


















[What is Yiddish?](#)  
[A Brief Explanation](#)







*Alef-beys*  
(Yiddish Alphabet) &  
YIVO  
Transliteration  
Chart

Click on the Yiddish letters below to hear Yiddish words beginning with those letters. (Some letters, such as final letters used at the end of words, do not have audio segments.)

**Note:** To hear the audio segments you must have RealPlayer 6.0 or higher installed on your system. The player can be downloaded for free from the [Realplayer Home Page](#).

Yiddish Letter (Click for sound)	Name of letter	Sound	Romanization
	shtumer (silent) alef (No audio segment)	silent	
	pasekh alef 	a as in wand	a
	komets alef 	o as in ore	o
	beyz 	b as in boy	b
	veyz	v as in violet (No audio segment)	v
	giml 	g as in gold	g

ד	daled 	d as in dog	d
ה	hey 	h as in home	h
ו	vov (No audio segment)	oo as in room	u
וו	melupm vov (No audio segment)	oo as in room	u
ז	zayen 	z as in zoo	z
ח	khes 	ch as in loch	kh
ט	tes 	t as in toy	t
י	yud 	y as in yes; i as in bit; ee as in beet	y; i
יי	khirek yud (No audio segment)	ee as in beet	i
כ	kof 	k as in kitchen	k

כ	khof 	ch as in loch	kh
ך	langer khof (used at end of word) (No audio segment)	ch as in loch	kh
ל	lamed 	l as in long	l
מ	mem 	m as in mouse	m
ם	shlos mem (used at end of word) (No audio segment)	m as in mouse	m
נ	nun 	n as in now	n
ן	langer nun (used at end of word) (No audio segment)	n as in now	n
ס	samekh 	s as in sink	s
ע	ayen 	e as in elm	e

פ	pey 	p as in pink	p
פּ	fey 	f as in farm	f
ף	langer fey (used at end of word) (No audio segment)	f as in farm	f
צ	tsadek 	ts as in patsy	ts
ץ	langer tsadek (used at end of word) (No audio segment)	ts as in patsy	ts
ק	kuf 	k as in kitchen	k
ר	reysh 	r as in red	r
ש	shin 	sh as in shop	sh
שׂ	sin 	s as in sink	s

ת	tof 	t as in toy	t
ת	sof (No audio segment)	s as in sink	s

Letter combinations	Sound	Romanization
וו	v as in violet 	v
זש	s as in measure 	zh
דזש	j as in judge (No audio segment)	dzh
טש	ch as in cheese 	tsh
ײ	oy as in toy (No audio segment)	oy
ײ	a as in date (No audio segment)	ey
ײ	i as in ride (No audio segment)	ay

