

# Noun Pluralization and Rules of Shewa

## 1) No change to the stem

- Singular has 1 syllable and unchangeable long vowel.
- Singular has 2 syllables:  
First syllable has vocal Shewa or Hateph Pathach. Second syllable has unchangeable long vowel.
- → Just add the plural ending

## 2) Propretonic reduction

- Singular has 2 syllables. Accent on the last syllable. Qamets or Tsere in the first syllable.
- → Add the plural ending and **reduce** the vowel in the first syllable (propretonic).
  - If under a guttural, the propretonic vowel reduces to Hateph pathach ( ◌◌ ).
  - Otherwise, the propretonic vowel reduces to vocal shewa.

## 3) Segholate nouns

- Singular has 2 syllables, with the accent on the first syllable.
- → Add the plural ending, **reduce** the vowel in the first syllable (propretonic), and change the vowel in the second syllable to a Qamets.
  - If under a guttural, the propretonic vowel reduces to Hateph pathach ( ◌◌ ).
  - Otherwise, the propretonic vowel reduces to vocal shewa.

## 4) Geminate nouns

- Singular has 1 syllable, does NOT have an unchangeable long vowel, and the last consonant was originally doubled.
- → Add the plural ending and **bring back the doubled consonant**.
  - If the final consonant of the singular can take a Dagesh, then add a Dagesh.
    - If the first syllable has a changeable long vowel, shorten it:
      - Tsere ( ◌◌ ) → Hireq ( ◌◌ )
      - Holem ( ◌◌ ) → Qibbutz ( ◌◌ )
      - Qamets ( ◌◌ ) → Pathach ( ◌◌ )
    - If the final consonant of the singular cannot take a Dagesh (i.e., א ע ה ח ט), then lengthen the vowel.

## 5) Irregular pluralization

- When learning a noun as a vocabulary item, check its plural. If the plural is irregular, then memorize it.

## Rules of Shewa

- Two shewas in a row:
  - End of word: Both silent ( ◌◌◌ )
  - Middle of word: First silent and second vocal. ( ◌◌◌ )
  - Beginning of word: First becomes Hireq and second becomes silent shewa ( ◌◌◌ ), except:
    - If second consonant is yod, turn them into Hireq yod ( ◌◌◌ )
- Beginning of word with shewa followed by guttural with reduced vowel:
  - Shewa becomes the short vowel that corresponds to the reduced vowel. ( ◌◌◌ → ◌◌◌ ; ◌◌◌ → ◌◌◌ )
  - Except that for the word אֱלֹהִים, the shewa becomes tsere and the aleph quiesces ( ...לֹהִים → ...לֵהִים )