Hebrew adjectives are inflected for *gender* and *number*.

### Inflected Adjective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singular</strong></td>
<td>טוב</td>
<td>טובָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plural</strong></td>
<td>טובות</td>
<td>טובּות</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Inflectional Endings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singular</strong></td>
<td>יה</td>
<td>יה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plural</strong></td>
<td>יה</td>
<td>יה</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 7b – Adjectives
The Attributive Use of Adjectives

Attributive Use

In the attributive usage, the adjective directly modifies a noun and agrees with that noun in gender, number and definiteness. In this usage, the adjective follows the noun that it modifies.

אִישׁ טוֹב a good man
הָאִישׁ טוֹב the good man
אִשָּׁה טוֹבָה a good woman
הָאִשָּׁה טוֹבָה the good woman
אֲנָשִׁים טוֹבִים good men
הָאֲנָשִׁים טוֹבִים the good men
נָשִׁים טוֹבוֹת good women
הַנָּשִׁים טוֹבוֹת the good women
Predicative Use

In the predicative usage, the adjective asserts something about the noun and agrees with that noun in gender and number, but not in definiteness. The predicative adjective never takes the definite article. In this usage, the adjective may either precede or follow the noun with which it is related.

עָשֶׂה טוֹב The man is good.
שָׁלוֹחֵה טוֹבָה The woman is good.
שֶׁלֶם עָשֶׂה עָשֶׂה עָשֶׂה עָשֶׂה שָׁלוֹחֵה שָׁלוֹחֵה שָׁלוֹחֵה שָׁלוֹחֵה The men are good.
The women are good.
Chapter 7d – Adjectives
The Substantive Use of Adjectives

Substantive Use

In the substantive usage, an adjective is used independently as a noun.

חכם  the wise one (man)
טוב  the good one (woman)
גדולים  the great ones (men)
צדיקים  the righteous ones (women)
A special ending may be added to a word in order to express the idea of motion toward someone or something. This special ending is the directional ending בָּה (it is always unaccented).

- בֵית house ➞ בֵיתָה to the house
- עִיר city ➞ עִירָה toward the city
- שָׁמַי heaven ➞ שָׁמַיָה heavenward
- מִצְרַיيم Egypt ➞ מִצְרַיִים to Egypt
- שָׁם there ➞ שָׁמָּה to there
- יָם sea ➞ יָמָּה toward the sea
Certain adjectives do not change their spelling with the addition of inflectional endings.

ms תוב ms תוב
fs תובה
mp תובים mp תובות
fp תובות

ms צדיק ms צדיק
fs צדיקות
mp צדיקים mp צדיקות
fp צדיקות
Chapter 7g – Adjectives
Adjectival Inflection with Propretonic Reduction

When the open, pretonic syllable of the masculine singular adjective (as in גָּדוֹל) becomes propretonic with the addition of inflectional endings, a Qamets or Tsere vowel in the propretonic syllable will reduce to Vocal Shewa or Hateph Pathach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Masculine Singular</th>
<th>Feminine Singular</th>
<th>Masculine Plural</th>
<th>Feminine Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ms</td>
<td>גָּדוֹל</td>
<td>גְּדוֹלָה</td>
<td>גְּדוֹלִים</td>
<td>גְּדוֹלוֹת</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mp</td>
<td>גָּדוֹל</td>
<td>גְּדוֹלָה</td>
<td>גְּדוֹלִים</td>
<td>גְּדוֹלוֹת</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fs</td>
<td>גְּדוֹלָה</td>
<td>גְּדוֹלָה</td>
<td>גְּדוֹלִים</td>
<td>גְּדוֹלוֹת</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basics of Biblical Hebrew
© Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt
Chapter 7h – Adjectives
Adjectival Inflection with Adjectives Ending with ה

The ה ending is dropped when the inflectional endings are added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ms</th>
<th>קָשֶׁה</th>
<th>fs</th>
<th>קָשָׁה</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mp</td>
<td>קָשִׁים</td>
<td>fp</td>
<td>קָשׁוֹת</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ms</td>
<td>יָפֶה</td>
<td>fs</td>
<td>יָפָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mp</td>
<td>יָפִים</td>
<td>fp</td>
<td>יָפוֹת</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 7i – Adjectives
Adjectival Inflection with Geminate Adjectives

Geminate adjectives will take a Daghesh Forte in the second consonant with the addition of inflectional endings:

- ms רַב
- fs רָבָה
- mp רַבִּים
- fp רָבוֹת

If the Geminate consonant is a guttural, it rejects the Daghesh Forte and the Pathach lengthens to Qamets (compensatory lengthening):

- ms רַע
- fs רָעָה
- mp רָעִים
- fp רָעוֹת
Some adjectives inflect irregularly and do not follow any of the patterns shown above.

\[
\begin{align*}
ms & \quad קָטֹן & fs & \quad קְטַנָּה \\
mp & \quad קְטַנִּים & fp & \quad קְטַנּוֹת
\end{align*}
\]