

Ross Lessons 3-4

How to Label Syllables for Tone

As we discussed in the handout “**Hebrew Syllables**,” Hebrew places standard accent (or tone) on the **final syllable**. Therefore, the accent on final syllables is unmarked, and your first inclination should always be to stress the last, or ultimate, syllable. If the accent is on a non-final syllable, accent/tone is indicated by placing the symbol ֹ over the cons. that begins the stressed syllable, as in מֶלֶךְ (king) אֶרֶץ (earth, land)

You will need to learn how to label the syllables of a word for its relationship to tone. Each syllable in a word can be labelled in one of the following ways:

T = tonic. This is the stressed syllable.

PT = pretonic. This is the syllable right before the stressed syllable.

PPT = propretonic. This is any syllable before the pretonic syllable. Or, in relation to the tonic syllable, it's any syllable that is two or more syllables before the tonic syllable.

Post = post-tonic. This is the syllable right after the stressed syllable.

So, here are some examples:

Post T	T PT	Post T	T PT	T PT PPT
מֶלֶךְ	שָׁמוֹעַ	אֶרֶץ	בֶּרֶךְ	הָרַב־קָדַרְתָּם