Chapter 3a - Syllabification

two rules

1. Every syllable must begin with one consonant and have only one vowel. The following example has two syllables, each beginning with a consonant and each having only one vowel.

\[ \text{דָּבָר} \rightarrow \text{בָּר} \]

2. There are only two types of syllables: open and closed. Open syllables end with a vowel and closed syllables end with a consonant. In the above example, \( \text{ד} (\text{dā}) \), is open because it ends in a vowel and \( \text{בָּר} (\text{bār}) \), is closed because it ends in a consonant.
Most Hebrew words are *accented* or *stressed* on the last syllable. Some are not. The stress in words not accented on the last syllable will be indicated by an accent mark over the stressed syllable as in the following example.
sylabification

describes the distribution of stress in a word

syllables may be classified according to their proximity to the accent

tonic
pretonic
propretonic

syllables may be classified without reference to accent

ultima
penult
antepenult