The Aleph-Bet – The Hebrew Alphabet

Hebrew Letter	כ	י	ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
What it's called	Khaf	Yad	Tet	Khet	Zayin	Vav	Hay	Dalet	Gimel	Bet	Aleph
How it sounds	CH (as in loch) or C	Y	T	CH as in loch	Z	V (or O or OO)	H	D	G	B or V	Silent letter

Hebrew Letter	ת	ש	ר	ק	צ	פ	ע	ס	נ	מ	ל
What it's called	Tav	Shin	Resh	Kof	Tzadeh	Peh	Ayin	Samech	Nun	Mem	Lamed
How it sounds	T	SH or S	R	K	TZ	P or F	Silent letter	S	N	M	L

Hebrew Letter	These 5 letters have a different shape (but the same sound) if they are the **last** letter in a word.						ץ	ף	ן	ם	ך
What it's called							Final Ayin	Final Peh	Final Nun	Final Mem	Final Khaf

Teachers' Notes - Letters and Sounds

Transliterating sounds from Hebrew into English is tricky - and can be confusing to English speakers:

In the letter names **Aleph**, **Dalet**, **Vav**, **Lamed**, **Samech**, **Yad**, **Khaf**, **Tav** the *a* has the sound of long *u* (ie. the way *sun* would be pronounced in London).

In **Nun** the *u* is short (ie. The way *sun* would be pronounced in the North of England).

Zayin is pronounced *z-eye-in* and ***Ayin*** is pronounced *eye-in.*

The 2 silent letters, **Aleph** and **Ayin** generally indicate that there is a vowel sound (without specifying which one); **Vav**, as well as indicting the sound *V,* can also represent the vowels *O* (as in *body*) or *OO* (as in food) - you have to understand the context to know which. **Yud** which, as well as giving the sound *Y*, can be used to represent the sounds *AY* or *EEY.*

All the other letters are consonants.

The *CH* sound, used in the English word *chair*, is not used in Hebrew. When transliterating Hebrew into English characters *ch* are usually used to denote the sound that is technically known as a *voiceless velar fricative* – the throat-clearing noise at the end of the Scots word *loch* (sometimes this sound is transliterated as *kh*). Hebrew also has no use for the sounds of *j* or *w.*

Hebrew also uses the letters of the alphabet as numerals. The first 10 letters have the values 1 – 10; other letters have higher values such as 50 and 100. It works rather like the Roman system except that the position of the letter is irrelevant, their values are simply added. This means that every Hebrew word has a numerical value – a fact that has been put to use in the system known as Gematria, which tries to elicit meaning by comparing the numerical values of words in a text (the assumption being that, since language is God's gift, any numerical links between words are not coincidental).

https://www.jewfaq.org/alephbet.htm Gives a clear, simple explanation of how diacritic signs are used in printed texts to add vowels and to differentiate letters with alternative sounds.

The Hebrew font I have used here is **SPTiberian** which you can download for free (should you want it) from http://www.pement.org/hebfonts.htm and possibly from other sources. (In fact if you have downloaded the .docx file of this document you will not see the Hebrew letters **unless** you have this font installed on your computer).

(It is also possible to install a Hebrew as a language option on both Windows computer and Apple computers which would also enable typing from right to left).