

Summary Chart, Likkutei Sichos 15 Breishis 1 – The Alef and Beis of Torah

	Why does Torah start with a Beis?	Questions:	Answer: Torah has 2 levels: 1) Learning with understanding. 2) The essence of Torah, and the connection with the Giver of the Torah. There must always be " <i>Borchu BaTora Techila</i> ," the recognition of the Giver of the Torah first (Alef of Torah) before actual learning (Beis of Torah). This impacts:
Kabbala	Alef – Torah of <i>Atzilus</i> , Beis – Torah of <i>BY"A</i> . Torah starts with Beis to symbolize that "our" Torah is the second level.	Hashem gave us the same Torah from above, if we have a Beis, then the Torah above is also with a Beis. Why would the Torah above begin with Beis?	The Torah itself: When learning without the Giver of the Torah, it creates separation (as in <i>BY"A</i>), but with the preface of " <i>Borchu BaTora Techila</i> " there could be oneness and unity with Hashem (as in <i>Atzilus</i>).
Yerushalmi	Alef – <i>Arira</i> (cursed). Beis – <i>Bracha</i> (Blessing). The Torah starts with blessing.	There must be words that begin with Alef that have a positive connotation, and words with Beis that have a positive connotation?	The person learning: If he is meritorious – meaning, he learns with the holiness and essence of Torah – it becomes a potion of life, meaning blessing (<i>Beis – Bracha</i>). If he is not meritorious – meaning, he's lacking the giver of the Torah – it becomes a potion of death (<i>Arira</i>).
Medrash	The shape of the Beis is similar to the world which is closed from 3 sides and open on one (northern) side.	The world was created by, and for, the Torah. Why would the Torah change itself for the world (and not vice versa?)	The world: When acknowledging the Giver of the Torah, we recognize that "this world has a master," and we are able to rectify that which is lacking in the world, due to the "openness of the Northern side."
Translation of Talmi Hamelech	All of the sages translated with divine inspiration " <i>Elokim Bara Bresishis</i> ," thus actually beginning the Torah with an Alef.	A. How could they have started with an Alef? B. Why would Talmi not have understood the above-mentioned reasons?	The learning of non-Jews is only about the comprehension and not about the essence of Torah, so there is only one level. The sages therefore began their translation with an Alef, which is the only level that Talmi could understand.