




# Representation of the Hebrew alphabet in Latin characters

ANSI Standard Z39.25-1975, "American National Standard Romanization of Hebrew" defines three transliteration schemes, of which only two are of practical importance. The first, denoted "General purpose", guarantees a correct (upper-class Ashkenazi) Israeli Hebrew pronunciation and only requires 7-bit ASCII characters. The second, denoted "more exact", also preserves most Hebrew spelling differences as well as certain pronunciation distinctions observed by Hebrew speakers of Sephardi or Oriental origin, at the expense of introducing some special characters. The two schemes are denoted "ANSI 1" and "ANSI 2" in the table below.

In the first column, the purple and blue letters correspond to the handwritten and printed forms of the Hebrew alphabet, respectively. In addition, the letters kaf, mem, nun, pe, and tzadi have different forms if they occur at the end of a word: in such cases, the "ot sofit" (endletter) is given first.

Beyond the classical Hebrew alphabet, modern Hebrew uses three letters (variants of the gimel, zayin, and tzadi) to represent sounds not present in "native" Hebrew but common in words of Yiddish or Russian (and sometimes Arabic or English) derivation, or in foreign names. These letters appear on a white background. The ANSI standard recommends restoring the original spelling of the word in derivations other than Yiddish: the transliterations given are for Yiddish.

Letter	Letter name	Pronunciation	ANSI 1	ANSI 2	Example
 א	aleph	(vowel stop)	'	'	ha'aretz (The Land, i.e. Israel)
 ב	bet	b, v (depending on position in word)	b	b	ba'aya (problem), geva (hill)
 ג	gimel	German g as in Gross, English g as in Gold, French gu as in guerre	g	g	godel (size)
 ד	dalet	English and Arabic "j", Russian "dzh"	j	dzh	juk (cockroach), jungle
 ה	hey	d as in door	d	d	delet (door)
 ו	vav	h as in hall, French "h aspire"	h	h	heter (permit), hanacha (discount)
 ז	zayin	Depending on context: v, French o, English/German u, w (only in some words of Arabic or English origin)	v	w	vered (rose), sochnut (agency), shwarma (Arabic grilled meat dish)
 ט	tet	English z as in zero	z	z	z'man (time)
 י	yod	French j as in Jean, Russian Zh as in Zhukov	zh	zh	Zhabotinski (Jabotinsky)
 כ	kaph	Dutch g, German ch as in Bach,	g	ch	

ח ן	chet	Arabic h	ch	h	homer (heavy)
ט ך	tet	English or German t	t	t	tal (morning dew)
י ם	yod, yud	Dutch or German j, English y as in yes, (in some contexts also) French vowel i	y,i	y	yom (day), ir (city)
כ ן	kaf	(depending on position in word) k or sharp "ch" sound (Dutch "ch", Arabic "kh")	k, ch	k, kh	kohen (Jewish priest), b'rakha (blessing)
ל ן	lamed	l	l	l	laila (night)
מ ן	mem	m	m	m	memshala (government)
נ ן	nun	n	n	n	ner (candle)
ס ן	samech	s	s	s	sus (horse)
פ ן	pe	p, f (depending on position in word)	p, ph	p, f	p'tor (release), niftar (deceased)
ע ן	ayin	(deep glottal sound)	'	`	`ayin (eye), ra`ayon (idea)
ק ן	quf	deep k, Arabic q	k	q	qibutz (kibbutz)
צ ן	tzadi	German z as in Zeit, English ts, tz	tz, ts	z	tzedek (justice), tziyon (Zion)
צ ן		Russian "Tch" as in "Tchaikowsky", English "ch" as in Churchill or Charley	tch, tsh	tch, tsh	kvetch (complain), mentsh (person of great humanity)
ר ן	resh, reish	rolling r	r	r	rosh (head)
ש ן	shin	sh as in English "shout", s (in some words)	sh, s	sh, s	sherut (service), Yisra'el (Israel)
ת ן	tav	English "th" (for purists only), t	t	th	tehillim (Psalms), Tel-Aviv

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