

URJ TRANSLITERATION GUIDELINES

TRANSLITERATION (common usage – there are exceptions)

ch	<i>chet and chaf</i>	ח כ
f	<i>fei</i>	פ
k	<i>kaf and kuf</i>	כ ק
tz	<i>tzadi</i>	צ
i	<i>chirik</i>	י . .
e	<i>segol</i>	ֿ
ei	<i>tzeirei</i>	י
a	<i>patach and kamatz</i>	- ך
o	<i>cholam and kamatz katan</i>	ֿ ם ן
u	<i>shuruk and kibbutz</i>	ו ם
ai	<i>patach with yod</i>	י -

Final “h” for final *hei* ; none for final *ayin* (exceptions based on common usage): *atah*, *Sh’ma*, but *Moshe*.

Apostrophe for *sh’va nah* (with exceptions based on common usage): *b’nei*; *b’rit*, *Sh’ma*, but *ketubah*.

Hyphen for two vowels together where necessary for correct pronunciation: *ne-eman*, *samei-ach*, but *maariv*, *Shavuot*.

No hyphen for prefixes unless necessary for correct pronunciation: *babayit*, *HaShem*, *Yom HaAtzma-ut*, but *Va-eira*.

Do not double consonants (with exceptions based on dictionary spelling or common usage): *t’filah*, *chayim*, but *tikkun*, *Sukkot*.

CAPITALIZATION

In transliterated text, capitalize only proper nouns. In general, capitalize transliterated word if the word would be capitalized in English (exceptions: pronouns referring to God): *Adonai*, *Eretz Yisrael*, *Gan Eden*, *Adonai Eloheinu Melech haolam*, but *atah*, *hu*.

In transliterated text, use lowercase for prefixes in running text, but capitalize prefixes in titles and proper nouns: “*Ki MiTziyon*” (title of song), *Ki miTziyon teitzei Torah* (running text); *V’zot HaTorah* (title of prayer), *V’zot haTorah asher...* (text of prayer); *l’Adonai*; *HaShem*; *Rosh HaShanah*.

Capitalize references to God: the Divine, the Divine Presence, the One, *HaShem*, You, Your, but who, *atah*, *hu*.

Use lowercase for derivatives of references to God: godlike, godly, messianic.

Capitalize the names of religious denominations and words derived from them: Chasidism, Chasidic, Judaic, Sephardic, Reformers.

Capitalize titles of prayers: *Kiddush*, *Kaddish*, Blessing after Meals, the Four Questions.

Capitalize the names of the service or parts of the service: *Shacharit*, *Yizkor*.

Use lowercase for life-cycle events; bar mitzvah, confirmation, *b'rit milah*.

ITALICS, ROMAN & QUOTATION MARKS

The URJ has guidelines here; but for simplicity, use *italics* for Hebrew titles of prayers and where words would be italic in English.

Use quotation marks for songs.

VOCABULARY

alef-bet

aliyah, aliyot

ark (synagogue)

aufruf

Baal Shem Tov

bar mitzvah

bashert, basherte

bat mitzvah

beit din

bimah

b'nei mitzvah

b'not mitzvah

b'samim

bubbe

chai

challah, challot

Chasidic

Chasidism

chavurah, chavurot

chuppah

chutzpah

confirmand

daven

d'var Torah , divrei Torah

d'rash

eco-kashrut

Erev Shabbat

Gemara

godliness

golem

gut yontif

haftarah, haftarot

hakafah, hakafot

halachah

halachic

hal'luyah

Hatikvah

havdalah (separation)

Havdalah (service)

Hebrew school

hora

Kabbalah

Kaddish

kashrut

kavanah

ketubah, ketubot

Kiddush (prayer, reception)

kippah, kippot

kletzmer, klezmerim

kosher

kvell

l'chayim

life-cycle

loving-kindness

l'shon hara

l'shon hatov

mazal tov

(the whole) megillah

mensch

mezuzah, mezuzot

m'gillah, m'gillot (scroll)

midrash, midrashim,

midrashic, midrashist

mikvah, mikvaot

minyan, minyanim

the Mishnah

mitzvah, mitzvot

mohel, mohalim

nefesh

ner tamid

an **omer** (measure of grain)

Oneg Shabbat

pareve

parashah, parashiyot

Priestly Benediction

prayer book

Rabbis, Rabbinic (Talmudic)

Rabbis, rabbinic

(contemporary)

religious school

r'fuah sh'leimah

r'fuat hanefesh

ruach

schlep

schmooze

Shabbat, Shabbatot

Shabbat shalom

Shabbaton

Shabbes

Shechinah

shekel

shetel

shivah

the Shoah (the Holocaust)

shul

siddur, siddurim

simchah

s'michah

tallit, tallitot

Talmud, Talmudic

tikkun olam

t'shuvah, t'shuvot

tzaddik, tzaddikim

tzedek

tzedakah

Tziyon/Zion

tzitzit

Western Wall

the wilderness

Yad Vashem

yahrzeit

yarmulke

yeshivah, yeshivot

yetzer hara

yetzer hatov

Yisrael

Yizkor

Yom Tov

Y'rushalayim

zayde

Zohar

BIBLE

Ark of the Covenant

Babylonian exile

Babylonian Talmud

Bayit (the Temple)

Beit HaMikdash (the Temple)

Bible

biblical

the Binding of Isaac

b'midbar (wilderness)

Book of Exodus

the Burning Bush

Children of Israel

the Chosen People

Chumash

covenant

creation (generic)

the Creation

the Diaspora

the Divine

the Divine Name

Eichah (Lamentations)

El (God)

Elijah's cup

Eloheinu

Elohim

Eretz Yisrael

the Exodus (from Egypt)

the First Temple

Five Books of Moses

the five M'gillot
the Flood (from Noach)
Gan Eden (Garden of Eden)
God's name
Golden Calf
Habakkuk
HaShem (God)
heaven
High Priest
the Holy Ark
the Holy Land
the Holy of Holies
the Holy One, blessed be He
House of David
Iyov (the Book of Job)
Jubilee year
Judah (southern Kingdom)
Judea (after Babylonian exile)
kohein, kohanim
Kohelet (Book of Ecclesiastes)
K'tuvim (Writings – Bible)
Land of Israel, the Land
Later Prophets
Levite
Literary Prophets
Maccabees
Major Prophets
Manasseh
manna
Masada
a matriarch, the Matriarchs
a messiah, the Messiah
messianic
messianic age
m'gillah, m'gillot (scroll)
the M'gillah (Book of Esther)
M'gillat Esther
mikdash (sanctuary)
Mikdash (the Temple)
Minor Prophets
Mishkan (the Tabernacle)

Mishlei (Proverbs)
N'chemyah (Book of
Nehemiah)
Northern Kingdom
N'vi-im (Prophets – Bible)
a patriarch, the Patriarchs
patriarchal
Pentateuch, Pentateuchal
priest
Promised Land
a prophet, prophets
Prophets (book of the Bible)
a psalm, psalms, the psalm
Psalm 113
Psalms (book of the Bible)
Rebekah
red heifer
Revelation (at Sinai)
Sabbatical year
the Sanhedrin
Scripture (the Bible)
scriptural
Scroll of Esther
the Second Temple
sefer Torah (a Torah scroll)
Shir HaShirim (Song of
Songs)
Shoftim (Book of Judges)
Southern Kingdom
the Tabernacle
Tanach
the Temple
Ten Commandments
ten lost tribes
the Ten Plagues
the tenth plague
Tent of Meeting
T'hillim (Book of Psalms)
Torah
Tower of Babel
tribe of Judah
the twelve tribes

Writings (section of Bible)
YHVH

HOLIDAYS

Chanukah
Day of Atonement
Days of Awe
High Holy Days
Hoshana Rabbah
Kol Nidrei
Lag BaOmer
Pesach
Purim
the Ninth of Av
Rosh Chodesh
Rosh HaShanah
Shavuot
Sh'mini Atzeret
Simchat Torah
Sukkot
Tashlich
Tishah B'Av
Tu B'Av
Tu BiSh'vat
Yom HaAtzma-ut
Yom HaShoah
Yom HaZikaron
Yom Kippur

Book of Life
chameitz
chanukiyah
counting of the Omer
cup of Elijah
cup of Miriam
dreidel
etrog
the Four Questions
Haggadah, Haggadot
hamantaschen
latke

lulav
Machzor
matzah, matzot
menorah
Purim-speil
seder
shalach manot
shalachmanos
shofar
sukkah, Sukkot

LETTERS

alef
ayin
bet
chet
dalet
gimel
hei
kaf
kaf sofit
kuf
lamed
mem
mem sofit
nun
nun sofit
pei
pei sofit
reish
samech
shin
sin
tav
tet
tzadi
tzadi sofit
yod
zayin

MONTHS

Adar	Mishpatim	“Dayeinu”
Av	M’tzora	“Eliyahu HaNavi”
Cheshvan	Naso	El Malei Rachamim
Elul	Nitzavim	Elohai N’shamah
Iyar	Noach	G’vurot
Kislev	Pinchas	HaMotzi
Nisan	P’kudei	Hashkiveinu
Sh’vat	R’eih	“Hatikvah”
Sivan	Sh’lach L’cha	“Hava Nagila”
Tammuz	Sh’mini	“Hinei Mah Tov”
Tevet	Sh’mot	Hodaah
Tishrei	Shoftim	K’dushah HaShem

PARSHIVOT

Acharei Mot	Tazria	K’dushat HaYom
Balak	Toldot	L’chah Dodi
B’chukotai	T’rumah	Maariv Aravim
B’haalot’cha	T’tzaveh	Mah Tovu
B’har	Tzav	Mi Chamochah
B’midbar	Va-eira	Mi Shebeirach
Bo	Va-et’chanan	Modeh Ani
B’reishit	Vayak’heil	Modim Anachnu
B’shalach	Va-y’chi	Morning Blessings
Chayei Sarah	Vayeilech	Oseh Shalom
Chol HaMo-eid Sukkot	Vayeira	Priestly Benediction
Chukat	Vayeishev	P’sukei D’zimrah
D’varim	Vayeitzei	Shalom Aleichem
Eikev	Vayigash	Shalom Rav
Emor	Vayikra	Shehecheyanu
Haazinu	Vayishlach	Sh’ma
K’doshim	V’zot Hab’rachah	Sh’moneh Esreih
Ki Tavo	Yitro	Sim Shalom

PRAYERS / SONGS

Ki Teitzei	Ahavah Rabbah	T’filah (Amidah)
Ki Tisa	Ahavat Olam	Un’taneh Tokef
Korach	Aleinu	V’ahavta
Lech L’cha	Ashrei	V’shamru
Mas-ei	Avinu Malkeinu	Yotzer
Matot	Avot V’Imahot	Yih’yu L’ratzon
Mikeitz	Bar’chu	
	Birkat HaMazon	
	Chatzi Kaddish	