

Yiddish Spelling Guidelines

using YIVO transliteration

	Spelling		Examples	
Consonants	kh	(not ch)	ikh, khazer	(not ich, chazer)
	sh	(not sch)	shof	(not schof)
	ts	(not tz)	tsu, kats	(not zu, katz)
	tsh	(not ch, tch, tsch)	tshaynik, mentsh	(not tchaynik, mentch, mentsch)
	-k	(not -ck)	shtik	(not shtick)
Vowels	ay	(not ai, ei)	nayn	(not nain, nein)
	ey	(not ai, ei)	eyn	(not ain, ein)
	oy	(not oi)	moyl	(not moil)
Notes	no e with final -l or -n (unless n follows m, n, ng, nk)	(not -el or -en)	shlimazl, shpiln (but nemen, kenen, trinken)	(not shlimazel, shpilen)
	no doubled consonants (unless doubling results from adding a prefix to a root)		yidish, rinen (but: aynnemen = ayn+nemen)	(not yiddish, rinnen)
	no h after vowels		mitsve	(not mitsveh)