

TABLE 61.4: *The Yiddish Alphabet*

Letter ^a	Name	Value ^b	YIVO ^c	Other	Notes ^d
א	(shtumer) alef	–	–	(ʔ)	silent; occurs initially before <i>i, u, ey, ay, oy</i>
פּ	pasekh alef	[ɑ]	a	א	*
קּ	komets alef	[ɔ]	o		*
ב	beys	[b]	b	ב	
װ	veys	[v]	v	(b)	ב only in Semitic words; never word-initial
ג	giml	[g]	g		
ד	daled	[d]	d		
ה	hey	[h]	h		
ו	vov	[ʊ]	u	(w)	
װ	melupm vov	[ʊ]	u	װ	*; occurs after װ v; occurs before װ y
װ	tsvey vovn	[v]	v		*
ױ	vov-yud	[ɔj]	oy		*
ז	zayen	[z]	z		
זײַ	zayen-shin	[ʒ]	zh		*
ח	khes	[x]	kh	(ħ)	only in Semitic words
ט	tes	[t]	t	(t̥)	
טש	tes-shin	[ʃ]	tsh		*
י	yud	[j]	y		before or after vowel
		[ɪ]	i		between consonants
		[-]	y		after <i>t, d, s, z, l, n</i> and before a vowel indicates the palatals in words of Slavic origin
יִ	khirik yud	[ɪ]	i	יִ	*; occurs after initial יִ y; occurs after vowels
ײַ	tsvey yudn	[ej]	ey		*
ײַ	pasekh tsvey yudn	[aj]	ay	ײַ	*
כּ	kof	[k]	k	כּ	only in Semitic words
כּ, ךּ	khof, lange khof	[x]	kh	(k̆)	
ל	lamed	[l, l̥, ļ]	l		
מ, ךּ	mem, shlos mem	[m]	m		
נ, ךּ	nun, lange nun	[n]	n		
ס	samekh	[s]	s		
ע	ayin	[ɛ]	e	(ʔ)	unstressed = [ɛ̃] or [ɪ], depending on dialect
פּ	pey	[p]	p		
פּ, ףּ	fey, lange fey	[f]	f	(p̆)	פּ
צ, ץ	tsadek, lange tsadek	[ts]	ts	(s̆)	
ק	kuf	[k]	k	(q)	
ר	reysh	[r]	r		
שׂ	shin	[ʃ]	sh	(š)	
שׂ	sin	[s]	s	(ś)	שׂ only in Semitic words
תּ	tof	[t]	t	תּ	only in Semitic words
תּ	sof	[s]	s	(t̥)	only in Semitic words; never word-initial

a. A letter after a comma is the final form.

b. The values given do not necessarily apply to words of Semitic origin, which follow a distinct set of rules.

c. YIVO transliteration; the Hebrew transliteration of the letter is shown in parentheses.

d. An asterisk indicates that the letter/digraph is not treated by YIVO as a separate item for alphabetization.

TABLE 61.6: *Dialect Variation in Vowel Realization*

Letter	YIVO	Northeast	Central	South
אַ	[a]	[a]	[a]	[a]
אָ	[ɔ]	[ɔ]	[ʊ, ʊ:/ɔ, ɔ:]	[ʊ/ɔ]
י	[i]	[i]	[i, i:]	[i]
ו	[ʊ]	[ʊ]	[i, i:/ʊ, ʊ:]	[i/ʊ]
ע	[ɛ]	[ɛ]	[ɛ/ɛj]	[ɛ/ɛj]
יי	[ɛj]	[ɛj]	[a:]	[a]
יי	[aj]	[aj]	[a:(j)]	[ɛj]
וי	[ɔj]	[ɛj/ɔj]	[ɔj, ɔ:j, ɔw]	[ɔj, ɔw, ʊ]

TABLE 61.5: *Pseudo-etymological vs. Morphophonemic Spelling*

German	Pseudo-etymological	Pronunciation	Morphophonemic	Gloss
T(h)ür	טהור	thur	טיר	tir 'door'
Jude	יוד	yud	ייד	yid 'Jew'
sehr	זעהר	zehr	זייער	zeyer 'very'
ver-	פֿער-	fer-	פֿאַר-	far- (verbal prefix)
ab-	אַב-	ab-	אַפּ-	op- (verbal prefix)