

Pronouns

Oral Review Exercise

Answer these questions for each word below:

1. What does it mean in English?
2. What is its singular form?
3. Is it masculine or feminine?

שְׁבֹתוֹת	אִמָּהוֹת	אָבוֹת
דְּבָרִים	מְלָכִים	אֲרָצוֹת
אֱלֹה	בְּרָכוֹת	עַמִּים

Read and translate the following sentences orally.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 3. יִשְׂרָאֵל עִם. | 1. מִי הַמֶּלֶךְ? |
| עִם אֶחָד. | הוּא הַמֶּלֶךְ. |
| הָעַם יִשְׂרָאֵל. | מִי הַמְּלָכִים? |
| הָעַם אֶחָד. | הֵם הַמְּלָכִים. |
| 4. זֹאת בְּרָכָה. | 2. מִי הִיא? |
| זֹאת הַתּוֹרָה. | הִיא הָאֵם. |
| אֱלֹה הַדְּבָרִים. | מִי הִוא? |
| אֱלֹה הַשְּׁבֹתוֹת. | הוּא לֵאמֹר וְשָׂרָה. |

Vocabulary

truth <i>f</i>	אֱמֶת
we <i>m</i> and <i>f</i>	אֲנַחְנוּ, אֲנִי
you <i>m pl</i>	אַתֶּם
you <i>f pl</i>	אַתֶּן
son <i>m</i>	בֶּן, בָּנִים
daughter <i>f</i>	בַּת, בָּנוֹת
peace <i>m</i>	שָׁלוֹם

- The plural form of each word is listed after its singular form. If no plural form is listed, it means that no such form exists or that it is very rarely used.
- The plural form **בָּנִים** can be translated as sons or children.

Pronouns

The Hebrew words **הִיא**, **הוּא**, **אַתָּה**, **אַתָּה**, **אֲנִי** are all singular pronouns. They each have a corresponding plural form. Below is a chart showing all the singular and plural subject pronouns.

Plural		Singular	
we	אֲנַחְנוּ, אֲנִי	I	אֲנִי
you <i>m</i>	אַתֶּם	you <i>m</i>	אַתָּה
you <i>f</i>	אַתֶּן	you <i>f</i>	אַתְּ
they <i>m</i>	הֵם	he	הוּא
they <i>f</i>	הֵן	she	הִיא

Two Forms of We

The two Hebrew words **אֲנִי** and **אֲנַחְנוּ** both mean we. They can be used interchangeably. Just like **אֲנִי**, they are used for both males and females.

We are the daughters. **אֲנַחְנוּ הַבָּנוֹת.**

We are Abraham and Moses. **אֲנַחְנוּ אַבְרָהָם וּמֹשֶׁה.**

We are Sarah and Leah. **אֲנִי שָׂרָה וְלֵאָה.**

We are the kings. **אֲנִי הַמְּלָכִים.**

אַתָּה and אַתֶּן

The plural form **אַתֶּן** you is used when addressing two or more females. Like the word **הֵן**, it is used only when everyone referred to is female.

You are the daughters. **אַתֶּן הַבָּנוֹת.**

The plural form **אַתֶּם** is used when addressing two or more males.

You are the fathers. **אַתֶּם הָאָבוֹת.**

Like the plural form **הֵם**, the plural form **אַתֶּם** is used when the group referred to contains both males and females.

You are Sarah and Moses. **אַתֶּם שָׂרָה וּמֹשֶׁה.**

You are the fathers and the daughters. **אַתֶּם הָאָבוֹת וְהַבָּנוֹת.**

Masculine plural forms are always used in Hebrew when referring to groups containing both males and females.

The Extra Pronoun

In short noun sentences, the words **הוא**, **היא**, **הם** and **הן** often appear with the two nouns or groups of nouns. These extra pronouns need not be translated.

The father is the king. **הָאָב הוּא הַמֶּלֶךְ.**

Sarah is the mother. **שָׂרָה הִיא הָאִמָּה.**

The kings are the fathers. **הַמְּלָכִים הֵם הָאָבוֹת.**

These extra pronouns may appear in noun sentences with any noun. **הוא** and **הם** are used with masculine nouns. **היא** and **הן** are used with feminine nouns.

Israel is a nation. **יִשְׂרָאֵל הוּא עַם.**

The Torah is truth. **הַתּוֹרָה הִיא אֱמֶת.**

These are the words. **אֵלֶּה הֵם הַדְּבָרִים.**

Sometimes the word **הוא** is used after the pronoun **אתה** in short noun sentences. This **הוא** also does not need to be translated.

You are the king. **אַתָּה הוּא הַמֶּלֶךְ.**

You are the father. **אַתָּה הוּא הָאָב.**

In Hebrew, feminine plural forms like **אתן** and **הן** are very rare and do not appear at all in the prayerbook. In this book, we will introduce these forms along with more common forms so that you can see the complete structure of the language.

Exercises

1. Translate the following noun sentences into English.

1. **אָנִי הָאָב.** 2. **הִיא בַּת.**

3. **אֲנַחְנוּ הָאָבוֹת.** 4. **הֵן לֵאָה וְשָׂרָה.**

5. **אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ.** 6. **זֶה הָאָב וְאֵלֶּה הַבָּנוֹת.**

7. **אַתֶּם מְלָכִים.** 8. **אֵלֶּה הַבָּנִים.**

9. **אַתָּה הָאָב.** 10. **מֹשֶׁה וְהַמֶּלֶךְ הֵם אָבוֹת.**

11. **אַתָּן הַבָּנוֹת.** 12. **הַתּוֹרָה הִיא אֱמֶת.**

13. **הוּא בֵּן.** 14. **יִשְׂרָאֵל הִיא הָאָרֶץ.**

15. **הֵם אֲבֹתָם וּמֹשֶׁה.** 16. **הַשְּׁלוֹם הוּא בְּרָכָה.**

2. Change the singular forms to plural. Translate.

Example: **אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ. אַתֶּם מְלָכִים.**

1. **הוּא אָב.** 2. **זֶה הַדְּבָר.**

3. **אָנִי בֵּן.** 4. **זֹאת הָאָרֶץ.**

5. **הִיא הָאָב.** 6. **אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ וְאַתָּה אָב.**

3. Change the plural forms to singular. Translate.

Example: **אֲנַחְנוּ בָנִים. אָנִי בֵּן.**

1. **אָנִי הַבָּנוֹת.** 2. **אֵלֶּה עַמִּים.**

3. **אַתֶּם הַבָּנִים.** 4. **הֵם הַמְּלָכִים וְאֲנַחְנוּ הָאָבוֹת.**

5. **אֵלֶּה בְּרָכוֹת.** 6. **אַתֶּם הַבָּנִים וְהֵן הַבָּנוֹת.**

4. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word. There may be more than one correct answer. Translate.

1. אָנִי אָב וְאַתָּה אָב. _____ אָבוֹת.
2. מִי אַתֶּם? _____ הַבָּנִים.
3. לֵאָה הִיא בֵּת וְשָׂרָה הִיא בֵּת. הֵן _____ .
4. אָנֹכִי הַבָּנִים. _____ מֹשֶׁה וְהוּא אֲבִרְהָם.
5. מִי אַתָּה? _____ הַמֶּלֶךְ.
6. אַתֶּם הָאָבוֹת, אֱלֹהֵי הַבָּנִים וְ _____ הַבָּנוֹת.
7. אֲבִרְהָם הוּא אָב וְשָׂרָה הִיא _____ .
8. מֹשֶׁה _____ בֵּן וְלֵאָה _____ בֵּת.
9. אַתָּה בֵּן וְאַתָּ בֵּת. _____ בָּנִים.

5. Translate the following into Hebrew.

1. I am Moses. Who are you *f sg*?
2. I am Leah. I am a daughter and I am a mother.
3. Who is she? She is the mother.
4. We are the fathers and they are the sons.
5. This is the truth.
6. You are the kings and they are the fathers.
7. These are the words.
8. You are the mother.
9. We are the children.
10. This is the Sabbath.

From the Aleinu

In this chapter we include excerpts from two familiar prayers. The following line is from the Aleinu, the prayer recited near the end of every service. The congregation bows as this line is said.

וְאַנְחֵנוּ כּוֹרְעִים וּמְשַׁתְּחִים וּמוֹדִים . . .
give thanks worship bow

The first word is the pronoun we with the ו and attached. Notice that the ו and is also attached to two other words.

“We bend the knee, worship and give thanks. . .”

Sabbath and Festival Prayer Book, Rabbinical Assembly, 1973, p. 159

From Ein Keloheinu

These lines are taken from the hymn Ein Keloheinu.

אַתָּה הוּא אֱלֹהֵינוּ, אַתָּה הוּא אֲדוֹנֵינוּ,
our Lord

אַתָּה הוּא מֶלֶכְנוּ, אַתָּה הוּא מוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.
our king our savior

This verse is made up of short noun sentences. Notice that the pronoun הוּא is inserted between the two words of each sentence.

“You are our God; You are our Lord; You are our King; You are our Savior.”

Gates of Prayer, Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1975, p. 731