

# Hebrew Alphabet #1

*Aleph* א

**Vowels:** - ט

Aleph (א) is a silent letter. When it appears with a vowel under it, simply pronounce the vowel, making a short stoppage of breath before the vowel as we do before the **a** in / am or before the **h** in an hour. This stoppage with an **aleph** is transliterated as > .

Exercise 1.1 On your own paper, write a line of *alephs* saying its name each time.

Note: Hebrew is written right to left! Your line will start something like this:

. . . א א א

The **qamats** (*qaw-mawts*), the first Hebrew vowel we will study, looks like a short, wide “**T**”, which is added under the consonant.

Transliterated as **aw**, a **qamats** sounds like the **aw** in saw or the **a** in father.

**ק**<sub>ַ</sub> = <sup>></sup>**aw**

Exercise 1.2 Read aloud the following line  
from right to left:

**X** **X** **X** **X** **X** **X**

Exercise 1.2 Read aloud the following line  
from right to left:

𐤀𐤁𐤂𐤃𐤄𐤅𐤆

You should have said <sup>></sup>**aw** six times, the <sup>></sup>  
indicating a slight break before pronouncing  
each **qamats**.

Exercise 1.2 (cont.)

Ƶ  
Ƶ  
Ƶ  
Ƶ  
Ƶ  
Ƶ

Now, copy the above line, pronouncing each vowel as you write it. (>*aw*)

The **patakh** (*pa-takh*), is written as a dash under a under a consonant. It will be transliterated as **a**, sounding like the **a** in **at** or **sat**. You will be pronouncing this vowel slightly different than is done in modern Hebrew; using the English short *a* sound emphasizes that the **patakh** is a short vowel, whereas the **qamats** is usually long.

**ְ** = **ᶤa**

Exercise 1.3 Read aloud the following line  
from right to left:

κ   κ   κ   κ   κ   κ

Exercise 1.3 Read aloud the following line  
from right to left:

**ʌ   ʌ   ʌ   ʌ   ʌ   ʌ**

You should have said <sup>˘</sup>**a** (as **a** in **at**) for each,  
with a slight break between each.

Exercise 1.3 (cont.):

**χ**   **χ**   **χ**   **χ**   **χ**   **χ**

Now, copy the above line, pronouncing each vowel as you write it. (>**a**)

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

1. χ

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

1.  $\underline{\chi}$

$>a$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

2.  $\mathcal{N}$ <sub>T</sub>

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

2.  $\underset{\tau}{\mathcal{X}}$

$>aw$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

3.  $\underset{\tau}{\lambda}$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

3.  $\underset{\tau}{\mathcal{X}}$

$>aw$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

4. χ

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

4.  $\underline{\chi}$   
>a

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

5. χ

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

5. κ

>a

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

6.  $\underset{\tau}{\chi}$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

6.  $\underset{\tau}{\mathcal{X}}$

$>aw$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

7. χ

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

7. κ

>a

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

8.  $\underset{\tau}{\lambda}$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

8.  $\underset{\tau}{\lambda}$

$>aw$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

9. χ

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

9.  $\underline{\chi}$   
 $>a$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

10.  $\underset{\tau}{\lambda}$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

10.  $\underset{\tau}{\lambda}$

$>aw$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

11.  $\lambda$ <sub>τ</sub>

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

11.  $\underset{\tau}{\lambda}$

$>aw$

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

12. κ

Exercise 1.4 Read each of the following, and then check your pronunciation:

12. κ

>a

Exercise 1.5 Practise by copying this line of *alephs* and vowels, pronouncing as you go.

12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

א א א א א א א א א א א א  
־ ֿ ֿ ־ ֿ ־ ֿ ־ ֿ ֿ ־ ֿ

**End of Alphabet #1**