

## The Hebrew Letters

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Form</i></b>	<b><i>Sound</i></b>	<b><i>Numerical Value</i></b>
<b>Aleph</b>	א	silent	1
<b>Bet/Beis</b>	ב	b	2
<b>Vet/Veis</b>	ב	v	2
<b>Gimel</b>	ג	g	3
<b>Dalet</b>	ד	d	4
<b>Hay</b>	ה	h	5
<b>Vav</b>	ו	v* or oo	6
<b>Zayin</b>	ז	z	7
<b>Khet/Khes</b>	ח	kh	8

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<b>Tet/Tes</b>	ט	t	9
<b>Yud</b>	י	y	10
<b>Kaf</b>	כ	k	20
<b>Khaf</b>	ח	kh	20
<b>Lamed</b>	ל	l	30
<b>Mem</b>	מ	m	40
<b>Nun</b>	נ	n	50
<b>Samekh</b>	ס	s	60
<b>Ayin</b>	ע	silent**	70
<b>Pay</b>	פ	p	80
<b>Fay</b>	ף	f	80

<b>Tzadi(k)</b>	צ	tz	90
<b>Kuf</b>	ק	k	100
<b>Raysh</b>	ר	r	200
<b>Shin</b>	שׁ	sh	300
<b>Sin</b>	שׂ	s	300
<b>Tav</b>	תּ	t	400
<b>Sav***</b>	ת	s	400

\*Yemenite Jews pronounce this as a "w," a sound that does not exist in many European languages and was therefore lost to many others.

\*\*Sepharadim correctly pronounce this with a guttural sound, different from the aleph, which was lost to Ashkenazim.

\*\*\*Note that the final two letters, tav and sav, were differentiated. This is how it is done by Ashkenazi (European) Jews. In Modern Hebrew, however, they are pronounced as tav, even when there is no dagesh (point) within the letter.

## The Final Letters

<b><i>Default Name</i></b>	<b><i>Default Form</i></b>	<b><i>Final Name</i></b>	<b><i>Final Form</i></b>	<b><i>Sound</i></b>
<b>Khaf</b>	כ	Final Khaf	ך	kh
<b>Mem</b>	מ	Final Mem	ם	m
<b>Nun</b>	נ	Final Nun	ן	n
<b>Fay</b>	פ	Final Fay	ף	f
<b>Tzadi(k)</b>	צ	Final Tzadi(k)	ץ	tz

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## The Nekudos (Vowels)



### **Komatz**

Looks like a “T” and can be found under the letter, makes a short “u” sound (as in fun)



### **Patach**

Looks like a flat horizontal line under the letter and makes an “ah” sound (as in barn)

Note: The Modern Hebrew (Sepharadic) pronunciation for both the komatz and the patach is the sound, “ah.”

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### Tzayray

Two side-by-side dots under the letter, makes a long “a” sound (as in day)



### Segol

Three dots arranged as an inverted pyramid under the letter, makes a short “e” sound (as in bed)

Note: The Modern Hebrew (Sephardic) pronunciation for both the tzayray and the segol is a short “e.”

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### Sheva

Two dots stacked below the letter, can either have no sound at all (this is called a *sheva nach*) or it can make a quick “ih” sound, as in tick (in which case it is called a *sheva na*)



### Cholam

Can either make a long “o” sound (as in bone), or among some Ashkenazim it makes an “oy” (as in boy). The *cholam* can either appear as a dot at the upper left of a letter, or it takes the form of a vav with the dot above it.

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### **Cheereek**

A single dot below the letter makes a long “e” sound when followed by a yud.

Otherwise it makes a short “i” sound.



### **Shoorook**

Makes an “oo” sound (like boot) and appears like a vav with a dot to its left



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### **Kubutz**

Makes a shorter “oo” sound like in "book" and appears like three dots, arranged like an ascending staircase below the letter

(At times, the komatz, patach and segol may appear with a sheva on their right side. In this case, they are pronounced more briefly, but are known as *chataf komatz*, *chataf patach*, and *chataf segol*.)