

Ross Lesson 8: Vowel Reductions, Special Nouns, Prep MIN LECTURE NOTES

1. Vowel Reduction Patterns for Nouns (Ross 8.1)

In BH (Biblical Hebrew) vowels in open syllables can reduce to a VS when inflectional endings are added. Ross mentions two types of reduction pattern but doesn't mention the circumstances in which they apply—I will do that here!

		Sing. form	Pl. (adding inflectional ending)
1. NOUN Reduction Pattern:	Syllables that become O/PPT ↓ VS	נָבִיא (prophet)	נְבִיאִים
		לֵב (heart)	לְבָבוֹת
		אֶרֶץ (land)	אֲרָצוֹת
2. VERB Reduction Pattern:	Syllables that become O/PT ↓ VS	שׁוֹפֵט (judge/judging one)	שׁוֹפְטִים

2. Segholate Nouns (Ross 8.2)

אֶרֶץ נֶעֶר

2.1. Two characteristics of segholate nouns:

- 1st-syllable stress in the singular: ALWAYS
- Double-seghol under root letters 1 & 2: FREQUENTLY (Gutts in R2 or R3 position can change seghol to pataḥ.)

2.2. When segholate nouns become plural:

- Lose 1st-syllable stress: stress is surrendered to the plural inflectional ending
- Follows the vowel pattern of the plural of דָּבָר (pl. becomes דְּבָרִים: R1 with VS, and R2 with qameṣ, R3 with whatever pl ending is has based on gender of noun).

2.3. Exx:

Sing. form	Pl. form: fill in the vowels and endings!	
מֶלֶךְ (king)	מַלְכֵי	(kings)
נֶעַר (boy)	נַעֲרֵי	(boys)
אֶרֶץ (land)	אֲרָצֵי	(lands)

3. Monosyllabic Nouns With Changeable Vowels (Ross 8.3)

When a noun is BOTH monosyllabic (1 syllable) AND has a changeable vowel (not historically long), the “Black Hebrew Helicopter” drops a DF into the final consonant before you add any inflectional endings.

Sing. form	Pl. form: fill in the vowels and endings!		
סוּס (horse)	סוּסֵי	(horses)	No changeable V
עַם (nation)	עַמֵּי	(nations)	DF rule applies + cuss
חֹק (statute)	חֻקֵּי	(statutes)	DF rule applies+ cuss
רָע (evil [one])	רָעֵי	(evil [ones])	DF rule applies but the guttural can't take DF. Either CL or VD/ID occurs.
אָח (brother)	אָחֵי	(brothers)	

4. Preposition MIN מִן (from, away from) (Ross 8.4)

Two ways to attach/prefix prep מִן to its object:

4.1. The Sissy Way: _____ מִן (attach with maqqep)

4.2. **The Marine Corps Way:** Assimilation (process where one consonant becomes like another one; the BORG PROBLEM). The nun of מן assimilates to the next consonant and then becomes a DF in that next cons.

Noun alone

Attach מן the Marine
Corps way

מֶלֶךְ (a king)

מֶלֶךְ

(from a king)

סוּס (a horse)

סוּס

(from a horse)

נָהָר (a river)

נָהָר

(from a river)

אִישׁ (a man)

אִישׁ

(from a man)

הַמֶּלֶךְ (the king)

הַמֶּלֶךְ

(from the king)

יְהוּדָה (Judah)

יְהוּדָה

(from Judah)

S Q N M L V Y Issue: DF (inside) + VS (under): frequently loses DF
Sibilants ק נ מ ל ו י and shewa becomes silent.

4.3. Summary of forms:

Form	When
מֶן	Standard/Sissy
מֶן	Marine Corps: Assim/DF
מֶן	Marine Corps: Assim but DF rejected (due to R1 Gutt)

4.4. Quick comment on semantics of prep מן

- Separative meaning: 'from, away from'. מִסֵּפֶר 'from the scroll'
- Partitive meaning: 'some of' מִהָאֲנָשִׁים 'some of the men'