

URJ Transliteration Guidelines and Master Word List

Prepared by Debra Hirsch Corman and Rabbi Hara Person

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Transliteration

See Word List for exceptions to the following guidelines, based on dictionary spelling or common usage.

“ch” for *chet* and *chaf*

“f” for *fei*

“k” for *kaf* and *kuf*

“tz” for *tzadi*

“i” for *chirik*

“e” for *segol*

“ei” for *tzeirei*

“a” for *patach* and *kamat*

“o” for *cholam* and *kamat* *katan*

“u” for *shuruk* and *kibbutz*

“ai” for *patach* with *yod*

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

Generally use italics for transliterated words that do not appear in the dictionary (see Word List).

Generally use roman for transliterated words that appear in the dictionary (see Word List); but use italics if the word appears in a transliterated phrase where other words are in italic: *Shabbat*, *Oneg Shabbat*.

Use roman or italics for foreign titles according to whether they would be roman or italic in English: the song “*Hava Nagila*”; the book *Mishneh Torah*.

Use roman for titles of classic Jewish texts: *Torah*, *Mishnah*, *Talmud*, *midrash*.

Use italics for the Hebrew titles of prayers, roman for English titles: *Kaddish*, *Kiddush*, *Sh'ma*, the Four Questions, Blessing after Meals. Exception: Depending on context, treat as song—use roman, in quotation marks.

Use roman for foreign proper names, including organizations: *Yochanan ben Zakkai*, *Magen David Adom*.

Use roman for Hebrew months: *Adar*, *Elul*.

Use roman for holidays: *Pesach*, *Lag BaOmer*.

Master Word List, URJ Press

Acharei Mot (parashah)
acknowledgment
Adar (month)
Adar I (month)
Adar II (month)
“Adir Hu” (song)
Adon Olam
Adonai
Adonai Melech
Adonai Tz’vaot
afikoman
aggadah, aggadot
aggadic
agunah
ahavah
Ahavah Rabbah (prayer)
Ahavat Olam (prayer)
Akeidah
Akiva
Al Cheit (prayer)
alef (letter)
alef-bet
Aleinu (prayer)
Al HaNisim (prayer)
aliyah, aliyot
A.M. (SMALL CAPS)
am
Amidah
Amora, Amoraim
amoraic
am s’gulah
Am Yisrael
Angel of Death
Ani Maamin (prayer)
aninut
anti-Semitism
Arachin (tractate)
aravah
arbaah minim
arba kanfot
Arba Parashiyot
ark (synagogue)
Ark of the Covenant, the Ark
Aron HaB’rit
Aron HaKodesh
Aseret HaDibrot
Aseret Y’mei T’shuvah
Ashamnu (prayer)
Ashkenazi, Ashkenazim
Ashkenazic
Ashrei (prayer)
atzei chayim
atzeret
aufruf
Av (month)
Avadim (tractate)

avanah
aveirah
Avinu Malkeinu (prayer)
Avinu shebashamayim
avodah
Avodah Zarah (tractate)
avon
Avot (tractate)
Avot D’Rabbi Natan (tractate)
Avot V’Imahot (prayer)
ayin (letter)

baal korei
Baal Shem Tov
baal t’shuvah
Babylonian Empire
Babylonian exile
Babylonian Talmud
baby naming, baby-naming ceremony
badchan
Balak (parashah)
bal tashchit
baraita, baraitot
Bar’chu
bareich
Bar Kochba
bar mitzvah
Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam,
asher kid’shanu b’mitzvotav v’tzivanu
Baruch She-Amar (prayer)
Baruch Shem
Baruch SheNatan (prayer)
bashert, basherte
bat
bat mitzvah
Bava Batra (tractate)
Bava Kama (tractate)
Bava M’zia (tractate)
Bavli
bayit (house)
Bayit (the Temple)
B.C.E. (SMALL CAPS)
b’chol l’vavcha
B’chorot (tractate)
B’chukotai (parashah)
b’dikat chameitz
beit (house of)
beit din
Beit HaMikdash (the Temple)
Beit Hillel, Beit Shammai
beit k’neset
beit midrash
beit t’filah
beitzah (egg)
Beitzah (tractate)
ben

Ben-Gurion, David
Ben Sira
bet (letter)
Beth Hatefutsoth
B'haalot'cha (parashah)
B'har (parashah)
Bible
biblical
bikur cholim
Bikurim (tractate)
bimah
binah
the Binding of Isaac
birchot hamitzvot
birchot hanehenin
birchot hapratiyot
Birkat Eirusin (prayer)
Birkat HaMazon (prayer)
Birkat Kohanim (prayer)
Birkat Nisuin (prayer)
Birkat Shalom (prayer)
biur chameitz
Blessing after Meals (prayer)
b'midbar
B'midbar (parashah)
B'midbar Rabbah
B'nai B'rith
B'nei B'rak
b'nei mitzvah
B'nei Yisrael
b'not mitzvah
Bo (parashah)
Book of Exodus
Book of Life
boshet
b'rachah, b'rachot
B'rachot (tractate)
the Bratzlaver Rebbe
b'reishit
B'reishit (parashah)
B'reishit Rabbah
b'riah
b'rit
b'rit hachayim
b'rit milah
b'rit olam
b'riut
b'ruchah at
b'samim
B'shalach (parashah)
b'tzelem Elohim
bubbe
bubbemeises
the Burning Bush

candlelighting blessings

CCAR Responsa Committee
C.E. (SMALL CAPS)
Central Europe
"Chad Gadya" (song)
Chabad
chadash
chaf
chag
Chagall Windows
Chag HaAsif
Chag HaAviv
Chag HaMatzot
Chag HaPesach
Chag HaSukkot
Chagigah (tractate)
chai
chalilah
chalitzah
challah (sacrifice)
challah, challot (bread)
Challah (tractate)
Chameish M'gillot
chameitz
Chamishah-Asar BiSh'vat
Chamor
Chanukah
chanukat habayit
chanukiyah
charoet
Chasid, Chasidim
chasidav
Chasidic
Chasidism
chatan
chatan B'reishit
chatan Torah
chatat
chatimah
Chatzi Kaddish
chaver
chavurah, chavurot
Chayei Sarah (parashah)
chayim
chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik
chazan
chazanut
cheder
cheit
cherem
cherubim
chesed
Chesed (s'firah)
chesed shel emet
Cheshvan (month)
chet (letter)
chevrah kadisha

chevruta
Children of Israel
chochmah
chodesh
Chodesh HaAviv
chol hamo-eid
Chol HaMo-eid Sukkot
the Chosen People
chug
Chukat (parashah)
Chulin (tractate)
Chumash
chuppah
chutzpah
classical Reform Judaism
the codes
the commentaries
confirmand
confirmation
Conservative Judaism
Converso
counting of the Omer
covenant
creation (generic), the Creation
cup of Elijah
cup of Miriam

daat
dalet (letter)
dam
dam b'rit
darshan
daven
Dayan ha-emet
Day of Atonement
Days of Awe
“Dayeinu” (song)
decision making
Derech Eretz Rabbah (tractate)
Derech Eretz Zuta (tractate)
a diaspora, the Diaspora
din
Din (s'firah)
divine (adj.)
the Divine (God)
the Divine Name (God)
the Divine Presence (God)
divrei Torah
D'mai (tractate)
Documentary Hypothesis
d'rash
dreidel
D'TZACH, ADASH, B'ACHAV
D'varim (parashah)
D'varim Rabbah
d'var Torah, divrei Torah

d'veikut
Eastern Europe
East European
echad
“Echad Mi Yodei-a” (song)
eco-kashrut
Eduyot (tractate)
Eichah (Lamentations)
Eichah Rabbah
Eikev (parashah)
Ein Adir
Ein Kamocha
Ein Keiloheinu
Ein Sof
eirusin
eiruv
Eiruv (tractate)
Eishet Chayil
eitz
Eitz Chayim Hi
el (to)
El (God)
Elijah's cup
Eliyahu HaNavi (the prophet)
“Eliyahu HaNavi” (the song)
El Malei Rachamim (prayer)
Elohai N'shamah (prayer)
Elohai N'tzor (prayer)
Eloheinu
Elohim
El Shaddai
Elul (month)
e-mail
Emancipation
emet
Emor (parashah)
emunah
the Enlightenment
Ephraim
Eretz Yisrael
erev
Erev Shabbat, Erev Yom Kippur
Eser Makot
eternal light
etrog
the Evil Eye
exilarch
the Exodus (from Egypt)

family education
festival, the Festivals
firstborn
the First Temple
Five Books of Moses
the Five *M'gillot*

fleishig
 the Flood (from *Noach*)
 the Four Questions
 Full *Kaddish*

Gadlu
gadol
galut
Gan Eden
gaon, gaonim, geonic
 Garden of Eden
Geihinom
 gelt
 Gemara
genizah
 gentile
 geonic
ger, gerim
 the Gerer Rebbe
Gerim (tractate)
get, gittin
 ghetto, but Warsaw Ghetto
gibur
gimel (letter)
Gittin (tractate)
giyoret, giyorot
g'lilah
g'mar chatimah tovah
g'matria
g'milut chasadim
 godlike
 godliness
 godly
 God's name
go-eil
 Golden Calf
 golem
goy (nation)
grager
 the Great *Hallel*
 the Great *Kaddish*
G'ulah (prayer)
gut yontif (Yiddish)
G'vurah (s'firah)
G'vurot (prayer)

Haazinu (parashah)
 Habakkuk
hachnasat orchim
hadas, hadasim
 haftarah, haftarot
 Haggadah, Haggadot
hakafah, hakafot
Hakotel
 halachah
 halachic

Half *Kaddish*
hallel (praise)
Hallel (prayers)
Hallel HaGadol (prayer)
 Hallelujah (English translation)
hal'luyah (transliteration)
HaMakom (God)
 hamantaschen
Hamavdil (prayer)
HaMotzi (prayer)
han'viah
haolam
HaRachaman (God)
HaShem (God)
Hashkiveinu (prayer)
 Haskalah (the movement, the Enlightenment)
 "Hatikvah" (song)
 "Hava Nagila" (song)
havdalah (separation)
Havdalah (service)
hayom
 heaven
 Hebrew school
 Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of
 Religion (HUC-JIR) [en-dash for spelled out;
 hyphen for abbreviation]
hei (letter)
 hell
hespeid
hidur mitzvah
hidur p'nei zakein
hifil
 High Holy Days
 High Priest
Hilchot T'shuvah
 Hillel
 Hillel sandwich
 "Hinei Mah Tov" (song)
 Historical Prophets
hitpa-eil
Hod (s'firah)
Hodaah
 the Holiness Code
 the Holy Ark
 the Holy Land
 the Holy of Holies
 the Holy One (God)
 the Holy One, blessed be He
 hora
Horayot (tractate)
 Hoshana Rabbah (holiday)
hoshanot
hoshiah na
 House of David
 House of Hillel
 House of Israel

House of Judah	<i>ketubah, ketubot</i>
House of Shammai	<i>keva</i>
	<i>kever avot</i>
intermarriage (not mixed marriage)	<i>k'hilah, k'hilot</i>
intermarried (not mixed married)	“Ki Anu Amecha” (song)
<i>ish</i>	<i>kibud av va-eim</i>
<i>ishah</i>	<i>kibud hameit</i>
<i>Ivrit</i>	<i>kibud z'keinim</i>
Iyar (month)	kibbutz
<i>Iyov</i> (Book of Job)	kibbutznik
	<i>Kiddush</i> (prayer, reception)
Jerusalem Talmud	<i>Kiddush HaShem</i>
<i>Jerusalem Targum</i>	<i>Kiddush L'Yom Shabbat</i> (prayer)
the Jewish Federation	<i>kiddushin</i>
Jewish Renewal Movement	<i>Kiddushin</i> (tractate)
Jews-by-choice	<i>Kil'ayim</i> (tractate)
Jubilee year	“Ki Lo Na-eh” (song)
Judah (southern kingdom)	“Ki MiTziyon” (song)
Judea (after Babylonian exile)	Kingdom of Israel
judgment	Kingdom of Judah
	<i>Kinim</i> (tractate)
Kabbalah	<i>kinot</i>
<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> (service)	<i>kinyan</i>
kabbalism	<i>kinyan sudar</i>
kabbalistic	<i>kippah, kippot</i>
kabbalists	Kislev (month)
<i>Kaddish</i>	<i>Ki Tavo</i> (parashah)
<i>Kaddish D'Rabanan</i> (prayer)	<i>Ki Teitzei</i> (parashah)
<i>Kaddish L'Hitchad'ta</i> (prayer)	<i>kitel</i>
<i>Kaddish Shaleim</i> (prayer)	<i>Ki Tisa</i> (parashah)
<i>Kaddish Titkabeil</i> (prayer)	<i>Kitzur Shulchan Aruch</i>
<i>Kaddish Yatom</i> (prayer)	<i>k'laf</i>
<i>kadeish</i>	<i>K'lal Yisrael</i>
<i>kadosh</i>	klezmer, klezmerim
<i>kaf</i> (letter)	Knesset
<i>kaf sofit</i> (letter)	<i>Kodashim</i> (tractate)
<i>kal</i>	<i>kodesh</i>
<i>kallah, kallot</i>	<i>Kodesh HaKodashim</i>
<i>Kallah</i> (tractate)	<i>kohein, kohanim</i> (priest)
<i>Kallah Rabbati</i> (tractate)	<i>Kohein Gadol</i>
<i>kaparot</i>	<i>Kohelet</i> (Book of Ecclesiastes)
<i>karpas</i>	<i>Kohelet Rabbah</i>
kashrut	<i>kol</i>
<i>katan</i>	<i>Kol Nidrei</i>
<i>kavanah</i>	<i>Korach</i> (parashah)
<i>kavod</i>	<i>korban</i>
<i>k'doshim</i>	kosher
<i>K'doshim</i> (parashah)	<i>kos Miryam</i>
<i>k'dushah</i>	<i>k'ra</i>
<i>K'dushah</i> (the prayer)	<i>k'rei</i>
<i>K'dushat HaShem</i> (prayer)	<i>k'riah</i>
<i>K'dushat HaYom</i> (prayer)	<i>K'ritot</i> (tractate)
<i>Keilim</i> (tractate)	<i>k'tiv</i>
<i>kein</i>	<i>K'tubot</i> (tractate)
<i>keseif</i>	<i>K'tuvim</i> (Writings—Bible)
<i>Keter</i> (<i>s'firah</i>)	<i>k'vod hameit</i>

kuf (letter)
 kugel
Kutim (tractate)
kvater, kvaterin
kvell

l'Adonai
 Lag BaOmer
lamed (letter)
lamed-vav tzaddik
 Land of Israel, the Land
 Later Prophets
 latke
 lay leader
 layperson, laypeople
L'chah Dodi
l'chayim
lechem hapanim
Lech L'cha (parashah)
Leil Shimurim
Leivi, L'vi-im
lev
 Levite
 Liberal (referring to denomination)
 life cycle, life-cycle event
Likutei Moharan
 Literary Prophets
L'maan Tizk'ru
lo anochiyut
lo l'vayeish
 loving-kindness
l'shanah habaah birushalayim
l'shanah tovah tikateivu
l'shon hara
l'shon hatov
 Lubavitcher
lulav
 Lurianic Kabbalah

Maariv (Evening Service)
Maariv Aravim (prayer)
maaseh
Maaseh B'reishit
Maaseh Merkavah
Maaseir Sheini (tractate)
maasim tovim
Maas'rot (tractate)
 Maccabees
macher
Machshirin (tractate)
machzor
Machzor Vitry
 Magen David
 Magen David Adom
Magid (section of Haggadah)
Mah Nishtanah

Mah Tovu
 Major Prophets
Makot (tractate)
malach
Malchut (s'firah)
Malchuyot (section of *machzor*)
mamzer, mamzerim
mamzeret, mamzerot
 Manasseh
 manna
 "Maoz Tzur" (song)
maror
 Marrano
 Masada
masechtot
Mas-ei (parashah)
mashal, m'shalim
mashiach, the Mashiach
maskilim
 Masorah
 Masoretes
 Masoretic text
Matot (parashah)
 a matriarch, the Matriarchs
 matzah, matzot
mazal tov
m'chabeid zeh et zeh
M'chilta
M'chilta D'Rabbi Yishmael
M'dinat Yisrael
 Meah Shearim
 megillah (Eng.; e.g., "the whole megillah"; see
 also *m'gillah, M'gillah*)
meitim
melech
mem (letter)
mem sofit
 menorah
 mensch
menschlichkeit
 a messiah, the Messiah
 messianic
 messianic age
 mezuzah, mezuzot (but *m'zuzah* in blessing)
m'gillah, m'gillot (Heb. "scroll")
M'gillah (tractate)
 the *M'gillah* (Book of Esther)
M'gillat Esther
Mi Chamochah (prayer)
midah, midot
Midot (tractate)
 midrash, midrashim, midrashic, midrashist
midrash aggadah
Midrash HaGadol
midrash halachah
Midrash Rabbah

Midrash Sachar Tov
Midrash T'hillim
mikdash (sanctuary)
Mikdash (the Temple)
mikdash m'at
Mikeitz (*parashah*)
Mikvaot (tractate)
mikveh, mikvaot
milah
M'ilah (tractate)
milchig
minchah (sacrifice)
Minchah (Afternoon Service)
minhag, minhagim
Minor Prophets
minyán, minyanim
Miriam's cup
Mi Shebeirach (prayer)
Mishkan (the Tabernacle)
Mishlei (Proverbs)
mishlo-ach manot
a mishnah
the Mishnah
Mishnaic
mishnayot
Mishneh Torah (Maimonides)
mishpachah
mishpat
Mishpatim (*parashah*)
Mitnagdim
Mitzrayim
mitzvah, mitzvot
mitzvot aseih
mitzvot bein adam LaMakom
mitzvot bein adam l'chaveiro
mitzvot lo taaseh
mitzvot shehazman g'ramah
mizbei-ach
M'nachot (tractate)
m'nuchah
mo-adim
Modeh Ani (prayer)
Modern Hebrew
modern Orthodoxy
Modim Anachnu
mo-eid
Mo-eid (tractate)
Mo-eid Katan (tractate)
mohel, mohalim
mohelet, mohalot
Morning Blessings
Mosaic
moshav, moshavim
Motzi
Mourner's *Kaddish*
Mount Sinai

m'sadeir mitzvah
m'saderet mitzvah
m'tzaveh
M'tzora (*parashah*)
musaf (sacrifice)
Musaf (service)
musar
Musar movement
m'zuzah (in blessing); see also *mezuzah*
M'zuzah (tractate)

naaseh v'nishma
Nachman of Bratzlav
Nachmanides
Nashim (tractate)
nasi
Naso (*parashah*)
Nazir (Heb., Nazirite; tractate)
Nazirite
N'chemyah (Book of Nehemiah)
N'darim (tractate)
n'divut
ne-eman
nefesh
neis
neis gadol hayah po
neis gadol hayah sham
ner
ner tamid
Netzach (*s'firah*)
New World
New Year
N'gaim (tractate)
nidah
Nidah (tractate)
N'ilah
the Ninth of Av (holiday)
Nisan (month)
Nishmat Kol Chai (prayer)
nisuin
Nitzavim (*parashah*)
nitzotzot
Noach (*parashah*)
Noachide Laws
Northern Kingdom
n'shamah
n'shamah t'horah
n'shamah y'teirah
nu
nun (letter)
nun sofit (letter)
N'vi-im (Prophets—Bible)
N'zikim (tractate)

Ohalot (tractate)
ohel

Ohel Mo-eid (Tent of Meeting)
ohav zeh et zeh
olah
olam
olam haba
olam hazeh
an omer (measure of grain)
the Omer (period between Pesach and Sukkot)
ometz lev
onah
Oneg Shabbat
onein
online
Oral Torah
Orlah (tractate)
Orthodox, Orthodoxy (referring to denomination)
Oseh Shalom
Outreach (Reform program)

paal
paradise
Parah (tractate)
parah adumah
parashah, parashiyot
parashat hashavua
Parashat Noach
Pardes
pareve
paschal lamb
pasul
a patriarch, the Patriarchs
patriarchal
pei (letter)
Pei-ah (tractate)
pei sofit (letter)
Pentateuch
Pentateuchal
Pesach
pesach sacrifice
pidyon haben
pi-eil
pikuach nefesh
a pilgrimage festival, the Pilgrimage Festivals
Pinchas (*parashah*)
Pirkei Avot
Pirkei D'Rabbi Eliezer
Pittsburgh Platform
piyut, piyutim
P'kudei (*parashah*)
P.M. (SMALL CAPS)
pomelos
postbiblical
prayer book
priest (but High Priest)
Priestly Benediction

proof text
Promised Land
a prophet, prophets
Prophets (book of the Bible)
p'ru ur'vu
P'sachim (tractate)
a psalm, psalms, the psalm
Psalm 113
the Psalmist
Psalms (book of the Bible)
p'shat
P'shita
P'sikta D'Rav Kahana
P'sikta Rabbati
P'sikta Zutarta
P'sukei D'zimrah
Purim
Purim-spiel

Rabbinic (Talmudic), rabbinic (contemporary)
Rabbinic Judaism
Rabbis, Rabbinic (Talmudic)
Rabbis, rabbinic (contemporary)
Rabbis' *Kaddish*
rachamim
rakia
Rabag
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