

## FAQs – Chapter 4

### What is defective spelling?

You learned in this chapter that the plural of נִפְשׁוֹת is נִפְשׁוֹת. In Exodus 12:4, however, the plural of נִפְשׁוֹת is defectively spelled נִפְשׁוֹת. The vowel letter has been dropped, but this causes no change in pronunciation or meaning. Defective spelling is not limited to the feminine plural ending; it can occur with any of the unchangeable long vowels.

Here are a few more examples:

<u>Full Writing</u>	<u>Defective Writing</u>	
אָבוֹת	אָבֹת (Ex 20:5)	fathers
חוֹמָה	חֹמָה (Lev 25:30)	wall
חוֹמוֹת	חֹמֹת (Lam 2:7)	walls
נְבִיאִים	נְבִאִים (1 Kings 18:4)	prophets
מִדְּעַי	מִדְּעַי (Ezek 18:19)	why
דָּוִד	דָּוִד (Ruth 4:17)	David