

Biblical Hebrew 102

Introduction to Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 12

שְׁעוּר יב

Feminine Nouns & the Definite Article



“...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*: masculine nouns
- 12.02 Introducing feminine nouns
- 12.03 Exercise with feminine nouns (Answers on 12.04)
- 12.04 *Answers*: Exercise with feminine nouns (Exercise 12.03)
- Grammar-Made-Simple: feminine nouns***
- 12.05 *Review*: parsing and abbreviations
- 12.06 Parsing & abbreviation exercise (Answers on 12.07)
- 12.07 *Answers*: Parsing & abbreviation exercise (Exercise 12.06)
- 12.08 *Review*: Hebrew definite article “the”
- 12.09 Exercise: feminine nouns with & without the article (Answers on 12.10)
- 12.10 *Answers*: Feminine nouns with & without articles (Exercise 12.09)
- 12.11 Homework Worksheet: vocabulary & exercise (Answers on 12.12)
- 12.12 *Answers*: Homework worksheet (Homework sheet 12.11)
- 12.13 Vocabulary words
- 12.14 Weekly Parasha Reading

12.01 Review: Masculine Nouns

Reminder: all Hebrew nouns are either masculine or feminine. Unlike in English, there are no “its” in Hebrew. (For example, in Hebrew the “book” is masculine; whereas in English, book is an it)

Masculine Nouns:

- Masculine singular nouns do not have a particular ending.
- **Generally, 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

12.02 Introducing Feminine Nouns

- Most feminine nouns end with “kamats” + “hay” (הַ) or “tav” (ת).

Generally, feminine nouns are made plural by adding a “cholam vav” plus a “tav” (ות) which is a “cholam” & a “vav” plus a “tav” 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

12.03 Exercise: Feminine Nouns (answers on 12:04)

Write the Hebrew on the lines below. (Hint: refer to box→.)

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1 ¹ Torah | תּוֹרָה |
| 2 ² daughter | _____ |
| 3 ³ land | _____ |
| 4 ⁴ commandment | _____ |
| 5 ⁵ daughters | _____ |
| 6 ⁶ family | _____ |
| 7 ⁷ mother | _____ |
| 8 ⁸ the daughter | _____ |
| 9 ⁹ families | _____ |
| 10 ¹⁰ lands | _____ |
| 11 ¹¹ commandments | _____ |
| 12 ¹² mothers | _____ |
| 13 ¹³ Torahs (or instructions) | _____ |
| 14 ¹⁴ soul | _____ |
| 15 ¹⁵ female horse (mare) | _____ |

Vocabulary:	
תּוֹרָה	Torah or instruction
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs or instructions
מִשְׁפָּחָה	family
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families
אֶרֶץ	land
אֲרָצוֹת	lands
מִצְוָה	commandment (obligation or deed)
מִצְוֹת	commandments (obligations or deeds)
אִמָּה	mother
אִמּוֹת	mothers
בַּת	daughter
בָּנוֹת	daughters (irregular plural)
הַבַּת	the daughter
סוּסָה	mare (female horse)
נַפֶּשׁ	soul or person

12.04 Answers: Exercise with Feminine Nouns (Exercise 12.03)

¹ Torah	תּוֹרָה	⁹ families	מִשְׁפָּחוֹת
² daughter	בַּת	¹⁰ lands	אַרְצוֹת
³ land	אֶרֶץ	¹¹ commandments	מִצְוֹת
⁴ commandment	מִצְוָה	¹² mothers	אֲמוֹת
⁵ daughters	בָּנוֹת	¹³ Torahs (or instructions)	תּוֹרוֹת
⁶ family	מִשְׁפָּחָה	¹⁴ soul	נֶפֶשׁ
⁷ mother	אִם	¹⁵ female horse (mare)	סוּסָה
⁸ the daughter	הַבַּת		

Grammar-Made-Simple: feminine nouns

- Feminine singular nouns generally have particular endings: “kamats” + “hay” (הַ) or “tav” (ת).
- Feminine plural nouns generally are made plural by adding: “cholam vav” (or “cholam”) or “tav” (ות).

12.05 Review Parsing and Abbreviations

Parsing helps us understand a word. It also shows what part of speech it is; whether it is a noun, verb, etc.

Abbreviations simplify the notation of the parsing of a particular word.

For example, parsing for the word סֵפֶר (book) is: N-ms (“N” indicates that סֵפֶר is a noun. The “m” tells the word is masculine, and the “s” that the word is singular.)

5 abbreviations which we will use in this lesson:

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 “hay”, “patach”, & “dagesh chazak”: הַ)

Hebrew abbreviations are fairly uniform, but they are not universal. Once you are familiar with these, it will be easy to understand the slight variations used by various study tools.

12.06 Exercise: Parsing & Abbreviations (Answers on 12.07)

Hebrew	Fill in the English Translation (refer to vocabulary list on 12.03)	Fill in Hebrew Parsing & Abbreviations
¹ תּוֹרָה		N-fs (Noun-feminine singular)
² תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs or instructions	
³ מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	

מִשְׁפָּחוֹת ⁴		N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
מִצְוָה ⁵	commandment, deed, or duty	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
מִצּוֹת ⁶		N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
7	daughter	
הַבֵּת ⁸		
בָּנוֹת ⁹		N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
נַפְשׁ ¹⁰	soul, person	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
סוּסָה ¹¹	(Song of Songs 1:9)	

12.07 Answers: Parsing & Abbreviation Exercise (Exercise 12.06)

Hebrew	Fill in the English Translation (refer to vocabulary list on 11.02)	Fill in Hebrew Parsing & Abbreviations
תּוֹרָה ¹	Torah* or instruction	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
תּוֹרוֹת ²	Torahs* or instructions	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
מִשְׁפָּחָה ³	family	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת ⁴	families	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
מִצְוָה ⁵	commandment, deed, or duty	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
מִצּוֹת ⁶	commandments, deeds, or duties	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
בֵּת ⁷	daughter	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
הַבֵּת ⁸	the daughter	art; N-fs
בָּנוֹת ⁹	daughters	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
נַפְשׁ ¹⁰	soul, person	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
סוּסָה ¹¹	female horse or mare (Song of Songs 1:9)	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)

12.08 Quick Review: The definite article: the word “the”

In Hebrew, the definite article is not a separate word; it is attached to a noun.

- a. Articles are **generally written** with a “hay” & “patach” and have a “dagesh chazak” in next consonant: הַ

- Torah (תּוֹרָה) becomes the Torah (הַתּוֹרָה)
- Commandment (מִצְוָה) becomes the commandment (הַמִּצְוָה)

b. When the article precedes a *guttural, an exception occurs.

- When the article precedes a guttural, the vowel under the “hay” changes from “patach” to “kamats” (הָ) or to a “segol” (הֶ). Why? Because *gutturals cannot take a dagesh. (Reminder: *Gutturals are: א, ה, ח, ע, & sometimes ר
- Examples of when the article precedes a guttural:
 - a. אֶרֶץ (land) becomes הָאֶרֶץ (the land)
 - b. אִם (mother) becomes הָאִם (the mother)
 - c. עִיר (city) becomes הָעִיר (the city)

12.09 Exercise: Feminine Nouns With & Without Articles (Answers on 12.10)

Hebrew	Meaning	Parsing	Transliteration
¹ תּוֹרָה	Torah* or instruction	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)	To-rah
² הַתּוֹרָה		art; N-fs (article; noun-feminine singular)	
³ תּוֹרוֹת			To-rot
⁴	the Torahs* or instructions		haht-to-rot
⁵ מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	N-fs	
⁶ הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה		art; N-fs	
⁷	families	N-fp	meesh-pah- chot
⁸ הַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת	the families (Jer 33:24)		
⁹ אֶרֶץ	land (Gen 1:10)		eh-rehts
¹⁰ הָאֶרֶץ	(Gen 1:1)	art; N-fs	hah-ah-rehts
¹¹ אֲרָצוֹת	lands		
¹²	the lands (Gen 26:4)	art; N-fp	hah-ah-rah- tsot
¹³ מִצְוָה			meets- vah
¹⁴ הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment (Dt 5:31)	art; N-fs	
¹⁵ מִצְוֹת			meets- vot
¹⁶	the commandments (Lev 27:34)		hahm-meets- vot

Feeling Overwhelmed?

- Do not become overwhelmed by the various aspects of each grammatical rule.
- Remember we are not writing the Bible. We only need to be able to recognize these.
- We will cover these rules with great repetition in the upcoming lessons.
- We will discuss reasons for vowel changes in a later lesson.

12.10 Answers: Feminine Nouns With & Without Articles (Exercise on 12.09)

Hebrew	Meaning	Parsing	Transliteration
¹ תּוֹרָה	Torah or instruction	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)	To- rah
² הַתּוֹרָה	The Torah or instruction	art; N-fs (article; noun-feminine singular)	hat-to- rah
³ תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs or instructions	N-fp	To- rot
⁴ הַתּוֹרוֹת	the Torahs or instructions	art; N-fp (article; noun-feminine plural)	haht-to- rot
⁵ מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	N-fs	meesh-pah- chah
⁶ הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה	the family	art; N-fs	ham-meesh-pah- chah
⁷ מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families	N-fp	meesh-pah- chot
⁸ הַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת	the families (Jer 33:24)	art; N-fp	ham-meesh-pah- chot
⁹ אֶרֶץ	land (Gen 1:10)	N-fs	eh -rechts
¹⁰ הָאֶרֶץ	(Gen 1:1)	art; N-fs	hah- ah -rechts
¹¹ אֲרָצוֹת	lands	N-fp	ah-rah- tsot
¹² הָאֲרָצוֹת	(Gen 26:4)	art; N-fp	hah-ah-rah- tsot
¹³ מִצְוָה	commandment (obligation or deed)	N-fs	meets- vah
¹⁴ הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment (Dt 5:31)	art; N-fs	hahm-meets- vah
¹⁵ מִצְוֹת	commandments	N-fp	meets- vot* (*the ך is not a cholam vav, but a ך & ך)
¹⁶ הַמִּצְוֹת	the commandments (Lev 27:34)	art; N-fp	hahm-meets- vot

12.11 Homework Worksheet: vocabulary

Vocabulary Word – use these words to help answer the questions in this exercise:

תּוֹרָה	Torah	מִצְוָה	commandment	אִם	mother
הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah	הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment	הָאִם	the mother
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs	מִצְוֹת	commandments	נֶפֶשׁ	soul
הַתּוֹרוֹת	the Torahs (or the instructions)	הַמִּצְוֹת	the commandments	סוּסָה	female horse (mare)
מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	בַּת	daughter	אֶרֶץ	land
הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה	the family	הַבַּת	the daughter	הָאֶרֶץ	the land
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families	בָּנוֹת	daughters		
הַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת	the families				

12.11 cont: **Homework Worksheet: exercise** (answers on 12.12)

Hebrew	Fill in the English Translation	Fill in Hebrew Parsing & Abbreviations
1	Torah* or instruction	
2 תּוֹרָה		N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
3 מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	
4	families	
5 מִצְוָה		N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
6 מִצְוֹת	commandments, deeds, or duties	
7 הַבָּת		
Exceptions. The following are feminine even though they do not end with either a “hay” (הַ) or “tav” (ת):		
8 אִם	mother	
9 אֶרֶץ		N-fs
10 נֶפֶשׁ	soul, person (Gen 1:20)	N-fs

12.12: **Answers for Homework Worksheet** (Exercise 12.11)

Hebrew	Fill in the English Translation (refer to vocabulary list on 12.11)	Fill in Hebrew Parsing & Abbreviations
1 תּוֹרָה	Torah* or instruction	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
2 תּוֹרָה	Torahs* or instructions	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
3 מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
4 מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
5 מִצְוָה	commandment, deed, or duty	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
6 מִצְוֹת	commandments, deeds, or duties	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
7 הַבָּת	the daughter	art; N-fs (article; noun-feminine singular)
8 אִם	mother	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
9 אֶרֶץ	land	N-fs
10 נֶפֶשׁ	soul, person (Gen 1:20)	N-fs

12.13 *Vocabulary Words:* (click & go to: [Lesson 12: vocabulary flashcards](#))

HINTS for memorizing:

1. Write these words in your Hebrew vocabulary notebook.
2. Having a list of vocabulary words makes reviewing easy.

Vocabulary Words for this lesson:

תּוֹרָה	Torah	מִצְוָה	commandment
הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah	הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs	מִצְוֹת	commandments
הַתּוֹרוֹת	the Torahs (or the instructions)	הַמִּצְוֹת	the commandments
מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	אֶרֶץ	land
הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה	the family	הָאֶרֶץ	the land
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families	נֶפֶשׁ	soul
הַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת	the families	סוּסָה	female horse (mare)
אִם	mother	בָּנוֹת	daughters
הָאִם	the mother	הַבֵּת	the daughter
בַּת	daughter		

12.14 *Weekly Parasha reading* listed on CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org

GO to CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org

CLICK on **Calendar**.

THEN, select **Yearly Calendars**.

NOW, select the **current year** (for example: 2026 Calendar & Readings)

THEN, scroll down to the **current month** (for example: Aug 2026 calendar).

FINALLY, click on **current week** (for example: 08/29/2026)