

Hebrew Alphabet

Letter	Figure	Name	Remark
X	1	Aleph	A silent letter
B	2	Beth	Sounds like "b"
b		Beth	Beth with no dot: Sounds like "w"
g	3	Gimmel	Sounds like "g" in get
G		Gimmel	Only in ancient Hebrew, in Ivrit never with dot
d	4	Daleth	Sounds like "d" in dog
D		Daleth	Only in ancient Hebrew, in Ivrit never with dot
h	5	He	Sounds like "h" in hit
V	6	Vav	Sounds like "v" in wet
Z	7	Zayin	Sounds like "z" in Zebra
H	8	Cheth	Sounds like "ch" in Loch
U		Vav	With a dot in the middle: Sounds like "ou" in you
O		Vav	With a dot on top: Sounds like "o" in Oh!
F	9	Thet	Sounds like "t" in tip
y	10	Jod/Yod	Sounds like "y" in yet
K	20	Kaph/Kaf	Sounds like "k" in keep
j		Kaph/Kaf	Only at the end of words
k		Kaph/Kaf	Sounds like "ch" in Loch
L	30	Lamed	Sounds like "l" in leg
m	40	Mem	Sounds like "m"
M		Mem	Only at the end of words
n	50	Nun	Sounds like "n"
N		Nun	Only at the end of words
S	60	Samek/Ssamech	Sounds like "s" in set
f	70	Ajin/Ayin	Guttural

P	80	Pe/Pey	Sounds like "p" in pet
p		Pe/Pey	Sounds like "ph" in phone
J		Pe/Pey	Only at the end of words
C	90	Tzadi/Sadeh	Sounds like "ts" in meets
C		Tzadi/Sadeh	Only at the end of words
q	100	Qoph/Qof	Sounds like "q" in query
R	200	Resh	Sounds like "r" in rent
W	300	Sin/Shin	Sounds like "s" in sound
w		Shin/Sin	Sounds like "sh" in show
t	400	Tav	Sounds like "t"
T		Tav	Only in ancient Hebrew, in Ivrit never with dot

Remarks

Hebrew is written **from right to left** as other ancient writing. This comes from writing with hammer and chisel on stone plates. For somebody, who is right handed, it is not convenient otherwise.

As in Greek, numbers were represented by normal letters, that means **Aleph=1**, Beth=2, etc. So, every word represents as well a number as the word. The word **Dvd** = David is for example the **number 14**.

At the beginning of Matthew's gospel, the genealogy of Jesus (ancestors of Joseph, the husband of Mary) are listed..
 Matthew 1,17: *Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.* With this statement, Matthew says, that Jesus is the foretold redeemer, who will take over the throne of David. **Jesus is even three times David!**

Today in Israel, also our normal ciphers are used for writing numbers of course.

Beside a few exceptions, the alphabet does **not include any vowels**. The pronunciation of ancient Hebrew was passed on orally. Only Jewish rabbies in Tiberias during the ninth and tenth century, the so called "**Massoret**" (= deliverer), did invent a notation for **vowels using dots**. In this way, they did conserve the traditional pronunciation. In Ivrit, the modern Hebrew, you normally will not find any dots to indicate the pronunciation of vowels.