

Learning Hebrew: Consonants and Vowels

Letter	Name	Transliteration		Sound
א	Aleph	‘		Silent
ב בּ	Bet	b	v/ <u>b</u>	B (boy) V (vet)
ג גּ	Gimmel	g	ḡ	G (girl)
ד דּ	Dalet	d	<u>d</u>	D (door)
ה	Hey	h		H (house)
ו	Vav	v/w		V (vine)
ז	Zayin	z		Z (zebra)
ח	Chet	ch/ḥ		CH (bach)
ט	Tet	t/ṭ		T (tiger)
י	Yod	y		Y (year)
כּ כ	Kaf	k	ch/ <u>k</u>	K (kitten) CH (bach)
ך	Kaf Sofit	ch/ <u>k</u>		CH (bach)
ל	Lamed	l		L (lion)
מ	Mem	m		M (mom)
ם	Mem Soft	m		M (mom)
נ	Nun	n		N (nice)
ן	Nun Sofit	n		N (nice)
ס	Samech	s		S (sunrise)

ע		Ayin	‘	Silent	
פ	פ	Pey	p	f/ph	P (paint) F (fair)
ף		Pey Sofit	f/ph		F (fair)
צ		Tsade	ts/ş		TS (nuts)
ץ		Tsade Sofit	ts/ş		TS (nuts)
ק		Qof	q/k		K (kite)
ר		Resh	r		R (robin)
ש		Shin	sh/ś		SH (shelter)
שׁ		Sin	s/š		S (shop)
ת	ת	Tav*	t		T (tall)

*In Ashkenazi pronunciation the tav without a dagesh is pronounced “s” and a tav with a dagesh is pronounced “t.”

*Aleph is a substitute for any Hebrew letter

Vowel	Name	Transliteration	Sound
אֲ	Kametz	a	A (father)
אִ	Chataf Kametz	a	A (father)
אָ	Patach	a	A (father)
אֵ	Chataf Patach	a	A (father)
אֶ	Segol	e	E (egg)
אִי	Chatef Segol	e	E (egg)
אֵי	Tsere	ey/ei	EY (they)
אֵי	Chirek	ee/i	EE (bee)
אוּ	Cholem	o	O (row)
אוי	Cholem (before Yod)	oi	OI (oil)
אוֹ	Shuruk	u	U (ruler)
אִי	Kibuts	u	U (ruler)