

Hebrew Alphabet Chart

Name	Block	Print	Transliteration	Sound
'alef	א	א	'	Silent or glottal stop
Bet	ב	ב	<i>b</i>	b in ball
	ב	ב	<i><u>b</u></i>	v in very
Gimmel	ג	ג	<i>g</i>	g in good
	ג	ג	<i><u>g</u></i>	g in good
Dalet	ד	ד	<i>d</i>	d in dog
	ד	ד	<i><u>d</u></i>	d in dog
He	ה	ה	<i>h</i>	h in house
Vav	ו	ו	<i>v or w</i>	v in very or w in win
Zayin	ז	ז	<i>z</i>	z in zoo
Het	ח	ח	<i>ḥ</i>	ch in Bach
Tet	ט	ט	<i>ṭ</i>	t in top
Yod	י	י	<i>y</i>	y in yes
Kaf	כ	כ	<i>k</i>	k in kick
	כ	כ	<i><u>k</u></i>	ch in Bach
Final Kaf	כּ	כּ	<i><u>k</u></i>	ch in bach
Lamed	ל	ל	<i>l</i>	l in look
Mem	מ	מ	<i>m</i>	m in mom
Final Mem	ם	ם	<i>m</i>	m in mom
Nun	נ	נ	<i>n</i>	n in noon
Final Nun	ן	ן	<i>n</i>	n in noon
Samek	ס	ס	<i>s</i>	s in sit
'ayin	ע	ע	'	silent or glottal stop

Pe	פ	פּ	<i>p</i>	p in pig
	פ	פֿ	<i>p̄</i>	f in fun
Final Pe	ף	פֿ	<i>p̄</i>	f in fun
Tsade	צ	צּ	<i>ṣ</i>	ts in hats
Final Tsade	ץ	צֿ	<i>ṣ</i>	ts in hats
Qof	ק	קּ	<i>q</i>	k in kick
Resh	ר	רּ	<i>r</i>	Spanish r in pero
Sin	ש	שׁ	<i>ś</i>	s in seen
Shin	ש	שׂ	<i>š</i>	sh in sheen
Tav	ת	תּ	<i>t</i>	t in top
	ת	תֿ	<i>t̄</i>	t in top or th in thing

The Hebrew alphabet has 22 consonants (שׁ and שׂ count as 1).

Six consonants at one time had alternate pronunciations with a dot (called “dagesh”). Three of these letters now have different pronunciations, the other three don’t change pronunciation (though some scholars use alternate pronunciations). These letters are known as the “BeGaDKePaT” letters.

ב	b	בּ	v	כ	k	כּ	ch
ג	g	גּ	g (gh)	פ	p	פּ	f
ד	d	דּ	d (dh)	ת	t	תּ	t (th)

Five consonants have alternate forms if they occur at the end of a word

Final Kaf	ף
Final Mem	ם
Final Nun	ן
Final Pe	ף
Final Tsade	ץ

Some Consonants have the same or similar sounds.

א	ע	silent or glottal stop
נ	ו	v
ח	כ	ch
ט	ת	t
ס	ק	k
ש	ש	s

Some letters have similar shapes and are easily confused “look-alike letters”

ב	bet	ט	tet
כ	kaf	מ	mem
ג	gimmel	ם	final mem
נ	nun	ס	samek
ז	zayin	ע	‘ayin
ו	vav	צ	tsade
ן	final nun	ש	sin
ד	dalet	ש	shin
ר	resh		
ך	final kaf		
ה	he		
ה	het		
ת	tav		

Hebrew Vowels

<u>Alphabet</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Transliteration</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>
Short vowels			
אָ ¹	Patah	<i>a</i>	a as in car
ֶ	Segol	<i>e</i>	e as in met
ִ	Hiriq	<i>i</i>	i as in sit
ֻ	Qamats Hatuf	<i>o</i>	o as in cost
ֹ	Qubbutz	<i>u</i>	u as in put
Long vowels			
ֶֿ	Qamats ²	<i>ā</i>	a as in car
ֵֿ	Tsere	<i>ē</i>	e as in obey
ֹֿ	Holem	<i>ō</i>	o as in obey
Vowel letters			
אֶה	Qamats He	<i>āh</i>	a as in car
אֵה	Patah He	<i>ah</i>	a as in car
אִי	Tsere yod	<i>ê</i>	e as in obey
אֵי	Segol yod	<i>ê</i>	e as in obey
אֶה־	Tsere He	<i>eh</i>	e as in obey
אֵה־	Segol He	<i>eh</i>	e as in obey
אִי־	Hiriq yod	<i>î</i>	i as in machine
אֹה	Holem He	<i>oh</i>	o as in obey
וֹ	Holem vav	<i>ô</i>	o as in obey
וֹֿ	Shuruq	<i>û</i>	u as in rule
Half vowels and shewa			
ֲ	Hataf-patah	<i>ă</i>	a as in al-a-mode
ֳ	Hataf-segol	<i>ĕ</i>	e as in met
ִֿ	Hataf-qamats	<i>ō</i>	o as in oat
ֵֿֿ	Shewa (vocal)	<i>e</i>	e as in mathematics
ֶֿֿ	Shewa (silent) ³	none	Silent letter

¹ The alef is only being used to show the position of the vowel points and is not part of it.

² Qamats-hatuf and qamats are written the same but pronounced differently. The rules indicating which is being used are complicated, but qamats is far more common, so assume that אָ is qamats (a).

³ The difference between the vocal and silent shewa is fairly complicated, but the basic idea is that the silent shewa is used to mark the end of a syllable.