

Chapter 4a - Hebrew Nouns

inflectional endings

4.2 Endings on Masculine and Feminine Nouns.

	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
<i>Singular</i>	סוּם horse	תּוֹרָה law
<i>Plural</i>	סוּמִים horses	תּוֹרוֹת laws
<i>Dual</i>	סוּמִים two horses	תּוֹרַתִּים two laws

4.4 Summary of Noun Endings.

	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
<i>Singular</i>	endingless	הַ / תְּ / הַ׃
<i>Plural</i>	ים׃	ות
<i>Dual</i>	ים׃-	ים׃- / תִּים׃-



Chapter 4b- Hebrew Nouns

exceptions to rules

1. **Endingless Feminine Nouns.** Not all endingless nouns are masculine singular. In a few instances, feminine singular nouns are also endingless as in אֶרֶץ (land), עִיר (city) and אֶבֶן (stone).
2. **Exception to Normal Pluralization.** Some singular nouns of one gender take the plural endings of the other gender. For example, the masculine singular noun אָב (father) takes the feminine plural ending וֹת as in אֲבוֹת.
3. **Special Dual Nouns.** There are three special Hebrew words that are *always dual in form* but normally singular in translation: שָׁמַיִם (heaven, heavens), מִצְרַיִם (Egypt) and מַיִם (water).
4. **Irregular Stem Change.** Some Hebrew nouns will alter their actual (consonantal) stem when they add their plural endings. For example, the plural of יוֹם (day) is יָמִים (days), the plural of אִישׁ (man) is אַנְשִׁים (men) and the plural of אִשָּׁה (woman) is נְשִׁים (women).
5. **Defective Spelling of וֹת.** Occasionally, the feminine plural ending וֹת will be spelled ת (with Holem rather than Holem Waw). For example, the plural of עֵדָה (congregation) may appear either as עֵדוֹת or עֵדָת. The shorter spelling is called “defective spelling” and the longer spelling is called “full spelling.”



Chapter 4c - Hebrew Nouns

patterns of noun pluralization

1. *Pluralization with No Change*

שִׁיר	song	➤	שִׁירִים	songs
חֵלֹם	dream	➤	חֵלֹמוֹת	dreams

2. *Pluralization with Propretonic Reduction*

דָּבָר	word	➤	דְּבָרִים	words
עָנָן	cloud	➤	עֲנָנִים	clouds

3. *Pluralization of Segholate Nouns*

מֶלֶךְ	king	➤	מְלָכִים	kings
סֵפֶר	book	➤	סִפְרִים	books

4. *Pluralization of Geminate Nouns*

עַם	people	➤	עַמִּים	peoples
חֹק	statute	➤	חֻקִּים	

5. *Irregular Pluralization*

בֵּן	son	➤	בָּנִים	sons
אִישׁ	man	➤	אֲנָשִׁים	men

