Chapter 1a - Hebrew Alphabet
twenty-three consonants

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

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.

Regular Form	Final Form	Example	Translit.	Translation
כ	ך	דרך	*drk*	road, way
מ	ם	עם	*ʿm*	nation, people
נ	ן	זקן	*zqn*	old man, elder
פ	ף	כסף	*ksp*	money, silver
צ	ץ	ארץ	*ʾrṣ*	earth, land

Basics of Biblical Hebrew

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.

Begadkephat Letter	Pronunciation	Transliteration
בּ	*b* as in *boy*	*b*
ב	*v* as in *vine*	*b̲*
גּ	*g* as in *God*	*g*
ג	*gh* as in *aghast*	*ḡ*
דּ	*d* as in *day*	*d*
ד	*dh* as in *the*	*d̲*
כּ	*k* as in *king*	*k*
כ	*ch* as in *Bach*	*k̲*
פּ	*p* as in *pastor*	*p*
פ	*ph* as in *alphabet*	*p̄*
תּ	*t* as in *toy*	*t*
ת	*th* as in *thin*	*t̲*

Basics of Biblical Hebrew

Chapter 1d - Hebrew Alphabet
easily confused letters

Hebrew consonants that look alike

1.   בּ (Bet)   כ (Kaf)

2.   ג (Gimel)   נ (Nun)

3.   ה (He)   ח (Óet)   ת (Taw)

4.   שׂ (Sin)   שׁ (Shin)

5.   ם (final Mem)   ס (Samek)

6.   ד (Dalet)   ר (Resh)

7.   צ (Tsade)   ע (Ayin)

8.   ו (Waw)   ז (Zayin)

9.   ו (Waw)   ן (final Nun)

10.   ך (final Kaf)   ן (final Nun)

Hebrew consonants that sound alike

1.   ט (Tet)   תּ (Taw with Daghesh Lene)

2.   ק (Qof)   כּ (Kaf with Daghesh Lene)

3.   ס (Samek)   שׂ (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 Daghesh Lene are pronounced like the forms with Daghesh Lene in modern Hebrew.

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