Chapter 4 – Hebrew Nouns: Goals

- Learn to parse and translate nouns
  - Identify the number and gender
  - Figure out the lexical form

- The book teaches how to pluralize nouns.
  - This lecture (and my class) omit this.

Chapter 4 – Hebrew Nouns: Agenda

- Noun concepts
- Hebrew nouns
  - Gender
  - Number
  - Endings
  - How to pluralize (just FYI for my class)
  - Finding the lexical form
- Rules of Shewa
  - Traditional
  - Reversed
- Assignment and Study Plan

Noun

- A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea.
  - Person: מֹשֶׁה
  - Place: יִם
  - Thing: יומ
  - Idea: צְדָקָה

Lexical Form

- The form you look up in a dictionary.
  - E.g., look up “ox” not “oxen”
  - E.g., look up “go” not “went”

- Singular = Lexical form of a Hebrew noun.
  - E.g., look up אִשָּֽׁה not נָשִׁים
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Hebrew Nouns Have Gender

- A noun is either masculine or feminine
  - Unlike Greek, there is no neuter!
  - Words for non-living things still have gender
    - E.g., נֵבֶר ‘book’ is masculine
    - E.g., נֵבֶר ‘law, instruction’ is feminine
- The gender of a noun never changes
  - Exception: Some nouns are treated as masculine in some verses and as feminine in other verses.
    - E.g., בְּנֵי

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Hebrew Nouns Have Number

- A noun is either
  - Singular,
  - Plural, or
  - Dual
- Dual indicates a pair of something
  - Dual is rare
  - A typical use is paired body parts
    - E.g., עֵינֵי ‘two eyes’
- The number of a noun can change
  - Whereas the gender of a noun does not change.

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Ending Indicates the Number

- A noun is either singular, plural, or dual

- Singular is unmarked or has a ending
  - FS endings: מַ, מֵ, מָ, מַ, מָ
  - Rarely, MS may end in מָ
- Dual always has an ending with a diphthong
  - מָ, מָ, מָ
- Plural always has a distinctive ending
  - מָ, מָ
Exception: Nouns that Look Dual

- Dual ending always has a diphthong
  - יִמּ, יִמּ

- 3 common words always look dual
  - יִמּ ‘heaven’ or ‘heavens’ or ‘sky’
  - יִמּ ‘Egypt’
  - יִמּ ‘water’ or ‘waters’

- Scholars argue about if they are dual or plural.
  - I won’t ask for their number on a quiz.

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Ending (Usually) Indicates Noun Gender

- Masculine singular usually has no ending
  - E.g., לֵב
- Feminine singular usually ends in יָה
  - E.g., לֵב
- Masculine dual always ends in יִמּ
- Feminine dual ends in יָה or יָה
- Masculine plural usually ends in יָה
  - E.g., לֵב
  - Defective spelling יָה → לֵב
- Feminine plural usually ends in יָה
  - E.g., לֵב
  - Defective spelling יָה

Exceptions to Normal Gender-Based Endings

- A few masculine singulars end in יָה
  - E.g., לֵב ‘field’
- Some feminine singulars are unmarked
  - E.g., לֵב ‘soul, life’ is feminine
- Some feminine singulars end in יָה, יָה, יָה, or יָה
- Unaccented יָה is NOT the FS ending
  - E.g., לֵב ‘night’ is MS; לֵב ‘towards a tent’ is MS.
- Duals ending in יָה could be masculine or feminine
  - E.g., יָה ‘2 hands’ is feminine
- Some masculine plurals end in יָה
  - E.g., יָה ‘fathers’
- Some feminine plurals end in יָה
  - E.g., יָה ‘women’
Pluralizing a Singular Noun

1. Remove the singular ending if there is one.
   - יַּבְרֶה, יָאָרֵי, יָאָרְבֶּה, יָאָרְבֶּה, יָאָרְבֶּה

2. Add the plural ending
   - בְּהֵמָה or בֵּן (defective בְּ or בֵּן)

3. Sometimes other changes
   - Sometimes stem change: אֲנָשִׁים
   - Usually vowel changes if there was no suffix, because the distance to the accent changes.
     - Propretonic reduction: בְּכָנָה → בְּכָנָה
     - Segholate nouns: בְּכָנָה → בְּכָנָה
     - Geminate nouns regain the Dagesh Forte.
     - E.g., בְּכָנָה → בְּכָנָה

Number and Gender of Noun Endings

- No ending
  - Singular, probably M (MS)
  - Singular, probably M
  - FS
  - Dual, probably M
  - FS
  - Plural, probably M
  - Plural, probably F

Memorize this page both directions:
- Gender and number of בְּכָנָה? Plural, probably masculine
- FS endings?

How to find the Lexical Form of Most Nouns

1. Remove the ending (בְּכָנָה or בֵּן or בְּכָנָה or בֵּן)
2. Perhaps add a singular ending
   - If feminine, usually add בְּכָנָה (maybe בְּכָנָה/בְּכָנָה/בְּכָנָה/בְּכָנָה)
   - Almost all MS and a few FS have no ending.
   - A few MS add בְּכָנָה
3. Drop word-final Dagesh Forte that lacks a vowel.
   - E.g., בְּכָנָה → בְּכָנָה → בְּכָנָה
4. Often change vowels, especially if no singular ending.
   - Reduced vowels often unreduce: E.g., בְּכָנָה → בְּכָנָה
   - Regular vowels may change: E.g., בְּכָנָה → בְּכָנָה
   - Vowel letters do not change: E.g., בְּכָנָה → בְּכָנָה
Memorize Irregular Plurals in §4.8.5

- Know the lexical form of these plurals (is chapter 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>אישׁ שַׁיָּהָהּ</td>
<td>אישׁים שַׁיָּהָהּ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>אָדָם נָשִׁי</td>
<td>נָשִׁי נָשִׁי</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>נָשְׁתָּה נְפָשׁ</td>
<td>נָשְׁתָּה נְפָשׁ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>עיר שִׁיר</td>
<td>עיר שִׁיר</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>אָבָא אַבָּא</td>
<td>אַבָּא אַבָּא</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>יָמָא יָמָא</td>
<td>יָמָא יָמָא</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice Finding the Gender, Number, & Lexical Form

1. שֵׁר שֵׁר
2. עָנָה עָנָה
3. חֲרָב עֲ מְלָכִים
4. עֲ מְלָכִים
5. נְפָשׁ נְפָשׁ
6. לְבָב לְבָב
7. לְבָב לְבָב
8. לְבָב לְבָב
9. לְבָב לְבָב
10. לְבָב לְבָב
11. לְבָב לְבָב

Rules of Shewa (Traditional)

- Can’t have 2 reduced vowels in a row
  - So if you see 2 Shewas in a row, the first is Silent Shewa.
- When 2 reduced vowels in a row, the first becomes short
  - ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌ imply ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌
- ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌ imply ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌
- ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌ imply ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌

- Alef in ◌ ◌ quiesces after a prefix
  - ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌ imply ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌
Rules of Shewa (Reversed)

- If a word BEGINS with a short vowel followed by a reduced vowel, it may have been two reduced vowels.
  -  ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌
  -  ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌
  -  ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌
  -  ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌

- If the short vowel is under a guttural, it works even if it is not at the beginning of a word.
  -  ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌
  -  ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌
  -  ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌
  -  ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌

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Assignment & Study Plan

Assignment & Study Plan – Review

- Constantly review old material
  - We'll only learn things that are worth long-term memory.
  - Old material is always fair game on quizzes.

- Priorities:
  1. Vocabulary
  2. Study Guide
  3. Old Quizzes

- Make vocabulary your top priority:
  - My best students consistently say that they do this.

Assignment & Study Plan – Vocabulary

- Learn new words:
  - Vocabulary guide has mnemonics and transliteration
  - Videos walk through the pronunciation and syllabification
  - MP3s of the vocabulary
  - Use flash cards (electronic or paper)
  - Remember sound-alike letters (e.g.,  vs. ,  vs. ,  vs. )
  - Remember unmarked FS nouns.
  - Put missed cards back in your pile a few words later.

- Review constantly
  - Once a week:
    - Go through all vocabulary (shuffled together)
    - Missed or hesitant vocabulary goes in the ‘working pile’
  - Once a day:
    - Go through all vocabulary that was new in the past week.
    - Go through your working pile.
Assignment & Study Plan – New Material

- Learn chapter 4
  - Read the textbook and textbook supplement.
  - Understand and memorize the study guide.
  - Learn to pronounce and memorize the vocabulary.
  - Be sure to memorize the irregular plural words as vocabulary.
    - E.g., know that יָמִי is ‘days’ and יַמִּי is ‘seas’
    - They are all in slide 4-17, the study guide, and the vocabulary guide.

- Practice chapter 4
  - Do workbook pages 15–16
    - Also identify Dagesh & Shewa. Syllabify. Pronounce.

- My class does not memorize or practice how to pluralize nouns.