

Biblical Hebrew 103

Developing Grammatical Concepts & Vocabulary

Lesson 21

שְׁעוֹר כ"א

Pronominal suffixes with singular & plural nouns



Mahane Yehuda is one of the most famous outdoor markets in Jerusalem: This market is a definite must-see. Early in the morning, fragrances of the spices and aromas of the produce greet you. The hustle and bustle of the market is something to be experienced.

What we will learn in Lesson 21

- 21.01 *Review* singular and plural nouns
- 21.02 *Review* pronominal suffix chart for singular nouns
- 21.03 *Review* masculine & feminine singular nouns with pronominal suffixes
- 21.04 Introducing feminine plural nouns with pronominal suffixes
- 21.05 Masculine & feminine plural nouns with pronominal suffixes
- 21.06 Exercise: Practice identifying the pronominal suffixes
- 21.07 Reading exercise: Numbers 30:2
- 21.08 Answers to Exercise 21.06
- 21.09 Vocabulary words & flash cards for Lesson 21
- 21.10 Weekly Parasha reading

21.01 *Review: singular and plural nouns*

1. Masculine singular nouns are basic nouns.
 - a. Example: סוס (“horse”)
 - b. Example: ספר (“book”)
2. Masculine plural become plural by adding to the end of the a chirek, yod, and a mem sofit ים.
 - a. Example: סוסים (“horses” uses the standard formation of a chirek, yod, and a mem sofit ים)
 - b. Example: ספרים (“books” uses the standard formation of a chirek, yod, and a mem sofit ים)
3. Feminine singular nouns generally have a hay ה at the end of the noun and generally add a kamats.
 - a. Examples: סוסה (“mare” or “female horse”)
 - b. Examples: תורה (“Torah” is a feminine noun. Every Hebrew noun is either masculine or feminine. In English, most nouns are “its.” For example: a book is “it”; however, a boat is a “she.”)
4. Feminine plural a noun generally becomes plural by dropping the hay and adding a cholam vav and a tav ות to the end of the word.
 - a. Example: סוסות (“mares” or “female horses”)
 - b. Example: תורות (“Torahs.” Note: the 2nd cholam vav, follows a resh, is shortened to a cholam.)

21.02 *Review: pronominal suffix chart for singular nouns*

Pronominal Suffix Chart for singular nouns			
Singular suffixes		Plural suffixes	
Person	Suffixes	Person	Suffixes
1 st c*s	ִי	1 st c*p	ִנִּי
2 nd ms	ְךָ	2 nd mp	ְכֶם (silent sheva)
2 nd fs	ְךִי	2 nd fp	ְכֶיךָ (silent sheva)
3 rd ms	ֹוֹ	3 rd mp	ֹוֹם
3 rd fs	ֹוֶיךָ	3 rd fp	ֹוֶיךָ

Studying Biblical Hebrew really shows me how much I do not know about Scripture! DH

* Grammar Made Simple:

- As we have learned, all Hebrew nouns are either masculine or feminine.
- Pronouns also are masculine or feminine except for the 1st person pronouns. These are called ***common pronouns** (abbreviated as “c”) because they can refer to either males or females. For example, 1st person singular “I” can refer to either a male or female, & 1st plural “we” can refer to either males or females or a mixed group.

21.03 *Review: masculine & feminine singular nouns with suffixes*

Singular nouns with singular pronominal suffixes

Masculine singular noun with singular pronominal suffixes			Feminine singular noun with singular pronominal suffixes		
Person	Hebrew	Translation	Person	Hebrew	Translation
ms = masculine singular fs = feminine singular					
סוס = horse (masculine singular noun)			תורה = law or instruction (feminine singular noun)		
1 st ms & fs: (masculine/ feminine, singular)	סוסי	my horse	1 st ms & fs: (masculine/ feminine, singular)	תורתִי	my Torah (law or instruction)
2 nd ms: (masculine, singular)	סוסֶךָ	your (ms) horse	2 nd ms: (masculine, singular)	תורתֶךָ	your (ms) Torah (law or instruction)
2 nd fs: (feminine, singular)	סוסֶיךָ	your (fs) horse	2 nd fs: (feminine, singular)	תורתֶיךָ	your (fs) Torah (law or instruction)
3 rd ms: (masculine, singular)	סוסו	his horse	3 rd ms: (masculine, singular)	תורתו	his Torah (law or instruction)
3 rd fs: (feminine, singular)	סוסיה	her horse	3 rd fs: (feminine, singular)	תורתיה	her Torah (law or instruction)

21.04 *Introducing feminine plural nouns with pronominal suffixes*

- Plural feminine nouns with pronominal suffixes are formed much the same way as masculine. The suffix is connected to the noun.
- Both masculine & feminine plural nouns have a “yod” added to the end of the noun & before the suffix. The only exception are the 1st person singular suffixes where there is no “yod” added; however, the “yod” is again added to 1st plural suffixes.

Singular nouns with plural pronominal suffixes

Masculine singular noun with singular pronominal suffixes			Feminine singular noun with plural pronominal suffixes		
Person	Hebrew	Translation	Person	Hebrew	Translation
סוס = horse (masculine singular noun)			תורה = law or instruction (feminine singular noun)		
1 st ms & fs: (masculine/ feminine, singular)	תורתִי	my Torah (law or instruction)	1 st mp & fp: (masculine/ feminine, plural)	תורתֵנו	our Torah (law or instruction)
2 nd ms: (masculine, singular)	תורתֶךָ	your (ms) Torah (law or instruction)	2 nd mp: (masculine, plural)	תורתְכֶם	your (mp) Torah (law or instruction)
2 nd fs: (feminine, singular)	תורתֶיךָ	your (fs) Torah (law or instruction)	2 nd fp: (feminine, plural)	תורתְכֵן	your (fp) Torah (law or instruction)
3 rd ms: (masculine, singular)	תורתו	his Torah (law or instruction)	3 rd mp: (masculine, plural)	תורתֵם	their (mp) Torah (law or instruction)
3 rd fs: (feminine, singular)	תורתיה	her Torah (law or instruction)	3 rd fp: (feminine, plural)	תורתֵן	her (mp) Torah (law or instruction)

21.05 *Masculine & feminine plural nouns with pronominal suffixes*

Notice: the pronominal suffixes are the same for both masculine & feminine nouns.

Remember with singular feminine nouns, the “hay & kamatz” are dropped and a “tav” is added before the suffix.

Plural nouns with singular pronominal suffixes

- Plural nouns (both masculine & feminine) have a “yod” before suffixes, except for 1st person.

Feminine plural noun with plural pronominal suffixes			Feminine plural noun with plural pronominal suffixes		
Person	Hebrew	Translation	Person	Hebrew	Translation
סוסים = horses (masculine plural noun)			תורות = laws or instructions (feminine plural noun)		
1 st ms & fs: (masculine/ feminine, singular)	סוּסֵי	my horses	1 st ms & fs: (masculine/ feminine, singular)	תּוֹרוֹתַי	my laws or instructions
2 nd ms: (masculine, singular)	סוּסֵיךָ	your (ms) horses	2 nd ms: (masculine, singular)	תּוֹרוֹתֶיךָ	your (ms) laws or instructions
2 nd fs: (feminine, singular)	סוּסֵיךָ	your (fs) horses	2 nd fs: (feminine, singular)	תּוֹרוֹתֶיךָ	your (fs) laws or instructions
3 rd ms: (masculine, singular)	סוּסָיו	his horses	3 rd ms: (masculine, singular)	תּוֹרוֹתָיו	his laws or instructions
3 rd fs: (feminine, singular)	סוּסֵיהָ	her horses	3 rd fs: (feminine, singular)	תּוֹרוֹתֶיהָ	her laws or instructions

Plural nouns with plural pronominal suffixes

- Plural pronominal suffixes are the same for masculine & feminine plural nouns.
- However, with plural nouns & suffixes, even the 1st person has a “yod” preceding the pronominal suffix.

Masculine plural noun with plural pronominal suffixes			Feminine plural noun with plural pronominal suffixes		
Person	Hebrew	Translation	Person	Hebrew	Translation
סוסים = horses (masculine plural noun)			תורות = laws or instructions (feminine plural noun)		
1 st mp & fp: (masculine/ feminine, plural)	סוּסֵינוּ	our horses	1 st mp & fp: (masculine/ feminine, plural)	תּוֹרוֹתֵינוּ	our laws or instructions
2 nd mp: (masculine, plural)	סוּסֵיכֶם	your (mp) horses	2 nd mp: (masculine, plural)	תּוֹרוֹתֵיכֶם	your (mp) laws or instructions
2 nd fp: (feminine, plural)	סוּסֵיכֶן	your (fp) horses	2 nd fp: (feminine, plural)	תּוֹרוֹתֵיכֶן	your (fp) laws or instructions
3 rd mp: (masculine, plural)	סוּסֵיהֶם	their (mp) horses	3 rd mp: (masculine, plural)	תּוֹרוֹתֵיהֶם	their (mp) laws or instructions
3 rd fp: (feminine, plural)	סוּסֵיהֶן	their (fp) horses	3 rd fp: (feminine, plural)	תּוֹרוֹתֵיהֶן	their (fp) laws or instructions

21.06 **Exercise: Practice identifying the pronominal suffixes for**

If you're unsure of a pronominal suffix, refer to the Pronominal Suffix Chart below:

Fill in person for pronominal suffix in right column	
1 סוּסִי	My (1cs) horse
2 נְשָׁמָהּ	
3 אֶרְצִי	My (1cs) land (Gen 2:15)
4 אִשְׁתְּךָ	Your (2ms) wife (Gen 8:17)
5 אֶרְצֵנוּ	Our (1cp) land (Josh 9:11)
6 מִשְׁבְּעֶתְךָ	
7 נְשָׁמֵנוּ	
8 בְּעֵלְהָ	
9 אֶרְצֶיךָ	
10 לְאֶרְצוֹ	His (3ms) land (Joel 2:18)
11 שְׁמֵכֶם	
12 נְשָׁמוֹ	
13 אֲכֵלֶם	
14 נְשָׁמְךָ	
15 אֶרְצוֹ	
16 אֶרְצֵכֶם	
17 שְׁמָם	their (3mp) name (Gen 5:2)
18 שְׁמִי	
19 אֶרְצָם	
20 נְשָׁמְךָ	your (2fs) name (Jer 11:16)

Answers on 21.08

Pronominal Suffix Chart for singular nouns			
Singular suffixes		Plural suffixes	
Person	Suffixes	Person	Suffixes
1 st c*s	ִי	1 st c*p	ֵנוּ
2 nd ms	ְךָ	2 nd mp	ֵכֶם (silent sheva)
2 nd fs	ְךָ	2 nd fp	ֵכֶן (silent sheva)
3 rd ms	ֹוּ	3 rd mp	ֵם
3 rd fs	ְהָ	3 rd fp	ֵן

21.07 **Reading exercise: Numbers 30:2**

Numbers 30:2 ESV: “If a man vows a vow to the LORD [YHVH], or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break **his word**. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of **his mouth**.”

אִישׁ כִּי־יָדַר נֶדֶר לַיהוָה אֹו־הַשָּׁבַע שְׁבַעַה לְאַסֵּר אֶסֶר עַל־נַפְשׁוֹ לֹא יִתֵּל דְּבָרוֹ
כָּכֶל־הֵיצָא מִפִּיו יַעֲשֶׂה:

Strong's	Hebrew	English	Morphology
376 [e]	אִישׁ	A man	N-ms
3588 [e]	כִּי־	if	Conj
5087 [e]	יָדַר	makes	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms
5088 [e]	נֶדֶר	a vow	N-ms
3069 [e]	לַיהוָה	to Yahweh [YHVH]	Prep-l N-proper-ms
176 [e]	אֹו־	or	Conj
7650 [e]	הַשָּׁבַע	swears	V-Nifal-InfAbs
7621 [e]	שְׁבַעַה	an oath	N-fs
631 [e]	לְאַסֵּר	to bind	Prep-l V-Qal-Inf
632 [e]	אֶסֶר	by some agreement	N-ms
5921 [e]	עַל־	on	Prep
5315 [e]	נַפְשׁוֹ	his soul	N-fsc 3ms
3808 [e]	לֹא	not	Adv-NegPrt
2490 [e]	יִתֵּל	he shall break	V-Hifil-Imperf-3ms
1697 [e]	דְּבָרוֹ	his word	N-msc 3ms
3605 [e]	כָּכֶל־	according to all	Prep-k N-msc
3318 [e]	הֵיצָא	that proceeds out	Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms
6310 [e]	מִפִּיו	of his mouth	Prep-m N-msc 3ms
6213 [e]	יַעֲשֶׂה:	he shall do	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms

21.08 **Answers to Exercise 21.06**

Nouns with pronominal suffixes	
1 סוּסִי	my (1cs) horse
2 שְׁמֶהָ	its (3fs) name (Gen 11:19)
3 אֶרְצִי	my (1cs) land (Gen 2:15)
4 אִשְׁתְּךָ	your (2ms) wife (Gen 8:17)
5 אֶרְצֵנוּ	our (1cp) land (Josh 9:11)
6 מִשְׁבַּעְתְּךָ	your (2fs) oath (Josh 2:17)
7 שְׁמֵנוּ	our (1cp) name (Josh 7:9)
8 בַּעְלָהּ	her (3fs) husband (Prov 31:23)
9 אֶרְצֶךָ	your (2ms) land (Ex 23:10)
10 לְאֶרְצוֹ	his (3ms) land (Joel 2:18)
11 שְׁמֶכֶם	your (2mp) name (Is 65:15)
12 שְׁמוֹ	his (3ms) name (Gen 2:19)
13 אֲכֻלָּם	their (3mp) food (Ps 145:15)
14 שְׁמֶךָ	your (2ms) name (Gen 12:2)
15 אֶרְצוֹ	his (3ms) land (Num 21:24)
16 אֶרְצְכֶם	your (2mp) land (Lev 19:9)
17 שְׁמָם	their (3mp) name (Gen 5:2)
18 שְׁמִי	my (1cs) name (Ex 20:24)
19 אֶרְצָם	their (3mp) land (Dt 4:38)
20 שְׁמֶךָ	your (2fs) name (Jer 11:16)

21.09 **Vocabulary for Lesson 21:**

The vocabulary in this lesson include high frequency words, which appear frequently in the TaNaKh.

We encourage you to review these words until the vocabulary becomes familiar.

21.10 **Weekly Parasha reading** (go to www.RestoringTorah.org)