

Closed vs. Open Syllables

Closed (hard ending)

בַּת

T<—ah<-B

Bat

Open (soft ending)

בָּ

ah<-B

Bah

When a syllable ends with a soft (vowel) sound it is referred to as an open syllable. When it ends with a hard sound it is referred to as a closed syllable.

Here are some examples from words we already know. I have colored open syllables blue and closed syllables red.

Single closed syllable:

אֵת

Ayt

(indicates direct object)

Two open syllables:

רָא <- בָּ

ra <- ba

bara (created)

Three mixed syllables:

שֵׁת <- רָא <- בָּ

sheet <- ray <- b

B'raysheet

הִים <- לוֹ <- אֱלֹהִים

him <- lo <- eh

E'lohim

Four mixed syllables:

יִם <- מַ <- שָׁ <- הָ

yim <- ma <- sha <- ha

ha'Shamayim

Notice in most cases a word ends with a closed syllable. But with bara for example it ends with an open syllable. As we learn more about syllables and grammar you will also notice the dot that appears inside some letters also relates to syllables. For example in the word בְּרָאשִׁית the dot inside the Shin here indicates that the shin will open a new syllable rather than close the root word ראש 'Rosh' as it normally would in this single open syllable word.

Hebrew Numbers 1-10

1	א	echat
2	ב	shtayim
3	ג	shalosh
4	ד	arba
5	ה	hamesh
6	ו	shesh
7	ז	sheva
8	ח	shemone
9	ט	tesha
10	י	eser

1-100

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1-10	א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י
11-20	יא	יב	יג	יד	יה	יו	יז	יח	יט	כ
21-30	כא	כב	כג	כד	כה	כו	כז	כח	כט	ל
31-40	לא	לב	לג	לד	לה	לו	לז	לח	לט	מ
41-50	מא	מב	מג	מד	מה	מו	מז	מח	מט	נ
51-60	נא	נב	נג	נד	נה	נו	נז	נח	נט	ס
61-70	סא	סב	סג	סד	סה	סו	סז	סח	סט	ע
71-80	עא	עב	עג	עד	עה	עו	עז	עח	עט	פ
81-90	פא	פב	פג	פד	פה	פו	פז	פח	פט	צ
91-100	צא	צב	צג	צד	צה	צו	צז	צח	צט	ק

