Allomorphy

singular		plural	
[zayit]	'olive' זית	[zeytim]	'olives' זיתים
[sofer]	'writer' סופר	[sofrim]	'writers' סופרים
[bayit]	'house' בית	[batim]	'houses' בתים
[ir]	'city' עיר	[arim]	'cities' ערים
[gamal]	'camel' גמל	[gmalim]	'camels' גמלים
[av]	'father' אב	[avot]	'fathers' אבות
[sulam]	'ladder' סולם	[sulamot]	'ladders' סולמות
[iša]	'woman' אישה	[našim]	'women' נשים

There are different kinds of alternations in the forms that morphemes take. These alternations can be distinguished in terms of the nature of the alternation itself, and the conditioning. Broadly speaking, alternating forms of a morpheme are called **allomorphs**.

First, note ZAYIT and SOFER. In each case, the alternating forms of the stem in the singular and plural can be said to be **phonological allomorphs**, since they are related to each other phonologically. The alternations are subject to **phonological conditioning**: they are based on the placement of the stress. Phonologically, the singular and stem of the plural have the same underlying representation: /zait/ and /sofer/. The different pronunciations are the result of phonological rules. This means that phonologically conditioned phonological allomorphy is not really a morphological phenomenon, but a phonological one. It is the result of the application of regular phonological rules of the language. For this reason, we will not use the term *allomorphy* for this kind of alternation, although others sources (like the textbook) do call it allomorphy.

The allomorphy of the stem in BAYIT and IR is different. These are still phonological allomorphs, but the conditioning isn't phonological. Instead, they are conditioned by the morphological property of being a plural form; this is **morphological conditioning**. (The first edition of the textbook incorrectly states that phonological allomorphy has to be phonologically conditioned.)

Sometimes it is unclear whether an alternation in the pronunciation of a morpheme is the result of a phonological rule or is allomorphy. One such example is the deletion of the first vowel in *gmalim*; (contrast with *gamad–gamadim* 'dwarf').

The plural of IŠA, *našim*, has a stem allomorph which isn't just a phonological variation on the basic stem; it is a completely different form. This kind of allomorphy is called **suppletion**.

Another case of suppletion is the alternation in the (masculine) plural suffix between [im] and [ot]. This alternation is based on the lexical identity of the stem, so it can be said to have **lexical conditioning**.