

Biblical Hebrew 102

Introduction to Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 13

שְׁעוֹר יג

Special 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 13

- 13.01 *Review*: morphology & abbreviations
- 13.02 *Review*: feminine & masculine nouns
- 13.03 *Review*: the definite article
- 13.04 Introduce: special nouns: gender & proper nouns
- 13.05 Homework Worksheet (practice Hebrew masculine & feminine nouns)
- 13.06 Reading & printing exercise: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- 13.07 Vocabulary Words & Homework Worksheet
- 13.08 Weekly Parasha reading
- 13.09 Answers to Homework worksheet

13.01 Review morphology and abbreviations

Morphology is the study of word formation. It facilitates the reader’s understanding of whether a particular word is a noun, verb, etc.

For example, the morphology of **סֵפֶר**: this word is a noun, & it is masculine & singular.

Abbreviations enable individuals to quickly write the morphology of each word.

For example, the abbreviation for **סֵפֶר** is: N-ms (The N means that **סֵפֶר** is a noun; “m” it is masculine; and “s” it is singular.)

➤ For this lesson, we will only learn the following 6 abbreviations:

- art** = **article** (“the”: generally written with a “hay”, “patach”, and a “dagesh chazak”: הָהֵאָה)
- N** = **noun** (often the abbreviation “N” is followed by a “dash”, clarifying the letters following the dash give further detail about the type of noun. Refer to above)
- f** = **feminine**
- m** = **masculine**
- s** = **singular**
- p** = **plural**
- N-prop** = **proper noun**

Though Hebrew abbreviations are fairly uniform, they not totally standardized. Once you become familiar with these, you will find it is easy to understand the slight variations in some study books.

13.02 Review basic feminine & masculine nouns

1. **Most feminine singular nouns end** with a “kamats” + a “hay” (הָ) or a “tav” (תּ).

Most feminine nouns are made **plural** by adding “cholam vav” (or a “cholam”) & a “tav” (ותּ) to the end of the word.

Singular	Definition	Plural	Definition
תּוֹרָה (N-fs)	Torah or instruction	תּוֹרוֹת (N-fp)	Torahs or instructions
מִשְׁפָּחָה (N-fs)	family	מִשְׁפָּחוֹת (N-fp)	families

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

Most masculine nouns are made **plural** by adding “chirek”, “yod” & a “mem sofit” (יָם) to the end of the word.

Singular	Definition	Plural	Definition
סֵפֶר (N-ms)	book	סֵפָרִים (N-mp)	books
הַר (N-ms)	mount or mountain	הָרִים (N-mp)	mountains

Marcus Tullius Cicero (a Roman statesman, orator, lawyer, and philosopher, who lived from 106BC to 43BC). He is credited with the wise saying “**Repetition is the mother of learning**” ... *this truism that we need to heed in our study of Hebrew.*

Grammar-Made-Simple: *basic feminine & masculine nouns*

- All Hebrew nouns are either masculine or feminine
- Feminine singular nouns generally end with a kamats and hay (הַ). Also, nouns which end with a tav (ת), are usually feminine.
- Feminine plural nouns: generally feminine nouns are made plural by adding a cholam vav & a tav תוּ to the end of the word.
- Masculine singular nouns have no particular endings.
 - Masculine plural nouns generally are made plural by adding a chirek, yud/yod, and a mem sofit (ים) to the end of the word.

13.03 Review Definite Article: the word “the”

1. The Hebrew definite article does not have a gender (masculine nor feminine). Nouns which have the article begin with a “hay” & “patach” and have a “dagesh chazak” in next letter: הַ

Example of masculine noun with the article:

Word (בַּר) becomes the word (הַבַּר)

Example of feminine nouns with the article:

Torah (תּוֹרָה) becomes the Torah (הַתּוֹרָה)

2. The 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 a guttural cannot take a dagesh.)

Definite articles are added to masculine & feminine nouns, which begin with a guttural, in the same way:

- Father (אָב) becomes the father (הָאָב)
- Land (אֶרֶץ) becomes the land (הָאֶרֶץ)
- Head (רֹאשׁ) becomes the head (הָרֹאשׁ)
- Man (אִישׁ) becomes the man (הָאִישׁ)
- Woman (אִשָּׁה) becomes the woman (הָאִשָּׁה)
- Mountains (הַרִּים) becomes the mountains (הַהַרִּים)

Grammar-Made-Simple: *definite article*

- Definite article is formed the same way for both masculine and feminine nouns
1. Both nouns begin with a “hay” & “patach” and have a “dagesh chazak” in next letter: הַ
Example: word (בַּר) becomes the word (הַבַּר)
 2. Exceptions are when the article is precedes a guttural: (א, ה, ח, ע, ר)
Gutturals cannot take a “dagesh”, so the “patach” under the “hay” becomes either a “kamats” (ָ) or a “segol” (ֶ).
Example: father (אָב) becomes the father (הָאָב)
Example: mountains (הַרִּים) becomes the mountains (הַהַרִּים)

13.04 *Special nouns: gender nouns and proper nouns*

1. **Gender nouns** are very easy in Hebrew. Unlike English, Hebrew gender nouns generally are not different words, but a modification. Gender nouns are nouns that change according to the gender to which they are referring: boy-girl, man-woman, king-queen, etc.

Boy (יָלֵד) changes to girl (יְלֵדָה) by adding a “kamats” and a “hay” (הַ) to the end of the masculine term; also the vowel at the beginning of the word changes.

Examples of the gender nouns:

- יָלֵד (boy) changes to יְלֵדָה (girl)
- אִישׁ (man) changes to אִשָּׁה (woman)
- מֶלֶךְ (king) changes to מַלְכָּה (queen)
- סוּס (horse) changes to סוּסָה (mare or female horse)
- דּוֹד (uncle) changes to דּוֹדָה (aunt)

2. **Proper nouns are very easy!!!** These nouns are specific names for a person (Abraham; Sarah), place (Israel; Dead Sea), or a thing (Temple; the Land).

Examples of the proper nouns in Hebrew:

אַבְרָהָם (Abraham, N-prop-ms)	----	יִצְחָק (Isaac, N-prop-ms)
יַעֲקֹב (Jacob, N-prop-ms)	----	שָׂרָה (Sarah, N-prop-fs)
רֵבֶקָה (Rebecca, N-prop-fs)	----	רָחֵל (Rachel, N-prop-fs)
דָּוִד (David, N-prop-ms)	----	בַּיִת־הַמִּקְדָּשׁ (Temple, N-prop-ms)
כְּנָעַן (Canaan, N-prop-ms)	----	הָאָרֶץ (the Land (aka Israel): N-prop-fs)
יַם הַמֶּלַח (Dead Sea, N-prop-ms)	----	יִשְׂרָאֵל (the name of the country: N-prop-fs)
יַרְדֵּן (Jordan River, N-prop-fs)	----	יִשְׂרָאֵל (name of a male or of a people: N-prop-ms)

13.05 *Vocabulary Words & Homework Sheet*

➤ Vocabulary Words:

אִישׁ	man (N-ms)	אִשָּׁה	woman (N-fs)	סוּס	horse (N-ms)
הָאִישׁ	the man (art; N-ms)	הָאִשָּׁה	the woman (art; N-fs)	הַסּוּסִים	the horses (art; N-mp)
בַּיִת	house (N-ms)	מֶלֶךְ	king (N-ms)	הַדְּבָר	the word (art; N-ms)
בָּתַיִם	houses (N-mp)	הַמְּלָכִים	the kings (art; N-mp)	דְּבָרִים	words (N-mp)
שָׁנָה	year (N-fs)	יִשְׂרָאֵל	Israel, the country (N-prop-fs)	הַדְּבָרִים	the words (art; N-mp)
עֵין	eye (N-fs)	אַבְרָהָם	Abraham (N-prop-ms)	מִצְוָה	commandment (N-fs)
שָׂרָה	Sarah (N-prop-fs)	יָד	hand (N-fs)	הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment (art; N-fs)
בֶּן	son (N-ms)	יוֹם	day (N-ms)	יַם הַמֶּלַח	Dead Sea (art; N-prop-ms)
בָּנִים	sons (N-mp)	יָמִים	days (N-mp)	בַּיִת־הַמִּקְדָּשׁ	The Temple (art; N-prop-ms)

HOMEWORK WORKSHEET

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

- Refer to 13.01 for abbreviations & morphology
- Refer to Vocabulary List on 13.05

Fill in blanks with Hebrew word	Fill in blanks with English Translation	Fill in blanks with abbreviations
שָׁנָה	year	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
סוּס		
	Abraham	N-prop-ms (proper.noun-ms)
	the word	art; N-ms (article; noun-masculine singular)
	words	
	the words	
שָׂרָה		
אִישׁ		
בֵּית		
	houses	
	the man	
בָּנִים		
אִשָּׁה		
מֶלֶךְ		
עוֹן		
	son	
	the woman	
הַסּוּסִים		
יָד		
בֵּית־הַמֶּלֶךְ		
	the kings	
מִצְוָה		
	day	
	days	
	the commandment	
	Dead Sea	
יִשְׂרָאֵל		

13.06 Reading & printing exercise: Deut 6:4-5

Mark 12:29-30 (NASB): *Note: Yeshua quoted Deut 6:4-5 verbatim in Mark 12:29-30:*

Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘Hear, Israel! The LORD [YHVH] is our God, the LORD [YHVH] is one; and you shall love the LORD [YHVH] your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’”

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NASB):

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD [YHVH] is our God, the LORD [YHVH] is one! And you shall love the LORD [YHVH] your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (in Hebrew):

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד :

וְאַהַבְתָּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לְבָבְךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשֶׁךָ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדְךָ :

Hebrew	Translation	Print each word in Hebrew (with vowels)
שְׁמַע	Hear	
יִשְׂרָאֵל	Israel	
יְהוָה	YHVH (the LORD)	
אֱלֹהֵינוּ	our God	
יְהוָה	YHVH	
אֶחָד	one (“is” is understood)	
וְאַהַבְתָּ	& you shall love	
אֶת		
יְהוָה	YHVH (the LORD)	
אֱלֹהֶיךָ	your God	
בְּכָל-	with all of	
לְבָבְךָ	your heart	
וּבְכָל-	& with all of	
נַפְשֶׁךָ	your soul	
וּבְכָל-	& with all of	
מְאֹדְךָ :	your strength	

13.07 Vocabulary Words listed in 13.05:

Review vocabulary words from this lesson; the words we have included appear frequently in the TaNaKh.

We encourage you to review these until this vocabulary becomes familiar.

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

13.09 ANSWERS to Homework Worksheet

ANSWERS TO HOMEWORK WORKSHEET

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

- Refer to 13.01 for abbreviations & morphology
- Refer to Vocabulary List on 13.05

Fill in blanks with Hebrew word	Fill in blanks with English Translation	Fill in blanks with abbreviations
שָׁנָה	year	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
סוס	horse	N-mp
אַבְרָהָם	Abraham	N-prop-ms (proper.noun-ms)
הַדְּבָרִים	the word	art; n-ms (article; noun-masculine singular)
הַדְּבָרִים	words	N-ms
הַדְּבָרִים	the words	art; N-mp
שָׂרָה	Sarah	N-prop-fs
אִישׁ	woman	N-fs
בַּיִת	house	N-ms
בָּתִּים	houses	N-mp
הָאִישׁ	the man	art; N-ms
בָּנִים	sons	N-mp
אִשָּׁה	woman	N-fs
מֶלֶךְ	king	N-ms
עֵין	eye	N-fs
בֶּן	son	N-ms
בֶּן	the woman	art; N-fs
הַסּוּסִים	the horses	art; N-mp
יָד	hand	art; N-fs
בֵּית־הַמִּקְדָּשׁ	The Temple	art; N-prop-ms
הַמְּלָכִים	the kings	art; N-mp
מִצְוָה	commandment	N-fs
יוֹם	day	N-ms
יָמִים	days	N-mp
הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment	art; N-fs
יַם הַמֶּלַח	Dead Sea	art; N-prop-ms
יִשְׂרָאֵל	Israel	N-prop-fs