

# Chapter 7a – Adjectives

## The Inflection of Hebrew Adjectives

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

### Inflected Adjective

	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
<i>Singular</i>	טוֹב	טוֹבָה
<i>Plural</i>	טוֹבִים	טוֹבוֹת

### Inflectional Endings

	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
<i>Singular</i>		הַ
<i>Plural</i>	יםִ	וֹתַ



# 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 הַטוֹב

the good man

אִשָּׁה טוֹבָה

a good woman

הָאִשָּׁה הַטוֹבָה

the good woman

אֲנָשִׁים טוֹבִים

good men

הָאֲנָשִׁים הַטוֹבִים

the good men

נָשִׁים טוֹבוֹת

good women

הַנָּשִׁים הַטוֹבוֹת

the good women



# Chapter 7c – Adjectives

## The Predicative Use of Adjectives

### 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.

הָאִישׁ טוֹב

The man is good.

טוֹבָה הָאִשָּׁה

The woman is good.

טוֹבִים הָאֲנָשִׁים

The men are good.

הַנְּשִׂים טוֹבוֹת

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.

הַחֲכָם the wise one (man)

הַטוֹבָה the good one (woman)

הַגְּדוֹלִים the great ones (men)

הַצְּדִיקוֹת the righteous ones (women)



# Chapter 7e – Adjectives

## The Directional Ending

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 הַ** (it is always unaccented).

בַּיִת	house	➤	הַבַּיִת	to the house
עִיר	city	➤	הָעִיר	toward the city
שָׁמַיִם	heaven	➤	הַשָּׁמַיִם	heavenward
מִצְרַיִם	Egypt	➤	הַמִּצְרַיִם	to Egypt
שָׁם	there	➤	שָׁמָּה	to there
יָם	sea	➤	יָמָּה	toward the sea



# Chapter 7f – Adjectives

## Adjectival Inflection with No Change in Spelling

Certain adjectives do not change their spelling with the addition of inflectional endings.

*ms*      טוב      *fs*      טובָה

*mp*      טובִים      *fp*      טובות

*ms*      צַדִּיק      *fs*      צַדִּיקָה

*mp*      צַדִּיקִים      *fp*      צַדִּיקוֹת



# Chapter 7g – Adjectives

## Adjectival Inflection with Propretonic Reduction

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

*ms* גדול      *fs* גדולה

*mp* גדולים      *fp* גדולות

*ms* זקן      *fs* זקנה

*mp* זקנים      *fp* זקנות

*ms* ישר      *fs* ישרה

*mp* ישרים      *fp* ישרות

*ms* חכם      *fs* חכמה

*mp* חכמים      *fp* חכמות



# Chapter 7h – Adjectives

## Adjectival Inflection with Adjectives Ending with הַ

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

*ms*      קִשָּׁה      *fs*      קִשָּׁה

*mp*      קִשִּׁים      *fp*      קִשּׁוֹת

*ms*      יָפָה      *fs*      יָפָה

*mp*      יָפִים      *fp*      יָפוֹת





# 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

<i>ms</i>	רַב	<i>fs</i>	רַבָּה
<i>mp</i>	רַבִּים	<i>fp</i>	רַבּוֹת

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

<i>ms</i>	רַע	<i>fs</i>	רַעָה
<i>mp</i>	רַעִים	<i>fp</i>	רַעוֹת



# Chapter 7j – Adjectives

## Irregular Adjectival Inflection

Some adjectives inflect irregularly and do not follow any of the patterns shown above.

<i>ms</i>	קָטָן	<i>fs</i>	קָטָנָה
<i>mp</i>	קָטָנִים	<i>fp</i>	קָטָנוֹת

