

Now this alphabet would not be hard if I did not complicate it...so we will read over the letters a couple of times and I will make some note and then following are some things for you to remember.

1. The letters Aleph א and Ayin ע are virtually soundless.
2. The letters Beth, ג Gimmel, ד Daleth, ה Caph, ו Peh, ז Tau are known as the Begad Kephad letters...and you can figure out how they got that name with just a little work. Long ago they had varied pronounciations like this:

Letter	Ancient pro.	Today
ב Beth	b	b
ב Beth	v	
ג Gimmel	g (hard)	(hard) g
ד Daleth	d (dog)	d
ד Daleth	dh (the)	
כ Caph	k (kept)	k
כ Peh	p (pan)	p
כ Peh	ph (phone)	
ט Tau	t (time)	t
ט Tau	th (thing)	

I hope this does not confuse you. We are interested in the "today" pronounciation of these letters but much of my training was in another era and I may lapse on the sounds. The dot in the second of these letters is a "dagesh" (dot) and is known as "dagesh lene" meaning that it hardens the sound. While we are interested in modern pronounciation the recognition of these dots and sounds is vital in reading the Old Testament text.