

# Biblical Hebrew 103

## *Developing Grammatical Concepts*

### Lesson 25

### שעור כה

## Adjectives: substantive & attributive



*Mahane Yehuda market is beginning to reopen  
– everyone is still wearing masks 😊*

### ***What we will learn in Lesson 25***

- 25.01 Introduce: adjectives
- 25.02 Hebrew adjectives that occur frequently in TaNaKh
- 25.03 Introduce: attributive adjectives
- 25.04 Exercise: translate these phrases with attributive adjectives
- 25.05 Introduce: substantive adjectives
- 25.06 Examples of substantive adjectives
- 25.07 Additional translation exercises
- 25.08 Answers: to exercises 25.04 & 25.07
- 25.09 Review vocabulary
- 25.10 Weekly Parasha

## 25.01 *Introduce: adjectives*

An adjective is a word that describes a noun. In English, adjectives generally precede the noun.

For example: The **small** horse. The **good** horse. (adjectives are **highlighted** in yellow)

While English has many adjectives, Hebrew has relatively few.

Like Hebrew nouns, adjectives have gender (masculine or feminine) & number (singular or plural).

The inflection\* endings for Hebrew adjectives are the same as for nouns:

Example: large or big (גָּדוֹל)

<sup>1</sup>The masculine singular adjective remains in the simple, lexical form of the word – גָּדוֹל

<sup>2</sup>feminine singular adds: הַ - גְּדוּלָהּ

<sup>3</sup>masculine plural adds: יִם - גְּדוּלִים

<sup>4</sup>feminine plural adds: וֹת - גְּדוּלוֹת

\*Definition of **inflection**: change in the word to reflect gender & number

## 25.02 *Hebrew adjectives that occur frequently in the TaNaKh*

ENGLISH DEFINITION	INFLECTION (change in the form of a word)			
	ms (masculine singular)	fs (feminine singular)	mp (masculine plural)	fp (feminine plural)
1). great, big, large	גָּדוֹל	גְּדוּלָהּ	גְּדוּלִים	גְּדוּלוֹת
2). many, great, numerous	רַב	רַבָּה	רַבִּים	רַבּוֹת
3). evil, wicked, bad	רַע	רַעָה	רַעִים	רַעוֹת
4). near, close	קָרוֹב	קְרוֹבָה	קְרוֹבִים	קְרוֹבוֹת
5). light, easy, simple	קָל	קְלָה	קְלִים	קְלוֹת
6). clean, pure (ceremonially) Lev 10:10	טָהוֹר	טְהוֹרָה	טְהוֹרִים	טְהוֹרוֹת
7). beautiful, wonderful	יָפָה	יְפָה	יָפִים	יְפוֹת
8). strong, powerful, mighty Deut 31:6, Josh 1:6-9; 1Chron 22:13, 28:20, 2Chron 32:7	חָזָק	חֲזָקָה	חֲזָקִים	חֲזָקוֹת
9). unclean, impure (in terms of religion) Lev 10:10	טָמֵא	טְמֵאָה	טְמֵאִים	טְמֵאוֹת
10). straight, honest	יָשָׁר	יְשָׁרָה	יְשָׁרִים	יְשָׁרוֹת
11). holy, sacred, hallowed	קָדוֹשׁ	קְדוּשָׁה	קְדוּשִׁים	קְדוּשׁוֹת
12). good, pleasant, appropriate	טוֹב	טוֹבָה	טוֹבִים	טוֹבוֹת

### Grammar-Made-Simple: adjectives

1). Hebrew adjectives generally follow the noun they modify.

They have the same inflection endings as nouns: fs: הַ mp: יִם fp: וֹת

2). Adjective must agree with the noun (which is also called the antecedent). In other words, the adjective must agree with the noun in gender (masculine or feminine), number (singular or plural), and definiteness (with or without the article “the”).

3). Often when a 3-4 letter masculine singular adjective has a ׁ (kamats) under the 1<sup>st</sup> consonant, the kamats will become a ׁ (sheva) when the adjective is inflected in the fs, mp, and fp.

For example, גָּדוֹל becomes גְּדוּלָהּ, גְּדוּלִים, & גְּדוּלוֹת

### 25.03 *Introduce: attributive adjectives*

We are going to learn about the attributive adjective. This adjective clarifies or modifies an attribute about the noun. For example, the good horse. (This adjective shows the horse is good.)

In Hebrew, attributive adjectives:

- Attributive adjectives ‘generally’ come after the nouns they describe (or modify). The word order, however, can be reversed if the adjective is to be emphasized.
- Attributive adjectives and the nouns they modify agree in gender (masculine or feminine), in number (singular or plural), & in definiteness (with or without the article “the”).
- If an attributive adjective is definite, then the noun it modifies must also be definite. Both the adjective & the noun must have the article.

#### **Examples:**

Indefinite examples (eg, a good horse):

good horse: סוס טוב

good mare: סוּסָה טוֹבָה (female horse)

good horses: סוסים טובים

good mares: סוסות טובות

Definite examples (eg: the good horse)

the good horse: הסוס הטוב

the good mare: הסוּסָה הטוֹבָה

the good horses: הסוסים הטובים

the good mares: הסוסות הטובות

#### **GRAMMAR-MADE-SIMPLE:** *Difference between substantive & attributive adjectives*

Notice how differently הטובה is translated when it is substantive as opposed to attributive

**Substantive: with substantive adjective, there is no noun for the adjective to modify**

הטובה – the goodness/ the good -- Ex 18:9, “all the goodness which YHVH did” כָּל־

הטובה אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה יְהוָה

**Attributive: the attributive adjective generally follows the noun which it modifies**

הטובה הָאָרֶץ – the good land -- Dt 1:35, “see ... the good land...”

יִרְאֶה ... אֶת הָאָרֶץ הַטּוֹבָה

### 25.04 *Exercise: translate these with attributive adjectives*

1. beautiful woman \_\_\_\_\_
2. the good father \_\_\_\_\_
3. evil king \_\_\_\_\_
4. beautiful mother \_\_\_\_\_
5. the many brothers \_\_\_\_\_
6. large boy (child) \_\_\_\_\_
7. the evil daughter \_\_\_\_\_
8. strong child (boy) \_\_\_\_\_

• (hint: refer to 25.02 & 25.08)  
• Answers on 25.08

9. evil man \_\_\_\_\_
10. strong kings \_\_\_\_\_
11. holy book \_\_\_\_\_
12. beautiful house \_\_\_\_\_
13. good king \_\_\_\_\_
14. the big house \_\_\_\_\_
15. good daughters (בָּנוֹת) \_\_\_\_\_
16. many women (Exek 16:41)\_\_\_\_\_ (note: the noun for women is irregular)
17. many days (Gen 21:34) \_\_\_\_\_
18. and a great wind (1Ki 19:11) \_\_\_\_\_

### 25.05 **Introduce: substantive adjectives**

Substantive adjectives are used independently as nouns. They stand-alone, meaning there is no noun for the adjective to modify.

When the word חָכָם (“wise”) is used by itself, can mean “wise,” “a wise one,” or “a wise man”. Context will dictate whether this is merely a noun or a substantive.

When the definite article is used with חָכָם, it is translated as “the wise one” or “the wise man.”

Examples:

הַחָכָם (the wise man):

Ecc 8:17 - אִם יֹאמַר הַחָכָם (“If the wise one/man will say...”)

הַחֲכָמִים (the wise, or skillful, men):

Ex 36:4 - כָּל־הַחֲכָמִים (“all the wise/skillful men...”)

### 25.06 **Examples of substantive adjectives (refer to 25.02 for vocabulary)**

1. הַגָּדוֹל – the great ones/men (for example: Ezekiel 21:14, NKJV: “It is the sword\* that slays the great ones/men” הֵיאָ \*חֶרֶב חֲלָל גָּדוֹל)
2. הָרָע – the evil thing (for example: Deut 4:25, Young’s Literal Translation: “have done the evil thing in the eyes of Jehovah” וַעֲשִׂיתֶם הָרָע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה-אֱלֹהֶיךָ)
3. הַיָּשָׁר – the straight/right/upright one (for example: Micah 2:7, Aramaic Bible in Plain English: “with/to the upright one” עִם הַיָּשָׁר:)
4. הַטּוֹבָה – the goodness/ the good (for example: Ex 18:9, “all the goodness which YHVH did” כָּל־הַטּוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יְהוָה)

## 25.07 *Additional translation exercises*

Note: if both have an article, then adjective is probably an attributive.

If there is only an adjective and no noun, then it is probably a substantive adjective.

1. אִישׁ חָכָם \_\_\_\_\_
2. הַמִּדְבָּר הַגָּדוֹל (Dt 1:19) \_\_\_\_\_
3. יָמִים רַבִּים (Gen 21:34) \_\_\_\_\_
4. כָּל-הַטּוֹבָה (Dt 1:35) \_\_\_\_\_
5. הָאָרֶץ הַטּוֹבָה (Ex 18:9) \_\_\_\_\_
6. בְּדֶרֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל (Ps 107:7) \_\_\_\_\_
7. רוּחַ חַדְשָׁה (Ezekiel 11:19) \_\_\_\_\_
8. בֵּינִי חֲזָקָה (Ex 3:19) \_\_\_\_\_
9. שְׁלוֹם רַב (Ps 119:165) \_\_\_\_\_
10. עַם הַיִּשְׂרָאֵל (Micah 2:7) \_\_\_\_\_

## 25.08 *Answers to Exercise: 25.04 & 25.07*

### *Answers to Exercise: 25.04*

- |                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. beautiful woman               | אִשָּׁה יָפָה      |
| 2. the good father (Ezek 18:4)   | הָאָב הַטּוֹב      |
| 3. evil king                     | מֶלֶךְ רָע         |
| 4. beautiful mother              | אִם יָפָה          |
| 5. the many brothers (Num 32:6)  | הָאֲחִים הָרַבִּים |
| 6. large boy (child)             | יֶלֶד גָּדוֹל      |
| 7. the evil daughter             | הַבִּת הָרָעָה     |
| 8. strong child (boy)            | יֶלֶד חֲזָק        |
| 9. evil man                      | אִישׁ רָע          |
| 10. strong (Judges 18:26) kings  | מְלָכִים חֲזָקִים  |
| 11. holy book                    | סֵפֶר קֹדֶשׁ       |
| 12. beautiful house              | בֵּית יָפָה        |
| 13. good king                    | מֶלֶךְ טוֹב        |
| 14. the big house                | הַבֵּית הַגָּדוֹל  |
| 15. good daughters               | בָּנוֹת טוֹבוֹת    |
| 16. many women (Ezek 16:41)      | נָשִׁים רַבּוֹת    |
| 17. many days (Gen 21:34)        | יָמִים רַבִּים     |
| 18. and a great wind (1Ki 19:11) | וְרוּחַ גָּדוֹלָה  |

### *Answers to Exercise: 25.07*

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. חָכָם                           | a wise man           |
| 2. הַמִּדְבָּר הַגָּדוֹל (Dt 1:19) | the great desert     |
| 3. יָמִים רַבִּים (Gen 21:34)      | many days            |
| 4. כָּל-הַטּוֹבָה (Dt 1:35)        | all the good things  |
| 5. הָאָרֶץ הַטּוֹבָה (Ex 18:9)     | the good land        |
| 6. בְּדֶרֶךְ יִשְׁרָה (Ps 107:7)   | a straight path/road |
| 7. רוּחַ חֲדָשָׁה (Ezekiel 11:19)  | a new spirit         |

8. בְּיָד חֲזָקָה (Ex 3:19) by a strong hand
9. שְׁלוֹם רַב (Ps 119:165) a great peace
10. עַם הַיָּשָׁר: (Micah 2:7) with righteous

## 25.09 *Review Vocabulary*

**Vocabulary List for this lesson.** Please also refer to 25.02

אִישׁ	man (N-ms)	אִשָּׁה	woman (N-fs)	סוּס	horse (N-ms)
תּוֹרָה	Torah (N-fs)	סֵפֶר	book (N-ms)	נָשִׁים	women (N-fp)
אֲנָשִׁים	men/people (N-mp)	מֶלֶךְ	king (N-ms)	רוּחַ	spirit/wind (N-fs)
אִם	mother (N-fs)	גָּדוֹל	great/large (adj-ms)	רַב	great/many (adj-m)
רָע	evil/bad (adj-ms)	קָל	light/easy (adj-ms)	קָרוֹב	close/near (adj-ms)
טָהוֹר	pure/clean (adj-ms)	יָפָה	beautiful/wonderful (adj-ms)	חֲזָק	strong/powerful (adj-ms)
טוֹב	good/pleasant (adj-ms)	יָשָׁר	straight/honest (adj-ms)	קָדוֹשׁ	holy/sacred/hallowed (adj-ms)
טָמֵא	unclean/impure (adj-ms)				

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