

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 Masculine nouns with pronominal suffixes
- 21.04 Exercise: Practice identifying the pronominal suffixes
- 21.05 Feminine nouns with pronominal suffixes
- 21.06 Exercise: Practice identifying the pronominal suffixes
- 21.07 Reading exercise: Numbers 30:2
- 21.08 Answers to Exercise 21.05
- 21.09 Vocabulary words for Lesson 21
- 21.10 Weekly Parasha reading

21.01 *Review: singular and plural nouns*

Every Hebrew noun is either masculine or feminine. In English, many nouns are genderless; these nouns are & generally is the pronoun “it.” For example: a book is an “it”; although, a boat is referred to as “she.”)

1. Masculine singular nouns are basic nouns.
 - a. Example: סוּס (“horse”)
 - b. Example: סֵפֶר (“book”)
2. Masculine plural nouns become plural by adding a chirek, yod, and a mem sofit מִיָּם to the end of the noun.
 - a. Example: סוּסִים (“horses” uses a chirek, yud/yod, and a mem sofit מִיָּם. This is the standard formation.)
 - b. Example: סֵפָרִים (“books” uses a chirek, yod, and a mem sofit מִיָּם.)
3. Feminine singular nouns generally add a kamats and a hay הַ at the end of the noun.
 - a. Examples: סוּסָה (“mare” or “female horse”)
 - b. Examples: תּוֹרָה (“Torah” is a feminine noun)
4. Feminine plural a noun generally becomes plural by dropping the hay and adding a cholam vav and a tav וָ to the end of the word. תּוֹרוֹה
 - a. Example: סוּסוֹת (“mares” or “female horses”)
 - b. Example: תּוֹרוֹת (“Torahs.” The 2nd cholam vav וָ, follows a resh, & is shortened to a cholam.)

* Grammar Made Simple:

- As we have learned, all Hebrew nouns are either masculine or feminine. Pronouns also are either masculine or feminine. The exception are the 1st person pronouns, which are “*common.”
- 1st person pronouns 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.

21.02 *Review: pronominal suffix chart for singular nouns*

Reminder:

1st person is the person who is speaking. (The speaker may be either masculine or feminine.)

2nd person is the person to whom you are speaking. (The person to whom you are speaking is gender-specific. And will use either a feminine or masculine pronoun.)

3rd person is the person about whom you are speaking – they are not present in the conversation. (The person about whom you are speaking is gender-specific. And will use either a feminine or masculine pronoun.)

Pronominal Suffix Chart for singular nouns			
Singular suffixes		Plural suffixes	
Person	Suffixes	Person	Suffixes
1 st c*s	יָ	1 st c*p	יָנוּ
2 nd ms	כִּיָּ	2 nd mp	כִּיָּם (silent sheva)
2 nd fs	כִּיָּהּ	2 nd fp	כִּיָּהֶן (silent sheva)
3 rd ms	וּ	3 rd mp	וָם
3 rd fs	וָהּ	3 rd fp	וָהֶן

*c = common. These may be either masculine or feminine.

*הַ = The dot/mappiq in the “hay” identifies this “hay” as a feminine pronominal suffix.

21.03 *Review masculine nouns with pronominal suffixes*

Masculine singular noun with pronominal suffixes				Masculine plural noun with pronominal suffixes			
סוס = horse				סוסים = horses			
סוס - masculine absolute singular noun - <i>horse</i>				סוסים - masculine absolute plural noun - <i>horses</i>			
סוס - masculine construct singular noun – <i>horse of</i> (Yes, the singular masculine construct can be the same as the absolute, as with סוס)				סוסי - masculine construct plural noun – <i>horses of</i>			
Person ms = masculine singular mp = masculine plural fs = feminine singular fp = feminine plural *c = common	Hebrew Note: no "yud" is added after the singular noun	Translation	Parsing N = noun sf = suffix	Person ms = mas singular mp = mas plural fs = fem singular fp = fem plural *c = common	Hebrew Note: a "yud" is added after the plural noun	Translation	Parsing N = noun sf = suffix
↓ Singular masculine noun – singular pronominal suffix ↓				↓ Plural masculine noun – singular pronominal suffix ↓			
1 st c*s suffix added to a singular noun	סוסי	my horse	N-ms/sf-1cs	1 st c*s suffix added to a plural noun	סוסי	my horses	N-mp/sf-1cs
2 nd ms suffix added to a singular noun	סוסיך	your (ms) horse	N-ms/sf-2ms	2 nd ms suffix added to a plural noun	סוסיכם	your (ms) horses	N-mp/sf-2ms
2 nd fs suffix added to a singular noun	סוסיך	your (fs) horse	N-ms/sf-2fs	2 nd fs suffix added to a plural noun	סוסיכן	your (fs) horses	N-mp/sf-2fs
3 rd ms suffix added to a singular noun	סוסו	his horse	N-ms/sf-3ms	3 rd ms suffix added to a plural noun	סוסיו	his horses	N-mp/sf-3ms
3 rd fs suffix added to a singular noun ה*	סוסייה	her horse	N-ms/sf-3fs	3 rd fs suffix added to a plural noun	סוסייהן	her horses	N-mp/sf-3fs
↓ Singular masculine noun – plural pronominal suffix ↓				↓ Plural masculine noun – plural pronominal suffix ↓			
1 st c*p suffix added to a singular noun	סוסנו	our horse	N-ms/sf-1cp	1 st c*p suffix added to a plural noun	סוסינו	our horses	N-mp/sf-1cp
2 nd mp suffix added to a singular noun	סוסכם	your (mp) horse	N-ms/sf-2mp	2 nd mp suffix added to a plural noun	סוסיכם	your (mp) horses	N-mp/sf-2mp
2 nd fp suffix added to a singular noun	סוסכן	your (fp) horse	N-ms/sf-2fp	2 nd fp suffix added to a plural noun	סוסיכן	your (fp) horses	N-mp/sf-2fp
3 rd mp suffix added to a singular noun	סוסם	their (mp) horse	N-ms/sf-3mp	3 rd mp suffix added to a plural noun	סוסיהם	their (mp) horses	N-mp/sf-3mp
3 rd fp suffix added to a singular noun	סוסן	their (fp) horse	N-ms/sf-3fp	3 rd fp suffix added to a plural noun	סוסיהן	their (fp) horses	N-mp/sf-3fp

*c = common. These may be either masculine or feminine.

*ה = The dot/mappiq in the “hay” identifies this “hay” as a feminine pronominal suffix.

NOTE: plural nouns add a “yud” before the pronominal suffix.

21.04 *Exercise: identify the pronominal suffixes for these masculine nouns*

Pronominal Suffix Chart for singular nouns			
Singular suffixes		Plural suffixes	
Person	Suffixes	Person	Suffixes
1 st c*s	ִי	1 st c*p	ִנּוּ
2 nd ms	ָךְ	2 nd mp	ָכֶם (silent sheva)
2 nd fs	ִיךְ	2 nd fp	ִיכֶן (silent sheva)
3 rd ms	וֹ	3 rd mp	ָם
3 rd fs	ִיהָ	3 rd fp	ִיהֶן

Answers on 21.07

EXERCISE: Masculine Nouns with pronominal suffixes Identify each pronominal suffix, gender of noun, & fill in translation		
1 סוּסִי	my (1cs) horse (N-ms)	
2 שְׁמוֹ	his/its (3ms) name (N-ms)	(Gen 11:19)
3 אִישָׁךְ		(Gen 3:16)
4 דְּבָרָו		(Num 30:2)
5 פִּי	my (1cs) mouth (N-ms)	(Gen 45:12)
6 חַגֵּיכֶם	your (2mp) festivals (N-mp)	(Amos 8:10)
7 שְׁמִנּוֹ		(Josh 7:9)
8 בְּעֵלָהּ		(Prov 31:23)
9 מְקוֹמָם		(Num 32:17)
10 פִּיךָ	your (2ms) mouth (N-ms)	(2 Sam 1:16)
11 שְׁמֵיכֶם		(Is 65:15)
12 שְׁמוֹ		(Gen 2:19)
13 אֲכֻלָּם		(Ps 145:15)
14 שְׁמֹךְ	your (2ms) name	(Gen 12:2)
15 פִּיו		(Job 23:12)
16 מְקוֹמָהּ		(Gen 38:21)
17 שְׁמָם		(Gen 5:2)
18 שְׁמִי		(Ex 20:24)
19 חַגֵּנוֹ	our (1cp) festival (N-ms)	(Ps 81:3)
20 שְׁמוֹךְ	your (2fs) name (N-ms)	(Jer 11:16)

21.05 Feminine nouns with pronominal suffixes

Feminine singular noun with pronominal suffixes				Feminine plural noun with pronominal suffixes			
תּוֹרָה = Torah or instructions				תּוֹרוֹת = Torahs or instructions			
תּוֹרָה - fem absolute singular noun - <i>Torah or instructions</i>				תּוֹרוֹת - fem absolute plural noun - <i>Torahs or instructions</i>			
תּוֹרַת - fem construct singular noun - <i>Torah of or instruction of</i>				תּוֹרוֹת - fem construct plural noun - <i>Torahs of or instructions of</i>			
Person ms = mas singular mp = mas plural fs = fem singular fp = fem plural *c = common	Hebrew Note: no "yud" is added after the singular noun	Translation	Parsing N = noun sf = suffix	Person ms = mas singular mp = mas plural fs = fem singular fp = fem plural *c = common	Hebrew Note: a "yud" is added after the plural noun	Translation	Parsing N = noun sf = suffix
↓ Singular feminine noun – singular pronominal suffix ↓				↓ Plural feminine noun – plural pronominal suffix ↓			
1 st c*s suffix added to a singular noun	תּוֹרָתִי	my Torah	N-fs/sf-1cs	1 st c*s suffix added to a plural noun	תּוֹרוֹתִי	my laws or instructions	N-fp/sf-1cs
2 nd ms suffix added to a singular noun	תּוֹרָתְךָ	your (ms) Torah	N-fs/sf-2ms	2 nd ms suffix added to a plural noun	תּוֹרוֹתֶיךָ	your (ms) laws or instructions	N-fp/sf-2ms
2 nd fs suffix added to a singular noun	תּוֹרָתְךָ	your (fs) Torah	N-fs/sf-2fs	2 nd fs suffix added to a plural noun	תּוֹרוֹתֶיךָ	your (fs) laws or instructions	N-fp/sf-2fs
3 rd ms suffix added to a singular noun	תּוֹרָתּוֹ	his Torah	N-fs/sf-3ms	3 rd ms suffix added to a plural noun	תּוֹרוֹתָיו	his laws or instructions	N-mp/sf-3ms
3 rd fs suffix added to a singular noun הָ*	תּוֹרָתָהּ	her Torah	N-fs/sf-3fs	3 rd fs suffix added to a plural noun	תּוֹרוֹתֶיהָ	her laws or instructions	N-fp/sf-3fs
↓ Singular feminine noun – plural pronominal suffix ↓				↓ Plural feminine noun – plural pronominal suffix ↓			
1 st c*p suffix added to a singular noun	תּוֹרָתֵנוּ	our Torah	N-fs/sf-1cp	1 st c*p suffix added to a plural noun	תּוֹרוֹתֵינוּ	our laws or instructions	N-fp/sf-1cp
2 nd mp suffix added to a singular noun	תּוֹרָתְכֶם	your (mp) Torah	N-fs/sf-2mp	2 nd mp suffix added to a plural noun	תּוֹרוֹתֵיכֶם	your (mp) laws or instructions	N-fp/sf-2mp
2 nd fp suffix added to a singular noun	תּוֹרָתְכֶן	your (fp) Torah	N-fs/sf-2fp	2 nd fp suffix added to a plural noun	תּוֹרוֹתֵיכֶן	your (fp) laws or instructions	N-fp/sf-2fp
3 rd mp suffix added to a singular noun	תּוֹרָתָם	their (mp) Torah	N-fs/sf-3mp	3 rd mp suffix added to a plural noun	תּוֹרוֹתֵיהֶם	their (mp) laws or instructions	N-fp/sf-3mp
3 rd fp suffix added to a singular noun	תּוֹרָתָן	their (fp) Torah	N-fs/sf-3fp	3 rd fp suffix added to a plural noun	תּוֹרוֹתֵיהֶן	their (fp) laws or instructions	N-fp/sf-3fp

Grammar Made Simple:

- Remember with singular feminine nouns, the “kamatz & hay” are dropped and a “tav” is added before the suffix.
- The pronominal suffixes are the same for both masculine & feminine nouns & are connected to both the masculine & feminine nouns.
- Both masculine & feminine plural nouns have a “yud” added to the end of the noun & before the suffix. The only exceptions are 1st person suffixes which do not add a “yud” before the suffix.

21.06 **Exercise: identify the pronominal suffixes for these feminine nouns**

We encourage you to memorize these pronominal suffixes!

Pronominal Suffix Chart for singular nouns			
Singular suffixes		Plural suffixes	
Person	Suffixes	Person	Suffixes
1 st c*s	ִי	1 st c*p	ִינוּ
2 nd ms	ְךָ	2 nd mp	ְכֶם (silent sheva)
2 nd fs	ְךָ	2 nd fp	ְכֶנָּה (silent sheva)
3 rd ms	ֹוּ	3 rd mp	ֹוּם
3 rd fs	ֹוּהָ	3 rd fp	ֹוּהָן

Answers on 21.07

EXERCISE: Feminine Nouns with pronominal suffixes		
Identify each pronominal suffix (with person, gender, & number), gender of nouns, & translation.		
1 נַפְשׁוֹ	his (3ms) soul (N-fs)	(Num 30:2)
2 מְצֻנָּתְךָ		(Deut 26:13)
3 אֶרְצִי	my (1cs) land (N-fs)	(Gen 20:15)
4 אִשְׁתְּךָ		(Gen 8:17)
5 אֶרְצֵנוּ		(Josh 9:11)
6 מְצֻנָּתֶיךָ		(1 Chron 29:19)
7 אִמְּךָ	your (2ms) mother (N-fs)	(Ex 20:12)
8 נַפְשָׁהּ		(Gen 35:18)
9 אֶרְצֶךָ		(Ex 23:10)
10 לְאֶרְצוֹ		(Joel 2:18)
11 מְצֻנָּתִי		(Gen 26:5)
12 נַפְשָׁם	their (3mp) soul	Lev 26:43
13 מְצֻנָּתוֹ		(Num 15:31)
14 בְּנִפְשׁוֹ		(Ps 33:20)
15 אֶרְצוֹ	his (3ms) land (N-fs)	(Num 21:24)
16 אֶרְצְכֶם		(Lev 19:9)
17 מְצֻנָּתוֹ		(Num 15:31)
18 בְּנֹתַי	my (1cs) daughters (N-fp)	(Gen 31:26)
19 אֶרְצָם		(Dt 4:38)
20 נַפְשׁוֹ		Gen 34:3

21.06 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 לַיהוָה אֶוֹת־הַשְּׁבַע שְׁבַעַתָּה לְאַסֹּר אֶסֶר עַל־נַפְשׁוֹ לֹא יִחַל
דְּבָרוֹ כְּכֹל־הֵיצָא מִפִּי 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]	נָדַר	a vow	N-ms
3069 [e]	לַיהוָה	to Yahweh [YHVH]	Prep-l N-proper-ms
176 [e]	אוֹ-	or	Conj
7650 [e]	הַשְּׁבַע	swears	V-Nifal-InfAbs
7621 [e]	שְׁבַעַתָּה	an oath	N-fs
631 [e]	לְאַסֹּר	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]	יִחַל	he shall break	V-Hifil-Imperf-3ms
1697 [e]	דְּבָרוֹ	his word	N-msc 3ms
3605 [e]	כְּכֹל־	according to all	Prep-k N-msc
3318 [e]	הֵיצָא	that proceeds out	Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms
6310 [e]	מִפִּי	of his mouth	Prep-m N-msc 3ms
6213 [e]	יַעֲשֶׂה:	he shall do	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms

21.07 *Answers to Exercises*

Answers to Exercise 21.04: Masculine Nouns with pronominal suffixes	
1 סוסי	my (1cs) horse (N-ms)
2 שְׁמוֹ	(Gen 11:19) its (3ms) name (N-ms)
3 אִישְׁךָ	your (2fs) man/husband (N-ms) (Gen 3:16)
4 דְּבָרוֹ	his (3ms) word (N-ms) (Num 30:2)
5 פִּי	my (1cs) mouth (N-ms) (Gen 45:12)
6 חַגֵּיכֶם	your (2mp) festivals (N-mp) (Amos 8:10)
7 שְׁמֵנוּ	our (1cp) name (N-ms) (Josh 7:9)
8 בַּעֲלָהּ	her (3fs) husband (N-ms) (Prov 31:23)
9 מְקוֹמָם	their (3mp) place (N-ms) (Num 32:17)
10 פִּיךָ	your (2ms) mouth (N-ms) (2 Sam 1:16)
11 שְׁמֵכֶם	your (2mp) name (N-ms) (Is 65:15)
12 שְׁמוֹ	his (3ms) name (N-ms) (Gen 2:19)
13 אֲכֻלָּם	their (3mp) food (N-ms) (Ps 145:15)
14 שְׁמֵךָ	your (2ms) name (N-ms) (Gen 12:2)
15 פִּיו	his (3ms) mouth (N-ms) (Job 23:12)
16 מְקוֹמָהּ	(Gen 38:21) her (3fs) place (N-ms)
17 שְׁמָם	(Gen 5:2) their (3mp) name (N-ms)
18 שְׁמִי	(Ex 20:24) my (1cs) name (N-ms)
19 חַגֵּנוּ	(Ps 81:3) our (1cp) festival (N-ms)
20 שְׁמֵךָ	(Jer 11:16) your (2fs) name (N-ms)

Answers to Exercise 21.06: Feminine Nouns with pronominal suffixes	
1 נַפְשׁוֹ	(Num 30:2) his (3ms) soul (N-fs)
2 מִצְוֹתֶיךָ	Your (2ms) commandment (N-fs) (Deut 26:13)
3 אֶרְצִי	my (1cs) land (N-fs) (Gen 20:15)
4 אִשְׁתְּךָ	your (2ms) wife (N-fs) (Gen 8:17)
5 אֶרְצֵנוּ	our (1cp) land (N-fs) (Josh 9:11)
6 מִצְוֹתֶיךָ	Your (2ms) commandments (N-fp) (1 Chron 29:19)
7 אִמֶּךָ	your (2ms) mother (N-fs) (Ex 20:12)
8 נַפְשָׁהּ	her (3fs) soul (N-fs) (Gen 35:18)
9 אֶרְצֶךָ	your (2ms) land (N-fs) (Ex 23:10)
10 לְאֶרְצוֹ	his (3ms) land (N-fs) (Joel 2:18)
11 מִצְוֹתַי	My (1cs) commandments (N-fp) (Gen 26:5)
12 נַפְשָׁם	their (3mp) soul (N-fs) Lev 26:43
13 מִצְוֹתָיו	His (3ms) commandment (N-fs) (Num 15:31)
14 גַּנְפְּשָׁנוּ	our (1cp) soul (N-fs) (Ps 33:20)
15 אֶרְצוֹ	his (3ms) land (N-fs) (Num 21:24)
16 אֶרְצְכֶם	your (2mp) land (N-fs) (Lev 19:9)
17 מִצְוֹתָיו	His (3ms) commandment (N-fs) (Num 15:31)
18 בָּנֹתַי	my (1cs) daughters (N-fp) (Gen 31:26)
19 אֶרְצָם	their (3mp) land (N-fs) (Dt 4:38)
20 נַפְשׁוֹ	his (3ms) soul (N-fs) Gen 34:3