

marked by inflection. This  $\text{ן}$  ending is added to the end of the noun by removing the feminine, singular, absolute ending  $\text{ן}$  and putting this ending in its place (e.g.  $\text{ן} \text{ב} \text{ן}$  - "a statute of").

b. Plural

The noun has an  $\text{ן}$  ending. This  $\text{ן}$  ending is added to the end of the noun by removing the feminine, singular, absolute ending  $\text{ן}$  and putting this ending in its place (e.g.  $\text{ן} \text{ב} \text{ן}$  - "statutes of").

NOTE: The feminine, plural, absolute and the feminine, plural, construct endings are the same in form.

F. Definiteness or Indefiniteness of the Noun in the Construct State

The noun in the construct state takes its definiteness or indefiniteness from the genitive that follows it because of its dependence on it. If the genitive is definite, therefore, the noun in the construct state is definite, but if the genitive is indefinite, the noun in the construct state is indefinite. This means that both the noun in the construct state and the genitive must be either definite or indefinite, and that it is impossible for one to be definite and the other indefinite. In other words, it is impossible for a noun in the construct state and the genitive that follows it to be translated "a son of the king" or "the son of a king."

G. Absence of the Definite Article from the Noun in the Construct State

When the noun in the construct state is definite, it never has a definite article on it because it takes its definiteness from the genitive that follows it, and is therefore definite per se.

VII. Order for Identifying the Noun

- A. Gender (masculine or feminine)
- B. Number (singular or plural)
- C. State (absolute or construct)
- D. Root of the Noun (masculine, singular, absolute, or feminine, singular, absolute form of the noun, e.g.  $\text{ב} \text{ן}$  or  $\text{ן} \text{ב} \text{ן}$ )
- E. Meaning of the Noun (e.g. "son," or "statute")

NOTE: If the root of the noun is masculine in form but feminine in actuality, identify the noun according to its form, and then add the words "feminine in actuality" (e.g. masculine, singular, absolute of  $\text{ב} \text{ן}$  meaning "daughter" - feminine in actuality).