

The Feminine Noun

Oral Review Exercise

Read and translate the following sentences orally.

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|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. אָנִי אָב. | 4. יִשְׂרָאֵל עַם. | 7. מֹשֶׁה מֶלֶךְ. |
| 2. אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ. | 5. זֶה אֶחָד. | 8. הוּא מֶלֶךְ. |
| 3. הוּא מֹשֶׁה. | 6. מֹשֶׁה אָב. | 9. זֶה עַם. |

Vocabulary

mother	אִם
blessing	בְּרָכָה
land	אֶרֶץ
you	אַתָּ
the	הַ
she, it	הִיא
this	זֹאת
who	מִי
Sabbath.....	שַׁבָּת
Sarah	שָׂרָה

The Noun

A noun is a word that names a person, place, or thing. In Hebrew, every noun is either masculine or feminine. As you learn each new noun, you must also learn whether it is masculine or feminine. You will see why this is important later. All the nouns introduced in this chapter are feminine. All those introduced in the first chapter were masculine. Most Hebrew pronouns are either masculine or feminine. Listed below are all the nouns and pronouns that you have learned so far.

Feminine		Masculine	
mother	אִם	father	אָב
you	אַתָּ	you	אַתָּה
she	הִיא	he	הוּא
this	זֹאת	this	זֶה
land	אֶרֶץ	Israel	יִשְׂרָאֵל
blessing	בְּרָכָה	king	מֶלֶךְ
Sarah	שָׂרָה	Moses	מֹשֶׁה
Sabbath	שַׁבָּת	nation	עַם

Whenever new nouns or pronouns appear in the vocabulary lists of each chapter, we will tell you whether they are masculine or feminine.

The in Hebrew

The English word the is not a separate word in Hebrew. Instead, the letter ה is attached to the beginning of the Hebrew noun. Usually there will be the vowel ְ under the ה and a dot in the letter following the ה.

ה
the

הַמֶּלֶךְ
the king

מֶלֶךְ
king

הַשַּׁבָּת
the Sabbath

שַׁבָּת
Sabbath

הַבְּרָכָה
the blessing

בְּרָכָה
blessing

Variations of The

Sometimes there is no dot in the letter following the ה. In this case, the vowel under the ה may change to ֶ or ֵ.

mother	אֵם	father	אָב
the mother	הָאֵם	the father	הָאָב

The vowels of some words change when ה is added.

land	אֶרֶץ	people	עַם
the land	הָאֶרֶץ	the people	הָעַם

Dots Inside Hebrew Letters

By now you have learned several words that have letters with a dot inside them.

שַׁבָּת אֶתָּה בְּרָכָה

Many Hebrew words have letters with dots in them, for all sorts of reasons. The rules for these dots are complicated, and it is rarely important for a beginner to know why they appear in Hebrew words. You will be able to read and understand a great deal of Hebrew without knowing much about the dots. In general, you should consider them part of Hebrew spelling.

More Masculine and Feminine Words

There are two words for you in Hebrew. **אַתָּה** is used when addressing a male, and **אַתְּ** is used when addressing a female.

You are a father. **אַתָּה אָב.**

You are a mother. **אַתְּ אִם.**

There are also two words for this in Hebrew. **זֶה** refers to masculine nouns (people or things), and **זֹאת** refers to feminine nouns (people or things).

This is the king. **זֶה הַמֶּלֶךְ.**

This is the people. **זֶה הָעָם.**

This is the mother. **זֹאת הָאִם.**

This is the land. **זֹאת הָאָרֶץ.**

The word **אֲנִי** I is used for both males and females.

I am Moses. **אֲנִי מֹשֶׁה.**

I am Sarah. **אֲנִי שָׂרָה.**

The Word **מִי**

The word **מִי** means Who? as a question.

Who are you? **מִי אַתָּה?**

Who is the mother? **מִי הָאִם?**

Exercises

1. Translate the following sentences into English.

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|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. הוא אָב. | 9. אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ. | 17. זֶה יִשְׂרָאֵל. |
| 2. הוא הָאָב. | 10. אַתָּה הַמֶּלֶךְ. | 18. זֹאת הָאָרֶץ. |
| 3. היא אִם. | 11. אַתְּ אִם. | 19. אֲנִי מֹשֶׁה. |
| 4. היא הָאִם. | 12. אַתְּ הָאִם. | 20. אֲנִי שָׂרָה. |
| 5. זֶה עָם. | 13. אַתָּה מֹשֶׁה. | 21. מִי אַתָּה? |
| 6. זֶה הָעָם. | 14. אַתְּ שָׂרָה. | 22. מִי שָׂרָה? |
| 7. זֹאת בְּרָכָה. | 15. הוּא הַמֶּלֶךְ. | 23. מִי הָאָב? |
| 8. זֹאת הַבְּרָכָה. | 16. הִיא הָאִם. | 24. מִי אַתָּה? |

2. Translate these sentences into English.

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|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. אַתְּ שָׂרָה. | 8. הוּא הַמֶּלֶךְ. | 15. אַתְּ הָאִם. |
| 2. זֶה הָעָם. | 9. זֹאת בְּרָכָה. | 16. מֹשֶׁה הַמֶּלֶךְ. |
| 3. מִי אֲנִי? | 10. מִי הָאִם? | 17. אֲנִי הָאָב. |
| 4. אַתָּה אֶחָד. | 11. זֹאת הָאָרֶץ. | 18. אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ. |
| 5. מֹשֶׁה הָאָב. | 12. הָעָם אֶחָד. | 19. זֶה מֹשֶׁה. |
| 6. שָׂרָה אִם. | 13. זֹאת הַשְּׂבֵת. | 20. מִי זֹאת? |
| 7. זֹאת הָאִם. | 14. מִי הוּא? | 21. הִיא שָׂרָה. |

3. Translate the following sentences into Hebrew.

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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. This is a blessing. | 6. This is the Sabbath. |
| 2. Who is Sarah? | 7. Who is he? |
| 3. She is a mother. | 8. This is the land. |
| 4. I am Moses. | 9. The nation is Israel. |
| 5. You are the king. | 10. This is the father. |

4. Make as many sentences as you can by combining words from line A with words from line B. Use ה the whenever possible. Translate.

A. אַתָּה אָנִי הִיא אַתְּ הוּא מִי זֶה זֹאת

B. אִם מֶלֶךְ שָׂרָה מֹשֶׁה יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶרֶץ אָב

5. Rewrite the sentences below, replacing the underlined word with the word that follows. Change from masculine to feminine or feminine to masculine when necessary. Translate.

Example: הִיא הָאֵב (הָאָב) הוּא הָאָב.

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. הוּא מֹשֶׁה. (שָׂרָה) | 6. אַתְּ שָׂרָה. (מֹשֶׁה) |
| 2. זֹאת הָאֶרֶץ. (הָעָם) | 7. אָנִי אִם. (אָב) |
| 3. שָׂרָה אִם. (מֹשֶׁה) | 8. אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ. (שָׂרָה) |
| 4. מִי הָאָב? (הָאָם) | 9. זֹאת בְּרָכָה. (שַׁבָּת) |
| 5. זֹאת הַשַּׁבָּת. (מֶלֶךְ) | 10. זֶה מֶלֶךְ. (הַמֶּלֶךְ) |

The Blessing Over Bread

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
(of) the universe blessed

הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.
from bread the one
who brings forth

This is the blessing said before eating bread. Notice that ה the is attached to three of the words in this blessing.

"Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth."

Siddur Tehillat Hashem, Mangel, 1978, p. 87

The Blessing Over Wine

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

בוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.
(of) the vine fruit who creates

This is the blessing said before drinking wine.

"Blessed art thou, Lord our God, King of the universe, who createst the fruit of the vine."

Daily Prayer Book, Birnbaum, 1977, p. 290