

Algorithm for the Hebrew Article

S. S. Rives (To Do: Add Mnemonics)

1. Attach הַלְּ to the noun to be made definite

2. The לְ drops before the first letter of the noun

Reason: Vowelless לְ assimilates

a. If that letter is in {הָ, הַ, הֶ, עָ} then **article = הַ**

Reason: Dissimilation

b. else if letter is in {הֵ, עָ, אָ, רָ} then **article = הַ**

Note: {עָ, אָ, רָ} = weaker gutturals

Reason: Compensatory Lengthening

c. else **article = הַ**

If the first letter is a guttural and we get here, we have virtual doubling or doubling by implication (implicit DF).

3. Add דָּגֵשׁ (◌ֿ) to first letter of noun unless the letter is in {רָ, עָ, יָ, חָ, הָ, אָ} or סקמן-לוי letters – having vocal ◌ֿ the DF may drop

Reason: Assimilation of לְ causes compensative DF

4. After adding the article, the following common words revert to a ◌ֿ under the first letter of the noun:

עֵם גֵּן פֶּרֶג הֶג אֶרֶז אֶרֶץ הֶר