

Ross Lesson 8: Vowel Reduction Patterns, 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	נְבִיא (prophet)	נְבִיאִים
		לִבְבָּשׁ (heart)	לִבְבּוֹת
		אָרֶץ (land)	אָרְצּוֹת
2. VERB Reduction Pattern:	Syllables that become O/PT ↓ VS	שׂוֹפֵט	שׂוֹפְטִים
		(judge/judging one)	

2. Segholate Nouns (Ross 8.2)

אָרֶץ נְגַנּוּר

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 patah.)

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 דָּבָרִים: R1 with VS, and R2 with qames, R3 with whatever pl ending is based on gender of noun).

2.3. Exx:

Sing. form

Pl. form: fill in the vowels and endings!

מלך (king)

מלך (kings)

גֶּןֶר (boy)

נָעָר (boys)

ארץ (land)

ארץ (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!

סוס (horse)

סוס (horses)

No changeable V

עַמּ (nation)

עַמּוֹת (nations)

DF rule applies + cuss

חוק (statute)

חק (statutes)

DF rule applies+ cuss

רע (evil [one])

רָע (evil [ones])

DF rule applies but the guttural can't take DF. Either CL or VD/ID occurs.

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

Two ways to attach/prefix prep **ን** to its object:

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

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

Noun alone	Attach מַן the Marine
	Corps way
מלך (a king)	מלך (from a king)
סוס (a horse)	סוס (from a horse)
נהר (a river)	נהר (from a river)
איש (a man)	איש (from a man)
המלך (the king)	המלך (from the king)
יהודה (Judah)	יהודה (from Judah)

S Q N M L V Y Issue: DF (inside) + VS (under): frequently loses DF
Sibilants **כ** **ג** **ב** **ל** **ו** **ׁ** and shewa becomes silent.

4.3. Summary of forms:

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

4.4. Quick comment on semantics of prep *ŋ*

- Separative meaning: ‘from, away from’. **מִסְפָּר** ‘from the scroll’
- Partitive meaning: ‘some of’ **מִהָּנָנִים** ‘some of the men’