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אלף-בית

Aleph-Bet

Learning to Write the
Aleph-Bet
in Block & Cursive

by
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א - Aleph Aleph has no sound of its own but originally was a glottal stop, like the beginning sound of “uh-huh”.

א - Aleph (cursive)

אָבא אָדנִי אֱלֹהִים אבא אדני אלהים

ב - Bet Bet has two different sounds, “B” if it has a dot (dagesh) in it [בּ] and “V” if it does not have dagesh [ב]

בּ = “b”
ב = “v”

ב - Bet (cursive)

בֵּית בְּרוּךְ בֶּן אָבָא טוֹב בית ברוך בן אבא טוב

ג - Gimmel

Gimmel in Hebrew means “camel”.
Does the shape of the Gimmel re-
mind you of a camel?
Gimmel sounds like “G” as in “go”

ג = G

ג - Gimmel (cursive)

גן גאון הגדה

גמל גדול גבור

ד - Dalet

Dalet makes the sound of “D” as
in “dog”

Horizontal stroke extends past the
vertical leg of the letter

ד = D

ד - Dalet (cursive)

דודני הגדה הגדה

דודי דרך דן

Vowel signs (נקודות)

Vowel signs are written:

Under the letter

Beside the letter

Under & beside the letter

Two vowels which say “a” as in “father”

qametz קָמֶץ

patach פָּתַח

Two vowels which say “ee” as in “feet”

chiriq qatan

חִירִיק קָטָן

chiriq gadol

חִירִיק גָּדוֹל

Two vowels which say “o” as in “hole”

cholam

חֹלָם

cholam vav

חֹלָם וָו

ה - Hey

Hey sounds like “H” as in “hat”,
but at the end of a word it is
silent.

be sure there is a break here

ה = H

ה - Hey (cursive)

אברהם הגדול התורה הורה הר ציון הנה

ו - Vav

Vav sounds like the letter “V”,
and sometimes a vav is used to
indicate a vowel.

be sure the top stroke does not go
past the horizontal leg

ו = V

ו - Vav (cursive)

אני אבתינו ואלהי אבותינו

ז - Zayin

Zayin sounds like the “Z”
in Zoo

the horizontal stroke goes
beyond the verticle leg

ז = Z

ז - Zayin (cursive)



זָהָב מְזוּזָה זְקֵנִים מְצַמֵּר לְצִוָּתוֹ זָקֵן

ח - Chet

Chet sounds like the rough,
German “ch” in “Ach!”. It sounds
like an “h” with the throat closed.

Note:
no gap like the ח

ח = ch

ח - Chet (cursive)

Note:
no “foot” like the ח



יִצְחָק אֵשִׁיחַ שְׂמֵחָה רֹאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ חֵלָה

More vowel signs (נקודות)

Two vowels which say “oo” as in “food”

בִּי

Qibutz

קבוץ

בוּ

Shuruq

שורוק

Vowel which says long “a” as in “fate”

בֵּי

or short “e” as

in “get”

צִיָּרָה Tzayreh

Vowel which says short “e” as in “get”

בֶּי

סֶגוּל Seghol

Vowel which makes a quick short “e”
sound, as in “petunia” or is silent

בְּי

שְׁוָה Sheva

ט - Tet

Tet sounds like the “t” in “toy”

ט = t

ט - Tet (cursive)

טוב טרף לאט

בטח טטפת חטא

י - Yod

Yod sounds like the letter “y” in “yes” and sometimes is used as a vowel letter.

י = y

י

- Yod (cursive)

ישראל יצחק יד

פרי אהלים טלית

כ/ך - Kaf/Kaf soffit

Kaf sounds like the π when it is written without dagesh, and like the letter “k” when written with dagesh. Final kaf has the same sounds as initial or medial kaf.

כ/ך - Kaf (cursive)

כ = ch כּ = k

Note: base horizontal does not extend beyond the verticle

כרוב אלך אלכותו כרעים כן כפר

ל - Lamed

ל = L

ל - Lamed (cursive)

אלל אלך ישראל להדליק לולב לא

ם/מ - Mem/Mem soffit

מ = M

ם/מ - Mem (cursive)

Note that the mem soffit has a flat baseline without the corners rounded.



המזויזא שם שלום מלך מגן דוד מזויזא

ן/נ - Nun/Nun soffit

נ = N

ן/נ - Nun (cursive)

Note that the nun soffit is longer than the vav (ו, ן) which is the only way it is distinguished

בן ראש השנה אבני נותן נר נביא

ס - Samech

ס = S

Note that the samech has a rounded baseline or corners which are cut off, distinguishing it from the mem soffit

ס - Samech (cursive)

ם ס
mem soffit samech

סִינִי סְלִיחָה בְּסִדֵּר סְדוּר סְפָה סֵפֶר

ע - Ayin

Ayin is a SILENT LETTER, though in ancient times it may have had a deep, glottal stop, somewhat like the stopped throaty sound in “uh-huh”. In Arabic the the equivalent letter is a throaty “G” sound.

ע - Ayin (cursive)

עַמִּידָה עֶרֶב עִבְרִית עַמֵּם הַעוֹלָם יֵשׁוּעַ

ף/פ - Peh/Peh soffit פ = ph פ = p

ף/פ - Peh (cursive)

Note that the peh soffit cursive has the final tale curling downward and back toward the verticle stroke



אלף העם יום כבוד פרי פסח פאות

ץ/צ - Tzadi/Tzadi soffit צ = tz

ץ/צ - Tzadi (cursive)

Note that the tzadi soffit cursive has the final tale curling upward



ארץ המזביל מצה ציון צדיק ארץ

ק - Kof

ק = K

ק - Kof (cursive)

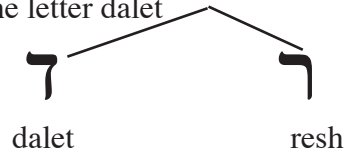
קצוּשׁ קצוּשׁ קיצוּשׁוּ יִצְחָק יַעֲקֹב לְהַדְלִיק

ר - Resh

ר = R

ר - Resh (cursive)

Note that the horizontal stroke of the resh does not cross the vertical stroke as is the case in the letter dalet



אֵלֶּיךָ תֹּוֹרָה יִשְׂרָאֵל רַבִּי רֵאשׁ רֹוּחַ הַקֹּדֶשׁ

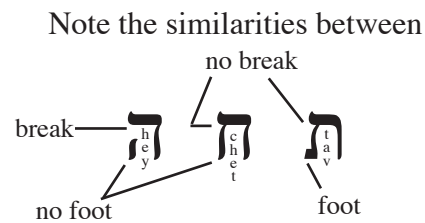
שׁ / שׂ - Seen/Sheen שּׁ = S, שׂ = Sh

e - Seen/Sheen (cursive) Note: in cursive if no dot is written the letter is assumed to be a Sheen

שְׁמַע שְׂמִימָה שְׂמִימָה יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׂבֹאוֹת שְׂבִי

ת - Tav ת = T

ת - Tav (cursive)



תְּפִלִּין תּוֹרָה תּוֹדָה שְׂבֵת תְּלַמִּיד בֵּית

Complete Aleph/Bet

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ/ך ל מ/ם
א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ/ך ל מ/ם

נ/ן ס ע פ/ף צ/ץ ק ר ש ש ת
נ/ן ס ע פ/ף צ/ץ ק ר ש ש ת

Vowels

- | | |
|---|--|
| פָּ/פֶּ = patach/qametz “a” as in “father” | שֶׁ = sheva very short “e” as in “petunia” |
| פִּי/פֵּי = chiriq qatan/chiriq gadol “ee” as in “feet” | פֵּי/פִּי = “ai” as in “aisle” |
| פּוֹ/פֹּ = cholem/cholem vav long “o” as in “hole” | פָּ = same as simple patach “a” |
| פֹּבּוּ/פֻּבּוּ = qibbutz/shuruq “oo” as in “food” | פֹּ = same as simple qametz “a” sometimes long “o” |
| פֶּ = tzere “a” as in “fate” or “e” as in “get” | פֶּ = same as simple seghol “e” |
| פֶּ = seghol short “e” as in “get” | |

Additional Vowels

גִּי = “ay” as in “say”

חֲטָף פָּתַח = חֲטָף פָּתַח *chataf patach* same as simple patach

חֲטָף חֶמֶץ = חֲטָף חֶמֶץ *chametz chatuf* sometimes long “o”, often same as simple chametz

גִּי = same as simple seghol
