ	ǒ	ǔ	ÿ	בְּבִבְבִּ
unicode	0102	0114	012C	014E	016C	+0306	0103	0115	012D	014F	016D	+0306	
macron	Ā	Ē	Ī	Ō	Ū	Ȳ	ā	ē	ī	ō	ū	ȳ	בְּבִבְבִּ
unicode	0100	0112	012A	014C	016A	+0304	0101	0113	012B	014D	016B	+0304	
circumflex	Â	Ê	Î	Ô	Û	ÿ	â	ê	î	ô	û	ÿ	בְּבִבְבִּ
unicode	00C2	00CA	00CE	00D4	00DB	0176	00E2	00EA	00EE	00F4	00FB	0177	בּוּ בּוּ בּוּ
grave		È						è					בְּ
unicode		00C8						00E8					
shewa		e											בְּ
		super											

Notes

- The unicode codes marked with a leading plus, e.g. +0306, are independent nonspacing diacritics.
- Do not mistake a *caron* for a *breve*: Ă Ě Ī Ō Ů Ÿ ǎ ě ĩ ǒ ǔ ÿ (01CD 011A 01CF 01D1 01D3 +030C etc.)
- Acute accents : É=00C9, é=00E9 (others easy to find on the character map; nonspacing: +0301)
- In Word, ALT/X will toggle a selected character between its hex value and its representation.

Hebrew consonants

	שׁ	שׂ	צ	ץ	ט	ת	א					
	š	ṧ	ṣ	ṩ	ṭ	ṭ̇	ʾ					
unicode	0161	0160	015B	015A	1E63	1E62	02BF	1E6D	1E6C	1E25	1E24	02BE

Notes

- The IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbols for *aleph* and *ayin* are

	ʾ	ʔ
	ʔ	ʔ
unicode	02C1	02C0

2. The Alphabet

	Hebr square	Hand-written	Hebrew name	Transliteration of name	Popular name	Scholarly transliteration	AV transliteration	Remarks
1	א	א	אָלֶפֶת	'ālep	aleph	'	-	a glottal plosive
2a	ב	ב	בֵּית	bêt	beth	B b (+bb)	b	<i>b</i>
2b	ב	ב				B b	b	originally bilabial (?) modern pronunciation is <i>v</i>
3a	ג	ג	גִּימֵל	gîmel	gimel	G g (+gg)	<i>g</i>	<i>g</i>
3b	ג	ג				G g	<i>g</i>	originally a velar fricative modern pronunciation is <i>g</i>
4a	ד	ד	דָּלֶת	dālet	daleth	D d (+dd)	d	<i>d</i>
4b	ד	ד				D d	d	originally voiced <i>th</i> modern pronunciation is <i>d</i>
5	ה	ה	הֵא	hē'	hé	H h	<i>h</i>	<i>h</i>
6	ו	ו	וָו	wāw	waw	W w	<i>v</i>	originally <i>w</i> (?) modern pronunciation is <i>v</i>
7	ז	ז	זַיִן	zayin	zayin	Z z	<i>z</i>	<i>z</i>
8	ח	ח	חֵת	ḥêt	heth	Ḥ ḥ	<i>h</i>	a pharyngeal unvoiced fricative
9	ט	ט	טֵת	têt	teth	Ṭ ṭ	<i>t</i>	pharyngealized <i>t</i>
10	י	י	יּוֹד	yôd	yod	Y y	<i>j/i</i>	<i>y</i>
11a	כ	כ	כָּף	kāp	kaph	K k (+kk)	<i>c</i>	<i>k</i>
11b	כ	כ				K k	<i>ch</i>	a velar fricative
12	ל	ל	לָמֶד	lāmed	lamed	L l	<i>l</i>	<i>l</i>
13	מ	מ	מֵם	mēm	mem	M m	<i>m</i>	<i>m</i>
14	נ	נ	נוּן	nûn	nun	N n	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>
15	ס	ס	סָמֶךְ	sāmek	samekh	S s	<i>s</i>	<i>s</i>
16	ע	ע	עַיִן	'ayin	ayin	'	-	a pharyngeal voiced fricative
17a	פ	פ	פֵּה	pēh	pé	P p (+pp)	<i>p</i>	<i>p</i>
17b	פ	פ				P p	<i>ph</i>	modern pronunciation is <i>f</i>
18	צ	צ	צָדֵי	ṣādê	tsadé	Ṣ ṣ	<i>z</i>	originally pharyngealized <i>s</i> modern pronunciation is <i>ts</i> .
19	ק	ק	קוֹף	qôp	qoph	Q q	<i>k</i>	a uvular voiceless plosive
20	ר	ר	רֵשׁ	rêš	resh	R r	<i>r</i>	rolled or uvular
21a	ש	ש	שֵׁן	śîn	sin	Ś ś	<i>s</i>	<i>s</i> , not distinguished from samekh
21b	ש	ש	שֵׁן	šîn	shin	Š š	<i>sh</i>	<i>sh</i>
22a	ת	ת	תּוֹ	taw	taw	T t (+tt)	<i>t</i>	<i>t</i>
22b	ת	ת				T t	<i>th</i>	originally voiceless <i>th</i>

Notes on the alphabet

- The Hebrew alphabet consists of 22 basic consonants. The other consonants are variations of the 22 fundamental consonants.
- The handwritten forms are in imitation of printed letters, which is as Biblical Hebrew is normally taught, and are not the way Modern Hebrew is normally written (which is rather different).
- Six letters (בגדכפת) have a hard and soft form. In pointed script, the hard form takes a dot or *dagesh* (בגדכפת) whereas the soft form does not (בגדכפת). These two forms are not regarded as separate letters, and do not have separate dictionary ordering. One must also distinguish
 - Dagesh lene. A dagesh lene will always be present when no vowel precedes the consonant.
 - Dagesh forte. If there is a dagesh when a vowel precedes the consonant, it is a dagesh forte, in which case the transliteration will be a **double letter**.

Although the soft forms are transcribed in the same way as the hard forms with dagesh lene, the forms (including when reading a transcription) can be read with a soft (fricative) pronunciation, so e.g. *p* will be read as *f*.

- װ and ױ are counted as one letter and do not (traditionally) have separate dictionary ordering.
- Five letters (כמנפצ) have separate final forms (ךםןףץ). These are used at the end of a word.
- Identical sounds in modern Hebrew
 - א א
 - ב ב
 - ק ק
 - ח ח
 - ג ג
 - ד ד
 - ש ש
 - ט ט
 - טש תש תס תס צ

but these are distinguished

- בּ ב
- כּ כ
- פּ פ

Some other fonts

Hebrew Square	Siloam / Palaeo	Samaritan	Qumran	Rabbinic (Rashi)	Hand-written Square	Modern cursive
א	𐤀	𐤀	א	א	א	א
ב	𐤁	ב	ב	ב	ב	ב
ג	𐤂	ג	ג	ג	ג	ג
ד	𐤃	ד	ד	ד	ד	ד
ה	𐤄	ה	ה	ה	ה	ה
ו	𐤅	ו	ו	ו	ו	ו
ז	𐤆	ז	ז	ז	ז	ז
ח	𐤇	ח	ח	ח	ח	ח
ט	𐤈	ט	ט	ט	ט	ט
י	𐤉	י	י	י	י	י
כך	𐤊	כ	כ	כ	כך	כ
ל	𐤋	ל	ל	ל	ל	ל
מם	𐤌	מ	מ	מ	מ	מ
נן	𐤍	נ	נ	נ	נן	נ
ס	𐤎	ס	ס	ס	ס	ס
ע	𐤏	ע	ע	ע	ע	ע
פק	𐤐	פ	פ	פ	פק	פ
צץ	𐤑	צ	צ	צ	צץ	צ
ק	𐤒	ק	ק	ק	ק	ק
ר	𐤓	ר	ר	ר	ר	ר
ש	𐤔	ש	ש	ש	ש	ש
ש					ש	ש
ת	𐤕	ת	ת	ת	ת	ת

Meanings of the letters and gematria

Hebrew Square	Hebrew Name	Meaning	Gematria
א	אֶלֶף	Ox	1
ב	בַּיִת	House	2
ג	גִּמְלָל	Camel	3
ד	דֶּלֶת	Door	4
ה	הַא	Window	5
ו	וּו	Hook	6
ז	זֶיֶן	Weapon	7
ח	חֵיט	Fence	8
ט	טֵיט	Snake	9
י	יּוּד	Hand	10
כ	כַּף	Palm of hand	20
ל	לָמָד	Goad	30
מ	מַם	Water	40
נ	נוּן	Fish	50
ס	סָמָד	Prop	60
ע	עֵינַן	Eye	70
פ	פֵּה	Mouth	80
צ	צָדִי	Fish-hook?	90
ק	קוּף	Eye of needle?	100
ר	רֵישׁ	Head	200
ש	שֵׁן	Tooth	300
ש	שֵׁן	(same)	(same)
ת	תּוּ	Cross	400
ך			500
ם			600
ן			700
ף			800
ץ			900

2.1 Vowels

Summary of the vowels

	A	E	I	O	U
long with <i>mater lectionis</i>	בָּהּ bâ	בֵּי bê	בִּי bî	בֹּוּ bô	בִּוּ bû
long without <i>mater lectionis</i>	בָּ bā	בֵּ bē	בִּ bī	בֹּ bō	בִּ bū
short	בַּ ba	בֶּ be	בִּ bi	בּוּ bo	בֻּ bu
hurried	בֶּ bă	בֵּ bě		בֹּ bǒ	

shewa	בְּ b ^e
long e grave	בֶּ bè

Detailed Table of vowels with Hebrew names, transliterated names and informal names.

	A	E	I	O	U
long with <i>mater lectionis</i>	בֶּה bâ	צֵרִי גָדוֹל בֵּי šērê gādôl bê <i>tseré gadol</i>	חִירֶק גָדוֹל בֵּי hîreq gādôl bî <i>chireq gadol</i>	בוּ חוֹלֶם גָדוֹל hôlem gādôl bô <i>cholem gadol</i>	שׁוּרֶק בּוּ šûreq bû <i>shureq</i>
long without <i>mater lectionis</i>	בָּ קָמֶץ qāmeš bā <i>qamets</i>	בֵּ צֵרִי šērê bē <i>tseré</i>	בִּ חִירֶק hîreq bī <i>chireq</i>	בֹּ חוֹלֶם hôlem bō <i>cholem</i>	בּוּ קִבּוּץ qibbûš bū <i>qibbutz</i>
short	בַּ פְּתַח pataḥ ba <i>patach</i>	בֶּ סֵגוֹל s [°] gôl be <i>segol</i>	בִּ חִירֶק hîreq bi <i>chireq</i>	בּוּ קָמֶץ חָטוּף qāmeš ḥātûp bo <i>qamets chatuph</i>	בּוּ קִבּוּץ qibbûš bu <i>qibbutz</i>
hurried	בָּ חָטֵף פְּתַח ḥātēp pataḥ bā <i>chateph pataḥ</i>	בֵּ חָטֵף סֵגוֹל ḥātēp s [°] gôl bē <i>chateph segol</i>		בּוּ חָטֵף קָמֶץ חָטוּף ḥātēp qāmeš ḥātûp bō <i>chateph qamets chatuph</i>	
shewa		בֶּ שְׁוָא š [°] wa' b ^e <i>shewa</i>			
long e grave		בֵּ סֵגוֹל גָדוֹל s [°] gôl gādôl bè <i>segol gadol</i>			

Notes

- Generally, בֶּה (bâ) will only occur at the end of a word; elsewhere בָּ (bā) is used.
- There are some (rather complex) ways to distinguish between בָּ=bā and בּוּ=bo, e.g.
 - Word pattern (short closed unstressed syllable) + (stressed syllable [open/closed long/short]):
חֹכְמָה (ḥokmâ) (*wisdom*), חֹקְטָל (hoqṭal) (*he was caused to be killed*)
 - A meteg, as in כָּתְבוּ (kāt[°]vû) (*they wrote*) indicates an ā.
 - Standard grammatical forms reveal the vowel, e.g. hofal חִתְּבוּ from חָתַב and חִדְּשִׁיכֶם from חִדְּשׁ.
- Transliterate בֵּה by bēh, בֶּה and בֶּה both by beh, בָּא by bā', and בָּה by bāh.
- As in precise orthography, the GGTAmos font can distinguish, by the position of the dot, a consonantal waw+ ḥôlem (וּ) from a vocalic ḥôlem on o mater lectionis (וֹ).
- As in precise orthography, the GGTAmos font can distinguish, by the position of the dot, a consonantal waw with dagesh (וּ) from a šûreq (וֹ).
- The GGTAmos font can distinguish, by a convention, בָּ=bā from בּוּ=bo.