

# THE HEBREW ALEPH-BET

## The Hebrew Aleph-Bet

The Hebrew Aleph-Bet is the writing system through which the Torah was recorded. Unlike many modern alphabets, Hebrew letters are more than sound symbols they form a structured system that carries meaning, order, and function.

Each letter contributes to how words are built and understood. Learning the Aleph-Bet helps beginners recognize patterns in Torah language and see how meaning is preserved through structure.

Simply put:

Hebrew letters are building blocks that shape meaning not just pronunciation.

## What Beginners Should Know

Hebrew contains 22 letters

The Aleph-Bet has **22 core letters**. These letters form every Hebrew word in the Torah.

Each letter has:

- a name
- a sound
- a structural role in word formation

Together, they create a consistent framework for communication.

Letter names and sounds matter

Hebrew letters are named and pronounced in ways that support memory and structure.

Beginners don't need perfect pronunciation immediately the goal is recognition and familiarity.

Learning letter names helps you:

follow Hebrew words  
identify roots  
understand structure

### Optional pictographic understanding

Early Hebrew writing used symbolic shapes that represented ideas or functions. While modern Hebrew letters are stylized, some learners find it helpful to remember:

letters originally reflected **function or imagery**

This is optional learning useful, but not required for beginners.

### Hebrew originally had no written vowels

Ancient Hebrew texts were written using **consonant letters only**. Readers understood pronunciation through familiarity and context.

### Vowel points were added later

Small marks called vowel points were introduced centuries later to help readers pronounce words consistently.

These marks assist learning but are not part of the original letter structure.

### Letters carry structure and meaning

Hebrew words are built intentionally. Letter order matters, and patterns reveal relationships between words.

This structure helps preserve meaning across generations.

## **Psalm 119:130 Beginner Explanation**

### **Plain-language summary:**

Understanding grows when instruction is opened and explained.

Learning Hebrew letters is one way of opening the structure of the Word. As the building blocks become familiar, meaning becomes clearer and easier to follow.

## Simple Aleph-Bet Overview (Beginner Reference)

Here is a starter recognition chart:

Aleph — A (silent carrier sound)

Bet — B / V

Gimel — G

Dalet — D

He — H

Vav — V / O / U

Zayin — Z

Het — Kh (soft throat sound)

Tet — T

Yod — Y / I

Kaf — K / Kh

Lamed — L

Mem — M

Nun — N

Samekh — S

Ayin — silent / throat sound

Pe — P / F

Tsadi — Ts

Qof — K (deep sound)

Resh — R

Shin — Sh / S

Tav — T

Beginners should focus on **recognition**, not perfection.

If you're new:

Hebrew letters form a structured system for meaning.

Words are built intentionally from these letters.

Familiarity opens understanding step by step.

In simple terms:

Hebrew letters create meaning through structure and order.