

Jewish Given Names

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Lecture Outline:

- Religious and Secular names (*shem ha-kodesh / kinnui*)
- Ashkenazic naming traditions (naming of children after relatives, timely & amuletic names)
- Name Relationships: Double names (unrelated, biblical associations, calques)
- Nicknames: Yiddish names, diminutives
- Interpretation: How to recognize the given name as it appears in documents
- Russian and Polish forms (spelling, declensions)
- Anglicization: transformations and adaptations
- Most popular given names: statistics and demographics
- < <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/GivenNames> >

Jewish Given Names, in Cyrillic (Russian) and Latin (Polish), and Hebrew alphabets:

The following two pages contain female and male Jewish given names, as found in civil registration documents in Kielce gubernia (Russian Poland) in the late 19th century. Note that these are not necessarily all "proper" spellings, but are spellings that were actually found in the documents.

Name Variants:

- ka, -ek, -el* diminutive endings for males:
 ("-ka" is Slavic, "-el" or "-del" are Germanic)
- "Ber" → "Berel", "Berko"
 - "Yosef" → "Josel", "Josek"
 - "Yaakov" → "Jankiel"
 - "Hersh" → "Herszka", "Herszl"
- la, -dla* diminutive endings for females:
- "Sheina" → "Szejndla"
 - "Raiza" → "Rajzl"
 - "Feiga" → "Feigel"

Interchangeable letters:

Russian ф & в / Polish f & w
 Polish i,j,y interchangeable.

Most vowels are interchangeable, especially
 Russian a/e (Polish a/e), Russian o/y (Polish o/u), Russian ы/и (Polish y/i).

No "H" sound in Russian.

Therefore either X or Г were used.

Russian X = Polish Ch or H

Russian Г = Polish G or H

Symbols, Kinnuim, and Calques:

Hebrew Name	Biblical Symbol	Hebrew <i>kinnui</i>	Yiddish <i>calque</i>
Yehudah יהודה	<i>lion</i>	Aryeh אריה	Leib לייב
Naftali נפתלי	<i>deer</i>	Tzvi צבי	Hersh הירש
Benjamin בנימין	<i>wolf</i>	Ze'ev זאב	Vulf וואלף
Yissakhar יששכר	<i>bear</i>	Dov דוב	Ber בער
Efraim אפרים	<i>fish</i>	-	Fishel פישעל

Jewish Female Given Names, in Cyrillic (Russian), Latin (Polish), and Hebrew alphabets:

Айдля, Еидла, Эдля	Ajdla, Eidla, Edla	איידל
Алта	Alta	אלטע
Бася, Баша	Basia, Basze	באשע
Бейла, Байля	Bejla, Bajla	ביילע
Блума, Блима	Bluma, Blima	בלומע
Брандля, Брайна	Brandla, Brajna	ברינע
Геля	Gela, Gesza	געלע
Гитла	Gitla, Gitel, Guta	גיטלע
Гольда, Голда	Golda	גאלדא
Двоира, Двора	Dwojra, Dwora	דבורה
Доба	Doba	דובה
Добра	Dobra, Dobrusz	דאברא
Дина	Dyna	דינה
Елка, Элька	Elka, Ela	אלקא
Ентля	Entla, Jentl, Jęta	יענטעל
Зельда, Зелде	Zelda	זעלדע
Злата	Zlata	זלאטע
Зысля	Zysla	זיסעל
Иохветъ, Яхета	Jochwet, Jacheta	יוכבד
Иделе, Идесъ, Ита, Идка	Idel, Ides, Idessa Ita, Idka	יהודית
Кейля, Кайла	Kejla	קיילע
Крайндля	Krajndla, Kraina	קרוינע
Лая, Лея	Laja, Leja	לאה
Либа	Liba	ליבא
Малка	Malka	מלכה
Мариемъ, Маріа	Mariem, Marya	מרים
Мирля, Миркя	Mirla, Mirka	
Мася, Маша	Masia, Masza	
Матля, Майтля	Matla, Majtla	מאטלע
Миндля	Mindla, Mina	מינדעל
Михля	Michla	מיכלע
Наха, Неха	Nacha, Necha	נחמה
Перля	Perla	פערל
Песля, Пеша	Pesla, Pesza	פעסיע, פעשע
Райза, Райзля, Ройза	Rajza, Rajzl, Rojza	רייזא
Рохла, Рухля	Rochla, Ruchl	רחל
Рывка, Рыфка	Rywka, Ryfka	רבקה
Сима	Syma	שמחה
Сура, Сора	Sura, Sora	שרה
Цырля, Серла	Cyrlla	
Тауба, Тоуба	Tauba, Touba	טויבא
Фейга, Файга	Feiga, Fajga	פייגע
Фраида, Фрейдля	Fraida, Frejdla	פריידע

Фрума, Фриметъ	Fruma, Frymet	פרומעט
Хана, Хена	Chana, Hana	חנה
Хендля	Chendla, Chinka...	
Хава	Chawa, Hawa	חווה
Хая	Chaia, Haja	חיה
Хаика, Хайка	Chaika	
Хинда, Гинда	Hinda, Chinda	הינדע
Худесъ, Худесса	Hudessa, Hudes,	הדסה
Удля, Удесъ	Udes, Udla, Hodel...	
Цива, Цывя, Цывіа	Cywia	צביה
Цыпа, Ципойра	Cypa, Cypojra	צפורה
Пая, Пайка	Paja, Pajka	פייע
Шейна, Шайндля	Szejna, Szajndla	שיינע
Шифра	Szyfra	שפרה
Шпринца	Szprinca	שפרינצה
Эстеръ, Естера	Ester	אסתר
Етля	Etel, Etka, Itta	

POLISH PRONUNCIATION

Polish Alphabet:

a ą b c ć d e ę f g h i j k l ł m
n ó o ó p r s ś t u w y z ż ź

Pronunciation:

Polish letter = English sound

c = ts
ch, h = kh
ć, cz, ci = ch
ś, sz, si = sh
ź, zi, rz = zh

ą = om, on
ę = em, en

j = y
dz = j
ł = w
w = v

Jewish Male Given Names, in Cyrillic (Russian), Latin (Polish), and Hebrew alphabets:

Аба, Абель	Aba, Abel	אבא	Мойше, Мовша,	Mojsze, Mowsze,	משה
Абрамъ, Абрахамъ	Abram, Abraham	אברהם	Моша, Мошекъ...	Mosza, Moszek...	
Алтеръ, Альтер	Alter	*אלטער	Мордка, Мордхе,	Mordka, Mordche,	מרדכי
Анзельмъ, Аншель	Anzelm, Anszel	*אנשל	Мортка, Мотель...	Mortka, Motel...	
Арія	Arya	אריה			
Аронъ	Aron	אהרן			
Беніамин, Беньямин	Benjamin	בנימין	Нафтуля	Naftula	נפתלי
Бинемъ	Binem, Bunim	*בונים	Нахман	Nachman	נחמן
Беръ, Берко, Берек	Ber, Berko, Berek	*בער	Нахум	Nachum	נחום
Борох, Борухъ	Boruch	ברוך	Ноах	Noach	נח
Вигдоръ	Wigdor	אביגדור	Натан, Нусин, Нута	Natan, Nusin, Nuta	נתן
Вульф, Вольф	Wulf, Wolf	*וואלף	Нисон, Нусымъ	Nison, Nusym	ניסן
Гедалия, Гдала	Gedalia, Gdala	גדליה	Пейсах, Пеисак	Pejsach, Peisak	פסח
Гимпель	Gimpel	*גימפל	Перетъ, Перець	Perec	פרץ
Гутманъ	Gutman	*גוטמאן	Пинхас, Пинкусъ	Pinchas, Pinkus	פינחס
Хершъ, Гершъ,	Hersz, Gersz,	*הירש	Рафаль	Rafal	רפאל
Хершъ, Хершль...	Chersz, Herszel...		Рахмиль	Rachmil	ירחמאל
Гилель, Илел	Hilel, Ilel	הלל	Рубинъ, Рувин	Rubin, Rywen	ראובן
Давид, Дувидъ	Dawid	דוד	Саулъ, Шаул	Saul, Szewel	שאול
Даниил	Daniel	דניאל	Сендер, Александер	Sender	אלכסנדר
Елизар,	Eliezar,	אליעזר	Сымха, Симха	Symcha	שמחה
Леизер, Лейзоръ	Leizer, Lejzor		Тобияшъ, Тойвя	Tobiasz, Tojwia	טוביה
Елияшъ, Эліяшъ	Eliasz	אליהו	Урысъ, Урышъ	Urys, Urysz	אורי
Ефроимъ, Фроймъ	Efroim, Frojm	אפרים	Ушер	Uszer	אשר
Захаріяшъ, Схария	Zachariasz, Scharia	זכריה	Хаимъ, Гаимъ	Chaim, Haim	חיים
Зеликъ	Zelik, Zelig	*זעליק	Хацкъль, Гаскель	Haskel, Chackiel	יחזקאל
Зысман, Зисманъ	Zysman	*זוסמאן	Хиль, Иохель	Hil, Chiel	יחאל
Иойна, Янасъ	Jojna, Janas	יונה	Хейных, Энохъ, Генохъ	Henoch, Enoch	חנוך
Изаак, Ицик, Ицець	Izak, Icyk, Icek	יצחק	Цалел, Цалка	Calel, Catka	בצלאל
Эйзикъ, Ейзык, Айзык	Ejzyk, Aizik		Цудык	Cudyk	צדוק
Израиль, Сруль	Izrael, Srul	ישראל	Файвель, Файвуш	Fajwel, Faibus	*פייביש
Иосифъ, Юсекъ,	Josef, Iosek,	יוסף	Фишель	Fiszel	*פישעל
Иосель, Йосек...	Josel, Josek...		Шапся, Сіапся	Szapsa, Szebzel	שבת
Йоель	Joel	יואל	Шая	Szaja [Isaiah]	ישעיה
Калма	Kalma, Kalman	קלמן	Шыя, Шія	Szyia [Joshua]	יהושע
Кушель, Кисель	Kuszel, Kisiel	יקותיאל	Овсей	Owsiej	
Лейб, Лейбусъ,	Leib, Lejbuś,	*לייב	Шимон	Szymon	שמעון
Лейбка, Левек...	Leibka, Lewek...		Шимшон	Szamson, Szymisia	שמשון
Липа, Липманъ	Lipa, Lipman	*ליפמאן	Шляма	Szlama	שלמה
Литманъ	Litman		Саломонъ, Зельманъ	Salomon, Zelman	
Майлихъ	Majlich	אלימלך	Шмуль, Заинвель	Szmul, Zajnwel	שמואל
Меер, Маер, Майер	Meir, Maier, Majer	מאיר	Шулим	Szulim	שלום
Мендель,	Mendel, Mędl,	*מענדל	Элхонон, Хона	Elchonon, Chona	אלחנן
Манъ, Мунысъ	Man, Munys		Юдка, Юда	Judka, Juda	יהודה
Михель	Michel	מיכאל	Яков, Јакубъ	Jakób	יעקב
			Янкель	Jankiel	
			Кива	Kiwa	עקיבא

Yiddish names are denoted with an asterisk *

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