

Biblical Hebrew 102

Introduction to Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 12

שְׁעוֹר 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 12.10)
- 12.04 Morphology and abbreviations
- 12.05 Morphology & abbreviation exercise (Answers on 12.11)
- 12.06 Grammar-Made-Simple: feminine nouns
- 12.07 *Quick Review*: the Hebrew definite article: the word “the”
- 12.08 Homework Worksheet (Answers on 12.12)
- 12.09 Vocabulary words
- 12.10 Answers for exercise with feminine nouns (Exercise 12.03)
- 12.11 Answers for Morphology & abbreviation exercise (Exercise 12.05)
- 12.12 Answers for Homework worksheet (Homework sheet 12.08)
- 12.13 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; where as in English, book is an it)

Masculine Nouns:

- Masculine singular nouns do not have a particular ending.
- **Most masculine nouns are made plural** by adding “chirek”, “yod/yud” & “mem sofit”- ם. 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” (הֶ) or “tav” (ת).

Most 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	מִשְׁפּוּחוֹת families	מִצְוֹת commandments, obligations or deeds

12.03 Exercise with feminine nouns (answers on 12:10)

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

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

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

12.04 Morphology and abbreviations -- time saver!!

Morphology is the study of word formation; regardless of whether it a word is noun, verb, etc.

For example, the morphology of תּוֹרָה (Torah) is: noun, feminine, singular.

Abbreviations for morphology helps individuals understand a particular word.

For example, the abbreviation for תּוֹרָה is: N-fs (“N” tells that this word is a noun. “f” word is feminine. “s” word is singular.)

5 abbreviations which we will continue practicing for 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 a “hay”, “patach”, and a “dagesh chazak”: הַ)

Hebrew abbreviations are fairly uniform. Once you are familiar with these abbreviations, you will find it is easy to understand the slight variations that some study books may use.

12.05 Morphology & Abbreviation Exercise (answers on 12:11)		
Hebrew	Fill in the English Translation (refer to vocabulary list on 11.02)	Fill in Hebrew Morphology & Abbreviations
1 תּוֹרָה	Torah* or instruction	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
2 תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs* or instructions	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
3 מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	
4 מִשְׁפָּחוֹת		
5 מִצְוָה	commandment, deed, or duty	
6 מִצְוֹת		
7 בַּת		
8 הַבַּת		art; N-fs
9 בָּנוֹת		
10 נָפֶשׁ		
11 סוּסָה	female horse or mare (Song of Songs 1:9)	

* Yes, Torah is a proper noun; we will cover proper nouns in Lesson 13.

12.06 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”) & “tav” (ות) to the end of the word.

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

In both English and Hebrew, there are definite articles. In English, the definite article is 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. **Exception:** an article that precedes a “guttural”¹. (¹Gutturals are: א, ה, ח, ע & sometimes ר)

When an article precedes a guttural:

- The vowel under the “hay” changes from “patach” to “kamats” (הָ) or to a “segol” (הֶ).
- There is no “dagesh” in the following letter. (“Why”? Because “gutturals”¹ cannot take a “dagesh”).
- 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)

Feminine nouns singular & plural both with & without the article.			
Hebrew	Meaning	Parsing	Transliteration
תּוֹרָה	Torah* or instruction	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)	To-rah
הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah*	art; N-fs (article; noun-feminine singular)	haht-to-rah
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs* or instructions	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)	To-rot
הַתּוֹרוֹת	the Torahs* or instructions	art; N-fp (article; noun-feminine plural)	haht-to-rot
מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	N-fs	meesh-pah- chah
הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה	the family	art; N-fs	hahm-meesh-pah- chah
מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families	N-fp	meesh-pah- chot
הַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת	the families (Jer 33:24)	art; N-fp	ham-meesh-pah- chot
אֶרֶץ	land (Gen 1:10)	N-fs	eh -rechts
הָאֶרֶץ	the land (Gen 1:1)	art; N-fs	hah- ah -rechts
אֶרְצוֹת	lands	N-fp	ah-rah- tsot
הָאֶרְצוֹת	the lands (Gen 26:4)	art; N-fp	hah-ah-rah- tsot
מִצְוָה	commandment (obligation or deed)	N-fs	meets- vah
הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment (Dt 5:31)	art; N-fs	ham-meets- vah
מִצְוֹת	commandments (obligations or deeds)	N-fp	meets- vot
הַמִּצְוֹת	the commandments (Lev 27:34)	art; N-fp	hahm-meets- vot

12.08 Homework Worksheet (answers on 12.12)

Vocabulary Words:

תּוֹרָה	Torah*	מִצְוָה	commandment	אִם	mother
הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah*	הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment	הָאִם	the mother
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs*	מִצְוֹת	commandments	נַפֵּשׁ	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				

Write Hebrew Translation (refer to Vocabulary List above)	Write English Translation (refer to Vocabulary List above)	Write Hebrew Abbreviations (refer to list of Abbreviations in section 11:04)
1 תּוֹרָה	Torah*	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
2 הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah*	art; N-fs (article; noun-feminine singular)
3 תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs*	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
4 הַתּוֹרוֹת	the Torahs* or instructions	art; N-fp (article; noun-feminine plural)
5 מִשְׁפָּחָה		
6 הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה		
7 מִשְׁפָּחוֹת		
8	the families	
9 מִצְוָה		
10 הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment (Dt 5:31)	
11	commandments	
12 הַמִּצְוֹת	the commandments (Lev 27:34)	
Exceptions. <u>The following are feminine</u> even though they do not end with either a “hay” (הַיְ) or “tav” (תְּ):		
13 אִם		
14 אֶרֶץ		
15 נַפֵּשׁ	soul, person (Gen 1:20)	

* Yes, Torah is a proper noun; however, we will cover proper nouns in Lesson 13.

12.09 Vocabulary words: (click & go to: [Lesson 12: vocabulary flash cards](#))

➤ It is important to begin learning the vocabulary words below. These high frequency words appear frequently in the TaNaKh.

Vocabulary Words:

תּוֹרָה	Torah	מִצְוָה	commandment	אִם	mother
הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah	הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment	הָאִם	the mother
תּוֹרוֹת	Torahs	מִצְוֹת	commandments	נַפְשׁ	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				

HINTS for memorizing:

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

12.10 Answers for exercise with feminine nouns (Exercise 12.03)

¹ Torah	תּוֹרָה
² daughter	בַּת
³ land	אֶרֶץ
⁴ commandment	מִצְוָה
⁵ daughters	בָּנוֹת
⁶ family	מִשְׁפָּחָה
⁷ mother	אִם
⁸ the daughter	הַבַּת
⁹ families	מִשְׁפָּחוֹת
¹⁰ lands	אֶרְצוֹת
¹¹ commandments	מִצְוֹת
¹² mothers	אִמוֹת
¹³ Torahs (or instructions)	תּוֹרוֹת
..	..

12.11 Answers for Morphology & Abbreviation Exercise (Exercise 12.05)

Hebrew	Fill in the English Translation (refer to vocabulary list on 11.02)	Fill in Hebrew Morphology & Abbreviations
1 תּוֹרָה	Torah* or instruction	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
2 תּוֹרֹת	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 בַּת	daughter	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
8 הַבַּת	The daughter	art; N-fs
9 בָּנוֹת	daughters	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
10 נַפְשׁ	soul, person	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
11 סוּסָה	female horse or mare (Song of Songs 1:9)	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)

12.12 Answers for Homework Worksheet (Exercise 12.08)

Write Hebrew Translation	Write English Translation	Write Hebrew Abbreviations
1 תּוֹרָה	Torah*	N-fs (noun-feminine singular)
2 הַתּוֹרָה	the Torah*	art; N-fs (article; noun-feminine singular)
3 תּוֹרֹת	Torahs*	N-fp (noun-feminine plural)
4 הַתּוֹרֹת	the Torahs* or instructions	art; N-fp (article; noun-feminine plural)
5 מִשְׁפָּחָה	family	N-fs
6 הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה	the family	art; N-fs
7 מִשְׁפָּחוֹת	families	N-fp
8 הַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת	the families	art; N-fp
9 מִצְוָה	commandment	N-fs
10 הַמִּצְוָה	the commandment (Dt 5:31)	art; N-fs
11 מִצְוֹת	commandments	N-fp
12 הַמִּצְוֹת	the commandments (Lev 27:34)	art; N-fp

* Yes, Torah is a proper noun; however, we will cover proper nouns in Lesson 13.

12.12 continued: *Answers for Homework Worksheet (Exercise 12.08)*

Write Hebrew Translation	Write English Translation	Write Hebrew Abbreviations
Exceptions. The following are feminine even though they do not end with either a “hay” (הַ) or “tav” (ת):		
13 אִמָּה	mother	N-fs
14 אֶרֶץ	land	N-fs
15 נַפְשׁוֹ	soul, person (Gen 1:20)	N-fs

Overwhelmed?

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

12.13 *Weekly Parasha reading -*

1. Go to Calendar on CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org -- click on Calendar. Select current year & scroll to current month.
2. OR click here to go directly: <https://www.faithfulstewardship.org/calendar/>
Select current year & scroll to current month.