

# Chapter 1a - Hebrew Alphabet

## *twenty-three consonants*

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>
א	Alef	silent	ʾ
ב	Bet	<i>b</i> as in <i>boy</i>	<i>b</i>
ג	Gimel	<i>g</i> as in <i>God</i>	<i>g</i>
ד	Dalet	<i>d</i> as in <i>day</i>	<i>d</i>
ה	He	<i>h</i> as in <i>hay</i>	<i>h</i>
ו	Waw	<i>w</i> as in <i>way</i>	<i>w</i>
ז	Zayin	<i>z</i> as in <i>Zion</i>	<i>z</i>
ח	Óet	<i>ch</i> as in <i>Bach</i>	<i>ḥ</i>
ט	Tet	<i>t</i> as in <i>toy</i>	<i>ṭ</i>
י	Yod	<i>y</i> as in <i>yes</i>	<i>y</i>
כ	Kaf	<i>k</i> as in <i>king</i>	<i>k</i>
ל	Lamed	<i>l</i> as in <i>lion</i>	<i>l</i>
מ	Mem	<i>m</i> as in <i>mother</i>	<i>m</i>
נ	Nun	<i>n</i> as in <i>now</i>	<i>n</i>
ס	Samek	<i>s</i> as in <i>sin</i>	<i>s</i>
ע	Ayin	silent	ʿ
פ	Pe	<i>p</i> as in <i>pastor</i>	<i>p</i>
צ	Tsade	<i>ts</i> as in <i>boots</i>	<i>ṣ</i>
ק	Qof	<i>k</i> as in <i>king</i>	<i>q</i>
ר	Resh	<i>r</i> as in <i>run</i>	<i>r</i>
שׁ	Sin	<i>s</i> as in <i>sin</i>	<i>ś</i>
שׂ	Shin	<i>sh</i> as in <i>ship</i>	<i>š</i>
ת	Taw	<i>t</i> as in <i>toy</i>	<i>t</i>

# Chapter 1b - Hebrew Alphabet

## *five final forms*

Five Hebrew letters have “final” forms. When one of these letters occurs at the **end of a word**, it is written differently than when it appears at the beginning or in the middle of a word. The changing of a letter’s form, however, does not change its pronunciation or transliteration.

<i>Regular Form</i>	<i>Final Form</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Translit.</i>	<i>Translation</i>
כ	ך	דרך	<i>drk</i>	road, way
מ	ם	עם	<i>&gt;m</i>	nation, people
ג	ג	זקן	<i>zqn</i>	old man, elder
פ	ף	כסף	<i>ksp</i>	money, silver
א	ץ	ארץ	<i>&lt;β</i>	earth, land

# Chapter 1c - Hebrew Alphabet

## *six begadkephat consonants*

Six consonants have two possible pronunciations and are known as *begadkephat* consonants. To distinguish between the two pronunciations, a dot called Daghesh Lene was inserted into the consonant. The presence of Daghesh Lene indicates a hard pronunciation and its absence denotes a soft pronunciation.

<i>Begadkephat Letter</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>
בּ	<i>b</i> as in <i>boy</i>	<i>b</i>
ב	<i>v</i> as in <i>vine</i>	<i><u>b</u></i>
גּ	<i>g</i> as in <i>God</i>	<i>g</i>
ג	<i>gh</i> as in <i>aghast</i>	<i><u>g</u></i>
דּ	<i>d</i> as in <i>day</i>	<i>d</i>
ד	<i>dh</i> as in <i>the</i>	<i><u>d</u></i>
כּ	<i>k</i> as in <i>king</i>	<i>k</i>
כ	<i>ch</i> as in <i>Bach</i>	<i><u>k</u></i>
פּ	<i>p</i> as in <i>pastor</i>	<i>p</i>
פ	<i>ph</i> as in <i>alphabet</i>	<i><u>p</u></i>
תּ	<i>t</i> as in <i>toy</i>	<i>t</i>
ת	<i>th</i> as in <i>thin</i>	<i><u>t</u></i>

# Chapter 1d - Hebrew Alphabet

## *easily confused letters*

### Hebrew consonants that look alike

1. ב (Bet)                      כ (Kaf)
2. ג (Gimel)                  נ (Nun)
3. ה (He)                      ח (Óet)                  ת (Taw)
4. שׁ (Sin)                      שׂ (Shin)
5. ם (final Mem)              ס (Samek)
6. ד (Dalet)                    ר (Resh)
7. צ (Tsade)                  ע (Ayin)
8. ו (Waw)                    ז (Zayin)
9. ם (Waw)                    ן (final Nun)
10. ך (final Kaf)              ן (final Nun)

### Hebrew consonants that sound alike

1. ט (Tet)                      ת (Taw with Daghes Lene)
2. ק (Qof)                      כ (Kaf with Daghes Lene)
3. ס (Samek)                  שׁ (Sin)

# Chapter 1e - Hebrew Alphabet

## *modern pronunciation*

The pronunciation of modern Hebrew differs in a number of ways from ancient pronunciation. With the three *begadkephat* consonants listed below, the forms without Daghes Lene are pronounced like the forms with Daghes Lene in modern Hebrew.

<i>Consonant</i>	<i>Traditional Pronunciation</i>	<i>Modern Pronunciation</i>
ג	<i>gh</i> as in <i>aghast</i>	<i>g</i> as in <i>God</i>
ד	<i>dh</i> as in <i>the</i>	<i>d</i> as in <i>day</i>
ת	<i>th</i> as in <i>thin</i>	<i>t</i> as in <i>toy</i>
ו	<i>w</i> as in <i>way</i>	<i>v</i> as in <i>vine</i>