

# Jewish Given Names

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< <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/GivenNames> >

## 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

## 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 kinnui	Yiddish calque
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	בריינע
Геля	Gela, Gesza	געלע
Гитла	Gitla, Gitel, Guta	גיטלע
Гольда, Голда	Golda	גאלדא
Двоира, Двора	Dwojra, Dwora	דבורא
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
Иохветь, Яхета	Jochwet, Jacheta	יוכבד
Иделе, Идесъ,	Idel, Ides, Idessa	יהודית
Ита, Идка	Ita, Idka	
Кейля, Кайла	Kejla	קיילע
Крайндля	Krajndla, Kraina	קרוינע
Лая, Лея	Laja, Leja	לאה
Либа	Liba	ליבא
Малка	Malka	מלכה
Мариемъ, Марія	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	Cyrła	
Тауба, Тоуба	Tauba, Toubá	טויבא
Фейга, Файга	Feiga, Fajga	פייגע
Фраида, Фрейдля	Fraida, Frejdlá	פריידע

Фрума, Фриметь	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
Худесь, Худесса	Hudessa, Hudes,	הדסה
Удля, Удесъ	Udes, Udla, Hodel...	
Цива, Цывя, Цывія	Cywia	צביה
Цыпа, Ципойра	Cyра, Cyrojra	צפורה
Пая, Пайка	Paja, Pajka	פייע
Шейна, Шайндля	Szejna, Szajndla	שיינע
Шифра	Szyfra	שפרה
Шпринца	Szprinca	שפרינצה
Эстеръ, Естера	Ester	אסתר
Етля	Etel, Etká, 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 ź ż

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

Yiddish names are denoted with an asterisk \*

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