

Note that slight pauses may occur in a sentence, often in the middle of a word. This is common in casual or rapid speech among native speakers of Israel. You will need to “tune” your ears to hear the individual words within the stream of the sentence, in order to understand authentic Israeli Hebrew. Now think about the two kids in an American high school who are running down the hallway during the noon hour ... Here’s what you might hear:



“Hay jeet yet?”

“No, Ju?”

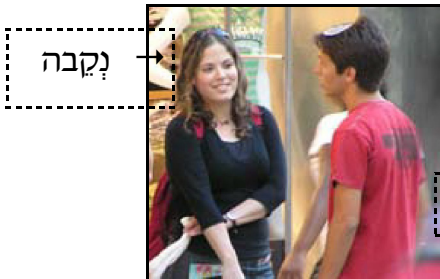
(Translation: Hey, did you eat yet? No, did you?)

1.39 GRAMMAR - דיקדוק

1.39.1 שמות עצם ומין - The Gender of Nouns



Use with Software Chapter 1:13 “Gender Agreement With Nouns & Adjectives” (See also §2.20) **and Chapter 1: 5 “Spelling & the Order of the Alphabet”**



Hebrew nouns are either masculine gender **מין זכר**, or feminine gender **מין נקבה**.



(The word **מין** means both “gender” and “sex”.)

← זכר

Nouns that end in an /ah/ vowel and whose last letter is a **ה**, or nouns that end with a **ת** are generally **מין נקבה**.

Here are some feminine nouns



מחפּרת	שירה	תלמידה	פיתה
	סליחה	עברית	סטודנטית

Here are some masculine nouns:

סוף	שיר	עיפרון	בוקר
עמוד	סטודנט	ספר	לוח

Warning: Beware of words that end in an /ah/ vowel but are not accented on the last syllable, and are not written with a **ה**. Words like **רגע** and **שבוע** are masculine.

The vocabulary lists at the end of each chapter indicate the grammatical gender of nouns with an abbreviation: **נ** = נקבה and **ז** = זכר .

Agreement of Adjective and Nouns 1.39.2



Use with Software Chapter 1 "Drill On Adjectives of Mixed Gender"

Watch what happens to adjectives when they refer to a feminine noun. See how their form changes from the form of a masculine noun.



ילדה קטנה

ילד קטן



Feminine נ. = נְקֵבָה

Masculine ז. = זָכָר

a good class

פיתה טובה

a good student

תלמיד טוב

This is a big class

זאת פיתה גדולה

a good book

ספר טוב

a good week

שבוע טוב

Dina is a good student דינה תלמידה טובה

Fill in the Blanks - למלא את החסר - 1.39.3

Pretend that this is a conversation between a man and woman. She happens to say to him that he is a good man and he immediately responds that she is a good woman. From then on it was back and forth. Whatever was said about a man was then applied to a woman and vice versa. You fill in the responses.



כן, וגם את אישה טובה

1. אתה איש (man) טוב

כן, וגם היא _____

2. הוא סטודנט חדש

כן, וגם אני _____ (מצויינת)

3. אני מורה מצויין

כן, וגם היא _____

4. הוא תלמיד כאן

כן, וגם היא _____ (אמריקאית)

5. הוא איש אמריקאי

כן וגם אני _____

6. אני גדול מאוד

כן וגם אני _____

7. אני איש נעים



ילד קטן
ילדים קטנים



ילדה קטנה
ילדות קטנות

RULES פְּלִלִים 1.40



1. The Hebrew **adjective** always **follows** the noun it describes.

שִׁירָה טוֹבָה
good poetry

בּוֹקֵר טוֹב
good morning



2. The **gender** (מִין) of the adjective must always be the same as that of the noun it describes. If the Hebrew noun is masculine, the adjective must also be masculine. This "matching" is called *agreement*.

תְּלִמִידָה טוֹבָה
a good student (*f*)

תְּלִמִיד טוֹב
a good student (*m*)



3. The **number** (מִסְפָּר) singular or plural, of the adjective must *always be in agreement* with the noun it describes.

תְּלִמִידִים טוֹבִים

תְּלִמִיד טוֹב

תְּלִמִידוֹת טוֹבוֹת

תְּלִמִידָה טוֹבָה

4. **The adjective that describes a definite noun must also be definite.** The prefix הֶ must be attached to the adjective too.

Grammatical Terms When the noun refers to something specific, known, or unique, we say the noun is a **definite noun**: example "**the** notebook". The adjective that describes a definite noun must also reflect that definiteness.



הַבּוֹקֵר הַטוֹב הַלּוּחַ הַגָּדוֹל
הַמַּחְבֶּרֶת הַקְּטָנָה הַשִּׁירָה הַחֲדָשָׁה



The opposite of a **definite noun** is an **indefinite noun**:

"a good book" = סֵפֶר טוֹב, "a small notebook" = מַחְבֶּרֶת קְטָנָה.

5. Hebrew likes to keep **the accented syllable** at the end of the word. Notice what happens to the masculine form of most two-syllable adjectives when a feminine or plural ending is added. Study these examples.



כִּתְּהַ קְטָנָה	סֵפֶר קָטָן
כִּתְּהַ נְעִימָה	בּוֹקֵר נְעִים
כִּתְּהַ גְּדוֹלָה	סֵפֶר גָּדוֹל
תְּלִמִידִים גְּדוֹלִים	תְּלִמִיד גָּדוֹל

In the feminine form of the adjective, notice how the accent shifts to the new last syllable, and the vowel of the first syllable almost disappears. The "zero-vowel" is written as a *sheva*.

NOTE: At this point you are not expected to memorize these rules. However, it is important for you to begin to recognize and anticipate the changes in the forms of the adjectives that you hear in your instructor's speech or see in the texts you read.

LACK OF "AGREEMENT" IS A SERIOUS ERROR IN HEBREW!

Challenge: Can you infer a general rule about forming the plurals of masculine and feminine nouns? (You will learn the rule later... This question is for those who like puzzles.)

1.40.1 למלא את החסר - Fill in the Blanks

Below is an exercise in changing adjectives from masculine form to feminine form. Remember that the vowel in most two-syllable adjectives is reduced to a שְׁוֹאָא in the plural form. Try it out with these expressions. First write in how you think the word should be. Then check your answers.



_____ אישה

_____ תלמידה

_____ מחפֶּרֶת

_____ אישה

_____ מחפֶּרֶת

_____ שורה

_____ מחפֶּרֶת



1. איש גדול

2. תלמיד גבוה

3. סֶפֶר חסר

4. איש עיִיף

5. עמוד קטן

6. סֶפֶר קצר

7. סֶפֶר שחור



1.40.2 מין זכר - מין נקבה

STUDY THESE PAIRS OF SENTENCES. WATCH THE CHANGES.

מין נקבה

דינה תלמידה טובה

הינה פיתה קטנה

זאת שורה ארוכה

זאת לא מורה נעימה

מחפֶּרֶת גדולה ויפה

מין זכר

דן תלמיד טוב

הינה סֶפֶר קטן

זה שיר ארוך

זה לא שיר נעים

שיער ארוך ויפה



Translation Exercise: תרגיל תִּירְגוּם 1.40.3

Translate the following sentences from Hebrew to English. Indicate (m) or (f).

שֵׁם יָפָה _____
 תלמיד טוב _____
 תלמידה טובה _____
 מילה חדשה _____
 שיר חדש _____
 פיתה נעימה _____
 תלמידות טובות תלמידים טובים _____



Translate the following sentences from English to Hebrew.

A new book _____
 A good class _____
 A small blackboard (whiteboard) _____
 A small blackboard (whiteboard) _____



ה AT THE END OF A WORD – ה 1.41

"Consonantal" ה At The End Of A Word - 1.41.1

Look carefully at these sentences:

He is a tall student

She is a tall student

There is a class

There are classes

הוא סְטוּדֵּנְט גְבוּהָ
 היא סְטוּדֵּנְטִית גְבוּהָה
 יש כיתה
 יש כיתות



- The ה at the end of גְבוּהָ is different from the ה in words like כִּיתָה or יָפָה . The ה in גְבוּהָ is part of the root of the word. The ה does not disappear before the addition of plural endings or the addition of a ה for the feminine form as you see in the word גְבוּהָה.
- Like the ח in the word לוֹחַ, this ה (see the little dot - מִפִּיק - in it) at the end of a word is "supposed" to indicate that the ה is to be pronounced after the /ah/ vowel - with the h actually sounded. Hardly anyone does. Most Israelis ignore this rule and just say /a/. **IMPORTANT:** Do not read the word גְבוּהָ /ga-vo-ha/. **You must pronounce it /ga-vo-ah/.**