

Hebrew Syllables
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When you learned to read English, you probably divided words into syllables. Syllables consisted of consonants and vowels. You sounded out each letter in each syllable to find out what the word sounded like. Finally, you put the syllables together to form words.

The recommended process is similar in Hebrew. Break the word into syllables and read the word syllable by syllable. With enough practice, you will begin to read words rather than just syllables!

Hebrew has two (2) kinds of syllables:

OPEN Syllable: an open syllable consists of a consonant and a vowel.

Examples: קָ, רֹ, רְ, בָ

CLOSED Syllable: a closed syllable consists of a consonant, then a vowel, and then another consonant.

Examples: קָר, בּוּק, רְבָ

Note: A shevah at the end of a closed syllable is silent!

Examples of words divided into syllables:

קָרוּק / קָרוּק
קָרְבוּר / קָרְבוּר

Note: There is one vowel per syllable. Thus, the number of syllables in a word is equal to the number of vowels. (**exception:** don't count the sheva that ends a closed syllable!)