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## Hebrew

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### Etymology 1

From Proto-Semitic \*bin-.

<b>Root</b>
בֵּן

#### Pronunciation

- (*Modern Israeli Hebrew*) IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /ben/

#### Noun

בֶּן • (bén) *m* (plural indefinite בְּנִים, singular construct בֶּן, plural construct בְּנִים, feminine counterpart בָּתִים)

1. A son.
2. (*chiefly in Biblical Hebrew*) A direct male descendant

בֶּן אָדָם — **bén-adám** — a human [literally a **son of Adam**]

3. A guy, a boy.
4. (*no longer productive, construct state*) Possessor of (knowledge, ability etc.)

בֶּן דַעַת — **bén dá'at** — someone legally competent

בֶּן תּוֹרָה — **bén torá** — someone devoted to the Torah

5. (*construct state*) Used in expressing the age of a man, a boy or the referent of a masculine noun age, aged.

בֶּן שֶׁשׁ — *hú bén shésh*. — He is six years old. [literally, a **son of six**]

## Usage notes

- In colloquial Modern Hebrew the plural **ילדים** is generally used to refer to children (of mixed or unknown sex) while **בן** is generally used to refer to boys.
- When constructing new forms, the Aramaic loanword **בר** (bar) is more common, e.g. בר דעת (*bar dá'at*) (*bar kayamâ*).

## Declension

### Declension of **בן**

## Proper noun

**בן** • (bén) *m*

1. A male given name, Ben.

## Derived terms

### Terms derived from the word **בן**

## Etymology 2

### Verb

**בן** • (bán) (*pa'al construction*)

Root  
בָּן

1. (*rare, archaic*) to understand.

## Conjugation

### Conjugation of **בן** (see also Appendix:Hebrew verbs)

## Etymology 3

### Preposition

**בן** • (ban)

1. (*poetic or archaic*) Form of **ב-** (*b'-*) including third-person feminine plural personal pronoun as object.

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# בָּנִים

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#### Noun

## Hebrew

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### Noun

• בָּנִים (baním)

1. plural of בֵּן

### Usage notes

- In colloquial Modern Hebrew the plural בָּנִים is generally used to refer to children (of mixed or unknown sex) while בְּנִים is generally used to refer to boys.

### Anagrams

▪ מבין

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## Yiddish

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### Noun

• בָּנִים (bonem) *m pl*

1. sons

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