Hebrew Nouns   Part 2

Hebrew nouns have

Gender — masculine or feminine
Number - singular   or plural or dual

Masculine nouns have NO set pattern or
paradigm - so get familiar with the feminine
noun pattern first

Feminine nouns (singular) most end in $\text{ה}_\text{ָ}$
but also ה_ or הי. or ה.. or הו

Feminine Plural nouns end with הו
Feminine Dual nouns end with י_ or הי_

— Exceptions , exceptions , exceptions! —

Special dual nouns -   dual nouns usually refer
to a pair - "eyes" or "hands" but here are
a few that are always dual - but?

ירושלים Jerusalem מים water(s)

שמים heaven(s) מצרים Egypt

Defective spelling   —   defective terminology
think of this as a "contraction" -
English - Do + not = Don't   still conveying the
same meaning

so -

full → יֹ Holem Vav may sometimes appear as

holem only → ֹ

full יֹ ⟶ defective ֹ

sometimes

וֹ ⟶ may appear as ⟶ ֹ.

sometimes

יֹ ⟶ may appear as ֹ

EXAMPLE → "David"

full   defective

דָּוִיד   ⟶   דָּוִד

Pluralization with Pretonic reduction

דָּבָר "word"   becomes   דְּבָרִים "words"

Two syllable nouns having Qamets or Tsere in the first pretonic syllable will undergo propretonic reduction because of addition of plural ending.

* with nouns that have initial guttural consonant they cannot take a vocal shewa; but can take Hateph Patach —.

Segholate Nouns   (seghol = ֶ) — like עֶלֶד or

(צֶדֶק) transform in the plural

מֶלֶך Kings becomes מְלָכִים

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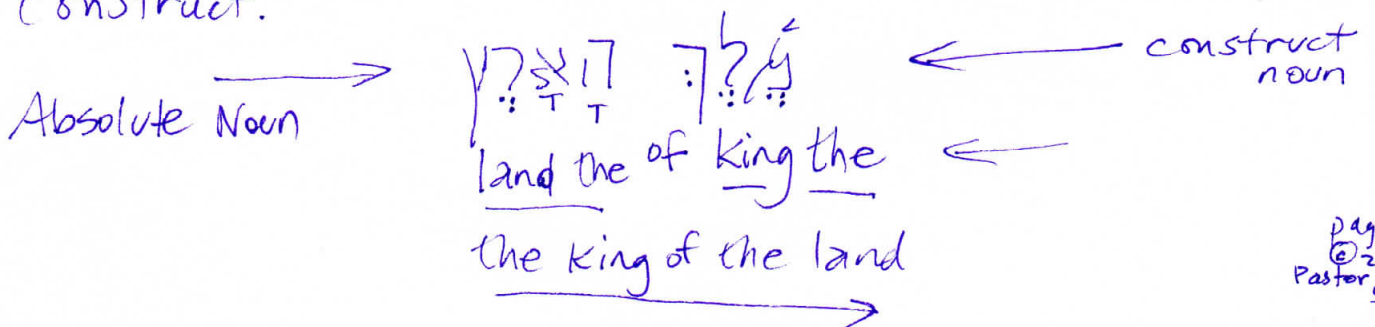# Irregular Stem Pluralization (change)

אִישׁ Man ——————> אֲנָשִׁים Men

אִשָּׁה Woman ——————> נָשִׁים Women

אָב Father ——————> אָבוֹת Fathers

Nouns: Construct Relationship – Introduction

Hebrew has no word to express the English word "of". Since Hebrew doesn't have an equivalent – the construct relationship expresses genitival relationship. A Hebrew noun has both an absolute state AND a construct state.

If you look in a lexicon – the singular absolute state is the form you will find. (Brown, Driver, Brigg)
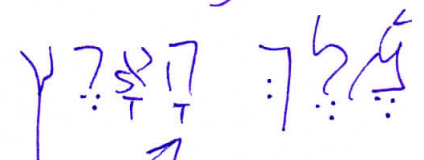
Construct relationship may be two or three nouns joined together within a sentence. (They may be joined by a Maqqef ⎯ or simply be juxtaposed. The final noun in the series MUST remain absolute whereas, the noun or nouns that precede it will be construct.
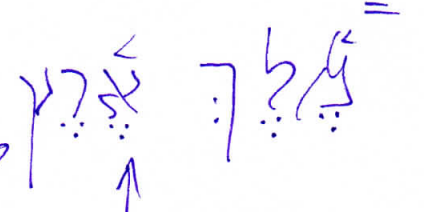
Absolute Noun ——————> הָאָרֶץ מֶלֶךְ <—————— construct noun

land the ⎯ of king the <——

the king of the land ——————>

construct "chains" (two or more words – in a sentence →)
will either be definite <u>the</u> king of <u>the</u> land <u>or</u>

entirely indefinite, "a" of "a" - But The construct noun (the first in the chain) will not take a definite article! the "definiteness" or "indefiniteness" will be determined by the absolute Noun.

so:

⟵ הָאָרֶץ מֶלֶךְ   the king of the land

Absolute noun determines "definiteness"

<u>vs</u>

⟵ אֶרֶץ מֶלֶךְ   a king of a land

Absolute noun   "indefinite"   → therefore the <u>WHOLE</u> ch<u>AI</u>N - is "indefinite".

A noun is considered definite — [1] with definite article "the" → הַ·

② with pronominal suffix (upcoming lesson!)

③ proper noun (upcoming lesson!)