

Noun Pluralization and Rules of Shewa

1) No change to the stem

- Singular has 1 syllable and unchangeable long vowel.
- Singular has 2 syllables:
First syllable has vocal Shewa or Hateph Pathach. Second syllable has unchangeable long vowel.
- → Just add the plural ending

2) Propretonic reduction

- Singular has 2 syllables. Accent on the last syllable. Qamets or Tsere in the first syllable.
- → Add the plural ending and **reduce** the vowel in the first syllable (propretonic).
 - If under a guttural, the propretonic vowel reduces to Hateph pathach (◌◌).
 - Otherwise, the propretonic vowel reduces to vocal shewa.

3) Segholate nouns

- Singular has 2 syllables, with the accent on the first syllable.
- → Add the plural ending, **reduce** the vowel in the first syllable (propretonic), and change the vowel in the second syllable to a Qamets.
 - If under a guttural, the propretonic vowel reduces to Hateph pathach (◌◌).
 - Otherwise, the propretonic vowel reduces to vocal shewa.

4) Geminate nouns

- Singular has 1 syllable, does NOT have an unchangeable long vowel, and the last consonant was originally doubled.
- → Add the plural ending and **bring back the doubled consonant**.
 - If the final consonant of the singular can take a Dagesh, then add a Dagesh.
 - If the first syllable has a changeable long vowel, shorten it:
 - Tsere (◌◌) → Hireq (◌◌)
 - Holem (◌◌) → Qibbutz (◌◌)
 - Qamets (◌◌) → Pathach (◌◌)
 - If the final consonant of the singular cannot take a Dagesh (i.e., א, ט, ק, ר, ש, ז), then lengthen the vowel.

5) Irregular pluralization

- When learning a noun as a vocabulary item, check its plural. If the plural is irregular, then memorize it.

Rules of Shewa

- Two shewas in a row:
 - End of word: Both silent (◌◌◌)
 - Middle of word: First silent and second vocal. (◌◌◌)
 - Beginning of word: First becomes Hireq and second becomes silent shewa (◌◌◌), except:
 - If second consonant is yod, turn them into Hireq yod (◌◌◌)
- Beginning of word with shewa followed by guttural with reduced vowel:
 - Shewa becomes the short vowel that corresponds to the reduced vowel. (◌◌◌ → ◌◌◌ ; ◌◌◌ → ◌◌◌)
 - Except that for the word אֱלֹהִים, the shewa becomes tsere and the aleph quiesces (...לֹהִים → ...לֹהִים)