

LESSON III

I. Absolute State of the Noun

A. Definition of the Absolute State

The absolute state is the normal state of the noun (e.g. בן - "a son").

B. Endings of the Absolute State

1. Masculine Gender

a. Singular

The noun has no ending (e.g. סוס - "a horse").

b. Plural

The noun has an ים ending. This ים ending is added to the end of the noun (e.g. סוסים - "horses").

2. Feminine Gender

a. Singular

The noun has an ת ending when the gender and number is marked by inflection (e.g. חוקה - "a statute").

b. Plural

The noun has an ות ending. This ות ending is added to the end of the noun by removing the feminine singular absolute ending ת and putting this ending in its place (e.g. חוקות - "statutes").

NOTE: When an ending is added to a noun, the vowels in the body of the noun usually change (e.g. מלכים - "kings").

II. Absence of the Neuter Gender

There is no neuter gender in Hebrew. The masculine gender is sometimes used for the neuter gender.

III. Classes of Feminine Nouns

A. Words ending in ת or ות (e.g. שנה - "a year," and ברית - "a covenant").