

OPTIONS FOR TRANSLITERATING HEBREW INTO ENGLISH CHARACTERS

Consonants

Scholarly*	Popular
א	' or } or nothing
ב	b
בּ	v
ג	g
ד	d
ה	h
ו	w
ז	z
ח	x
ט	t
י	y
ך,כּ	k
ך,ך,כּ	kh or k
ל	l
מ,מ	m
נ,נ	n
ס	s
ע	' or { or nothing
פ,פּ	p
ף,פּ	f
צ,צ	c or ts or tz
ק	q
ר	r
ש	s
שׁ	sh or \$
ת	t
תּ	th or t

Consonants are not transliterated when they serve solely as vowel letters (*matres lectionis*), as in שְׁמֶרָה (*šam'ra*), שׁוֹמֵר (*šomer*), שְׁמֵרָה (*šam'ru*), שְׁמִי (*š'mi*). They are transliterated when they reflect etymological spelling, that is when they are part of the underlying root or are survivals of an earlier form, as in קָרָא (*qara'*), יָאֲכַל (*yo'kal*), רֹאשׁ (*ro's*), רֹאֵה (*ra'oh*), מַעֲשֶׂה (*ma'aseh*).

Vowels

pataḥ and ḥataf pataḥ	a
Note that furtive pataḥ <i>precedes</i> the accompanying consonant; thus: ru ^{aḥ} , 'eloah [not 'eloha], gavo ^{aḥ} [as distinct from fem. g'voha (גִּבְוָה)], lishmo ^a (not lishmo'a)	
qamaṣ and ḥataf qamaṣ	a
qamaṣ qatan/ḥatuf	o
segol and ḥataf segol	e
šere	e
šere followed by yod	ei
	(e.g. b'nei)
ḥiriq	i
ḥolam (with or without vav)	o
qubutz	u
shuruq	u
sheva' naḥ	nothing (e.g. yišmor)
sheva' na'	' (apostrophe) or e
	(e.g. b'nei or benei)

In MS Word or DavkaWriter, use the symbol chart in the "Insert" menu for the aleph and ayin characters (' and ') and to use the apostrophe (') for sheva' na' (you can make macros to speed the process). Using the single/quote apostrophe key is more complicated because the "smart-quotes" function will override your intentions.

Graduate students should also indicate vowel length. See the SBL *Instructions for Contributors* (<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~jtigay/SBLtranslit.gif>)

*For numerous examples of scholarly transliteration see Anderson and Freedman's Anchor Bible commentaries on Hosea and Amos.

Prof. Barry Eichler and Dr. Jay Treat developed a font with diacriticals called PSD Utopia for use in transliterating cuneiform texts. To obtain the font and instructions contact Dr. Treat at 573-3171; jtreat@ccat.sas.upenn.edu.