

Handout #4 - Noun Plurals

**TYPE 1**

**Identification:** (2 syllables)

**Plural Form:** propretonic reduction ( $\bar{a} > \text{ə}$ )

(1) open first syllable with  $\bar{a}$  or reduced vowel

דְּבָרִים < דְּבָר

**OR**

(2) segholate noun

מְלָכִים < מְלֶךְ

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**TYPE 2**

**Identification:** (2 syllables)

**Plural Form:** pretonic reduction, only with  $\bar{e}$  ( $\bar{e} > \text{ə}$ )  
qamats does not reduce!

First syllable: is closed or has unchangeably long vowel

מְשֻׁפָּטִים < מְשֻׁפָּט

**AND**

Second syllable: has  $\bar{a}$  or  $\bar{e}$

אֵיבִים < אֵיב

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**TYPE 3**

**Identification:** (1 syllable)

**Plural Form:** depends on the stem vowel

(1) if the stem vowel is  $\hat{u}$ ,  $\hat{i}$ ,  $\hat{o}$ , and usually  $\bar{a}$

→ no change; add plural ending

שִׁירִים < שִׁיר

(2) if the stem vowel is  $\bar{e}$

→ final consonant of the root is doubled;  $\bar{e} > i$

חֲצִים < חֶץ

**OR**

→ no change; add plural ending

עֲצִים < עֵץ

*(which type of change occurs depends on the individual word; learn the plural form with the singular!)*

(3) if the stem vowel is  $a$

→ final consonant of the root is doubled

עַמִּים < עַם

→ if the final consonant is a guttural or resh, the initial vowel is lengthened

הַרְרִים < הַר

(4) if the stem vowel is  $\bar{o}$

→ final consonant of the root is doubled;  $\bar{o} > u$

חֻקִּים < חֹק

*(sometimes  $\bar{o}$  is written as a defective spelling for  $\hat{o}$ ; do not confuse the this type with Type 4.1!)*

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**TYPE 4**

Introductory Biblical Hebrew I (BIBL 33900)

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**Identification:** (2 syllables)

**Plural Form:** ayi > ē

(1) contains the diphthong *ayi*

→

זֵית < זֵיתִים

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**TYPE 5**

**Identification:** (2 syllables)

**Plural Form:** add ending; no vowel changes in stem

First syllable: unchangeably long vowel or closed

צִדִּיק < צִדִּיקִים

**AND**

Second syllable: unchangeably long vowel or closed

אֲבִיּוֹן < אֲבִיּוֹנִים

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**TYPE 6**

**Identification:** (2 syllables)

**Plural Form:** -eh is dropped, ending added

Second syllable ends in -eh

שְׂדֵה < שְׂדוֹת

מְחַנֶּה < מְחַנּוֹת

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**TYPE 7**

**Identification:** feminine nouns

**Plural Form:** -āh is dropped, ending added;  
UNLESS 2 consonants in a row, then propretonic  
reduction + pretonic lengthening

(1) 2 syllables, ending with -āh

→

תּוֹרָה < תּוֹרוֹת

(2) two consonants in a row without a vowel in  
between (CvCCāh)

→

מְלָכָה < מְלָכוֹת

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**OTHER TYPES**

Feminine nouns ending in -eṭ / -aṭ / -āṭ / -îṭ / -ôṭ / -ûṭ

→

have no predictable plural forms; learn  
the plural forms with the singular