

Hebrew at a Glance:

Hebrew is both the ancient and modern language of the Jewish people.

Hebrew is a Canaanite language which is a branch of the Northwest Semitic language of the Afroasiatic language family. It is not only a Canaanite language, but also the only Canaanite language still spoken today. It is the only truly successful example of a dead language that has been revived.

The earliest examples of written Paleo-Hebrew date back to the 10th century BCE. Hebrew flourished as a spoken language in the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah during the period from about 1200 to 586 BCE.

The Hebrew Bible doesn't use the term "Hebrew" in reference to a language, but as Yehudit (the language of Judah). Mishnah Gittin refers to the language as Ivrit, meaning Hebrew.

The name Hebrews or Ivri is said to be an adjective based on the name of Abraham's ancestor, Eber, which means "across".

Hebrew stopped being a regular spoken language sometime between 200 and 400 CE. Hebrew continued to be used for Jewish liturgy, rabbinic literature, and Jewish poetry. With the rise of Zionism in the 19th century, there was a full-scale revival of Hebrew as a spoken and literary language.

In 1998, Hebrew was spoken by five million people worldwide and in 2013, it was spoken by over nine million people.

In Hebrew, the vowels appear underneath the consonant letters so usually when we read printed words, they don't have any vowels. Hebrew is read from right to left. Ch is a guttural sound from the back of your throat. In the chart, sometimes letters are doubled like mem or nun. The second one is used as the last letter in a word.

English	Hebrew	Hebrew
Fight	Krav	קרב
Contact	Maga	מגה
Defend	Lehagen	להגן
Hello/Goodbye/Peace	Shalom	שלום
Please	Bevakasha	בבקשה
Thank You	Toda	תודה
Good	Tov	טוב

א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י
Alef	Bet	Gimel	Dalet	He	Vav	Zayin	Chet	Tet	Yod
(silent)	(B/V)	(G)	(D)	(H)	(V)	(Z)	(Ch)	(T)	(Y)
כ	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	ק	ר	ש
Kaf	Lamed	Mem	Nun	Samech	Ayin	Ph	Q	R	S
(K/Kl)	(L)	(M)	(N)	(S)	(silent)				
ת	צ	ץ	ק	ר	ש	ת	פ	ק	ר
Tav	Tsadeh	Tsadeh	Qof	Resh	Shin	Tav	Ph	Q	R
(T)	(Ts)	(Ts)	(Q)	(R)	(Sh/S)	(T)	(P/P)		