

Biblical Hebrew 102

Introduction to Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 12

שְׁעוֹר יב

Masculine Nouns



“...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 12

- 12.01 *Review:* Hebrew feminine nouns
- 12.02 Introduce basic Hebrew masculine nouns
- 12.03 Grammar-Made-Simple: Nouns
- 12.04 Morphology and abbreviations – a time saver!
- 12.05 *Review:* the definite article
- 12.06 Reading & printing exercise: Genesis 1:1
- 12.07 Homework Worksheet
- 12.08 *Review:* Vocabulary Words & Flash Cards for Lesson 12
- 12.09 Weekly Parasha reading
- 12.10 Basic Hebrew terms & expressions

12.01 Review 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” (or “cholam) & “tav” (ות) 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

12.02 Introduce Basic Hebrew Masculine Nouns

- Masculine singular nouns, unlike feminine nouns, do not have a particular ending.

Most masculine nouns are made plural by adding “chirek”, “yod/yud” & “mem sofit” (ים) to the end of the word. (Note: “chirek” is not under “yod”; it is under previous consonant.)

Examples of 3 Masculine Nouns			
masculine singular	סֵפֶר book	הַר mount	זָכָר male
masculine plural	סִפְרִים books	הָרִים mountains	זָכָרִים males

Copy Hebrew translation of English word on lines below. (Hint: refer to Vocabulary in box→.)

- King מֶלֶךְ _____
- Mountains _____
- Boy _____
- House _____
- Books _____
- Man _____
- Mount _____
- Kings _____
- Houses _____
- Children _____
- Book _____

Masculine Noun Vocabulary:	
סֵפֶר	book
סִפְרִים	books
יָלֵד	boy
יְלָדִים	boys or children
בַּיִת	house
בָּתִּים	houses
מֶלֶךְ	king
מְלָכִים	kings
אִישׁ	man
אֲנָשִׁים	men or people (irregular)
הַר	mount (mountain)
הָרִים	mountains

12.03 Grammar-Made-Simple: Nouns

- Hebrew nouns are either masculine or feminine.
- Masculine singular nouns have no particular endings.
 - Masculine plural nouns generally are made plural by adding a “chirek,” “yud/yod,” and a “mem sofit” (םֿיֿ) to the end of the word. eg: טָפָר (N-ms) טָפָרִים (N-mp)
- Feminine singular nouns generally end with a “kamats” and “hay” (הֿיֿ). Also, nouns which end with a “tav” (תֿ), are usually feminine.
 - Most Feminine plural nouns are made plural by adding a “cholam vav” (or a “cholam”) & a “tav” (ותֿ) to the end of the word.

12.04 Morphology and abbreviations -- time saver!!

Morphology is the study of word formation; in other words: morphology helps us understand a word and what part of speech that word is whether it is a noun, verb, etc, and its breakdown.

For example, the morphology of טָפָר is: Noun-masculine singular.

Abbreviations for the morphology helps individuals understand each particular word.

Explanation for morphology for טָפָר is: N-ms (“N” indicates the word is a noun. “m” that the word is masculine. “s” that the word is singular.)

- For this lesson, we will use the following 6 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**
 - m** = **masculine**
 - s** = **singular**
 - p** = **plural**
 - art** = **article** (“the”: generally written with a “hay”, “patach”, and a “dagesh”: םֿהֿיֿ)

Hebrew abbreviations are fairly uniform; however, they not totally standardized. Once you are familiar with these abbreviations, you will find it is easy to understand the slight variations that some study books may use.

12.05 Review Definite Article: the word “the”

Hint: look for patterns!

1. In Hebrew, the definite article is not a separate word (as in English, the definite article “the” is a separate word). In Hebrew, the definite article is attached to the noun. Good news: the definite article for both masculine and feminine nouns is generally designated by a “hay”, “patach”, & “dagesh chazak”.
2. **Examples of masculine nouns with the definite article (םֿהֿיֿ):**
 - דָבָר (word or thing) becomes הַדָּבָר (the word or the thing)
 - מֶלֶךְ (king) becomes הַמֶּלֶךְ (the king)
 - נָעָר (young man) becomes הַנָּעָר (the young man)

Feminine nouns with the article: (Notice there is no difference in how the article is added to both the masculine and feminine nouns)

- תּוֹרָה (Torah) becomes הַתּוֹרָה (the Torah)
- מִצְוָה (commandment) becomes הַמִּצְוָה (the commandment)
- שָׁנָה (year) becomes הַשָּׁנָה (the year)

3. **Exceptions** are when a **definite article precedes a guttural** (א, ה, ח, ע, ר).

The vowel under the “hay” changes from a “patach” to a “kamats” (ָ) or a “segol” (ֶ). Also, the following letter does not have a “dagesh”. (Why is there no dagesh”? Because gutturals cannot take a dagesh. Later, we will learn why the grammatical changes with the article.)

Important: learn to recognize the definite article!

Definite article with masculine nouns which begin with a guttural:

- אָב (father) becomes הָאָב (the father)
- רֹאשׁ (head) becomes הָרֹאשׁ (the head)
- אִישׁ (man) becomes הָאִישׁ (the man)
- הַרִים (mountains) becomes הַהַרִים (the mountains)
- חָכָם (wise) becomes הַחָכָם (the wise ‘man*’)

Definite article with feminine nouns which begin with a guttural: (Again, notice the formation is the same for the feminine as it was for masculine.) Examples of when the article precedes a guttural:

- אֶרֶץ (land) becomes הָאֶרֶץ (the land)
- אִם (mother) becomes הָאִם (the mother)
- עִיר (city) becomes הָעִיר (the city)

12.06 Reading & printing exercise: Genesis 1:1

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

Hebrew	Translation	Print each word in Hebrew (with vowels)
בְּרֵאשִׁית	In the beginning	
בָּרָא	he created	
אֱלֹהִים	God; “Elohim” is a title; therefore, it is not a proper noun in Hebrew.	
אֶת	---	
הַשָּׁמַיִם	the heavens	
וְאֶת	and	
הָאָרֶץ:	the earth/land	

12.07 Vocabulary Words & Homework Worksheet

Vocabulary for the exercise below:

אִישׁ	man (N-ms)	מִצְוָה	commandment (N-fs)	סוּס	horse (N-ms)
הָאִישׁ	the man (art; N-ms)	הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment (art; N-fs)	הַסּוּסִים	the horses (art; N-mp)
בַּיִת	house (N-ms)	אִשָּׁה	woman (N-fs)	הַדְּבָר	the word (art; N-ms)
בָּתִּים	houses (N-mp)	הָאִשָּׁה	the woman (art; N-fs)	הַדְּבָרִים	the words (art; N-mp)
הַבַּיִת	the house (art; N-ms)	מֶלֶךְ	king (N-ms)	הַמְּלָכִים	the kings (art; N-mp)
שָׁנָה	year (N-fs)	הַמְּלָכִים	the kings (art; N-mp)		

HOMWORK WORKSHEET

Write the English or Hebrew translation & abbreviation for the following words

Write Hebrew Translation (refer to Vocabulary List)	Write English Translation (refer to Vocabulary List)	Write Hebrew Abbreviations (refer to list of Abbreviations)
בַּיִת	house (Gen 12:30)	N-ms (Noun-masculine singular)
הַבַּיִת	the house	art; N-ms (article; Noun-masculine singular)
הַדְּבָר	the word	art; N-ms (article; noun-masculine singular)
הַדְּבָרִים	the words	art; N-mp (article; Noun-masculine plural)
שָׁנָה	year (feminine noun)	N-fs (Noun-feminine singular)
מִצְוָה	commandment	
הַמִּצְוָה		
	man	
	woman	
יָלַד		
מֶלֶךְ		
	the kings (Gen 14:5)	
סוּס		
הַסּוּסִים	the horses (I Kings 10:28)	

The way we are learning Hebrew in these classes really makes the weekly Torah readings come alive. FD

12.08 Review Vocabulary Words & Flash Cards:

These vocabulary words include high frequency words, which appear frequently in the TaNaKh. We encourage you to review these words until they become familiar.

➤ Lesson 12 Vocabulary Words:

אִישׁ	man (N-ms)	סוּס	horse (N-ms)	מֶלֶךְ	king (N-ms)
הָאִישׁ	the man (art; N-ms)	הַסּוּסִים	the horses (art; N-mp)	הַמְּלָכִים	the kings (art; N-mp)
אִשָּׁה	woman (N-fs)	סוּסָה	mare (female horse) (N-fs)	יָלֵד	boy (N-ms)
הָאִשָּׁה	the woman (art; N-fs)	סֵפֶר	book (N-ms)	יְלָדִים	boys or children (N-mp)
בַּיִת	house (N-ms)	סֵפָרִים	books (N-mp)	מִצְוָה	commandment (N-fs)
בָּתַיִם	houses (N-mp)	הַדְּבָר	the word (art; N-ms)	מִצְוֹת	commandments (N-fp)
הַבַּיִת	the house (art; N-ms)	הַדְּבָרִים	the words (art; N-mp)	נֶפֶשׁ	body or soul (N-fs)

➤ Lesson 12 Vocabulary Flash Cards: ([click & go to: Lesson 12: vocabulary flash cards](#))

12.09 Weekly Parasha reading ([go to www.RestoringTorah.org](http://www.RestoringTorah.org))

12.10 Basic Hebrew terms & expressions

Grammatical terms:

דו־תְּנוּעָה	(doo teh-noo-ah)	diphthong
נְקֻדּוֹת/נְקֻדָּה	(neek-kood/neh-kood-dot)	Hebrew vowels or symbols
סְמִיכוֹת	(s'mee-choot)	(aka construct chain). 2 or more words used as a single unit or word. Often the word “of” is added between the words of the construct chain when it is translated into English. eg: people <u>of</u> Israel -- עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל
שָׂרֵשׁ	(sho-rehsh)	3-4 letter root of a word. Various words are developed from this root.

Vocabulary

“וְ” & “וּ”	(veh & oo)	this letter attaches to the 1 st letter of word & means “and”
לְמָה?	(lahm-mah)	Why?
מָה זֶה?	(mah zeh)	What is this?
אֵיךְ אֹמְרִים?	(ehch om-reem)	How do you say?
כֵּן כֵּן כֵּן!	(kehn, kehn, kehn)	Yes, Yes, Yes!
לֹא לֹא לֹא!	(lo, lo, lo!)	No, No, No!
עוֹד פַּעַם	(od pah-ahm)	Again
כָּל הַזְּמַן יָשָׁר	(kol hahz'mahn yah-shahr)	All the time straight.
יֵשׁ לִי שְׁאֵלָה	(yehsh lee sheh-eh-lah).	I have a question.
שְׂעוֹר	(shee-oor)	lesson
אַרְצוֹת הַבְּרִית	(ahr-tsot hahb-breet)	U.S. (literally, the covenanted lands)