

Ross Lesson 7: Noun Endings, Sentences, Conjunction WAW LECTURE NOTES

1. Noun and Adjective Endings (Ross 7.1)

Below is a chart containing the proper endings that we add to nouns and adjectives to mark whether the word is masculine singular, masculine plural, feminine singular, or feminine plural. Then we have the nouns סוס (horse) and סוסה (mare) with these endings. You need to be able to reproduce this chart, since the endings are applicable to a great many types of words: nouns, adjectives, and participles (which we'll meet later). Ø = zero/no ending.

1.1. The forms

	Endings Alone		Endings with Nouns	
	Sing.	Pl.	Sing.	Pl.
Masc.	Ø-	־יִם	סֹס	סֹסִים
Fem.	־תִּ-	־תָּ	סֹסָה	סֹסָות

Here are some blank charts that you can use to drill yourself for memory.

	Endings Alone		Endings with Nouns	
	Sing.	Pl.	Sing.	Pl.
Masc.				
Fem.				

	Endings Alone		Endings with Nouns	
	Sing.	Pl.	Sing.	Pl.
Masc.				
Fem.				

1.2. Some cautions: irregular plural endings.

Sing. Noun	Gender/Number	Pl. Noun	Gender/Number
אָבָּא	ms (father)	אָבָּאִים	mp (fathers)
אָשָׁה	fs (woman/wife)	אָשָׁהִים	fp (women/wives)

1.3. Semantics of “number” (sg./pl.). _____

Semantics	Sg noun, meaning	Pl noun, meaning
➤ Numerical plurality: more than one	עיר _____	ערים _____
➤ Mass noun vs. Count noun	בָּשָׂר _____	בָּשָׂרִים _____
➤ Plural for abstract noun	דָּם _____	דָּמִים _____
➤ Plural of majesty (or honorific plural)	אֱלֹהִים _____	

2. Clauses/Sentences (Ross 7.2)

2.1. Some terms:

Verbal sentence:

Verbless sentence:

Null = not written/expressed; null-copula = no copula (BE) is written.

2.2. Verbal clauses/sentences:

Dr. M loves chocolate.

Dr. M swims in chocolate.

קְטַלْ מַשָּׁה סֹס:

V S O (verb-subject-object)

V S PP (verb-subj-prep phrase)

2.3. Verbless clauses/sentences:

S (V) SC: (S = subject; SC = subject complement; V = copula, but copula is null in BH)

You are handsome. (SC = adj)
You are a man. (SC = noun)
You are at work. (SC = PP)

Hebrew exx:

הַמְלָךְ עַל-הַכְּסָא: מִצְדִּיק:

2.4. Case function: how a noun functions in its grammatical role in a clause

Nominative function = _____

Accusative function = _____

Genitive function = _____

3. Conjunction **WAW** וְ 'and, but, yet' (Ross 7.3)

3.1. Typically prefix וְ to front of noun (conj. waw comes standard with VS, like insep. preps)

וּסְוִסָּה _____

וְאִישׁ וְאִשָּׁה _____

3.2. Ways conj וְ is prefixed similarly to the inseparable prepositions (בְּ לְ בָּ):

a. When word begins with CS (waw loses both eyes, replaced by corresponding short vowel):

אַדְמָה

אַדְזָם

b. When word begins with יְ (yod quiesces and the waw takes a hireq-yod יְ):

יהוֹדָה becomes יְהוֹדָה

3.3. Ways conj נ is prefixed NOT like the inseparable prepositions (ב נ נ):

a. Conj נ becomes נ (shureq) when word begins with VS (no Red Ryder):

שְׁמוֹאֵל

b. Conj נ becomes נ (shureq) when word begins with a “BuMP” consonant (ב נ נ):

מְיַם

c. Conj נ does NOT eat “hay sandwiches” (that’s why the conj. נ is so skinny!); the article’s full form remains:

הַמֶּלֶךְ + prep נ > _____ ('to the king'), but

הַמֶּלֶךְ + conj נ > _____ ('and the king')

3.4. Before ACCENTED syllables, the conj נ > נ (frequently, not always).

So two possibilities to say ‘and water’ (notice מְיַם accents the first syllable to which the conjunction is added/prefixed):

מְיַם (due to BuMP rule)

מְיַם (due to accent on 1st syll)

3.5. Summary: 4 forms of the conj נ

Form	When
!	Normal
;	BuMP/word begins with VS
՝	Word begins with accented syllable.
՞	Word begins with —՝

4. Translating the conjunction *WAW* ! (Ross 7.4)

- If ! joins non-sentences (nouns, adjs, etc.), translate ‘and’.
- If ! joins sentences (or clauses), normally you’ll translate ‘and’. If the two sentences are semantically contrastive, then translate ‘but’.
- If ! joins sentences (or clauses) in a parenthetical way, translate ‘now...’.