

Lesson 3 – Hebrew Nouns, Definite Article and Conjunctive Waw

Hebrew Nouns

4.1 Hebrew nouns function just like English nouns. They are used to indicate a person, place, thing or idea. Like English, Hebrew nouns can be either singular or plural in number. But, unlike English, they can also be dual in number, indicating a plurality of two (i.e., two eyes, two hands, etc.). Hebrew nouns also have gender. They are either masculine or feminine.

4.2 Plural and Dual Endings on Masculine and Feminine Nouns

	Masculine Nouns	Feminine Nouns
<i>Singular</i>	סוס horse	תורה law
<i>Plural</i>	סוסים horses	תורות law
<i>Dual</i>	סוסים horses	same

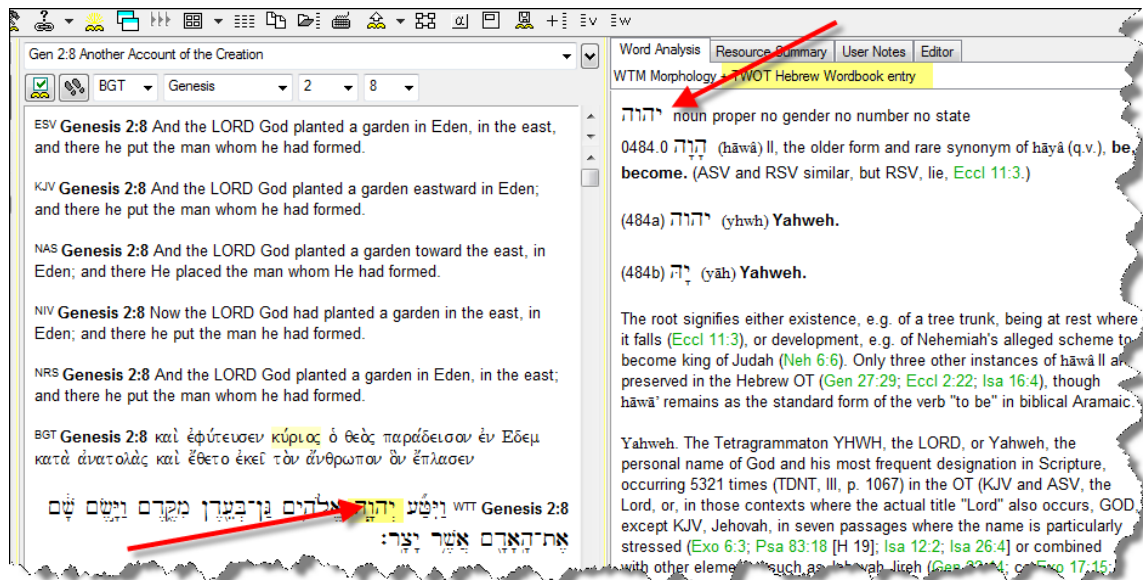
4.4 Summary of Noun Endings

	Masculine Nouns	Feminine Nouns
<i>Singular</i>	Lexical Form	הַ (common ending) הַ / הַ
<i>Plural</i>	ים	ות
<i>Dual</i>	ים	ים

4.6 Lexical Form

When in doubt with regard to a word's meaning or form, you will have to look it up in what is called a Hebrew Lexicon (dictionary). When looking up a noun in the lexicon, you must search for its lexical form. **THE LEXICAL FORM FOR ANY NOUN IS THE SINGULAR FORM.** BibleWorks 5.0™ will display the lexical form when you move your cursor over the Hebrew Text. The lexicon that you choose as your primary reference work will show the full range of definitions for the root word.

4.6.a. Bibleworks 7.0™ Example



The screenshot shows the BibleWorks 7.0 interface. The main window displays the text of Genesis 2:8 in several translations: ESV, KJV, NAS, NIV, NRS, and BGT. Below the translations is the original Hebrew text: וַיִּצְטַע יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים נֹרְבַעַרְן מִקְרֵם וַיִּשֶׂם שֵׁם אֶתְהָאָרֶם אִשֶׁר יִצְרָ: The word analysis window on the right shows the morphological analysis of the Hebrew word 'יהוה' (Yahweh). It indicates that the word is a noun, proper, with no gender, no number, and no state. It also provides a detailed definition of the word, including its etymology and its use in the Bible. A red arrow points to the word 'יהוה' in the Hebrew text, and another red arrow points to the word 'יהוה' in the word analysis window.

Definite Article

5.1 In English, a noun will be either definite or indefinite. Nouns are definite when they appear with the definite article “the” as in the student, the book and the teacher. Nouns are indefinite when they appear either without the definite article or with the indefinite article “a” or “an” as in a student, a book, or an instructor.

In Hebrew, there is no indefinite article. Therefore מֶלֶךְ may be translated as either “king” or “a king.” For this reason, words occurring without the definite article should be considered indefinite unless otherwise indicated.

There are three types of definite nouns in Hebrew. The most common definite nouns are those occurring with the Hebrew definite article. Proper nouns (Egypt) and nouns with possessive pronouns (your book) are also considered to be definite.

5.2 Form of the Hebrew Definite Article

The Hebrew word for “king” or “a king” is מֶלֶךְ. As it appears, the noun is indefinite. In Hebrew, a noun is made definite by prefixing the definite article which consists of הַ plus a Daghesh Forte in the first consonant of the noun. [NOTE: A Daghesh Lene only appears in the BGDKPT letters.]

Definite Article

הַּ > הַמֶּלֶךְ

The Conjunction

5.7 The Conjunction וְ occurs more frequently than any other word in the Hebrew Bible with over 50,000 occurrences. On average, therefore, the conjunction וְ occurs about 2.5 times per verse. When it appears, it is always prefixed to another word and so never occurs independently. In other words, “and a man” is written in Hebrew as וְאִישׁ with the conjunction וְ prefixed to אִישׁ (man).

The conjunction can be translated as and, but, also, so, then, when, now, or, but, that or even, depending on context.

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1. Replicate the Hebrew Noun Chart

	Masculine Nouns	Feminine Nouns
<i>Singular</i>		
<i>Plural</i>		
<i>Dual</i>		

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<i>Singular</i>		
<i>Plural</i>		
<i>Dual</i>		

2. Hebrew Noun Homework

Directions: Parse the following Hebrew words. You are not to be concerned at this point what the translation is. The purpose of this task is to take the first step in translation – parsing. Using the above summary chart, you will identify the gender, number and lexical form of each word.

	<i>Hebrew Word</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Lexical Form</i>
1	דְּבָרִים	Masculine	Plural	דָּבַר
2	שִׁפְטִים			
3	שָׁמַיִם			
4	יָלַד			
5	יָלְדָה			
6	סוּס			
7	סוּסָה			
8	מִשְׁמֶרֶת			
9	מִשְׁמָרוֹת			
10	מֶלֶךְ			
11	מַלְכָּה			
12	מַלְכִּים			
13	מַלְכוּת			
14	בֵּית			
15	בָּנוֹת			
16	שֵׁעַר			
17	עֲבָדִים			
18	יוֹם			
19	יָמִים			
20	יּוֹמִים			

21	נְבִיא			
22	תּוֹרָה			
23	תּוֹרוֹת			
24	אִישׁ			
25	אֲנָשִׁים			

3. Hebrew Definite Article Homework: Prefix the definite article to each of the following nouns and then translate the form.

	<i>Hebrew Word</i>	<i>Lexical Translation</i>	<i>Definite Article Added</i>	<i>English Translation</i>
1	אִישׁ	A man	הָאִישׁ	The man
2	מֶלֶךְ	A king		
3	אִשָּׁה	A woman		
4	בַּיִת	A house		
5	סֵפֶר	A book		
6	דֶּרֶךְ	A road		
7	נִיר	A young man		
8	חֶרֶב	A sword		
9	הַיְכָל	A temple		
10	כֹּהֵן	A priest		
11	חוֹמָה	A wall		
12	מַרְגְּלִים	Spies		
13	יְלָדִים	Boys		
14	אֲבָנִים	Stones		
15	עָפָר	Dust		

16	עִיר	A city		
17	עָרִים	Cities		
18	רֹאשׁ	A head		
19	שָׁנָה	A year		
20	תּוֹרָה	A law		

4. Hebrew Conjunction Homework

	<i>Hebrew Word</i>	<i>Lexical Translation</i>	<i>Conjunction Added</i>	<i>English Translation</i>
1	שֹׁפֵט	A judge	וְשֹׁפֵט	And a judge
2	הַשֹּׁפֵט	The judge		
3	בְּרִית	A covenant		
4	אֶדוֹם	Edom		
5	מִשְׁפֵּט	A judgment		
6	בֵּן	A son		
7	הָעֵצִים	The trees		
8	חֲמֹר	A donkey		
9	אֱלֹהִים	God		
10	תְּפִלָּה	A prayer		
11	בַּיִת	A house		
12	הַשָּׁמַיִם	The heavens		
13	הָאָדָם	The man		
14	מֶלֶךְ	A king		
15	מַלְכָּה	A queen		
16	פְּרִי	Fruit		

17	הַנְּבִיאַ	The prophet		
18	יְהוּדָה	Judah		
19	בֵּין	Between		
20	חֲלוֹם	A dream		

Review for Quiz

Be prepared to complete the following items for your quiz:

1. The Hebrew Alphabet (Hebrew Letters & Name [with final forms])
2. Complete the Summary Hebrew Vowel Chart (Vowel Pointings)
3. Replicate the Hebrew Noun Chart
4. Be able to add the definite article and/or conjunction to any number of Hebrew words.