

Possessive Endings For Singular Nouns: I

Oral Review Exercise

Read and translate the following sentences orally.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. השַׁבָּת הַקְּדוּשָׁה | 2. הָעָם רַב. |
| הַשַּׁבָּת קְדוּשָׁה. | הָעַמִּים רַבִּים. |
| שַׁבָּתוֹת קְדוּשׁוֹת | עַם רַב |
| הַשַּׁבָּתוֹת הַקְּדוּשׁוֹת | עַמִּים רַבִּים |
| 3. אֲנִי מֶלֶךְ גָּדוֹל. | 4. הַדְּבָר טוֹב. |
| אֲנִי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַגָּדוֹל. | הַדְּבָרִים טוֹבִים. |
| אֲנַחְנוּ מְלָכִים גְּדוֹלִים. | הַדְּבָרִים הֵם אֲמֵת. |
| הַמְּלָכִים הַרְבִּים גְּדוֹלִים. | הָאֲמֵת הִיא דְּבָר טוֹב. |
| | 5. הַבַּת הַטּוֹבָה בְּרוּכָה. |
| | הַבַּת טוֹבָה וּבְרוּכָה. |
| | בְּרוּכוֹת הַבָּנוֹת הַטּוֹבוֹת. |
| | אֲבָרְהֶם וְהַבָּנוֹת בְּרוּכִים. |
| | 6. הוּא מֹשֶׁה הַגָּדוֹל. |
| | הוּא אָב טוֹב. |
| | הִיא לֵאָה וְהִיא טוֹבָה. |
| | לֵאָה וּמֹשֶׁה טוֹבִים. |

Vocabulary

house <i>m</i>	בֵּית, בְּתִים
kindness, mercy <i>m</i>	חֶסֶד, חַסְדִּים
day <i>m</i>	יוֹם, יָמִים
today	הַיּוֹם
what, how	מָה, מַה, מָה
kingdom <i>f</i>	מְלָכוּת, מְלָכוּיּוֹת
universe, world, eternity <i>m</i>	עוֹלָם, עוֹלָמִים
name <i>m</i>	שֵׁם, שְׁמוֹת

There are many words in Hebrew that do not have an exact English equivalent. Some Hebrew words can mean many different things in English. For example, the word **עוֹלָם** introduced in this chapter means both endless time (eternity) and endless space (universe). It can also mean world. The word **חֶסֶד** can be translated as grace or goodness, as well as loving-kindness. In the vocabulary lists of this book, we will try to give a one or two word translation that best sums up the meaning of each word. You should be aware, however, that the words could be translated in many different ways.

Adjectives as Nouns

You have already learned that the Hebrew adjective is used to describe nouns. The adjective can also be used alone, as a noun. It is then translated the . . . one.

He is the good one. הוא הטוב.

They are the holy ones. הם הקדושים.

Possessive Endings for Hebrew Nouns

English shows possession by using separate words such as my, your, his, and her. Possession is shown in Hebrew by attaching special endings to nouns. In this chapter you will learn the Hebrew endings that mean my, your, his, and her, and how they are attached to singular nouns.

We will call the form of the noun to which endings are attached the *base form*. The letters of the base form are the same as the letters of the noun. The vowels of the base form may be the same as those of the original noun, or they may be different. The vowels of the base form of most nouns remain the same no matter which ending is attached.

In the following pages we will give you many examples of nouns with possessive endings. The examples are included only to help you recognize the possessive endings and the base forms to which they are attached. You do not need to memorize each word.

בַּיִת

base form

בַּיִת

house

בַּיִתִּי

my house

בַּיִתְךָ

your house *m*

בַּיִתְךָ

your house *f*

בַּיִתּוֹ

his house

בַּיִתָּהּ

her house

- Notice that there is a masculine ending your ךָּ and a feminine ending your ךָּ.
- The dot in the ךָּ is part of the spelling of the her ending.
- The form ךָּ (your *m*) also appears as ךָּ (for example בַּיִתְךָ).

Examples of Nouns with Possessive Endings

Many nouns change their vowels when the possessive endings are attached.

daughter	בַּת	word	דָּבָר
<i>base form</i>	בַּת־	<i>base form</i>	דָּבָר־
my daughter	בַּתִּי	my word	דְּבָרִי
your daughter <i>m</i>	בַּתְּךָ	your word <i>m</i>	דְּבָרְךָ
your daughter <i>f</i>	בַּתְּךָ	your word <i>f</i>	דְּבָרְךָ
his daughter	בְּתוֹ	his word	דְּבָרוֹ
her daughter	בְּתֶהּ	her word	דְּבָרֶהּ

Some nouns do not change their vowels when possessive endings are added.

day	יוֹם	Sabbath	שַׁבָּת
<i>base form</i>	יוֹמ־	<i>base form</i>	שַׁבָּת־
my day	יוֹמִי	my Sabbath	שַׁבָּתִי
your day <i>m</i>	יוֹמְךָ	your Sabbath <i>m</i>	שַׁבָּתְךָ
your day <i>f</i>	יוֹמְךָ	your Sabbath <i>f</i>	שַׁבָּתְךָ
his day	יוֹמוֹ	his Sabbath	שַׁבָּתוֹ
her day	יוֹמֶהּ	her Sabbath	שַׁבָּתֶהּ

When endings are attached to words that end in הָ, the הָ is replaced by תָּ.

blessing	בְּרָכָה	Torah	תּוֹרָה
<i>base form</i>	בְּרָכָת־	<i>base form</i>	תּוֹרָת־
my blessing	בְּרָכָתִי	my Torah	תּוֹרָתִי
your blessing <i>m</i>	בְּרָכָתְךָ	your Torah <i>m</i>	תּוֹרָתְךָ
your blessing <i>f</i>	בְּרָכָתְךָ	your Torah <i>f</i>	תּוֹרָתְךָ
his blessing	בְּרָכָתוֹ	his Torah	תּוֹרָתוֹ
her blessing	בְּרָכָתֶהּ	her Torah	תּוֹרָתֶהּ

A few words, like אָב, have unusual endings.

father	אָב
<i>base form</i>	אָבִי־
my father	אָבִי
your father <i>m</i>	אָבִיךָ
your father <i>f</i>	אָבִיךָ
his father	אָבִיו
her father	אָבִיָּהּ

אָבִיו his father is pronounced aveev.

Below is a list of all the nouns you have learned in their original form, and with the יָךְ ending attached.

my father	אָבִי	father	אָב
my mother	אִמִּי	mother	אִם
my truth	אֱמֻתִּי	truth	אֱמֻת
my land	אֶרֶצִי	land	אֶרֶץ
my house	בֵּיתִי	house	בַּיִת
my son	בְּנִי	son	בֶּן
my blessing	בְּרַכָּתִי	blessing	בְּרָכָה
my daughter	בָּתִּי	daughter	בַּת
my word	דְּבָרִי	word	דְּבָר
my kindness	חַסְדִּי	kindness	חֶסֶד
my day	יוֹמִי	day	יוֹם
my king	מֶלֶכִּי	king	מֶלֶךְ
my kingdom	מַלְכוּתִי	kingdom	מַלְכוּת
my world	עוֹלָמִי	world	עוֹלָם
my people	עַמִּי	people	עַם
my Sabbath	שַׁבָּתִי	Sabbath	שַׁבָּת
my peace	שְׁלוֹמִי	peace	שְׁלוֹם
my name	שְׁמִי	name	שֵׁם
my Torah	תּוֹרָתִי	Torah	תּוֹרָה

You do not need to memorize all the changes that take place when nouns have possessive endings attached. You do need to be able to recognize nouns with the different possessive endings when you see them.

Exercises

1. Translate the following Hebrew words.

1. אָמִי, מֶלֶכִּי, בְּנִי, בְּרַכָּתִי, אָבִי, בָּתִּי, בֵּיתִי
- דְּבָרִי, אֶרֶצִי, שְׁמִי, חַסְדִּי, מַלְכוּתִי, עַמִּי, תּוֹרָתִי
2. בְּנָה, דְּבָרָה, בָּתָה, אִמָּה, חַסְדָּה, מַלְכוּתָה, שְׁמָה,
- עֵמָה, בְּרַכָּתָה, מַלְכָּה, אָבִיהָ, בֵּיתָה, עוֹלָמָה, שְׁלוֹמָה
3. תּוֹרָתָה, אִמָּה, אָבִיהָ, עֵמָה, בְּנָה, בֵּיתָה, דְּבָרָה
4. חַסְדּוֹ, בְּנוֹ, בְּרַכָּתוֹ, אָבִיו, מַלְכוּתוֹ, שְׁמוֹ, תּוֹרָתוֹ,
- בָּתוֹ, דְּבָרוֹ, אִמּוֹ, מַלְכוֹ, בֵּיתוֹ, עוֹלָמוֹ, עַמוֹ
5. דְּבָרָה, מַלְכָּה, שַׁבָּתָה, בְּנָה, עֵמָה, חַסְדָּה, תּוֹרָתָה

2. Match these Hebrew nouns with singular possessive endings with the English translations listed below.

בֵּיתָה	תּוֹרָתוֹ	אָבִיו	שְׁמָה	בָּתָה	מַלְכָּה	חַסְדָּה
אָבִיהָ	אֶרֶצָהּ	בְּרַכָּתִי	עֵמָה	אִמָּה	בְּנָה	דְּבָרָה
אִמָּהּ	בָּתִּי	שְׁמָהּ	עַמוֹ	בֵּיתִי	מַלְכוּתוֹ	

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| 1. her name | 11. her daughter |
| 2. his people | 12. your name |
| 3. her word | 13. her house |
| 4. my daughter | 14. your king |
| 5. your kindness | 15. my blessing |
| 6. his kingdom | 16. his father |
| 7. her mother | 17. your mother |
| 8. my house | 18. your people |
| 9. his Torah | 19. her father |
| 10. your land | 20. your son |

3. Translate the following questions and answers into English.

1. מי בְּתֵדָה? בְּתֵי שָׂרָה.
2. מָה שְׁמִי? שְׁמֵהּ מֹשֶׁה.
3. מִי בָּנָה? בָּנָה אַבְרָהָם.
4. מִי מְלָכִי? מְלֶכֶה מֹשֶׁה.
5. מָה דְּבָרוֹ? דְּבָרוֹ אֱמֶת.
6. מָה מְלָכוּתְךָ? מְלָכוּתִי בֵּיתִי.
7. מָה קְדוּשָׁה? הַתּוֹרָה קְדוּשָׁה.
8. מִי אָבִיךָ? הוּא אָבִי וְשִׁמוֹ מֹשֶׁה.
9. מָה אֶרֶץְךָ? יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶרֶץִי וְעַמִּי.

4. The following sentences contain adjectives used as nouns.

Translate into English.

1. הוּא הַגְּדוֹל. 4. הֵם קְדוּשִׁים.
2. אֲנַחְנוּ הַבְּרוּכִים. 5. הִיא הַבְּרוּכָה.
3. הֵם הַרְּבִים. 6. אֲנִי הַטּוֹבָה.

5. Translate the following sentences into Hebrew. When translated correctly, the boxed letters from each sentence will spell out a well-known Hebrew phrase.

1. Moses is a good father. _____ □ _____
2. It is a holy blessing. _____ □ _____
3. His kingdom is great. _____ □ _____
4. My name is good. _____ □ _____
5. Leah is my daughter. _____ □ _____
6. His Torah is holy. _____ □ _____
7. My son is Abraham. _____ □ _____

6. Rewrite the sentences below, replacing the underlined word with each word that follows. Make the necessary changes in the rest of the sentence. Read aloud and translate.

Example: היא בַּת טוֹבָה. א. בֶּן הוּא בֶּן טוֹב.

1. אַתֶּם בָּנִים בְּרוּכִים.
- א. הַבָּנִים ב. הַבָּנוֹת ג. בַּת ד. הַבַּת ה. הַבֶּן
2. הַיּוֹם קְדוּשׁ וְטוֹב.
- א. אִמָּה ב. הַיָּמִים ג. הַמְּלָכוּיוֹת ד. אָבִיךָ
3. חֲסֵדוֹ גָּדוֹל.
- א. הַבָּנוֹת ב. הַבָּתִּים ג. מְלָכוּתוֹ ד. שְׁמֵךָ
4. הוּא מֹשֶׁה וְשִׁמוֹ טוֹב.
- א. הוּא הַמְּלֶכֶה ב. הִיא הַבַּת ג. אֲנִי הָאָב
5. בֵּיתוֹ גָּדוֹל וְעַמּוֹ טוֹב.
- א. בֵּיתִי ב. בֵּיתְךָ ג. בֵּיתָה ד. בֵּיתְךָ
6. זֶה מְלָכִי וְהוּא מְלֶכֶה בְּרוּךְ.
- א. אֶרֶץִי ב. בְּנִי ג. אָבִי ד. בְּתִי ה. בֵּיתִי

7. Translate the following sentences into English.

1. אַתָּה בָּנָה וְשְׁמֵךָ מֹשֶׁה.
2. הוּא הַמְּלֶכֶה, וְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַמּוֹ וּמְלָכוּתוֹ וְאֶרְצוֹ.
3. בְּרַכְתָּהּ קְדוּשָׁה, וְחֲסֵדָהּ רַב.
4. אֲנִי אָבִיו וְאָבִיָּהּ. הוּא בְּנִי וְהִיא בְּתִי.
5. זֹאת אֶרְצוֹ וְהוּא מְלָכָה.
6. הַיּוֹם יוֹם טוֹב. הַיּוֹם אֲנִי אָב.
7. בֵּיתְךָ גָּדוֹל וּבֵיתִי גָּדוֹל. הַבָּתִּים גְּדוֹלִים.
8. הָעוֹלָם הוּא מְלָכוּתוֹ.
9. אִמָּךְ טוֹבָה וְדְבָרָה אֱמֶת.

Selections from the Prayerbook

See if you can translate these prayers on your own. The information below will help you.

סְלַה	יְהַלְלוּךָ	בְּכֹל
Selah	will praise you	in every

אַתָּה קָדוֹשׁ וְשִׁמְךָ קָדוֹשׁ,
 וְקָדוֹשִׁים בְּכֹל יוֹם יְהַלְלוּךָ סְלַה.
 בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי, הָאֵל הַקָּדוֹשׁ.

The word וְשִׁמְךָ has the ending ךְּ your m attached, to give it the meaning and your name. The word וְקָדוֹשִׁים, meaning and holy ones, is the masculine plural form of the adjective קָדוֹשׁ, used as a noun.

“Thou art holy, and thy Name is holy, and the holy praise thee daily. Selah. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the holy God.”

Daily Prayer Book, Hertz, 1975, p. 455

בְּאֶרֶץ	גוֹי	כְּעַמָּה
in the land	people	like your people

אַתָּה אֶחָד וְשִׁמְךָ אֶחָד, וְיֵמִי כְּעַמָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל,
 גוֹי אֶחָד בְּאֶרֶץ?

“You are One, Your name is One, and there is none like your people Israel, a people unique on the earth.”

Gates of Prayer, Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1975, p. 171