

# An Introduction to the Hebrew Alphabet

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ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
Tet (T)	Chet (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V/O/U)	He (H)	Dalet (D)	Gimel (G)	Bet (B/V)	Alef (Silent)
ס	נ	מ	ל	כ	י			
Samech (S)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	Yod (Y)		
ת	ש	ר	ק	ץ	צ	ף	פ	ע
Tav (T/S)	Shin (Sh/S)	Resh (R)	Qof (Q)	Tzade (Tz)	Tzade (Tz)	Fe (F)	Pe (P/F)	Ayin (Silent)

## Introduction

- So for the next portion of your work, you'll be finding uniqueness points for Hebrew words and nonwords
- This is very similar to what you were doing for Maltese.
- The only difference is that you'll be using the Hebrew alphabet
- In order to do this work, we'd like to give you an introduction to the alphabet so that you'll feel more comfortable doing this work

## Hebrew

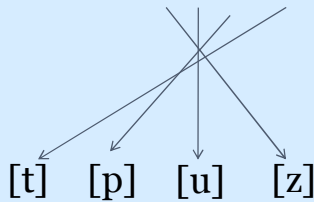
- The Hebrew alphabet differs from the Maltese alphabet in both characters and the direction it is written and read.
- So for example, this word, which means orange (the fruit) is written this way:

תפוז  
←

- You read and write everything from the right to the left.

- So let's break down the letters in this one word:

תפוז

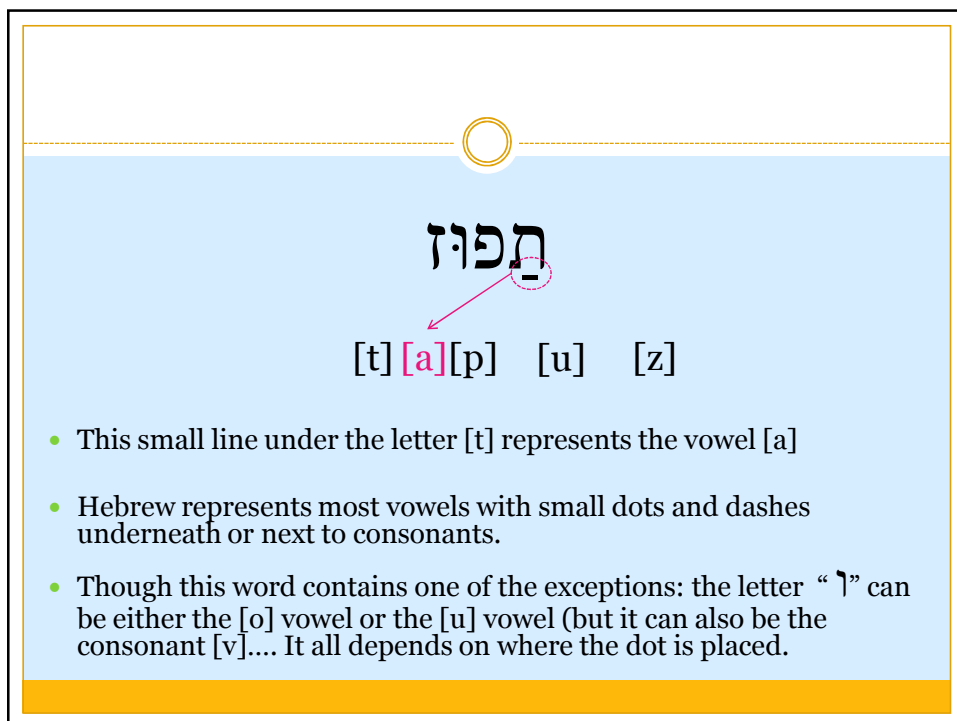


But this isn't how you actually say this yet...  
Something's missing....



תפוז


[t] [p] [u] [z]



תפוז

[t] [a] [p] [u] [z]

- This small line under the letter [t] represents the vowel [a]
- Hebrew represents most vowels with small dots and dashes underneath or next to consonants.
- Though this word contains one of the exceptions: the letter “ך” can be either the [o] vowel or the [u] vowel (but it can also be the consonant [v].... It all depends on where the dot is placed.

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- If this all sounds very confusing, don't worry!
  - For the most part we don't need you to know how to pronounce the Hebrew words you're working with...
  - But you should be able to identify the letters well enough to find them on the keyboard on the PsyCol Uniqueness Point Calculator
  - When you get to the uniqueness point measurements in the sound files themselves, for the most part you will have an IPA transcription to work from ☺

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- So let's look at all the letters together on the handout you've been given.

## Confusing Things: Dots

- Sometimes the dot matters and sometimes it doesn't

The Dot Matters		The Dot Doesn't Matter	
ב	ב	ג	ג
[b]	[v]	[g]	
כ	כ	ד	ד
[k]	[x]	[d]	
פ	פ	ת	ת
[p]	[f]	[t]	

## Confusing Things: Where in the Word?

Sofit (Word final)	Word or Syllable Initial	Sofit Example			Word or Syllable Initial Example		
		Hebrew	Transcription	English	Hebrew	Transcription	English
ך	כ	הולך	[holex]	go	כוס	[kos]	cup
ם	מ	לחם	[lehem]	bread	מרק	[maraq]	soup
ן	נ	שמן	[femen]	oil	נקי	[naqi]	clean
ף	פ	עוף	[Sof]	chicken	פרי	[prik]	fruit
ץ	צ	עציץ	[Satsits]	plant	צלחת	[tsalahat]	plate

- Some of the letters have a different version depending on whether they occur at the end of the word or not
- The version of the letter that occurs word finally is called the *Sofit* version

## Confusing Things: Similar Letters

- Some of the letters make the same sound:

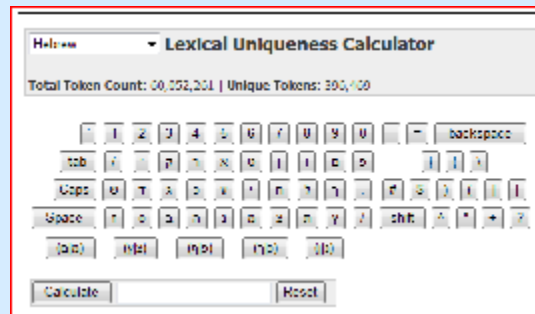
Letter	Sound
ב	[v]
ו	
א	[ʔ] [ʕ]
ע	
ח	[h] [x]
ך	
כ	[k] [q]
ק	
ס	[s]
ש	
ט	[t]
ת	
ת	

## Confusing Things: Similar Letters

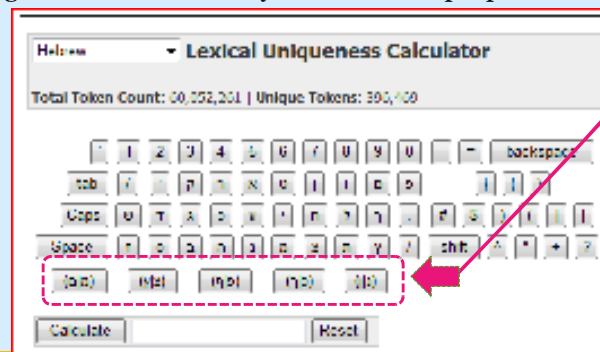
- Some of the letters look alike but are actually different:

ו	ו	ו	ז	ן	נ
[v]	[u]	[o]	[z]	[n]	[n]
ב	ב	כ	כ	ר	
[b]	[v]	[k]	[x]	[ʁ]	
ה	ח	ת	ת		
[h]	[h]	[t]	[t]		
ס	ם	מ			
[s]	[m]	[m]			
ר	ך				
[r]	[x]				

- This last confusing thing is probably the worst one.
- Pay very close attention when you enter in your letters on the uniqueness point calculator



- Another issue that will arise is due to the *sofit* version of some of the letters.
- When you are typing in a word that contains a *sofit* form, please use the buttons along the bottom of the keyboard for that purpose



## Uniqueness Point Calculations

- Other than the new alphabet (and all its quirks) your job is identical to what you've been doing.
  1. You will be assigned a list of Hebrew words or nonwords
  2. You will find each word's uniqueness point using the calculator
  3. You will enter this into your spreadsheet (same format as before)
  4. You will go to the soundfile for that word and locate the uniqueness point in the word and enter the duration measurement you identify into the spreadsheet

## Example

- Let's try a word
- So say you see this word in your word list:  
4abat.paal.wav
- This now has to be converted to Hebrew characters:  
**חבת**
- Question: Why does it only have 3 letters in Hebrew?
- Hebrew doesn't represent most of the vowels... so you'll be leaving those out as you enter things into the calculator (we're not making you use *niqqud*)



## Another Example



- Let's try one with a *sofit* version of a letter:

4anan.paal.wav

- Converted to Hebrew, we'd get this:

חנן

- Note that this item has 2 versions of “*Nun*”: a regular *Nun* and a *Nun Sofit* (final version of *Nun*).
- So you do this when pushing buttons on the calculator: