YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH

What is Yiddish? *Alef-beys* (Yiddish Alphabet) & 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
א	shtumer (silent) alef (No audio segment)	silent	
אָ	komets alef	o as in ore	o
אַ	pasekh alef	a as in wand	a
ב	beyz	b as in boy	b
בֿ	veyz	v as in violet (No audio segment)	v
ג	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

Verbix: Yiddish notes

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	y
כּ	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

Verbix: Yiddish notes

ע	ayen 🔊	e as in elm	e
פּ	pey 🔊	p as in pink	p
פֿ	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

Letter combinations	Sound	Romanization
וו	v as in violet 🔊	v
	s as in measure 🔊	zh

Verbix: Yiddish notes

זש		
דזש	j as in judge (No audio segment)	dzh
טש	ch as in cheese 🔊	tsh
וי	oy as in toy (No audio segment)	oy
יי	a as in date (No audio segment)	ey
ײַ	i as in ride (No audio segment)	ay

Verbix: Yiddish notes