

# The Hebrew Numbering System

## 1. General

Hebrew has a traditional system for writing numbers using the Hebrew alphabet. Although the system is actually rather simple, there are some points to be aware of. This document covers the general rules and these points of notice.

## 2. Uses

The Hebrew numbering system today has quite a few common uses:

- In page and verse numbering of religious texts
- In page numbering of forwards and after-words (like the use of Roman Numerals for numbering in English texts)
- In numbering of lists
- In numbering of TOC
- In numbering of dates in the Hebrew calendar.

and more

## 3. Basic rules of thumb

Numbers using the Hebrew system are written from Right-to-Left from the largest digit to the smallest using the largest digits possible.

Numerical values of the Hebrew alphabet follow the following table- Note that the values of final form characters is identical to the regular form, so they are not included:

Hebrew letter	Hebrew letter name	Unicode Value	Numerical Value
א	Aleph	05D0	1
ב	Bet	05D1	2
ג	Gimel	05D2	3
ד	Dalet	05D3	4
ה	Heh	05D4	5
ו	Vav	05D5	6

ז	Zayin	05D6	7
ח	heit	05D7	8
ט	tet	05D8	9
י	yod	05D9	10
כ	kaf	05DB	20
ל	lamed	05DC	30
מ	mem	05DE	40
נ	nun	05E0	50
ס	samech	05E1	60
ע	ayin	05E2	70
פ	peh	05E4	80
צ	tzadi	05E6	90
ק	kof	05E7	100
ר	reish	05E8	200
ש	shin	05E9	300
ת	taf	05EA	400

Single digit numbers are followed by the Hebrew Geresh (unicode 05F3).

Multi-digit numbers have after the two first digits the Hebrew Gershayim (unicode 05F4).

Numbers with thousands have the thousands noted as a single digit, followed by the Hebrew Geresh, followed by two digits, followed by the Hebrew Gershayim, followed by the rest of the digits.

### Examples:

Numerical Value	Hebrew notation
8	ח

13	י"ג
47	מ"ז
235	רל"ג
720	תש"כ
1992	א'תת"קב

## 4. Exceptions

According to the above table, 15 and 16 should have been י"ה and י"ו respectively. However, thus two numbers are always replaced with ט"ו and ט"ז respectively. Therefore, 515 will become תק"ט and not תק"יה, and 316 will become שט"ז and not שי"ו etc.