

Lesson 7- Hebrew Construct Chain, Introduction to Hebrew Verbs

Hebrew Construct Chain

10.1 There is no word for “_____” in biblical Hebrew. Rather, Hebrew expresses the “of” (possessive) relationship between two nouns by what is called the _____ chain. For those who have studied Greek, the construct chain is Hebrew’s rough equivalent to the _____ case. This grammatical relationship is created by placing two or more _____ side by side.

Hebrew Clause	English Translation
קוֹל הָאִישׁ	
מֶלֶךְ הָאָרֶץ	
עֶבֶד הַמֶּלֶךְ	

In most instances, two different _____ are possible. For example, קוֹל הָאִישׁ may be translated as “the voice of the man” or “the man’s voice.” For the purposes of this course we will use the “of” translation.

Introduction to Hebrew Verbs

12.1 In the Hebrew Bible, there are just over 23,000 verses. In the midst of these verses are found almost 72,000 verbs. This means, on average, there are approximately _____ verbs in each verse. These statistics demonstrate that you must understand the Hebrew verbal system in form, function and meaning to succeed in the language.

12.2 In Hebrew, many _____ have a _____ counterpart. Each pair share a common set of consonants and related definitions. The reason for this relationship is due to the fact that they share a common _____. It is very important to understand the distinction between a root and those words derived from that root. It is a distinction between root and stem.

Hebrew roots are typically composed of three _____, occasionally two. A root represents the origin or simplest form from which any number of Hebrew words are derived. From a root, any number of nouns or verbs may be derived.

12.3 In English, a _____ by itself does not have person, gender or number. It must be supplied by the addition of a personal pronoun. In Hebrew, most verbs have _____, _____ and _____. These verbal characteristics are indicated in Hebrew verbs by certain patterns of _____. The different endings indicate person, gender and number. In Hebrew, a verb's person, gender and number are indicated in the verbal form itself.

Even though most Hebrew words are capable of indicating person, gender and number themselves, they may also occur with independent personal _____. For example, both כָּתַבְתִּי and אֲנִי כָּתַבְתִּי are translated "I wrote." The addition of an independent personal pronoun typically expresses emphasis.

12.4 Chart: Summary of Person, Gender and Number

PERSON	<i>First</i>	
	<i>Second</i>	
	<i>Third</i>	
GENDER	<i>Masculine</i>	
	<i>Feminine</i>	
	<i>Common</i>	
NUMBER	<i>Singular</i>	
	<i>Plural</i>	

12.5 In the Hebrew verbal system, there are seven major stems:

- a. _____ Stem
- b. _____ Stem
- c. _____ Stem
- d. _____ Stem
- e. _____ Stem
- f. _____ Stem
- g. _____ Stem

The Qal stem is the _____ verbal stem. From the Qal stem, all other verbal stems are formed. Verbal stems tell us two things about the action or meaning of a verb: the _____ of verbal action and the _____ of verbal action.

In Hebrew, there are three basic categories of verbal action:

- a. _____ Action – (to break)
- b. _____ Action – (to smash into pieces)
- c. _____ Action – (to cause to break)

12.7 The Hebrew Verbal Stems

1. Qal. The Qal is the _____ or basic verbal stem. Qal verbs are _____ in voice. The Qal stem also exhibits the simple or unnuanced type of action. An example of a verb in the Qal stem is “he heard.”
2. Niphal. The Niphal stem is used to express simple action with either a _____ or _____ voice. Whatever a verb means in the Qal stem, it becomes passive or reflexive in the Niphal stem. An example of a verb in the Niphal stem is “he was heard” (passive) or “he heard himself” (reflexive).
3. Piel. The Piel stem is sometimes used to express an _____ type of action with an active voice. The simple action of the Qal stem will take on some type of intensive nuance in the Piel stem. An example of a verb in the Piel stem is “he smashed into pieces” (the same word in the Qal would be “he broke”).
4. Pual. The Pual is the _____ form of the Piel. The Pual stem is used to express an _____ type of action with a _____ voice. An example of a verb in the Pual stem is “he was smashed into pieces” (the same word in the Piel would be “he smashed into pieces”).
5. Hiphil. The Hiphil stem is used to express _____ action with an _____ voice. An example of a verb in the Hiphil stem is “he caused to reign” (the same word in the Qal would be “he reigned”).
6. Hophal. The Hophal is the _____ form of the Hiphil. The Hophal stem is used to express causative action with a passive voice. An example of a verb in the Hophal is “he was made to be king” (the same word in the Hiphil stem is “he caused to reign”).
7. Hithpael. The Hithpael stem is used to express an _____ type of action with a _____ voice. An example of a verb in the Hithpael stem is “he hid himself” (the same word in the Qal stem is “he hid”).

12.8 Chart: Summary of Basic Verbal Stem Meaning

	Simple Action	Intensive Action	Causative Action
Active Voice			
Passive Voice			
Reflexive Voice			

12.9 Chart: Summary of Verbal Translation Values

Verbal Stem	Verbal Form	Translation Value
Qal	שָׁמַע	
Niphal	נִשְׁמַע	
Piel	שִׁבַּר	
Pual	שִׁבַּר	
Hiphil	הִמְלִיךְ	
Hophal	הִמְלַךְ	
Hithpael	הִתְחַבֵּא	

12.11 Verbal Conjugations

1. Perfect. The perfect conjugation is used to express _____ action or state of being. Example: “He studied” or “He had studied” or “He will have studied”.
2. Imperfect. The imperfect conjugation is used to express _____ action and is translated by the English present tense or future tense. The Hebrew imperfect is also used to denote _____ or customary action, whether in the past, present or future.
3. Imperative. The imperative conjugation is used primarily to express _____ commands, demanding immediate action from the one being addressed. It can also be used to request permission or communicate a request. It is translated usually in the _____ person. Example: “You defend the cause of the weak!”
4. Cohortative. The cohortative subjugation is used much like the Imperative, to express a wish, request or command. It may also be used to express _____ or _____. The Cohortative conjugation occurs in the _____ person. Example: “Let me honor the Lord!”
5. Jussive. The Jussive conjugation is also used to express either some type of mild _____ or strong _____. It occurs only in the _____ person, singular and plural. Example: “May the Lord give to me another son.”

6. Infinitive Construct. An Infinitive is a verbal _____. In Hebrew, there are two Infinitive forms: The Infinitive _____ and the Infinitive _____. The Infinitive Construct is usually translated with the preposition “to” plus a verb as in “to study” or “to learn.”

7. Infinitive Absolute. The Hebrew Infinitive Absolute has no real _____ counterpart. It may be used in conjunction with other verbs to _____ or _____ the verbal action. It may also be used in the place of an Imperative to express two verbal actions occurring at the same time.

8. Participle. A Participle is a verbal _____. Verbally, it expresses some type of verbal action such as “studying” or “learning.”

12.14 Word Order in the Hebrew Verbal Sentence. In English, the ordering of words in a sentence helps to identify the function of those words. For example, in the sentence “Jacob loved Rachel,” Jacob is the subject of the verb because his name precedes the verb. Additionally, Rachel is the object of the verb because her name follows the verb.

In Hebrew, normal word order for a verbal sentence is _____ - _____ - _____.

12.15 Parsing Hebrew Words. Parsing is the process whereby you will identify a verb’s stem, conjugation, person, gender, number and lexical form. BibleWorks™ 5.0 will provide you this information. You will be provided a parsing _____ which you will fill out for each verse assigned.