

**Pronouns,
Particles,
and
Prepositions**

Pronouns

Pronouns are words that take the place of a nouns.

They can be:

- Personal (I, you, he, she, etc.)
- Possessive (his, her, my, our, etc.)
- Demonstrative (this, that, these, those)
- Relative (that, which, etc.)
- Interrogative (who, what, etc.)

Pronouns and Antecedents

Pronouns are really made up of two parts: the pronoun itself and its antecedent – that is, what it is replacing.

Moses struck the **rock**; **he** hit **it** with the staff.

Hebrew Personal Pronouns

Like nouns, pronouns have number and gender. In addition, they also have person – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

Singular

1 st common	אֲנִי / אַנְכִּי	I
2 nd masculine	אַתָּה	You
2 nd feminine	אַתְּ	You
3 rd masculine	הוא	He / it
3 rd feminine	היא	She / it

Hebrew Personal Pronouns

Plural

1 st common	אֲנִיְהוּ	We
2 nd masculine	אַתֶּם	You (Y'all)
2 nd feminine	אַתֶּנָּה	You (Y'all)
3 rd masculine	הֵם / הֵמָּה	They
3 rd feminine	הֵן / הֵנָּה	They

Note: Independent personal pronouns are *never* the object of a sentence or clause.

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative Pronouns “point” to other nouns.

They can be singular and plural, and are often differentiated by being described as “near” and “far.”

	Singular	Plural	
Near Masc	זֶה	אֵלֶּה	This / These
Near Fem	זֹאת	אֵלֶּה	
Far Masc	הוא	הֵם / הַמָּה	That / Those
Far Fem	היא	הֵן / הַנָּה	

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns can also be used as adjectives.

אִישׁ זֶה

This man

אִשָּׁה זֹאת

This woman

Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative pronouns introduce a question. The syntax is often very similar to English, and Logos will identify the words for you.

What?

מַה / מָה

Who?

מִי

Why?

לְמַה

How?

אֵיךְ / אֵיכָּה

Where?

אֵי / אֵינָה

Relative Pronoun

A relative pronoun introduces a relative clause.

Ex: Deut. 5:6

אֲנִכִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ

“I am the Lord your God *who* brought you from the land...”

It can be translated as any of the English relative pronouns: that, which, who, whom. Context dictates which one works best.

Relative Pronoun

An alternate relative pronoun is sometime found
in poetic texts – See Songs 1:7

Tell me, you whom my soul loves, הַגִּידָה לִּי שְׂאֵהְבָה נַפְשִׁי
Where you pasture your flock, אֵיכָה תִרְעֶה
Where you make it lie down at noon. אֵיכָה תִרְבִּיץ בַּצִּהָרִים

Pronominal Suffixes

In addition to the independent personal pronouns we have already seen, Hebrew also has pronominal suffixes – that is, pronouns that are appended as a suffix to other words.

They can be added to nouns, verbs, direct object markers, and prepositions. On nouns, they act as a **genitive pronoun**, showing possession. On other words (verbs, prepositions, etc.), they act as the **object**.

Pronominal Suffixes

	Type 1	Type 2		Type 1	Type 2
1cs	יְ	יְ	1cp	נוּ	יְנוּ
2ms	כֶּ	יְכֶ	2mp	כֶּם	יְכֶם
2fs	כִּי	יְכִי	2fp	כֶּן	יְכֶן
3ms	וְ	יְוְ	3mp	הֶם	יְהֶם
3fs	הָ	יְהָ	3fp	הֶן	יְהֶן

Pronominal Suffixes

Type 1 normally go on singular nouns, while Type 2 normally go on plural nouns.

סוּסִי

My horse

סוּסַי

My horses

Note: Logos identifies these as
The full pronouns, suffixed.
(see 1 Kings 22:4)

Prepositions

Prepositions demonstrate relationships between various words and phrases. These relationships can be spatial, temporal, or conceptual.

- He went *into* the house.
- We gathered the fruit *after* it became ripe.
- They told us *about* their trip.

See Miles V. Van Pelt, *Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide*, pp. 26-32.

Prepositions

The most common Hebrew prepositions are the inseparable prepositions, so named because they are appended to the front of words.

בְּ

in, by, with

בְּשָׂדֵה

in a field

כְּ

like, as

כְּמֶלֶךְ

like a king

לְ

to, for

לְנַעַר

for a young man

Maqqef Prepositions

These prepositions are most often appended to words using a *maqqef*.

עַל־ on, upon, concerning

אֶל־ to, toward

עַד־ until, as far as

מִן־ from (see *BH:CG* pp. 30-32 for more uses)

Look out for אֶת

If you remember, we had an untranslated word that served to mark the direct object.

There is a preposition spelled exactly the same. It means “with” or “beside.” Keep an eye out for it, and check Logos.

Independent Prepositions

There are further prepositions that stand apart from other words.

תַּחַת Under

אַחַר After

בֵּין Between

Particles

Hebrew has a number of words otherwise designated as “particles.” They are small words that may or may not have a correlating English counterpart.

See Miles V. Van Pelt, *Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide*, pp. 70-74.

Interrogative Particle

Added to the beginning of a clause, the interrogative particle indicates that a question follows.

הֲשֹׁמֵר אֶתִּי אֲנֹכִי

Am I the one keeping my brother? (Gen 4:9)

הֲמֶלֶךְ תִּמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ

Will you indeed rule over us? (Gen 37:8)

Directional Particle

The directional particle is a special ending added to a word to indicate motion toward.

הַ

מִצְרַיִם

towards Egypt

Note that it looks very much like the feminine ending on a noun. Logos will specifically identify a direction ending as such.

Demonstrative Interjection

הִנֵּה

Commonly translated, “Behold,” *hinnēh* draws attention to what follows it. It is sometimes left untranslated.

Particles of Existence and Non-existence

Hebrew has two particles that reflect existence or non-existence of the concept following. In simplest terms, they translate to “there is” and “there is not,” respectively.

אֵךְ יֵשׁ-אֱלֹהִים שֹׁפְטִים בְּאֶרֶץ

Surely, **there is** a God who judges the earth. (Psalm 58:12 [11])

אָמַר נָבֵל בְּלִבּוֹ אֵין אֱלֹהִים

The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” (Psalm 14:1)

Particles of Negation

Both אַל and לֹא are used to negate clauses, with varying nuances.

לֹא תֹאכַל מִמֶּנּוּ

“You shall **not** eat from it...” (Gen 2:17)

אַל-תִּירָא

“Fear not...” (Gen 15:1)

Other Particles

כִּי

A very common word with a variety of uses, usually introducing a subordinate clause.

(Arnold and Choi note 14 different uses, *Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*)

כִּי בַיּוֹם אֲכַלְךָ מִמֶּנּוּ מוֹת תָּמוּת

“...for on the day you eat of it, you will surely die.” (Gen 2:17)

Other Particles

אם Normally introduces a conditional clause (ie. “If...”), but is used in other ways as well.

וּסְפַר הַכּוֹכָבִים **אם** תּוּכַל לְסַפֵּר

“...number the stars, **if** you are able to number them.” (Gen 15:5)