

Biblical Hebrew Course 103

Developing Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 25

שעור 25

Adjectives: attributive & substantive



*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 Additional translation exercises
- 25.06 Introduce: substantive adjectives
- 25.07 Examples of substantive adjectives
- 25.08 Answers: to exercises 25.04 & 25.05
- 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.

Both 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)

¹The masculine singular adjective remains in the simple, lexical form of the word – גדול

²feminine singular adds: הַ - גדולה

³masculine plural adds: יִם - גדולים

⁴feminine plural adds: וֹת - גדולות

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

ENGLISH DEFINITION	INFLECTION (change in the form of a word)			
	<i>ms</i> (masculine singular)	<i>fs</i> (feminine singular)	<i>mp</i> (masculine plural)	<i>fp</i> (feminine plural)
1). great, big, large	גָּדוֹל	גְּדוּלָּה	גְּדוּלִים	גְּדוּלוֹת
2). many, great, numerous	רַב	רַבָּה	רַבִּים	רַבּוֹת
3). evil, wicked, bad	רַע	רַעָּה	רַעִים	רַעוֹת
4). wise, skillful	חָכָם	חָכְמָה	חָכְמִים	חָכְמוֹת
4). near, close	קָרוֹב	קָרוֹבָה	קָרוֹבִים	קָרוֹבוֹת
6). light, easy, simple	קָל	קָלָה	קָלִים	קָלוֹת
7). clean, pure (ceremonially) Lev 10:10	טָהוֹר	טָהוֹרָה	טָהוֹרִים	טָהוֹרוֹת
8). beautiful, wonderful	יָפָה	יָפָה	יָפִים	יָפוֹת
9). strong, powerful, mighty Deut 31:6, Josh 1:6-9; 1Chron 22:13, 28:20, 2Chron 32:7	חָזָק	חָזְקָה	חָזְקִים	חָזְקוֹת
10). unclean, impure (in terms of religion) Lev 10:10	טָמֵא	טָמְאָה	טָמְאִים	טָמְאוֹת
11). straight, honest	יָשָׁר	יָשָׁרָה	יָשָׁרִים	יָשָׁרוֹת
12). holy, sacred, hallowed	קָדוֹשׁ	קָדוֹשָׁה	קָדוֹשִׁים	קָדוֹשוֹת
13). 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). Adjectives 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 1st consonant, the kamats will become a ׁ (sheva) when the adjective is inflected in the fs, mp, and fp.

For example, גדול becomes גדולה, גדולים, & גדולות

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.)

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. If the adjective is definite, then both the adjective & the noun must have the article.

Examples:

Indefinite examples (eg, a good horse):

good horse: סוס טוב

good mare: סוסה טובה (female horse)

good horses: סוסים טובים

good mares: סוסות טובות

Definite examples (eg: the good horse)

the good horse: הסוס הטוב

the good mare: הסוסה הטובה

the good horses: הסוסים הטובים

the good mares: הסוסות הטובות

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) _____
9. evil man _____
10. strong kings _____
11. holy book _____
12. beautiful house _____
13. good king _____
14. the big house _____

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

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 **Additional translation exercises**

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

1. אִישׁ חָכָם _____
2. הַמְדַבֵּר 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 חֲדָשָׁה (Ezekiel 11:19) _____
8. בְּיַד חֲזָקָה (Ex 3:19) _____
9. שְׁלוֹם רַב (Ps 119:165) _____
10. עַם הַיִּשְׂרָאֵל (Micah 2:7) _____

25.06 **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-יֹאמֵר הַחָכָם (“If the wise one/man will say...”)

הַחֲכָמִים (the wise, or skillful, men):

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

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

1. הגָּדוֹל – the great ones/men (for example: Ezekiel 21:14, NKJV: “It is the sword* that slays the great ones/men” הִיא *חֶרֶב חָלָל גְּדוֹל)
2. הָרַע – the evil thing (for example: Deut 4:25, Young’s Literal Translation: “have done the evil thing in the eyes of Jehovah” וַעֲשִׂיתֶם הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה-אֱלֹהֵיךָ)
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. הַטוֹבָה – the goodness/ the good (for example: Ex 18:9, “all the goodness which YHVH did” כָּל-הַטוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה יְהוָה)

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.

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

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

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

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

הַטוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה יְהוָה

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

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

יִרְאֶה ... אֶת הָאָרֶץ הַטוֹבָה

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 הַטוֹב |
| 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 | הַבַּת הָרָעָה |
| 8. strong child (boy) | יֶלֶד חֲזָק |
| 9. evil man | אִישׁ רָע |
| 10. strong (Judges 18:26) kings | מְלָכִים חֲזָקִים |
| 11. holy book | סֵפֶר קְדוֹשׁ |
| 12. beautiful house | בַּיִת יָפָה |
| 13. good king | מֶלֶךְ טוֹב |
| 14. the big house | הַבַּיִת 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 גָּדוֹלָהּ |

Answers to Exercise: 25.07

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. אִישׁ 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 יִשְׂרָאֵל (Ps 107:7) | a straight path/road |
| 7. רוּחַ חַדְשָׁה (Ezekiel 11:19) | a new spirit |
| 8. בְּיַד חֲזָקָה (Ex 3:19) | by a strong hand |
| 9. שְׁלוֹמַת רַב (Ps 119:165) | a great peace |
| 10. עִם הַיְשָׁרִים: (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)
רַע	evil/bad (adj-ms)	קָל	light/easy (adj-ms)	קָרוֹב	close/near (adj-ms)
טָהוֹר	pure/clean (adj-ms)	יָפֵה	beautiful/wonderful (adj-ms)	חָזָק	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)	חָכָם	wise (N & adj-ms)		

25.10 *Weekly Parasha reading*

1. Go to: www.RestoringTorah.org
2. Click on **Calendar** & select the current year
3. Scroll down to current month