

Psalm 91:13

- עַל-יִשְׁׁנָה^① preposition noun masc sing (BDB 1006) on lion
- וּפְּתָן conjunction noun masc sing (BDB 837) and cobra
- תִּדְרֹךְ Qal imperfect 2pr masc sing (BDB 201 & see verse 11 BDB 202) you will tread
- תִּדְרֹס Qal imperfect 2pr masc sing (BDB 942) you will trample
- כִּפְּיֹן^② noun masc sing (498-BDB) ② lion
- וּתְנִינִין conj. noun. masc sing (BDB 1072) and serpent, dragon
(sometimes used as the emblem of Egypt, sometimes called the great serpent)

① → From Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies, Hendrickson Publishers, page 255
② Under English "Lion", 6 Hebrew words appear

- A) לְיָהוָה^א symbolical of David's reign - the chief of tearing and devouring beasts
Good force - לְיָהוָה לְיָהוָה "Lion of God"
- ② B) לְיָהוָה^ב young lion, old enough to roar, going forth for prey, ferocious, bloodthirsty
differs from whelp, of cruel and bloodthirsty enemies; of the young
princes or warriors of state
- C) לְיָהוָה^ג symbolical of Solomon's reign
- D) לְיָהוָה^ד strongest & bravest kind (general term)
- ① E) לְיָהוָה^ה the swarthy Lion of Syria, an old lion - formidable
- F) לְיָהוָה^ו pride, sons of pride; relation lit. sons of pride - the larger beast of prey
so called from his proud gait.

English Value →

A

E

I

O

U

Short
Vowels

פתח

Pathach

פתח

seghol

פתח

Hireq

פתח

Qamets
Hatuf

פתח

equibuts

Changeable
Long

פתח

Qamets

פתח

Tsere

פתח

Holem

Unchangeable
Long

פתח

Qamets
He

פתח

Tsere
Yod

פתח

seghol
Yod

פתח

Hireq
Yod

פתח

Holem
Vav

פתח

Shureq

Reduced

פתח

Hateph
Pathach

פתח

Hateph
Seghol

פתח

Hateph
Qamets

English syllables

Phonological unit composed of sound

Onset sound, (the beginning or initial sound)

Nucleus sound, (the middle or final sound)

Coda sound, (the final sound)

The natural or native English speaker assumes this terminology

The “onset” sound (beginning or initial sound of a word/syllable) can be EITHER a consonant OR a vowel

Using the monosyllabic (one syllable) word “dog”

D is the onset sound

O is the nucleus

G is the coda

The value of including this as a help to your Hebrew (especially to learn initial, medial and final forms of letters and words, but also as a premise for understanding syllabification and pronunciation)

There are six different types of English syllables

1) CLOSED SYLLABLES: the word has only ONE vowel and ENDS with a consonant.

example ‘in’, ‘on’, ‘and’, ‘ask’

2) OPEN SYLLABLES: the word has only ONE vowel

and that **ONE** vowel is at the end the word or last syllable

example 'he', 'the', 'be'

3) **SILENT 'E' SYLLABLES:** ends with the letter 'e'
But has **ONE** consonant before that 'e' and **ONE** vowel before that consonant

example 'these', 'thine', 'ate'

4) **VOWEL COMBINATION SYLLABLES:** usually has two (sometimes three) vowels **PLUS** a consonant
example 'thee', 'see', 'true'

5) **VOWEL + 'R' SYLLABLES :** has one vowel followed by 'R' and/or one vowel followed by 'R' followed by silent 'E'

example 'care', 'car'

6) **CONSONANT 'LE' SYLLABLES :** consonant followed by the letters 'LE'

example 'candle', 'able' also 'gle'

DIVIDING ENGLISH WORDS INTO SYLLABLES

- split up words that have a double consonant

ter/ror hap/pen

exceptions > never split 'th', 'ph', 'ch', 'wh'
(referred to as consonant digraphs)

- **divide before a SINGLE' middle consonant**

e/vil o/pen

exceptions > if the first syllable(onset) has a short sound

- **divide before a consonant + 'LE' syllable**

tram/ple a/ble

- **divide off any compound words (prefix/suffix)**

un/done care/ful

Now that we have seen all the basic details regarding English syllables, lets see how this information will help us with Biblical Hebrew

NOTES:

HEBREW SYLLABLES & SYLLABIFICATION

I think you are going to be surprised Hebrew has **ONLY** two types of syllables. **OPEN** and **CLOSED** syllables (English has 6!)

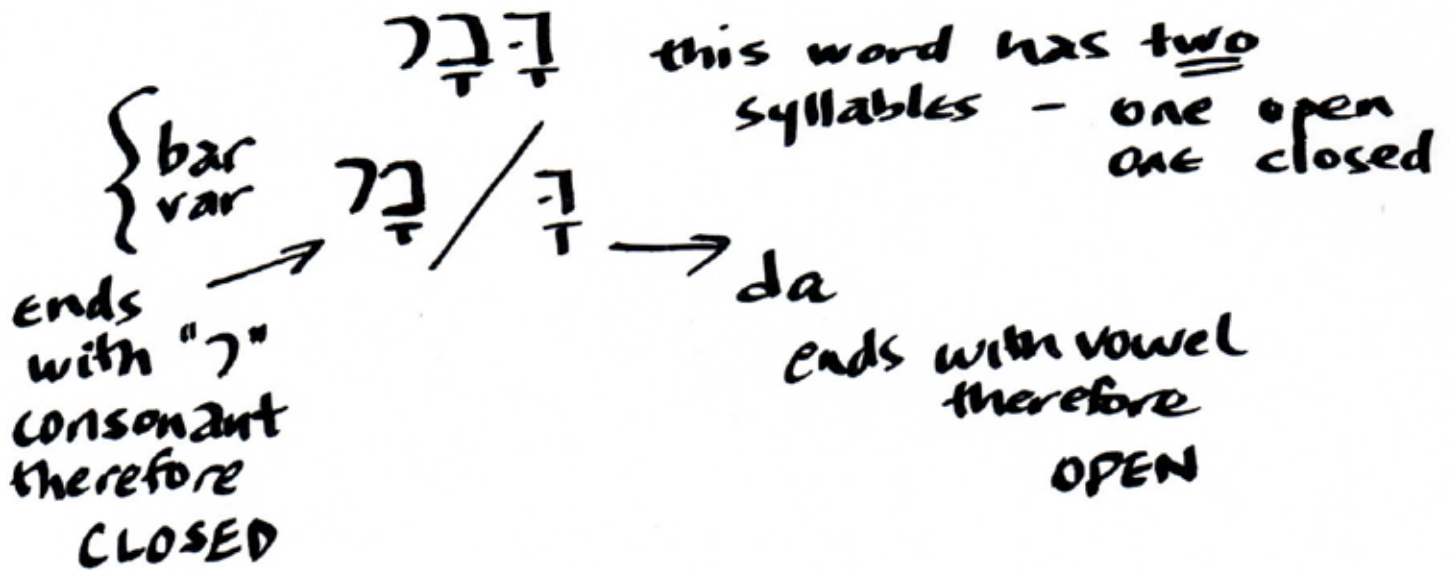
HEBREW OPEN SYLLABLES Just like English, they are called open because the vowel ends the word or syllable.

HEBREW CLOSED SYLLABLES Just like English, they are called closed because the syllable ends with a consonant.

In Hebrew, syllables must begin with a consonant (there is one exception regarding the 'vav', but that is another lesson)

Using the Hebrew word, "dabar" which means "word" notice:

"dabar"

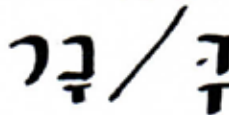


Hebrew syllables are either “stressed” or as the grammarians say “accented”...or “unaccented”
Most Hebrew words are stressed or “accented” on the last syllable. That will be a little strange for English students and speakers, whose “stress” usually falls on the first syllable.

If you have been following the handouts on Ps 91 you may have noticed some marks around letters, which are NOT vowels.

One in particular is a ^{‘ ‹ ›} above some letters. This sign or mark is our indicator that the emphasis falls somewhere OTHER than the last syllable.

In the case of our word ‘dabar’ / *davar*

The image shows the Hebrew word 'dabar' written in a stylized, handwritten font. A small mark resembling a less-than sign (<) is placed above the 'bar' syllable. A diagonal slash is drawn through the word, separating it into 'dar' and 'bar'.

the stress falls on *bar* / *Var*

The accented (stressed) syllable in Hebrew is called TONIC or TONE.

The syllable BEFORE the TONIC, is called PRETONIC because it occurs before the main stressed syllable.

The syllable that is the most far removed is appropriately called PROPRETONIC. (see diagram)

Understanding Hebrew syllabification will help you with

-Pronunciation

-Because lengthening or reduction may /will occur with nouns and verbs

-may change the meaning of a word

- 1) stressed syllable
 - 2) closed
 - 3) called TONIC
- 1) open syllable
- 2) called PRETONIC (because it is 'PRE'-before the TONIC)



syllable before TONIC

= PRETONIC

Next lessons

Vocal shewa & syllable details including

Dagesh Forte & Dagesh Lene

Diphthong

Furtive Patach

Meteg, Maqqep, Qames and Qames Hatuf

Quiescents and Gutturals

Defective writing

Introduction to Prepositions