Adjectives

Oral Review Exercise

Read and translate the following sentences orally.

. מִי אַתָּה? אֲנִי הַמֶּלֶּךּ. מִי אֲנִי? אַתְּה הַבֵּן. מִי הוּא? הוּא הָאָב.

2. מִי אַתֶּם? אֲנַחְנוּ הַמְּלָכִים. מִי אֲנַחְנוּ? אַתֶּם הַבְּנִים. מִי הֵם? הֵם הָאָבוֹת.

> 3. מִי הִיא? הִיא הַבַּת. מִי אַהְ? אֲנִי הָאֵם. מִי הַן? הַן הַבְּנוֹת.

Vocabulary

blessed
big, great
good
holy
many, much, abundant

The Adjective

An adjective is a word used to describe a noun.

a <u>big</u> father good mothers a <u>holy</u> nation

In English, an adjective comes before the noun that it describes. In Hebrew, an adjective usually comes after the noun that it describes.

> a big father אָב גָּדוֹל a good king מֶלֶךּ טוֹב a holy nation עַם קְדוֹש

In English, every adjective has one form, no matter what kind of noun it describes.

a good father good fathers
a good mother good mothers

In Hebrew, every adjective has four forms which correspond to the four types of Hebrew nouns: masculine singular, masculine plural, feminine singular, and feminine plural. The Hebrew adjective appears in four different forms when describing each of these four types of nouns.

good	m s	g	 		•							ב	ינ
good	f sg		 		•				•		1	<u></u>	וֹנ
good	m p	l	 		•					2	יכ	Ė	İĽ
good	f pl		 							3	וֹר	ב	וֹנ

Adjectives and Nouns

The Hebrew adjective must always match the noun it describes.









The four forms of the adjectives introduced in this chapter are:

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much	holy	good	great	
בַב	קדוֹשׁ	טוֹב	גָדוֹל	m sg
רַבְּה	קְדוֹשְׁה	טוֹבָה	גְדוֹלְה	f sg
רַבִּים	קְדוֹשִׁים	טוֹבִים	גְדוֹלְים	m pl
רַבּוֹת	קדושות	טובות	גְדוֹלוֹת	f pl

Below are examples of adjectives with nouns you have learned.

a big son	בָן בָּדוֹל
a big daughter	בַּת גְּדוֹלָה
a holy people	עַם קָדוֹש
a holy land	אָרֶץ קְדוֹשָה
many words	דְבָרִים רַבִּים
many blessings	בַרכות רבות

A masculine noun is always masculine and must use a masculine adjective, even when it has the feminine plural ending $\mathbf{n} \mathbf{x}$. The same is true of feminine nouns that have the masculine ending $\mathbf{n} \mathbf{x}$.

a good father	טוֹב	אָב
good fathers	ת טוֹבִים	אָבוֹ

Adjectives and Definite Nouns

Definite nouns are nouns that refer to specific people, places, or things.

a blessing (any blessing: not definite) בְּרֶכָה the blessing (a specific blessing: definite) הַבְּרֶכָה Abraham (a specific person: definite) אָבְרָהָם

When a Hebrew adjective is used with a definite noun in a phrase, the adjective must have a 7 attached. This 7 is not translated.

the great king הַבְּּלֵךְ הַגְּדוֹל the many nations הְעַבִּים

good Sarah שַׂרָה הַטּוֹבָה

When a Hebrew adjective is used with a definite noun to form a complete sentence, the adjective does not have a 7 attached.

The king is great.

הַמְּלֵךְ גַּדוֹל.

The nations are many.

הָעַמִּים רַבִּים.

Sarah is good.

שַׂרָה טוֹבָה.

In a noun sentence, the adjective can come before or after the noun.

The king is great.

נְּדוֹל הַמֶּלֶךְ.

הַמֶּלֶך[ׁ] גְּדוֹל.

Below are the possible combinations of definite and indefinite nouns with adjectives.

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a good king
Indefinite noun plus adjective without



the good king
Definite noun plus adjective with 7



The king is good.

Definite noun plus adjective without 7

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בַרוּרָ

The Hebrew word in blessed is a special kind of word. Although it is not an adjective, it is used in the same way. Like an adjective, it has four forms, and must match the noun it describes. The is used like an adjective to form phrases and sentences.

a blessed king	מֶּלֶּךְ בְּרוּךְ
the blessed land	הָאָכֶץ הַבְּרוּכָה
The kings are blessed.	הַמְּלָכִים בְּרוּכִים.
the blessed lands	הָאֲרָצוֹת הַבְּרוּכוֹת
Blessed are you. or You are blessed.	בַרוּך אַתַּה.

Exercises

1. Translate these Hebrew sentences and phrases into English.

. הָעָם קָדוֹשׁ	.3 בֵּן גָּדוֹל .3
שָׁלוֹם רַב	הַבֵּן גָּדוֹל.
הַשַּׁבָּת קְדוֹשָה.	הַבֵּן הַגְּדוֹל
הַדְּבָרִים הַקְּדוֹשִׁים	הַבְּנִים גְּדוֹלִים.
ָהְאֲרָצוֹת רַבּוֹת.	הַבָּנִים הַגְּדוֹלִים
. אָב בָּרוּדְ	.2 אֶּרֶץ טוֹבָה .2
. אָב בָּרוּך הָאָב בָּרוּך.	.2 אָרֶץ טוֹבָה הָאָרֶץ הַטוֹבָה
ָהָאָב בָּרוּך.	הָאָרֶץ הַטּוֹבָה

2. Translate the following phrases into English.

הַבְּנִים הַטּוֹבִים	.7	1. בַּת טוֹבָה
הָעָם הַקָּדוֹשׁ	.8	2. הָאָב הַגְּדוֹל
אַבְרָהָם הַגָּדוֹל	.9	3. אָמְהוֹת רַבּוֹת
הַדְּבָרִים הָרַבִּים	.10	4. הַבְּרָכָה הַטּוֹבָה
עַמִּים בְּרוּכִים	.11	5. מְלָכִים רַבִּים
משֶה הַקְּדוֹשׁ!	.12	6. הָאָרֶץ הַבְּרוּכָה

3. Translate the following sentences into English.

- 1. הָעַמִים בַּרוּכים.
- 2. יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶרֶץ גְּדוֹלְה.
 - 3. הַשַּׁלוֹם טוֹב.

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- 4. הַתּוֹרָה וְהַשֶּׁבָּת קְדוֹשׁוֹת.
- 5. הַבַּנִים והַבַּנוֹת רַבִּים וטוֹבים.
 - 6. האמת קדושה.
- 7. בַּרוּךְ אַבְרָהָם הַאַב וּבִרוּכָה הַאָם לֵאַה.
 - 8. אַנַחָנוּ הַמְּלָכִים הָרַבִּים.
 - 9. אֵלֶה דְּבָרִים קְדוֹשִׁים.
- .10 זֹאת הַבַּת הַטּוֹבָה וְאֵלֶּה הַמְּלָכִים הַבִּרוּכִים.

4. Translate the following sentences into Hebrew.

- 1. The Sabbath is holy.
- 4. The sons are great.
- 2. Many words are blessed.
- 5. The truth is good.

3. Peace is good.

6. They are good daughters.

The following pairs of sentences will rhyme when correctly translated.

- 7. The mother is good. The land is blessed.
- 8. Blessed are the nations. Many are the sons.

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5. Rewrite the sentences that follow, changing the singular forms to plural. Remember that the adjective agrees with the noun. Translate.

6. Rewrite the following sentences, changing from plural to singular. Translate.

.5. אַתֶּם הָאָבוֹת הַטּוֹבִים	1. הַבְּנִים בְּרוּכִים.
6. אֲנַחְנוּ מְלְכִים גְּדוֹלִים.	.2. הַבְּנוֹת טוֹבוֹת.
7. אֵלֶה הַדְּבְרִים הַטּוֹבִים.	3. הַשַּׁבְּתוֹת קְדוֹשׁוֹת.
. הָאַרָצוֹת הֵן בְּרוּכוֹת.	4. הֶם עַמִּים בִּרוּכִים.

7. For each of the following sentences, an adjective is given. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the adjective, adding 7 where necessary. Translate.

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1. אַהְ בַּת ____ . (גְּדוֹל)
2. זֹאת הַתּוֹרָה ____ . (קְדוֹשׁ)
3. הַשְּלוֹם ____ . (רַב)
4. הַשְּׁלוֹם ____ . (רַב)
5. הַשַּׁבָּת הִיא ___ . (בְּרוּדְּ)
6. הַם עַמִּים ___ . (קְדוֹשׁ)
7. מֹשֶׁה וְאַבְרָהָם הֵם מְלָכִים ___ . (טוֹב)
8. יִשְׂרָאֵל הִיא אֶרֶץ ___ . (טוֹב)
9. אַרָצוֹת ___ הן טוֹבוֹת. (גְּדוֹל)
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Echad Eloheinu

אָחָד אֱלֹהִינוּ, גְּדוֹל אֲדוֹנִינוּ, קְדוֹשׁ שְׁמוֹ. אָחָד אֱלֹהִינוּ, גְּדוֹל יִינוּ, בּיוֹל שְׁמוֹ. our Lord

This is the prayer which follows the Shema in the Torah service for the Sabbath and festivals. There are three pairs of words in this sentence. Each pair is a noun sentence with an adjective and a noun. In each case, the adjective comes before the noun.

One is our God. or Our God is one.

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אָחָד אֱלהֵינוּ.

Great is our Lord. or Our Lord is great.

בָּדוֹל אֲדוֹנֵינוּ.

Holy is his name. or His name is holy.

קַדוֹשׁ שְׁמוֹ.

"One is our God; Great is our Lord; Holy is his name." Daily Prayer Book, Birnbaum, 1977, p. 366

"Our God is One; our Lord is great; holy is his name." Gates of Prayer, Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1975, p. 418

From the Kedushah קדוש, קדוש, קדוש יי צְבְאוֹת.

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." Daily Prayer Book, Birnbaum, 1977, p. 352