

Biblical Hebrew 102

Introduction to Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 11

נְשֵׂאוֹת יָא

Feminine Nouns & the Definite Article



“...man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD,” Dt 8:3; Mt 4:4.

What we will learn in Lesson 11

- 11.01 Introducing basic Hebrew feminine nouns
- 11.02 Practice translating Hebrew feminine nouns
- 11.03 Introduction to morphology and abbreviations
- 11.04 Grammar-Made-Simple: feminine nouns
- 11.05 *Review*: the Hebrew definite article: the word “the”
- 11.06 Grammar-Made-Simple: family of gutturals
- 11.07 Homework Worksheet
- 11.08 Vocabulary Flash Cards for Lesson 11
- 11.09 Vocabulary Words for Lesson 11
- 11.10 Weekly Parasha reading
- 11.11 Answers for Homework Worksheet (11.07)

11.01 Introducing Basic Hebrew Feminine Nouns

Nouns are the largest class of words in most languages. They indicate a person (eg, man), place (eg, country), or thing (eg, house, animals, etc.).

Hebrew nouns are either masculine or feminine:

- **Most feminine nouns end** with “kamats” + “hay” (הַ) or “tav” (ת).

Most feminine nouns are made plural by adding “cholam vav” which is a “cholam & “tav” (וֹת) to the end of the word.

Examples of 3 Feminine Nouns			
feminine singular	תּוֹרָה Torah or instruction	מִשְׁפָּחָה family	מִצְוָה commandment, obligation or deed
feminine plural	תּוֹרוֹת Torahs or instructions	מִשְׁפָּחוֹת families	מִצְוֹת commandments, obligations or deeds

11.02 Practice translating Hebrew feminine nouns

Copy the English translation of the Hebrew word on the lines below. (Hint: refer to Vocabulary in box for any unfamiliar words.)

Torah	_____ תּוֹרָה
daughter	_____
land	_____
commandment	_____
daughters	_____
family	_____
mother	_____
the daughter	_____
families	_____
lands	_____
commandments	_____
mothers	_____
Torahs (or instructions)	_____
soul	_____
female horse (mare)	_____

Feminine Noun Vocabulary:	
תּוֹרָה	Torah or instruction
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs or instructions
מִשְׁפָּחָה	family
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families
אֶרֶץ	land
אֲרָצוֹת	lands
מִצְוָה	commandment (obligation or deed)
מִצְוֹת	commandments (obligations or deeds)
אִם	mother
אִמוֹת	mothers
בַּת	daughter
בָּנוֹת	daughters (irregular plural)
הַבַּת	the daughter
סוּסָה	mare (female horse)
נַפְשׁ	soul or person

11.03 Introduction to morphology and abbreviations -- time saver!!

Morphology is the study of word formation; regardless of whether it a word is noun, verb, etc.

For example, the morphology of תּוֹרָה (Torah) is: noun, feminine, singular.

Abbreviations for morphology helps individuals understand a particular word.

For example, the abbreviation for תּוֹרָה is: N-fs (“N” tells that this word is a noun. “f” word is feminine. “s” word is singular.)

➤ For this lesson, we will only learn the following 5 abbreviations:

N = noun (often the letter “N” will be followed by a “dash” to clarify the letters following refer to that noun. Refer to above)

f = feminine

s = singular

p = plural

art = article (“the”: generally written with a “hay”, “patach”, and a “dagesh chazak”: הַ)

Hebrew abbreviations are fairly uniform. Once you are familiar with these abbreviations, you will find it is easy to understand the slight variations that some study books may use.

Write the English translation & abbreviation for the following words		
Hebrew	English Translation (refer to vocabulary list on 11.02)	Write Hebrew Abbreviations
תּוֹרָה	Torah* or instruction	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
תּוֹרֹת	Torahs* or instructions	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת		
מִצְוָה	commandment, deed, or duty	
מִצְוֹת		
בֵּת		
הַבַּיִת		art; N-fs
בָּנוֹת		
נָפֶשׁ		
סוּסָה	female horse or mare (Song of Songs 1:9)	

* Yes, Torah is a proper noun; we will cover proper nouns in Lesson 13.

Overwhelmed?

- Do not become overwhelmed by the various aspects of each grammatical rule. We only need to be able to recognize these. **Remember** we are not writing the Bible.
- We will cover these rules with great repetition in the upcoming lessons.
- We will discuss reasons for vowel changes in a later lesson.

11.04 Grammar-Made-Simple: feminine nouns

- Feminine singular nouns generally have particular endings: “kamats” + “hay” (הַיְ) or “tav” (תְּ)
- Feminine plural nouns generally are made plural by adding: “cholam vav” (or “cholam”) & “tav” (וֹתְ) to the end of the word.

11.05 Review: The Hebrew definite article: the word “the”

In both English and Hebrew, there are definite articles. In English, the definite article is the word, “the.”

In Hebrew, the definite article is always attached to a noun and cannot stand alone.

- a. Articles are **generally written** with a “hay” & “patach” and have a “dagesh chazak” in next consonant: הַיְ

- Torah (תּוֹרָה) becomes the Torah (הַתּוֹרָה)
- Commandment (מִצְוָה) becomes the commandment (הַמִּצְוָה)

- b. **The exception is when a definite article precedes a “guttural”¹.**

- ¹The family of gutturals is: א, ה, ח, ע, ג

When an article precedes a guttural: the vowel under the “hay” changes from a “patach” to a “kamats” (הָ) or to a “segol” (הֶ). Also, the following letter does not have a “dagesh”. (Why is there no “dagesh”? Because “gutturals” cannot take a “dagesh”. We’ll discuss “why they do not take a guttural” in a later lesson.)

- Examples of when the article precedes a guttural:
 - אֶרֶץ (land) becomes הָאֶרֶץ (the land)
 - אִם (mother) becomes הֵאִם (the mother)
 - עִיר (city) becomes הָעִיר (the city)

11.06 Grammar-Made-Simple: family of gutturals

- ¹The family of gutturals is: א, ה, ח, ע, ג

11.07 Homework Worksheet

Vocabulary Words:

תּוֹרָה	Torah*	מִצְוָה	commandment
הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah*	הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs*	מִצְוֹת	commandments
הַתּוֹרוֹת	the Torahs (or the instructions)	הַמִּצְוֹת	the commandments
מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	אִם	mother
הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה	the family	הָאִם	the mother
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families	אֶרֶץ	land
הַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת	the families	הָאֶרֶץ	the land
בַּת	daughter	נַפְשׁ	soul
הַבַּת	the daughter	סוּסָה	female horse (mare)
בָּנוֹת	daughters		

HOMWORK WORKSHEET		
<i>Write the English or Hebrew translation & abbreviation for the following words</i>		
Write Hebrew Translation <small>(refer to Vocabulary List above)</small>	Write English Translation <small>(refer to Vocabulary List above)</small>	Write Hebrew Abbreviations <small>(refer to list of Abbreviations in section 11:04)</small>
תּוֹרָה	Torah*	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah*	art; N-fs (article; noun-feminine singular)
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs*	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
הַתּוֹרוֹת	the Torahs* or instructions	art; N-fp (article; noun-feminine plural)
מִשְׁפָּחָה		
הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה		
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת		
	the families	
מִצְוָה		
הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment (Dt 5:31)	
	commandments	
הַמִּצְוֹת	the commandments (Lev 27:34)	
Exceptions. The following are feminine even though they do not end with either a “hay” (הַ) or “tav” (תּ):		
אִם		
אֶרֶץ		
נַפְשׁ	soul, person (Gen 1:20)	

11.08 Vocabulary Flash Cards: (click & go to: [Lesson 11: vocabulary flash cards](#))

It is important to begin learning these words in the lesson 11. These high frequency words appear frequently in the TaNaKh.

➤ We encourage you to review these words until they become familiar.

11.09 Vocabulary Words for Lesson 11

Please memorize the 4 key nouns in red below.			
<i>The nouns listed below also listed with addition of the article & the plural form.</i>			
Hebrew	Meaning	Parsing	Transliteration
תּוֹרָה	Torah* or instruction	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)	To-rah
הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah*	art; N-fs (article; noun-feminine singular)	haht-to-rah
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs* or instructions	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)	To-rot
הַתּוֹרוֹת	the Torahs* or instructions	art; N-fp (article; noun-feminine plural)	haht-to-rot
מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	N-fs	meesh-pah-chah
הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה	the family	art; N-fs	hahm-meesh-pah-chah
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families	N-fp	meesh-pah-choth
הַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת	the families (Jer 33:24)	art; N-fp	ham-meesh-pah-choth
אֶרֶץ	land (Gen 1:10)	N-fs	eh-rehts
הָאֶרֶץ	the land (Gen 1:1)	art; N-fs	hah-ah-rehts
אֶרְצוֹת	lands	N-fp	ah-rah-tsot
הָאֶרְצוֹת	the lands (Gen 26:4)	art; N-fp	hah-ah-rah-tsot
מִצְוָה	commandment (obligation or deed)	N-fs	meets-vah
הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment (Dt 5:31)	art; N-fs	ham-meets-vah
מִצְוֹת	commandments (obligations or deeds)	N-fp	meets-vot
הַמִּצְוֹת	the commandments (Lev 27:34)	art; N-fp	hahm-meets-vot

HINTS for memorizing:

1. Write these words in your Hebrew vocabulary notebook.
2. Having a list of vocabulary words makes reviewing easy.

DEFINITION: Lexicon

A lexicon is a dictionary of a list of words for a particular language. The list includes nouns, verbs, & other parts of speech. In Biblical studies, there are lexicons for Greek, Hebrew, & Aramaic.

11.10 Weekly Parasha reading (go to www.RestoringTorah.org)

11.11 Answers for Homework Worksheet (11.07)

Write Hebrew Translation	Write English Translation	Write Hebrew Abbreviations
תּוֹרָה	Torah*	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah*	art; N-fs (article; noun-feminine singular)
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs*	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
הַתּוֹרוֹת	the Torahs* or instructions	art; N-fp (article; noun-feminine plural)
מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	N-fs
הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה	the family	art; N-fs
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families	N-fp
הַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת	the families	art; N-fp
מִצְוָה	commandment	N-fs
הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment (Dt 5:31)	art; N-fs
מִצְוֹת	commandments	N-fp
הַמִּצְוֹת	the commandments (Lev 27:34)	art; N-fp
Exceptions. The following are feminine even though they do not end with either a “hay” (הַיָּ) or “tav” (תַּ):		
אִם	mother	N-fs
אֶרֶץ	land	N-fs
נַפְשׁ	soul, person (Gen 1:20)	N-fs

* Yes, Torah is a proper noun; however, we will cover proper nouns in Lesson 13.