

What Hebrew word is used in modern Hebrew when referring to their script i.e. 22 letter Alef-bet

In Modern Hebrew, the standard word used to refer to the alphabet itself is **אלפבית (Alef-beit)**, which translates literally to the "alef-bet".

However, if you are explicitly asking about the **script type** or the **writing system** rather than just the sequence of letters, several specific terms are used depending on the context:

Key Terms for the Script

- **כתב (Ktav)**: This is the generic, everyday Hebrew word for "**script**" or "**handwriting**." If you want to talk about how the language is written, you use this word.
- **כתב אשורי (Ktav Ashuri)**: Translating to "**Assyrian script**," this is the formal linguistic and historical name for the **standard square block script** used today. Hebrew adopted this specific shape from Aramaic characters around the 5th century BCE.
- **כתב מרובע (Ktav Meruba)**: This literally translates to "**square script**". It is the common term used to describe the **printed, block letters** you see in books, signs, and newspapers.
- **אותיות (Otiyot)**: This translates to "**letters**". When locals mention the physical characters making up the 22-letter system, they will simply refer to them as *האותיות* (*ha-otiyot* / the letters).

Summary Table of Writing Styles

Modern Hebrew uses different styles of the *Ktav* depending on how the text is produced:

Hebrew Term	Pronunciation	Meaning / Use Case
כתב דפוס	<i>Ktav Dfus</i>	Print Script (The standard square block letters used in digital text and publishing)
כתב עגול / כתב יד	<i>Ktav Agol / Ktav Yad</i>	Cursive Script (The everyday handwritten script, which looks totally different from the block letters)
כתב סת"ם	<i>Ktav Sta'm</i>	Sacred Calligraphy (The ornamental script used by scribes to write Torah scrolls)

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