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
A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea.

- Person: מֹשֶׁה
- Place: יְרוּשָׁלָיָם
- Thing: יוֹם
- Idea: צְדָֽׁקָּה
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 אישה not נשים
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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., סֵפֶר ‘book’ is masculine
    - E.g., תּוֹרָה ‘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., וּרְשָׁע
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., יַ֫יִם ‘two eyes’

- The number of a noun can change
  - Whereas the gender of a noun does not change.
Ending Indicates the Number

- A noun is either singular, plural, or dual

- Singular is unmarked or has a ending
  - FS endings: ה, ת, ית, ות
  - Rarely, MS may end in ה

- Dual always has an ending with a diphthong
  - ים, רים

- Plural always has a distinctive ending
  - ים, ות
Exception: Nouns that Look Dual

- *Dual ending always has a diphthong*
  - יִים, יָתֵים

- *3 common words always look dual*
  - שָׁמַיִם, ‘heaven’ or ‘heavens’ or ‘sky’
  - מִצְרָיִם, ‘Egypt’
  - מֵיִם, ‘water’ or ‘waters’

- *Scholars argue about if they are dual or plural.*
  - I won’t ask for their number on a quiz.
Chapter 4 – Hebrew Nouns: Agenda

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Ending (Usually) Indicates Noun Gender

- Masculine singular usually has no ending
  - E.g., סוס, לבר, ספר

- Feminine singular usually ends in לֵה
  - E.g., ספרה, תורה, אשה

- Masculine dual always ends in לֵימ

- Feminine dual ends in לֵימ or לִימ

- Masculine plural usually ends in לִים
  - E.g., ספרים, ראשונים
  - Defective spelling ספרים, ראשימים

- Feminine plural usually ends in נֹת
  - E.g.,ición, תורה
  - Defective spelling חָוָה, תורה
Exceptions to Normal Gender-Based Endings

- A few masculine singulars end in הֹ
  - E.g., שֵׁהה ‘field’

- Some feminine singulars are unmarked
  - E.g., נֶַפֶּשׁ ‘soul, life’ is feminine

- Some feminine singulars end in תָּחֹ, תֶּחָ, תֹון, or וּתֹ

- Unaccented הֹ is NOT the FS ending
  - E.g., לַ֫יְלָה ‘night’ is MS; לֶּ֫יֶלֶת ‘towards a tent’ is MS.

- Duals ending in יָּם could be masculine or feminine
  - E.g., יָּודָם ‘2 hands’ is feminine

- Some masculine plurals end in הָ
  - E.g., אָֹ֫הֱלָה ‘fathers’

- Some feminine plurals end in יָּם
  - E.g., נָּשִים ‘women’
Pluralizing a Singular Noun

1. **Remove the singular ending if there is one.**
   - וָה, וָת, וּת, וּת, וָת

2. **Add the plural ending**
   - וָת or וָת (defective בָּת or בָּת)

3. **Sometimes other changes**
   - Sometimes stem change: אִיש → אָנָּשִים
   - Usually vowel changes if there was no suffix, because the
     distance to the accent changes.
     - **Propretonic reduction:** בֵּנִים → בֵּנָּים
     - **Segholate nouns:** צָפָּר → צָפְרִים
     - **Geminate nouns regain the Dagesh Forte.**
     - **E.g.,** חִצִים
## Number and Gender of Noun Endings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender and Number</th>
<th>Endings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singular</strong></td>
<td><strong>No ending</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>הו</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>הו, הו, הו, וי, וי</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dual</strong></td>
<td><strong>ני</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ני, ני, ני</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plural</strong></td>
<td><strong>וים</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>וים, וי</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>וים, וי, וי</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Memorize this page both directions:**

- Gender and number of **וים**? Plural, probably masculine
- FS endings? **הו, הו, הו, וי, וי, no ending**
### Practice Identifying Gender and Number

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hebrew</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>אִישׁ</td>
<td>Ø Singular</td>
<td>probably M</td>
<td>(MS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>נֶפֶשׁ</td>
<td>Ø Singular</td>
<td>probably M</td>
<td>(FS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>אָשֶׁר</td>
<td>תּוֹרָה</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
<td>(FS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>בֶּה</td>
<td>שִירִי</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
<td>(FS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>שִׁירִים</td>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>probably M</td>
<td>(MP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>תְרוּמָה</td>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>probably F</td>
<td>(FP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>בְּלוֹמַה</td>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>probably F</td>
<td>(MP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>עֲבָנִים</td>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>probably M</td>
<td>(MP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>עֲבָנִים</td>
<td>Dual</td>
<td>probably M</td>
<td>(FD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>אָשֶׁר</td>
<td>נָהָר</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
<td>(FD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>אָשֶׁר</td>
<td>נָהָר</td>
<td>Dual</td>
<td>(MD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to find the Lexical Form of Most Nouns

1. Remove the ending (ִים or וֹת or ַ֫יִם or ָׁת ַ֫יִם)

2. Perhaps add a singular ending
   - If feminine, usually add ה (maybe וֹת/חת/חת/חת)
   - Almost all MS and a few FS have no ending.
   - A few MS add וֹת

3. Drop word-final Dagesh Forte that lacks a vowel.
   - E.g., עָּם → עַם → עַם

4. Often change vowels, especially if no singular ending.
   - Reduced vowels often unreduce: E.g., עָּם → עַם
   - Regular vowels may change: E.g., פֹּקֶר → פֹּקֶר
   - Vowel letters do not change: E.g., נַבְרֵים → נַבְרֵים
Memorize Irregular Plurals in §4.8.5

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>אִישׁ</td>
<td>אֲנָשִי</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>אִישָּה</td>
<td>נָׁשִי</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>עִיר</td>
<td>עְרִי</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>אָב</td>
<td>אֱבוֹת</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>בֵּית</td>
<td>בֵּנות</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>בָּן</td>
<td>בָּנִי</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>יָם</td>
<td>יָמִי</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>יָם</td>
<td>יָמִים</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice Finding the Gender, Number, & Lexical Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hebrew</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Lexical Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>שִירִים</td>
<td>MP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>חֲרוֹת</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>בָּלָם</td>
<td>MP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>בְּבֵרֵי</td>
<td>MP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>לְבָּבֹת</td>
<td>MP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>עֲנָנִי</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>חֲצָרוֹת</td>
<td>(M/F)P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>מְלָכִי</td>
<td>MP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>נְפָשָׁות</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>חֲרָבוֹת</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td></td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>MP</td>
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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**
  - \(\circ G \rightarrow \circ G\)  \(\circ G \rightarrow \circ G\)  \(\circ G \rightarrow \circ G\)
  - \(\circ\circ \rightarrow \circ\circ\)  \(\circ\circ \rightarrow \circ\circ\)  \(\circ\circ \rightarrow \circ\circ\)
  - \(\circ\circ \rightarrow \circ\circ\)  \(\circ\circ \rightarrow \circ\circ\)  \(\circ\circ \rightarrow \circ\circ\)

- **Alef in \(אֱלֹהִים\) quiesces after a prefix**
  - \(לֶאֱלֹהִים \rightarrow לֶאֱלֹהִים \rightarrow לֶאֱלֹהִים\)
  - \(לֶאֱלֹהִים \rightarrow לֶאֱלֹהִים \rightarrow לֶאֱלֹהִים\)
Rules of Shewa (Reversed)

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

  \[ \text{–} \quad \begin{array}{cccc}
  \text{תִּ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{תִּ} \\
  \text{ךְי} & \leftrightarrow & \text{ךְיְ}
  \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{cccc}
  \text{י} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יְ}
  \end{array} \]

  \[ \text{–} \quad \begin{array}{cccc}
  \text{יְ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יְ} \\
  \text{יְ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יְ}
  \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{cccc}
  \text{יְ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יְ}
  \end{array} \]

  \[ \text{–} \quad \begin{array}{cccc}
  \text{יִ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יִ} \\
  \text{יִ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יִ}
  \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{cccc}
  \text{יִ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יִ}
  \end{array} \]

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

  \[ \text{–} \quad \begin{array}{cccc}
  \text{יְ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יְ} \\
  \text{יְ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יְ}
  \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{cccc}
  \text{יְ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יְ}
  \end{array} \]

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  \text{יְ} & \leftrightarrow & \text{יְ}
  \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{cccc}
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  \end{array} \]

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  \end{array} \]
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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., א. vs. ט, נ vs. ס, ק vs. ל)
  - 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 יָׁמִי is ‘days’ and יָּמִים 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.