

# Rules for Pronunciation

This page describes the rules of pronunciation, as used by the Amsterdam Portuguese community. See references below.

Some browsers do not show the punctuation correctly, therefore you can find all, including the hyperlinks to the recordings in this pdf file.

## Rules for pronunciation of letters.

For ease of reading, Hebrew words are transliterated in this site, based on <http://www.jewfaq.org/alephbet.htm>.

### Recording of the letters (JBS)

Letter	Pronunciation	Transliteration	Pronunciation Example
א	Silent	'	
ב	B	V	
בָּ	B	B	ברָבּ berob
ח	Ch	G	חָחָ chach
ג	G	G	like in gram: גָּם gam,
ד	D	D	
ה	H	H	
ו	V	V	
ז	Z	Z	
חָ	Ch	Ch	
ט	T	T	
י	Y	Y	
כָּ	Kh	Kh	
כָּ	K	K	
לָ	L	L	
מָ	M	M	
נָ	N	N	
סָ	S	S	
עָ	Ng	'	like in wrong עָלִינוּ ngalenu
פָּ	F	F	

# Rules for Pronunciation

פ	P	P	
צ	Tz	Tz	
ק	K	K	
ר	R	R	
שׁ	Sh	Sh	
שׂ	S	S	
ת, תּ	T	T	

## Rules for Pronunciation

## **Rules for Pronunciation of vowels.**

## Recording of the examples (JBS)

אָ אָ אָ אָ	A		Like in apple: Addon אָדוֹן
אָ	O		Like in hope לְאַחֲרֵיכֶם
אָ	I		Like in “it”: Shinatata שִׁנָּתָתָה
אָ	I		Like in “it”: baruch Shim בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם
אָ אֵי	I		Like in “it”: bibne בְּבִנֵּי
וְ אָ	U		Like in brute, ubjom וְבִיּוּם
וְ אָ	O		Like in hope
אָ	Uh/silent		Like in hurt, buchor, or silent, see sheva rules below בְּכֹור

## **Rules for Pronunciation of special vowels.**

## Recording of the examples (JBS)

Vowels	Pronunciation	Example
אָ	a	קָדְשִׁים Kadashim, אַהֲלֵיכֶם aholehem
אָ	o	(open unaccented syllable) כְּקָרְבָּם: kekarobkhem
אָהָ	aha	הָלְלָיְהָ (mapik)
אָהָ	aha	נוֹחָהָ (mapik)
אָהָהָ	ehe	פָּרָקָנָהָ (mapik)
אָ	a	בָּמוֹ עַשְׁבָּ Kamo ngeseb
אָ	Sheva is silent	בְּיּוּם ubjom
אָיָ	i	וַיִּשְׁם viyaseem

# Rules for Pronunciation

אָ

u

בִּיְשָׁרְאֵל buyisrael (exception on  
above rule)

In 1956, Mr Jacq. Pais, the teacher of our community, made a booklet to teach the children Hebrew reading. The first 8 pages have Hebrew words transliterated to Dutch. Below I bring some examples. It shows how to pronounce the letters and the vowels for Dutch speakers.

Although the booklet's name is “שפה ברורה”, it was referred to as “koe doet boe boe”, the last line of the first page, see last example below.

Recording of the examples (JBS)

Dutch	transliterated
je jas zit goed	יְיָס זִת גוּט
de jacht hond zit hier	דִּיחָת הַנְּטָזָת הַיְיר
dat gewicht is goed	דָת גִּוְכָת אָס חָת
als nicht kommt ga ik	אָלָס נִגְתָּת קִמְתָּת גָּאַק
koe doet boe boe	קְוֵה דְתָ בְּ בְּ

Sheva rules.

A short summary of the shuva rules can be found here. For a more complete list see e.g.

<http://www.torahresource.com/Hebrew%20MP3/Sheva%20rules.pdf>

**Sheva Na** rules, as formulated by R' Eliyahu Bachur (16th cent.). It

- 1) occurs under the first letter of a word;
- 2) is the second of two Shevas in the middle of a word;
- 3) occurs after a long unaccented vowel;
- 4) occurs under a letter which has a Dagesh;
- 5) occurs between identical letters.

All other Shuvas are Nach ('silent'). The letters begad kefat normally receive a Dagesh at the beginning of a word or in the middle of a word after a Shuva Nach