Abjads

Lecture 4

January 31, 2022

In-person learning

- February 7 and 14, entirely online
- February 28, everyone required to be in-person

Today...

- The rise of abjads
 - Cultural context
 - Acrophonic principle
 - Proto-Sinaitic
- Phœnician & Aramaic
 - The first abjads
 - Evolution and spread

■ Hebrew

- Structure of abjads
- Matres lectionis & vowel pointing
- Yiddish

The Rise of Abjads

Our precursors...

- Cuneiform (Sumerian, Akkadian, + descendants)
 - Phonograms
 - Whole syllables
 - Consonants, vowels, even coda consonants
 - Morphograms
 - Whole morphemes
 - Possibly multiple syllables long
 - Some graphemes could be phonograms or morphograms
- Egyptian hieroglyphics, hieratic, demotic:
 - Phonograms (representing only 1, 2, or 3 consonants)
 - Morphograms
 - Phonological & semantic complements that weren't read
 - Some graphemes could be phonograms or morphograms

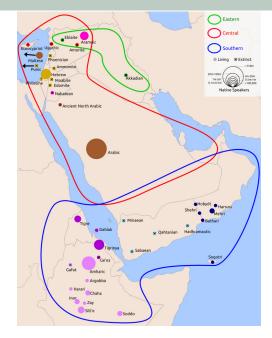
Our precursors...

- Each of these was used in a relatively conservative cultural centre
- Each had ties back to the beginnings of writing
- The origins of Semitic abjads are quite different, and the Near East was a very different kind of cultural centre

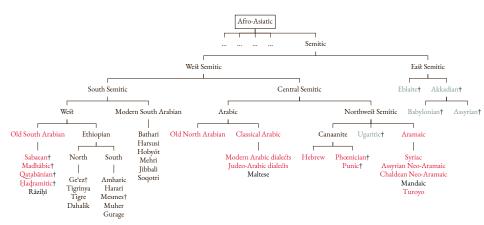


The crossroads

- The West Semitic languages are located in between Egyptian and East Semitic
 - One one side: hieroglyphics
 - On the other: cuneiform
- No large empire(s) ruled this region, unlike Egypt & Mesopotamia
- Greater linguistic diversity
- Coastal area: numerous trading ports reaching Greece, Crete, Anatolia (Turkey), and beyond



Semitic languages



Semitic languages written in cuneiform. Semitic languages written in an abjad.

† – Dead language.

The crossroads

- It was in this area that logograms and determinatives were discarded in favour of purely phonographic writing
- Why do you think this happened in this region?

The crossroads

- Why do you think this happened in this region?
 - Not a prestigious ancient empire (millenia of written history, continuity in conservative institutions like royalty & religion)
 - Much greater contact between peoples
 - Purely phonographic system enables transferability of writing between languages with similar phonologies
 - Many of the neighbouring languages were also Semitic

Origins of Semitic abjads

- An abjad is a phonographic system that only indicates consonants
 - These are the first segmental scripts
 - Each grapheme represents a segment or phoneme
- Started to appear ca. 1500 BCE
- Developed at the crossroads of Egyptian and Akkadian
 - Which one is their ancestor? (Both?)

Origins of Semitic abjads

- Akkadian & Egyptian both have morphograms and determiners
 - Semitic abjads do not
- Akkadian represented consonants and vowels
- Egyptian represented only consonants
 - Semitic abjads only represent consonants

Origins of Semitic abjads

- Egyptian seems the more likely ancestor
 - Foreign words & names were often written entirely with monoconsonantal graphemes!
 - Early abjad letterforms may have also derived from hieroglyphics (we'll see how in a second)
- Purely phonographic segmental system is simpler!
- Enables transferability of writing between languages with similar phonologies
 - Many of the neighbouring languages were also Semitic
 - Semitic languages all have a similar morphological structure...

Semitic CCC root: qbr 'graves, burial'

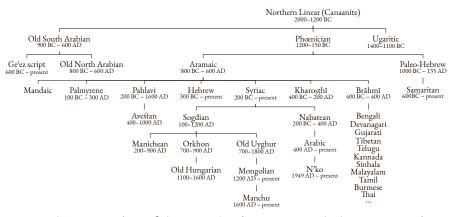
Imperative		Hebrew	Syriac	Ugaritic	Arabic	Ethiopic
Sing. Plural	2м	qəbur	qəbor	qbr	'uqbur	qəbər
	2ғ	qibri	qəbor	qbr	'uqburi	qəbrī
	2м	qibru	qəbor	qbr	'uqburu	qəbrū
	2ғ	qəborna	qəbor	qbr	'uqburna	qəbrā
Sg. Written Pl. Written	2м	⟨qbr⟩	⟨qbr⟩	⟨qbr⟩	⟨?qbr⟩	⟨qbr⟩
	2ғ	⟨qbr⟩	⟨qbr⟩	⟨qbr⟩	⟨?qbr⟩	⟨qbr⟩
	2м	⟨qbr⟩	⟨qbr⟩	⟨qbr⟩	⟨?qbr⟩	⟨qbr⟩
	2ғ	⟨qbrn⟩	⟨qbr⟩	⟨qbr⟩	⟨?qbrn⟩	⟨qbr⟩

- Lexeme is very recognizable, even across very different languages
 - Easy to read/understand, easy to borrow writing

Structure of abjads

- Morphology is (sometimes!) virtually absent in writing—how is this possible?
 - Inflectional information frequently recoverable from context
 - Compare English ⟨read⟩: two pronunciations, 10+ "forms" /rid/ (present: I, you, we, they) & /red/ (past: I, you, he, she, we, they!)
- So why are only consonants written?
- Common theory: because of the way Semitic languages work, consonants are the most important factor in identifying lexemes (a.k.a. lexical items, "words")
 - Most Semitic lexemes are 2- or 3-consonant roots
 - Inflectional morphology (such as verb conjugation) is realized by the vowels within and around the consonantal roots

The result: an explosion of new scripts



■ The versatility of the new abjad system is such that it can easily be borrowed and modified

Acrophony

- Acrophony is a possible source of early Semitic graphemes from Egyptian morphograms
 - A. Greek ἄκρος ⟨akros⟩ "uppermost" + φωνή ⟨phone⟩ "sound"
- Hieroglyph meanings were translated into Semitic
- The grapheme represented the first sound in the translation

Hieroglyph	meaning	Semitic	Grapheme
ぜ	ox	/ <mark>?</mark> alp/	⟨?⟩
	house	/bayt/	$\langle \mathrm{b} \rangle$
*****	water	/mayim/	$\langle { m m} angle$
4 >	eye	/ <mark>S</mark> ayn/	$\langle 1 \rangle$

Egyptian \rightarrow English

■ If we wanted to apply the acrophonic principle to write English with a hieroglyphics-based script:

■ To write 'house':

Acrophony

- This principle is common in English and other languages
- In some languages, letters have a semi-standard system of acrophonic names
 - English alphabet
 - Children's alphabet books: *A is for apple, B is for ball, ...*
 - NATO Phonetic Alphabet: Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, ...
 - Elder Futhark runes
 - B ⟨b⟩ berkanan "birch"
 - I ⟨i⟩ *isaz* "ice"
 - M (m) mannaz "man"
 - {, 4 ⟨s⟩ sōwilō "sun"
 - Thai
 - 1 /k/ ko kai "chicken"
 - 1 /kh/ kho khai "egg"
 - A /kh/ kho khwai "water buffalo"
 - "I /kʰ/ kho ra-khang "bell"

Proto-Sinaitic

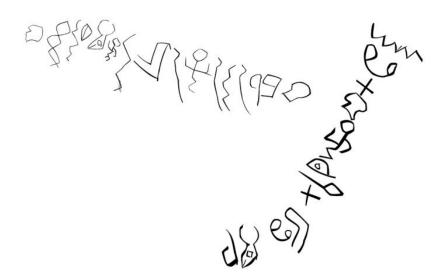
- The first traces of what would later become Phoenician and South Arabian are a handful of inscriptions from the Sinai peninsula
- This precursor script is known as Proto-Sinaitic or Proto-Canaanite (1500–1200 BC)
- Early inscription on the Serabit el-Khadim mountain, in a temple to the Egyptian goddess Hathor
 - Inscription: ⟨l b'lt⟩ "to the Lady" (Hathor)
- Another is on the walls of Wadi el-Hol ("Ravine of Terror"), along a road between Thebes and Abydos in Egypt

Proto-Sinaitic inscriptions (Wadi el-Hol)





Proto-Sinaitic inscriptions (Wadi el-Hol)



Acrophony in Proto-Sinaitic

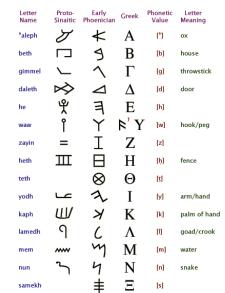
Hieroglyph	Sinaitic	meaning	Semitic	Grapheme
ど	Z	ox	/ <mark>?</mark> alp/	⟨?⟩
		house	/bayt/	$\langle \mathrm{b} \rangle$
\downarrow	Y	hook	/waw/	$\langle \mathrm{w} \rangle$
6	Y.	hand (palm)	/ <mark>k</mark> af/	$\langle \mathrm{k} angle$
*****	~~	water	/mayim/	$\langle \mathrm{m} angle$
	37	snake	/naħʃ/	$\langle n \rangle$
	0	eye	/ <mark>S</mark> ayn/	$\langle Y \rangle$
න	₹7	head	/rass/	$\langle r \rangle$
X	+	mark	/taw/	$\langle t \rangle$

Phœnician & Aramaic

Phœnician

- Proto-Sinaitic/Canaanite period lasts ~1500-1200 BC
- South Semitic diverges ~1400 BC
- North Semitic: Phœnician
 - Using the acrophonic principle, assembles 27 consonants (later reduced to 22)
 - Forms of Proto-Sinaitic were simplified

Evolution of the Phœnician abjad



Phœnician

- Around 1200 BC we find the first long Phœnician inscription
- Ahiram Epitaph
 - A Phœnician king of Byblos, buried in the royal necropolis
 - Sarcophagus has an inscription:

1+5 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-45 | 1-4

- The best recent translation is into German; a translation of that is something like...
- "A coffin made Ittobaal, son of Ahirom, king of Byblos, for Ahirom, his father, lo, thus he put him in seclusion. Now, if a king among kings and a governor among governors and a commander of an army should come up against Byblos; and when he then uncovers this coffin (then:) may strip off the sceptre of his judiciary, may be overturned the throne of his kingdom, and peace and quiet may flee from Byblos..."

Ahiram Epitaph

- Let's look at the first few letters...
- rn zp'l [—t]b'l bn'ḥrm mlkgbl l'ḥrm 'bh
- 94 TOU-+001 M4<79 JO9+-JO71 74<

```
mrh?nblsbt lspz nr?
... ~148> ~19 JO9+ JO1 I ~14>
```

多月にC1291V25139日K3912094111207I139 K

Usually written right-to-left; sometimes in boustrophedon.

Development of Phœnician

Hieroglyph	Sinaitic	Phœnician	Semitic	Grapheme
ど	Z	>	/?alp/	(?)
Ö		9	/bayt/	$\langle b \rangle$
\downarrow	Υ	Υ	/waw/	$\langle \mathrm{w} \rangle$
=	Y.	7	/kaf/	$\langle \mathrm{k} angle$
****	~	~~	/mayim/	$\langle m \rangle$
~	3	Y	/naħ∫/	$\langle n \rangle$
	0	0	/Sayn/	$\langle \Gamma \rangle$
Ø	₹	4	/rass/	$\langle r \rangle$
×	+	+	/taw/	$\langle t \rangle$

Aramaic

- One of the most historically significant scripts
 - Written (in various related scripts) for almost 3000 years
 - Almost all Middle Eastern writing systems derive from it, as well as most non-Chinese writing systems in Asia (slide 16)
- Began around Aram, an Aramean state near present-day Damascus, Syria
- Under rule of the Assyrian Empire, ~800 BC, Aramaic was widely adopted rather than being abandoned in favour of Akkadian
 - Advantage of an easier script?
- Over the next 200 years, Aramaic became a lingua franca for the entire region
 - Middle East, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Persia

Aramaic

- At first, there is a period of standardization and homogeneity
 - Imperial Aramaic: after the conquest of Mesopotamia by Darius I of the Old Persian Empire (remember him?), Aramaic was adopted by the conquerors
 - Use of a single standardized language helped keep the empire together
- Then, Alexander the Great invades
 - He marches across Egypt and up the coast
 - In 330 BC, he conquers the Old Persian Empire
 - By the end of the 3rd century BC, Greek overtakes Aramaic as the lingua franca of Egypt and Syria
- The Aramaic abjad flourishes and diversifies...

Aramaio

C	Phœnician	Aramaic, 7th BC	Imp. Aramaic		Phœnician	Aramaic, 7th BC
aleph	>	+	¥	lamed	1	L
beth	9	ב	9	mem	~~	ካ
gimel	1	٨	1	nun	۲	ጎ
daleth	Δ	4	7	samekh	₹	3
he	7	7	1	ayin	0	U
vav	Υ	٦	•	pe	1	7
zayin	I	1	1	sade	[*	۲
heth	目	П	"	qoph	φ	P
teth	\otimes	6	6	resh	4	4
yod	1	1	4	shin	W	٤
kaph	7	7	y	taw	+	۲

 This is the Northern Semitic order, which is also found in Hebrew, Arabic, and later Greek

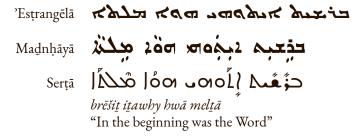
Regional variations

- Variants of the Aramaic abjad were used to write local dialects
- Near Palmyra, we find Palmyrene Aramaic, which was a more rounded form without spaces or punctuation
- This script was the basis for the modern Syriac scripts



Syriac

- The Syriac abjad has been in use since the 1st century AD
- It has three major variants:
 - 'Estrangēlā (Classical form, no longer used)
 - Madnḥāyā (Eastern Syriac)
 - Serțā (Western Syriac)
- Notice that 'Esṭrangēlā has almost no diacritical marks around it, but the others do...we'll come back to this later!





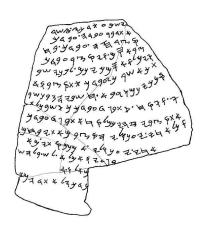
Paleo-Hebrew

- Originally, Hebrew was written in a variant of the Phœnician abjad
- Earliest: 1000 BC, and fell out of use by 500 BC
- Example: pottery shard from Meşad Hashavyahu fortress, ~600 BC



Mesad Hashavyahu message

Let my lord, the governor, hear the word of his servant! Your servant is a reaper. Your servant was in Hazar Asam, and your servant reaped, and he finished, and he has stored (the grain) during these days before the Sabbath. When your servant had finished the harvest, and had stored (the grain) during these days, Hoshavyahu came, the son of Shobi, and he seized the garment of your servant, when I had finished my harvest. It (is already now some) days (since) he took the garment of your servant. And all my companions can bear witness for me - they who reaped with me in the heat of the harvest - yes, my companions can bear witness for me. Amen! I am innocent from guilt. And he stole my garment! It is for the governor to give back the garment of his servant. So grant him mercy in that you return the garment of your servant and do not be displeased.



Hebrew

/I C VV	Phoe.	Aramaic	Hebrew
alef	>	+	8
bet	9	ב	コ
gimel	1	٨	٦
dalet	Δ	4	7
hei	目	7	ī
vav	Υ	٦	٦
zayin	I	1	7
het	目	П	П
tet	\otimes	6	7
yud	1	1	٦
kaf	7	7	$\supset \top$

	Phoe.	Aramaic	Hebrew
lamed	1	L	5
mem	~~	ካ	ם מ
nun	۲	ጎ	ןנ
samech	₹	3	D
ayin	0	U	ゼ
pei	1	1	ם ד
tsadi	٢	۲	ץ צ
kuf	φ	P	P
reish	4	4	
shin	W	٤	22
tav	+	۲	Γ

 After the 5th century, Hebrew was written in the Aramaic abjad, which eventually evolved into its modern square script

Modern Hebrew

- Some consonants have multiple sounds in Modern Hebrew
 - \blacksquare \supset can be /k/ or / χ /
 - **2** can be /b/ or /v/
 - **2** can be /p/ or /f/
 - **2** can be /s/ or /ʃ/
- Some historical sound contrasts have been merged
 - \blacksquare and \nearrow are both /k/
 - □ and □ are both /h/
 - 🛪 and 🗷 are both /?/
 - **n** and **u** are both /t/
- Five consonants have word-final allographs
 - ⊃ ¬ ⟨k⟩
 - □ \(\mathbb{D} \) \(\mathbb{D} \) \(\lambda m \)
 - 1 \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
 - **5 7** ⟨f⟩

Matres lectionis

- *Mater lectionis* (pl. *matres lectionis*): a consonant written to indicate a vowel
 - Latin: "Mother of reading"

$$\begin{array}{cccc} & & & & & & & \\ \langle dw \rangle & \langle dj \rangle & \langle dh \rangle \\ \langle du: / & /di: / & /da: / \end{array}$$

Matres lectionis

- *Scripta plena* ("full writing"): the use of matres lectionis to write all long vowels
- Useful for transcribing non-Semitic loans or names (e.g. from Greek)

Matres lectionis

- However, spelling sacred texts had been standardized without all vowels represented
- Speakers didn't like altering spellings—adding letters disturbs the sanctity of the text
 - Scripta plena was ultimately rejected, but some matres lectionis are still used
- Some indication of vowels was useful though
 - Need to preserve the pronunciation of the text over time for correct recitation
 - Matres lectionis aren't precise enough anyway
- Solution: vowel pointing (*niqqud*) alongside matres lectionis

Hebrew vowel pointing

	፬	٦	፰	ټ	Ţ	Ţ		Ţ
	Пृ <u>.</u> patach	קמָץ kamats	ציֶרה tsere	סגול segol	חִירִיק Ehirik	קבותס kubutz	חוֹלֶם Eholam	אָנְא shva
Mod.	/a/	/a, o/	/e/	/e/	/i/	/u/	/o/	/ə, Ø/
Tib.	/a:/	/::/	/e:/	/ε:/	/i:/	/u:/	/o:/	/ə, Ø/
	\Box	\supseteq			⋾	7	*	2
	υώ ≅	קמָץ	צירֶה	סֶגוֹל	רָנש	שורוק	שִּׁין	שִׁין
	patach	kamats	tsere	segol	dagesh	shuruk	sin	shin
Mod.	/a/	/a, o/	/e/	/e/		/u/	/s/	/ʃ/
Tib.	/a/	/c/	/e/	/ε/		/u:/	/s/	/ʃ/

Mod. = Modern; Tib. = Tiberian (Ancient) Hebrew

- Developed around 800 BC
- 8 diacritics for 5 vowels: some diacritics pronounced the same

Hebrew vowel pointing

- Points can be combined with matres lectionis also
 - בי בי all pronounced /bi/
- Vowel diacritics are typically not written, except in specific situations
 - Religious texts
 - Material for children, learners, etc.
 - Poetry where pronunciation is important
- Matres lectionis are always written



Hist.	Mod.	Graph.	Hist.	Mod.	Graph.
	/?/	8		/1/	5
	/b/			/m/	םמ
	/v/	\supseteq		/n/	ן ב
	/g/	٦		/s/	D
	/d/	7	/\f/	/?/	ジ
	/a,h/	ក្		/p/	_≘_
/w/	/u,o,w,v/	<u>ן</u>		/f/	27
	/z/	7	/22/	/ts/	ץ צ
/ħ/	/χ/	Π	/q/	/k/	P
$/t^{\varsigma}/$	/t/	2	/r/	\R\	٦
/j/	/i,j/	٦		/ʃ/	
	/k/	7 0		/s/	** **
/x/	/χ/	5 7	/θ/	/t/	ת

Vow.	Graph.
/i/	8
/e/	8
/e/	8
/a/	Ŋ
/a,o/	Ž Ž
/o/	8
/u/	*
Ø	*

Dead Sea Scrolls

- A collection of nearly 1000 texts, found 1946–56
 - Most Hebrew, some Aramaic, Greek
 - Most written on parchment
- Found in caves 2km from shore of the Dead Sea
- Written 400 BC 300 AD



שטרפוף בעונו אני אורטניף פריף ל ותווילו ושועתף לבויו תביודנף ודמניונים לה בכורף יונקו וכרווכ תוצורו ובלעשר ווסרו רינול עציותו כבף וגוי צבוף קור לישו שתף יניון רליא תשפח תרחי ביניל נכחן אדטיבדיו יניוף ינון וותכורו ביו מעלה לכחי חביל פעבחו יניק עולנותי תשונו

ונבץ ימו עולוף יא ווסלע ליווף ימויטו בבו בניו לנו נוף בבו באילותים אוכינה אינותווה אל חדביל קוףישנה ואודיה את שכנה על חסףנה ועל אכתבה בי דוג בילתו עולטי שכטה יולרותבון כוונף קריאונו ותעננו תרוווכנו בנבשו עון וודיוף בקב מולכלנו ארץ ני שכעו ייכרו פוכי ורשורו מיינו בה בה בי בוציו ככוף בבה ני ריף בי ביואל וואל ווכח כביווק וויע אקיאלי בתוף ערו תחוע על אף אווכיתשלח ויכון וחושוענו ילינניו בבל ביולור בערי בערי בבל אוסדינה לעולי ליניון ודיונון יאי חויף יעו נער בפורף תעותו ובקיותוה ביאוף לו בתרוך ועד סופה אדירישנה גם גיע נץ בבשר ענמים ושכחו לב

ינון ביאוריות יני בוני יוף חושף ושוכנו לדירוחשף ככבורולות ה בלוחני תשובני בבפון ת נבליאוף בעשוכה יו כלבוף יושף עניורוני לבו דייוו עונופודועל יכום ועד ולו ביאון למד ענינני דישוחם רעוף עלכוף אנף שורי שורי בנו יאשר בריף ודלוא פשנאינו יאן קומפו

דייכה רגלי בנישור כי מעורי ודיעוניה חכומני בלעבו

אי שכטה יוכרותבה כווני קראתו יען יווייף אב אב אין מיולטיף אי וורו בירנו בא או ביר גדיף ני ושטל הייצור וגכור כפריחק וא

- $lacksymbol{\blacksquare}$ ארות $lacksymbol{\blacksquare}$ ארות $lacksymbol{\blacksquare}$

Yiddish

- Historical language of the Ashkenazi Jews
- "Fusion" of German with elements of Hebrew & Aramaic
- Originated 9th cent. AD
- Germanic language!
 - Very different morphology from Hebrew
 - Vowels serve a different function
- First written Yiddish 1272: rhyming blessing in a prayer book
 - גוּט טַק אִים בְּטַנְא שְ וַיר דִּיש מַחֲזוֹר אִין בֵּיתֿ הַכְּנֶסֶתֿ טְרַנְא =
 - ⟨gut tak im betage se vaer dis makhazor in beis hakneses trage⟩
 - "May a good day come to him who carries this prayer book into the synagogue."

Yiddish

- Alphabetic form of Hebrew script developed
- All vowels represented
- New graphemes created from unused letters and from vowel diacritics
- Digraphs: multiple graphemes corresponding to one phoneme

/a/	8	
/i/	٦	•
/ε, ə/	Ü	
/c/	Ķ	
/ʊ/	j	7

מש
דוש
זש
77
11

Yiddish Alphabet

7	٦	П	7	٦	Ē	コ	ķ	8	8
melupm vov	vov	hey	daled	giml	veys	beys	komets alef	pasekh alef	(shlumer) alef
/υ/	/ʊ/	/h/	/d/	/g/	/v/	/b/	/c/	/a/	Ø
רר	•	٦	תש	ת	П	זש	7	יך	וו
tsvey yudn	khirik yud	yud	tes-shin	tes	khes	zayen-shin	zayen	vov-yud	tsvey vovn
/ej/	/I/	/j, i/	/tʃ/	/t/	/x/	/3/	/z/	/oj/	/v/
ף פֿ	ē	Ü	D	נן	מם	5	כך	⊃	11
fey	pey	ayin	samekh	nun, lange nun	mem, shlos mem	lamed	khof, lange khof	kof	pasekh tsvey yudn
/f/	/p/	/ε/	/s/	/n/	/m/	/l/	/x/	/k/	/aj/
			ת	n	Ÿ	ツ	٦	P	צץ
			sof	tof	sin	shin	reysh	kuf	tsadek,
			/s/	/t/	/s/	/ʃ/	/R/	/k/	/ts/

Transcription

חוצפה

⟨hwtsph⟩, ⟨hutspa⟩ *chutzpah*

ركرمس (gljtʃ), (glitʃ)

(gljtJ), (gli *glitch* \(\int \) \(\sigma \) \(\sig

(These are actually unvoweled Yiddish words, rather than Hebrew!)

Quiz 1

- 12:05-6:05pm
- Write out the entire word instead of using its short form.
- Spell as accurately as possible, especially for the questions with blanks!
- Do not use special characters (such as '-', brackets of any kind, etc.).
- Use https://ipa.typeit.org/full/ for IPA symbols.
- Use point form for the short answers. Look to see how many marks a question is worth to determine how many points you need to write for a short answer.
- You may email me between 12-1pm and 2:30-6:20pm for quiz related questions.