Grade 6 Biblical Hebrew

First edition · 5 units · 10 lessons · one quarter · Hebrew from the Leningrad Codex

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 6 Biblical Hebrew is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 30–40 minutes a week.

The student learns how Hebrew describes and links: adjectives that follow and agree with their nouns, sentences with no verb (the LORD is good), the personal pronouns, the demonstratives this and that, and the construct chain, Hebrew's way of saying "of."

Then the student learns the pronoun suffixes on nouns and prepositions (my shepherd, thy rod, with me) and reads the Shepherd Psalm, Psalm 23:1–5, naming the grammar in each word.

> Every lesson has a short video, most under ten minutes, from Hebrew teaching channels approved for School Launch: Aleph with Beth (a free Christian Biblical Hebrew course with songs and easy Bible stories) and Daily Dose of Hebrew (two-minute verse readings by seminary professors), with a few single videos from Biblingo and BibleProject. The Daily Dose verse videos are made for adults; in the younger grades they are marked as the parent's video. Every lesson works without the video. Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

Who it is for

Written for students in grade 6 (about ages 11–12) who read independently. No earlier Hebrew is needed: the course reviews the letters and builds from there, though a student who has done earlier grades will feel at home. A parent or teacher reads along, joins the reading practice and checks the practice answers with the key. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards, pencil and household things.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 30–40 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the teaching and the picture study (in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the Hebrew notebook. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice, the game and reading aloud: the student reads the week's Hebrew out loud to the family.
2. **Read it out loud every day.** Hebrew is learned by reading it aloud, a few minutes a day. Open every session by reading the alphabet, the vowel chart and the verses learned so far. Five minutes of cheerful reading beats an hour of silent staring.
3. **Story, then how Hebrew works, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud or read by the student. *The story* tells what happened; *How Hebrew works* explains the pattern; *Read it out loud* gives the sounds. After each paragraph, ask the student to tell it back.
4. **Flashcards.** Every lesson adds new letters, signs or words. Make a flashcard for each one: Hebrew on the front, the sounds and meaning on the back.
5. **The Hebrew notebook.** Use any notebook for the whole quarter: letter charts, vowel charts, copywork and translations. Write Hebrew from the right edge of the line. Date every page.
6. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (25 points), which may be done orally, and a unit challenge. Keep the challenge work in a folder.
7. **Right to left.** Hebrew is written and read from right to left, so a Hebrew book opens from what an English reader calls the back. Every Hebrew word in these lessons is set right to left; when the child writes, start at the right edge of the line.

8. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 40 letters, signs and words. Unit 1: גָּדוֹל (gadol), קָטֹן (qaton), טוֹבָה (tovah), רַע (ra), מְאֹד (me'od), הַשִּׁשִּׁי (hashshishi), רָעָה (ra'ah), צֶדֶק (tsedeq). Unit 2: אָנֹכִי (anokhi), הוּא (hu), הִיא (hi), מוֹשִׁיעַ (moshia), אֲנַחְנוּ (anachnu), אַתֶּם (attem), הֵמָּה (hemmah), צֹאן (tson). Unit 3: זֶה (zeh), זֹאת (zot), אֵלֶּה (elleh), עֶצֶם (etsem), דְּבַר (devar), בֵּית (beit), תּוֹרַת (torat), סֵפֶר (sefer). Unit 4: אֲחִיכֶם (achikhem), שְׁמוֹ (shemo), עַמּוֹ (ammo), אָבִיו (aviv), עִמָּדִי (immadi), לִי (li), אֵלַי (elai), שִׁבְטֶךָ (shivtekha). Unit 5: רֹעִי (ro'i), נַפְשִׁי (nafshi), דֶּשֶׁא (deshe), שְׁמוֹ (shemo), שֻׁלְחָן (shulchan), שֶׁמֶן (shemen), כּוֹסִי (kosi), רְוָיָה (revayah).
9. **Printables.** Each lesson has a one-page worksheet, and the answers are in a separate key for the parent. Each unit review also has a printable key.
10. **The Hebrew Bible.** Hebrew verses are quoted from the Westminster Leningrad Codex, the public-domain electronic text of the Leningrad Codex, the oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew Old Testament, copied around A.D. 1008. It is the Hebrew text the King James translators' Old Testament comes from (the Masoretic text), in its oldest complete copy. In the elementary grades the verses are shown with their vowel points but without the small cantillation marks (the musical accents), which would crowd a beginner's page; Biblical Hebrew I shows them in full. Hebrew verse numbers sometimes differ from English ones; every verse here is chosen so that the numbers match. God's own name, written with four letters (יהוה), is printed LORD in capitals in the King James; Jewish readers have long said Adonai ("Lord") in its place, and this course does the same. The English verse is always the King James Version, quoted exactly.

Scope and sequence

UNIT 1 · WEEKS 1–2

Describing Words

Hebrew adjectives come after their nouns and match them, and Hebrew can say "is" without a verb. God made the great light to rule the day; and God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

1.1 Adjectives: The Great Light

1.2 Is Without a Verb: The LORD Is Good

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

I, You, He

The Hebrew personal pronouns: I, you, he, she, we, you all, they, and how they make verbless sentences. I, even I, am the LORD; Know ye that the LORD he is God; and Doré's engraving of Isaiah.

2.1 I, You, He, She

2.2 We, You, They: The LORD He Is God

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

This, That, and Of

The demonstratives (this, these, that) and the construct chain, Hebrew's way of saying "of." This is now bone of my bones; By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and Doré's Ezra reading the book of the law of Moses.

3.1 This, These, That

3.2 The Construct Chain: The Word of the LORD

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

My, Thy, His: Suffixes

Hebrew puts "my," "thy," "his" on the end of a noun, and "me," "thee," "him" on the end of a preposition. I am Joseph your brother; for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

4.1 Suffixes on Nouns

4.2 Suffixes on Prepositions: Thou Art With Me

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

The Shepherd Psalm

Reading Psalm 23 with everything learned this quarter: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want; He restoreth my soul; Thou preparest a table before me … my cup runneth over. With Honthorst's King David Playing the Harp.

5.1 The LORD Is My Shepherd: Psalm 23:1–3

5.2 Thou Preparest a Table: Psalm 23:5

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 Adjectives: The Great Light: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 reading practice, video and activity (big light, small light mobile) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet *Three sessions a week of 30–40 minutes. On the other days, read the week's Hebrew words and verse aloud for five minutes.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 Is Without a Verb: The LORD Is Good: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 reading practice, video and activity (very good book) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet

WEEK	PLAN
	• End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (good and great poster)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 I, You, He, She: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 reading practice, video and activity (pronoun puppets) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 We, You, They: The LORD He Is God: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 reading practice, video and activity (sheep of his pasture) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (pronoun family tree)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 This, These, That: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 reading practice, video and activity (near and far) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 The Construct Chain: The Word of the LORD: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 reading practice, video and activity (chain of “of”) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (chain links)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Suffixes on Nouns: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 reading practice, video and activity (my, thy, his cards) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Suffixes on Prepositions: Thou Art With Me: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 reading practice, video and activity (rod and staff) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (suffix chart)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 The LORD Is My Shepherd: Psalm 23:1–3: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 reading practice, video and activity (green pastures diorama) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet

WEEK	PLAN
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Thou Preparest a Table: Psalm 23:5: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 reading practice, video and activity (overflowing cup) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (psalm 23 scroll)

Materials

Hebrew notebook (any notebook)

One for the quarter: charts, copywork and translations.

Index cards and a box, bag or ring to keep them

For the flashcard deck that grows every lesson.

Pencil, colored pencils and a fine-tip marker

For letter charts, vowel charts and lettering.

Scissors, glue, tape and some poster board or taped printer paper

For the unit challenges.

Grading

Grades come mostly from the daily work: reading aloud, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the practice, because a language is learned by steady, honest repetition. A student who reads Hebrew out loud faithfully, keeps a neat notebook and corrects his or her own practice earns full credit.

PART	%
Reading aloud and flashcards	30
Hebrew notebook (dated pages, charts, copywork)	25
Practice (corrected with the answer key)	15
Unit reviews	15

PART	%
Unit challenges	15

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: repeat the reading drills and practice with help.

- A reading answer is right when every consonant and vowel is sounded; small differences of accent are fine.
- Unit reviews may be done orally for a student who writes slowly; the parent writes down the answers.
- Hebrew handwriting is graded on clear letter shapes written right to left, not on beauty.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

You do not need to know Hebrew to teach this course. Every letter, vowel and word has its sounds written out, and every answer is in the answer key. Learn alongside your child, quiz each other with the flashcards, and let your child catch your mistakes.

Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Why Biblical Hebrew? Because it is the language of most of the Old Testament, the Scriptures Jesus read and quoted. A student who can read even a little Hebrew sees with his or her own eyes the words behind the English Bible: In the beginning God created, and The LORD is my shepherd.

This is a course in the Hebrew of the Bible, not in modern politics. The stories are the stories of Scripture and of the faithful scribes, scholars and translators who copied and handed down the Hebrew text, told cheerfully and honestly.

Describing Words

Lesson 1.1 teaches attributive adjectives (the great light: הַמָּאוֹר הַגָּדֹל), with Genesis 1:16 and Doré's Creation of Light.

Lesson 1.2 teaches predicate adjectives and the verbless sentence (the LORD is good: טוֹב יְהוָה), with Genesis 1:31.

PREREQUISITES

- Grade 5 Biblical Hebrew: the article, ve-, gender, plurals and prepositions.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can find an adjective and the noun it describes.
- ☐ I can tell "the good man" from "the man is good."
- ☐ I can read a sentence with no verb and supply "is."

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**Adjectives: The Great Light**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
1.2	**Is Without a Verb: The LORD Is Good**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 1 review

The student writes or answers aloud. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**

   Translate: הַמֶּלֶךְ הַטּוֹב

2. **5 pts**

   Translate: טוֹב הַמֶּלֶךְ

3. **5 pts**

   Make it feminine: גָּדוֹל; make it plural: טוֹב

4. 5 pts

   Say Genesis 1:31 in English, as far as “very good.”

ANSWER KEY

1. the good king.
2. the king is good.
3. גְּדוֹלָה; טוֹבִים.
4. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: GOOD AND GREAT POSTER

Make a poster with two halves. On the left, six noun-adjective pairs (the good king, the great light, the small boy …) in Hebrew with pictures. On the right, six verbless sentences (the king is good, the light is great …). Color the articles to show the difference.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student reads every phrase and sentence.
Grammar	Agreement and article placement are right.
Translation	Each is translated correctly.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 1 · DESCRIBING WORDS · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.1 Adjectives: The Great Light

OBJECTIVES

- Find an adjective after its noun.
- Make adjectives agree in gender, number and article.
- Read Genesis 1:16.

> **Warm-up.** Describe your shoes in three words: “big brown shoes.” In English the describing words come first. In Hebrew they come after: “shoes the big the brown.”

WATCH

Genesis 1:16

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ig-wY3BwSJE

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; in Genesis 1:16 listen for hammaor haggadol and hammaor haqqaton.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 1:16 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

BACKUP VIDEO

Easy Story 1 - הַיֶּלֶד הַקָּטָן - The Small Boy

Aleph with Beth · 3:24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY0n91hfSwI

Aleph with Beth’s Easy Story 1, The Small Boy (hayyeled haqqaton), in simple Biblical Hebrew (3:24); hear the adjective after the noun.

KEY TERMS

adjective
A describing word. In Hebrew it follows its noun: מֶלֶךְ טוֹב a good king.

agreement
The adjective matches its noun in gender and number: עִיר גְּדוֹלָה a great city (feminine), אֲנָשִׁים טוֹבִים good men (plural).

article on both
If the noun has “the,” the adjective gets it too: הַמָּאוֹר הַגָּדֹל the great light.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

גָּדוֹל

gadol

gah-DOHL

adjective

great, big

קָטֹן

qaton

kah-TOHN

adjective

small, young

טוֹבָה

tovah

toh-VAH

adjective, feminine

good

רָע

ra

RAH

adjective

bad, evil

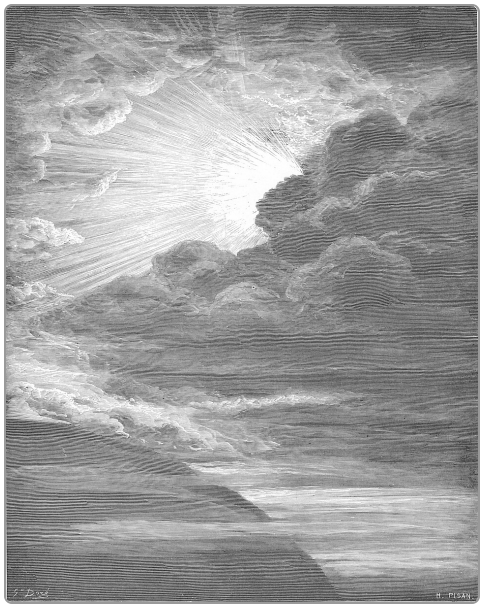
CORE IDEAS

The story. On the fourth day God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. Many ancient peoples worshipped the sun and moon as gods. Genesis does not even name them: they are lamps that God hung in the sky.

How Hebrew works. The adjective comes after the noun and copies its gender, number and article: הַמָּאוֹר הַגָּדֹל the great light, הַמָּאוֹר הַקָּטֹן the small light, הַמְּאֹרֹת הַגְּדֹלִים the great lights. Endings: masculine — / -im, feminine -ah / -ot: טוֹב, טוֹבָה, טוֹבִים, טוֹבוֹת.

No “-er” or “-est.” Hebrew has no special form for “greater.” The KJV says the greater light and the lesser light, but the Hebrew says the great light and the small light. The translators chose English that fits the sense.

PICTURE STUDY



The Creation of Light, Gustave Doré, 1866 · Wood engraving · From the Doré Bible

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Gustave Doré made more than 200 engravings for a French Bible published in 1866. Wood engravings could be printed thousands of times, so Doré's pictures filled family Bibles around the world.

Look closely

- Where is the light coming from?
- What is still dark?
- Are there people in this picture? Why not?
- Find the sea.

Talk about it

1. How did Doré show light with only black ink?
2. Why does Genesis call the sun and moon just "lights"?

ACTIVITY

Big light, small light mobile

Make a mobile of the two great lights and the stars with Hebrew labels.

You will need

- Yellow and white card
- String
- A stick

Steps

1. Cut a big yellow sun and a small white moon.
2. Label them הַמָּאוֹר הַגָּדֹל and הַמָּאוֹר הַקָּטֹן.
3. Add stars labeled הַכּוֹכָבִים.
4. Hang them from the stick.

Tips

- Both the noun and the adjective get the article.

Check your work

☐ My labels have the article twice.

☐ I can say which is masculine.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy six noun-adjective pairs: מֶלֶךְ טוֹב, הַמֶּלֶךְ הַטּוֹב, עִיר גְּדוֹלָה, הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה, אֲנָשִׁים טוֹבִים, הַיֶּלֶד הַקָּטֹן. Translate each.

> **From history.** Genesis calls the sun and moon only “the great light” and “the small light,” perhaps because the usual Hebrew words for sun (shemesh) and moon (yareach) were also names of false gods worshipped by Israel’s neighbors.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: הַמָּאוֹר הַקָּטֹן

▼ **Show solution**

1. hammaor = the light.
2. haqqaton = the small (article + adjective after the noun).

Answer: the small light (KJV: the lesser light).

Example 2. Say "a great city."

▼ **Show solution**

1. City = עִיר, feminine.
2. Great, feminine = גְּדוֹלָה; no article for "a."

Answer: עִיר גְּדוֹלָה.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: גָּדוֹל

   ▼ **Show answer**

   great, big.

2. Easy Translate: קָטֹן

   ▼ **Show answer**

   small.

3. Easy Does the Hebrew adjective come before or after the noun?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   After.

4. Medium Translate: הַמֶּלֶךְ הַגָּדוֹל

   ▼ **Show answer**

   the great king.

5. Medium Make טוֹב feminine plural.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   טוֹבוֹת.

6. Hard Say Genesis 1:16 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Putting the adjective first, as in English.
- Leaving the article off the adjective when the noun has it.

> **Make it a game · Describe it.** The parent holds up an object and says a Hebrew noun; the player adds an adjective that agrees: סֵפֶר גָּדוֹל, עִיר קְטַנָּה. A point for each correct ending, two if the article is right too.

> **Scripture.** “And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.” (Genesis 1:16, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> אֶת־הַמָּאוֹר הַגָּדֹל לְמֶמְשֶׁלֶת הַיּוֹם
>
> Find hamme’orot haggedolim, the great lights; hammaor haggadol, the great light; and hammaor haqqaton, the small light. Each adjective copies its noun’s article.

UNIT 1 · DESCRIBING WORDS · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.2 Is Without a Verb: The LORD Is Good

OBJECTIVES

- Tell an attributive adjective from a predicate adjective.
- Read sentences with no verb and supply “is.”
- Read Genesis 1:31.

> **Warm-up.** Say “Sky blue. Grass green.” Odd English, but you understood: “The sky is blue.” Hebrew often leaves out “is” on purpose.

WATCH

Genesis 1:31

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 1:58

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLHbTFIWNl0

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; then sing ki-tov, for he is good, a verbless sentence.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 1:31 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

BACKUP VIDEO

Hebrew Worship - 136 תְּהִלִּים - Psalm 136 - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 5:42

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8ZIJ2fmnMw

Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 136 in Biblical Hebrew (5:42): hodu ladonai ki-tov, O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good.

KEY TERMS

predicate adjective
An adjective that says something about its noun: טוֹב הַמֶּלֶךְ the king is good. It has no article.

verbless sentence
A Hebrew sentence with no verb; English adds “is,” “are” or “was.”

מְאֹד me’od
Very, exceedingly.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of

the shewa.

מְאֹד *me’od* **meh-OHD** adverb very, exceedingly	הַשִּׁשִּׁי *hashshishi* **hahsh-shee-SHEE** adjective with the article the sixth
רָעָה *ra‘ah* **rah-AH** noun, feminine evil, trouble	צֶדֶק *tsedeq* **TSEH-dek** noun righteousness

CORE IDEAS

The story. At the end of the sixth day, God looked at everything He had made: and, behold, it was very good. Not just good, but very good. The world came from God’s hand without sin or death. The rest of Genesis tells how sin spoiled it, and the rest of the Bible tells how God sets out to restore it.

How Hebrew works. Compare: הַמֶּלֶךְ הַטּוֹב the good king (adjective after, with the article) and הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב or טוֹב הַמֶּלֶךְ the king is good (adjective without the article). A sentence can be complete without a verb: יְהוָה רֹעִי the LORD is my shepherd; כִּי־טוֹב for he is good.

In Genesis 1:31. וְהִנֵּה־טוֹב מְאֹד and behold, very good: no verb at all, and the KJV supplies “it was.” The KJV prints supplied words in italics in many printings.

ACTIVITY

Very good book

Make a small book of verbless sentences about creation.

You will need

- Folded paper
- Markers

Steps

1. On each page write a verbless sentence: הָאוֹר טוֹב (the light is good), הַשָּׁמַיִם גְּדוֹלִים (the heavens are great), יְהוָה טוֹב (the LORD is good).
2. Draw a picture.
3. On the last page write טוֹב מְאֹד.

Tips

- No article on the predicate adjective.

Check your work

☐ My book has five sentences.

☐ I can read each with “is.”

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Write three pairs: the good king / the king is good; the great city / the city is great; the small boy / the boy is small. Use Hebrew and English.

> **From history.** In older KJV printings, words added by the translators to make good English are set in italic type, so readers can see what is not in the Hebrew.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: טוֹב יְהוָה

▼ **Show solution**

1. tov = good, no article.
2. The Name = the LORD (say Adonai).

Answer: The LORD is good (Nahum 1:7).

Example 2. Phrase or sentence? הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה

▼ **Show solution**

1. Both words have the article.
2. So the adjective is attributive.

Answer: A phrase: the great city.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: מְאֹד

   ▼ **Show answer**

   very.

2. Easy Translate: טוֹב מְאֹד

   ▼ **Show answer**

   very good.

3. Easy What word does English add to a verbless sentence?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   “Is” (or are, was).

4. Medium Translate: הַיֶּלֶד קָטֹן

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The boy is small.

5. Medium Translate: הַיֶּלֶד הַקָּטֹן

▼ **Show answer**

the small boy.

6. Hard Say Genesis 1:31 in English.

▼ **Show answer**

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading “the king is good” as “the good king.” Check for the article on the adjective.
- Adding a Hebrew word for “is.” Usually there isn’t one.

> **Make it a game · Phrase or sentence?.** The parent shows cards with noun-adjective pairs, some with the article on both and some on only one. Players hold up P for phrase or S for sentence and translate.

> **Scripture.** “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Genesis 1:31, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְהִנֵּה־טוֹב מְאֹד
>
> Find vehinneh-tov me’od, and behold, very good: a verbless sentence. Then find yom hashshishi, the sixth day: noun, then adjective with the article.

UNIT 2

I, You, He

Lesson 2.1 teaches the singular pronouns אֲנִי, אָנֹכִי, אַתָּה, אַתְּ, הוּא, הִיא, with Isaiah 43:11 and Doré’s Isaiah.

Lesson 2.2 teaches the plural pronouns אֲנַחְנוּ, אַתֶּם, הֵם, and the pronoun as "is," with Psalm 100:3.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can say and write the ten pronouns.
- ☐ I can tell masculine from feminine "you."
- ☐ I can read a verbless sentence with a pronoun.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**I, You, He, She**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
2.2	**We, You, They: The LORD He Is God**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 2 review

The student writes or answers aloud. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Write: I, you (man), you (woman), he, she.
2. **5 pts**
   Write: we, you (men), they (men).
3. **5 pts**
   Translate: אֲנִי יְהוָה
4. **5 pts**
   Say Psalm 100:3 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. אֲנִי (or אָנֹכִי), הִיא, הוּא, אַתְּ, אַתָּה.
2. אֲנַחְנוּ, אַתֶּם, הֵם (or הֵמָּה).
3. I am the LORD.
4. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: PRONOUN FAMILY TREE

Draw a family tree of the pronouns: “I” and “we” at the top, “you” in four forms in the middle, “he, she, they” at the bottom. Next to each write one Bible verse or phrase that uses it (e.g. אֲנִי יְהוָה; כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי; הוּא אֱלֹהִים).

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student reads every pronoun and phrase.
Grammar	Gender and number are correct.
Translation	Each phrase is translated.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 2 · I, YOU, HE · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.1 I, You, He, She

OBJECTIVES

- Say and write the singular pronouns.
- Tell אַתָּה (you, a man) from אַתְּ (you, a woman).
- Read Isaiah 43:11.

Warm-up. Point to yourself, then to someone else, then to someone across the room. “I, you, he.” English has one “you”; Hebrew has a different “you” for a man and for a woman.

WATCH

Hebrew - Subject Pronouns - Free Biblical Hebrew - Lesson 4

Aleph with Beth · 5:38

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukEgnNwrSDI

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; point along with the gestures.

Note: Aleph with Beth teaches the Hebrew subject pronouns with gestures and pictures (5:38).

BACKUP VIDEO

Classroom Biblical Hebrew 4 - Sword & Book & Pronoun Practice

Aleph with Beth · 10:00

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9jzzCWR1Og

Aleph with Beth's Classroom Biblical Hebrew 4: students practice pronouns with a sword and a book, all in Hebrew (10:00).

KEY TERMS

אָנֹכִי / אֲנִי

I (two forms, same meaning).

אַתְּ / אַתָּה

You (to a man) / you (to a woman).

הִיא / הוּא

He / she.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

אָנֹכִי

anokhi

ah-noh-KHEE

pronoun

I

הוּא

hu

HOO

pronoun

he, it

הִיא

hi

HEE

pronoun

she, it

מוֹשִׁיעַ

moshia

moh-SHEE-ah

noun

saviour

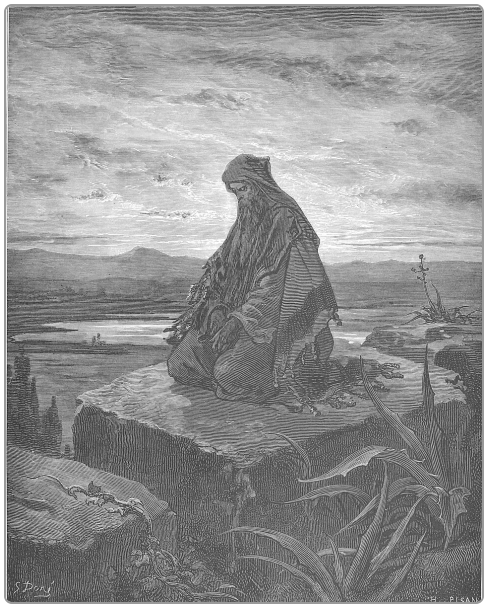
CORE IDEAS

The story. Isaiah spoke to God's people when they were tempted to trust idols. God said: I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. Idols cannot save; only the LORD can. The New Testament gives Jesus the name that means "the LORD saves" (Matthew 1:21).

How Hebrew works. Singular pronouns: אֲנִי or אָנֹכִי I; אַתָּה you (m.); אַתְּ you (f.); הוּא he; הִיא she. With a noun they make a verbless sentence: אֲנִי יְהוָה I am the LORD; הוּא מֶלֶךְ he is a king.

Doubled for strength. אָנֹכִי אָנֹכִי יְהוָה — saying "I" twice makes it strong: I, even I. Hebrew verbs already show who does the action, so a pronoun used with a verb often adds emphasis.

PICTURE STUDY



The Prophet Isaiah, Gustave Doré, 1866 · Wood engraving · From the Doré Bible

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Isaiah prophesied in Jerusalem for about forty years, under four kings of Judah, around 740–700 B.C. His book is quoted in the New Testament more than any other prophet. Doré shows him alone in prayer, as if listening for the word of the LORD.

Look closely

- What is Isaiah doing?
- Where is he kneeling?
- Find the river.
- What time of day is it?

Talk about it

1. Why might Doré place Isaiah high up and alone?
2. How is “I, even I, am the LORD” a comfort?

ACTIVITY

Pronoun puppets

Make finger puppets for the singular pronouns.

You will need

- Paper
- Tape
- Markers

Steps

1. Make five finger puppets: one for “I,” one man and one woman for “you,” one man and one woman for “he” and “she.”
2. Write the Hebrew pronoun on each.
3. Act out sentences: אֲנִי יוֹסֵף; אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ; הִיא רוּת.

Tips

- אַתְּ has no vowel under the tav.

Check your work

☐ I have five puppets.

☐ I can make three sentences.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy the singular pronouns. Write three verbless sentences with them and translate.

> **From history.** In the five books of Moses, “she” is usually spelled with the letters of “he” (הוא). The Masoretes added the vowel hireq, הִוא, to show that it is read hi.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ

▼ **Show solution**

1. attah = you (man).
2. melekh = king; no verb, so add “are.”

Answer: You are a king.

Example 2. Translate: אָנֹכִי אָנֹכִי יְהוָה

▼ **Show solution**

1. anokhi = I, twice for emphasis.
2. The Name = the LORD; add “am.”

Answer: I, even I, am the LORD.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: הוּא

   ▼ **Show answer**

   he.

2. Easy Translate: הִיא

   ▼ **Show answer**

   she.

3. Easy Which “you” is for a woman?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   אַתְּ.

4. Medium Translate: אֲנִי יְהוָה

   ▼ **Show answer**

   I am the LORD.

5. **Medium** Write “she is good.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   הִיא טוֹבָה.

6. **Hard** Say Isaiah 43:11 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using אַתָּה for a woman.
- Reading הוּא as “who.” It means “he.”

> **Make it a game · Who am I?.** One player thinks of a Bible person; the others ask in Hebrew: מֶלֶךְ? הִיא? הוּא? (He? She? A king?) The answer is כֵּן or לֹא. Whoever guesses says אַתָּה …! or אַתְּ …!

> **Scripture.** “I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.” (Isaiah 43:11, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> אָנֹכִי אָנֹכִי יְהוָה וְאֵין מִבַּלְעָדַי מוֹשִׁיעַ׃
>
> Find anokhi anokhi, I, even I, and moshia, saviour, with its furtive patach. The Name is read Adonai.

UNIT 2 · I, YOU, HE · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 We, You, They: The LORD He Is God

OBJECTIVES

- Say and write the plural pronouns.
- Use הוּא as “is” in a verbless sentence.
- Read Psalm 100:3.

> **Warm-up.** Look at a flock of sheep in a picture or out a window. Do the sheep make themselves? Psalm 100 says we are like sheep, and Someone made us.

WATCH

Biblical Hebrew worship - He is Yahweh our God - הוּא יהוה אֱלֹהֵינוּ - Psalm 105:7-9, 145:17

Aleph with Beth · 2:25

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA-jWaJ5zx8

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; sing along and point up at hu, he.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings "He is Yahweh our God," hu Adonai eloheinu, from Psalm 105:7 and 119:17 (2:25): a verbless sentence with a pronoun.

KEY TERMS

אֲנַחְנוּ anachnu

We.

אַתֶּן / אַתֶּם

You all (men or mixed) / you all (women).

הֵן / הֵמָּה / הֵם

They (men or mixed: two spellings) / they (women).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

אֲנַחְנוּ

anachnu

ah-NAKH-noo

pronoun

we

אַתֶּם

attem

aht-TEM

pronoun

you (plural)

הֵמָּה

hemmah

haym-MAH

pronoun

they

צֹאן

tson

TSOHN

noun

sheep, flock

CORE IDEAS

The story. Psalm 100 calls all the earth to make a joyful noise unto the LORD. Then it gives the reason: Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. We belong to God because He made us, and He cares for us as a shepherd for his sheep.

How Hebrew works. Plural pronouns: אֲנַחְנוּ we; אַתֶּם you (m. pl.); אַתֵּן you (f. pl.); הֵם or הֵמָּה they (m.); הֵן they (f.).

The pronoun as "is." In יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים the LORD, he is God, the pronoun hu stands between the two halves like a linking word. The KJV keeps it: the LORD he is God.

ACTIVITY

Sheep of his pasture

Make a sheep-fold picture with Psalm 100:3.

You will need

- Green card
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- A marker

Steps

1. Draw a sheepfold.
2. Glue on cotton-ball sheep.
3. Write כִּי־יְהוָה הוּא אֱלֹהִים across the top and אֲנַחְנוּ עַמּוֹ (we are his people) below.
4. Read both lines.

Tips

- Copy the maqqef in כִּי־יְהוָה.

Check your work

☐ My picture has both Hebrew lines.

☐ I can find hu and anachnu.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy all ten pronouns in a table: singular and plural, masculine and feminine.

> **From history.** Elijah's contest on Mount Carmel ended when the people fell on their faces and cried, The LORD, he is the God (1 Kings 18:39): the same kind of sentence as Psalm 100:3.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: אֲנַחְנוּ עַמּוֹ

▼ **Show solution**

1. anachnu = we.
2. ammo = his people (am + -o, his).

Answer: We are his people.

Example 2. Translate: יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים

▼ **Show solution**

1. The Name = the LORD.
2. hu links: he is; ha'elohim = (the) God.

Answer: The LORD, he is God (1 Kings 18:39).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: אֲנַחְנוּ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   we.

2. Easy Translate: הֵם

   ▼ **Show answer**

   they.

3. Easy Translate: אַתֶּם

   ▼ **Show answer**

   you (all).

4. Medium Write "we are good."

   ▼ **Show answer**

   אֲנַחְנוּ טוֹבִים.

5. Medium What does הוּא do in “the LORD he is God”?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   It links the two halves like “is.”

6. Hard Say Psalm 100:3 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing אֲנַחְנוּ (we) and אֲנִי (I).
- Leaving the linking hu out of the translation; the KJV keeps it.

> **Make it a game · Pronoun point.** The parent calls a Hebrew pronoun. Players point: at themselves (אֲנִי), at the group including themselves (אֲנַחְנוּ), at one person (אַתָּה / אַתְּ), at a group (אַתֶּם), or away (הוּא, הִיא, הֵם).

> **Scripture.** “Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” (Psalm 100:3, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> כִּי־יְהוָה הוּא אֱלֹהִים
>
> Find ki-Adonai hu Elohim, that the LORD he is God, and anachnu, we. In this verse the Masoretes noted a second reading of one word; the KJV follows the written text: and not we ourselves.

UNIT 3

This, That, and Of

Lesson 3.1 teaches הַהוּא, אֵלֶּה, זֹאת, זֶה, with Genesis 2:23.

Lesson 3.2 teaches the construct chain (דְּבַר יְהוָה, the word of the LORD), with Psalm 33:6 and Doré’s Ezra.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can translate this, these and that.
- ☐ I can find a construct chain and translate it with “of.”
- ☐ I can explain why the first word of a chain has no article.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**This, These, That**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
3.2	**The Construct Chain: The Word of the LORD**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 3 review

The student writes or answers aloud. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Translate: זֶה הַיּוֹם and הָאִישׁ הַהוּא

2. **5 pts**
   Translate: דְּבַר יְהוָה

3. **5 pts**
   Translate: סֵפֶר תּוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה

4. **5 pts**
   Say Psalm 33:6 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. this is the day; that man.
2. the word of the LORD.
3. the book of the law of Moses.
4. By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: CHAIN LINKS

Make a paper chain of construct phrases from the Bible: דְּבַר יְהוָה, בֵּית אֱלֹהִים, סֵפֶר הַתּוֹרָה, מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. Write the Hebrew on one link and the English with "of" on the next.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student reads every phrase.
Grammar	The construct forms are explained.
Translation	Each phrase is translated with "of."
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 3 · THIS, THAT, AND OF · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.1 This, These, That

OBJECTIVES

- Translate זֶה, זֹאת, אֵלֶּה.
- Tell "this is …" from "this … ".
- Read Genesis 2:23.

Warm-up. Point at things and say "this" for something near and "that" for something far. Hebrew has words for both, and they change for masculine and feminine.

WATCH

Genesis 2:23

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:07

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7F-05Imh5NI

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; in Genesis 2:23 listen for zot, this (feminine), three times.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 2:23 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

BACKUP VIDEO

Biblical Hebrew - This is What the King Will Do - Lesson 121b

Aleph with Beth · 8:50

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDA9VtI3pCE

Aleph with Beth's Lesson 121b, This Is What the King Will Do (1 Samuel 8), told in simple Biblical Hebrew (8:50); listen for zeh, this.

KEY TERMS

זֹאת / זֶה

This (m.) / this (f.).

אֵלֶּה

These.

הַהִיא / הַהוּא

That (m.) / that (f.): the pronoun with the article, after the noun.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

זֶה

zeh

ZEH

demonstrative

this (masculine)

זֹאת

zot

ZOHT

demonstrative

this (feminine)

אֵלֶּה

elleh

ayl-LEH

demonstrative

these

עֶצֶם

etsem

EH-tsem

noun

bone

CORE IDEAS

The story. God said, It is not good that the man should be alone. He made the woman from Adam's side and brought her to him. Adam said: This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Marriage of one man and one woman begins here, and Jesus pointed back to it (Matthew 19:4–6).

How Hebrew works. Before a noun without the article, a demonstrative makes a sentence: זֶה הַיּוֹם this is the day. After a noun with the article, it is an adjective: הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה this day. "That" uses the pronoun with the article: הָאִישׁ הַהוּא that man, הַיָּמִים הָהֵם those days.

In Genesis 2:23. זֹאת appears three times, feminine because it points to the woman: הַפַּעַם זֹאת this time, לְזֹאת this one, לֻקְחָה־זֹּאת this one was taken.

ACTIVITY

Near and far

Make labels for near and far things.

You will need

- Sticky notes
- A marker

Steps

1. Write זֶה הַסֵּפֶר (this is the book) and stick it on a book near you.
2. Write הַסֵּפֶר הַהוּא (that book) and stick it on a book across the room.
3. Do the same with a feminine word: זֹאת הַדֶּלֶת / הַדֶּלֶת הַהִיא.
4. Read them aloud, pointing.

Tips

- Dalet-lamed-tav (door) is feminine.

Check your work

☐ I made four labels.

☐ I can explain sentence versus phrase.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy זֶה, זֹאת, אֵלֶּה, הַהוּא, הַהִיא with meanings. Write זֶה הַיּוֹם and הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה and translate both.

> **From history.** Exodus begins in Hebrew with ve’elleh shemot, “and these are the names,” which is where its Hebrew title, Shemot, comes from.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: זֶה הַיּוֹם

▼ **Show solution**

1. zeh before the noun with the article.
2. So it is a sentence: this is.

Answer: This is the day (Psalm 118:24).

Example 2. Translate: הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה

▼ **Show solution**

1. zeh after the noun, with the article.
2. So it is an adjective.

Answer: this day.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: זֶה

   ▼ **Show answer**

   this (m.).

2. Easy Translate: זֹאת

   ▼ **Show answer**

   this (f.).

3. Easy Translate: אֵלֶּה

   ▼ **Show answer**

   these.

4. Medium Translate: הָאִישׁ הַהוּא

   ▼ **Show answer**

   that man.

5. Medium Why is zot feminine in Genesis 2:23?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   It points to the woman.

6. Hard Say Genesis 2:23 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading הַהוּא as "he." With the article after a noun it means "that."
- Mixing up "this is the day" and "this day."

> **Make it a game · This or that?.** Place objects near and far. The parent names one in English ("this cup," "that book"); the player says it in Hebrew with the right demonstrative and gender.

> **Scripture.** "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (Genesis 2:23, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> זֹאת הַפַּעַם עֶצֶם מֵעֲצָמַי
>
> Find zot happaʿam, this time (KJV: this is now), and etsem meʿatsamai, bone of my bones. The woman is ishah because she was taken from ish.

UNIT 3 · THIS, THAT, AND OF · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.2 The Construct Chain: The Word of the LORD

OBJECTIVES

- Find a construct chain and translate it with "of."
- Recognize construct forms: תּוֹרַת → תּוֹרָה, דְּבַר → דְּבָר.
- Read Psalm 33:6.

> **Warm-up.** Say “the king’s house” and “the house of the king.” Same meaning. Hebrew always uses the second way, but without a word for “of.”

WATCH

Easy Story 54 - The Philistines Return the Ark of God - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 6:59

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXQMvxq65iM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; listen for aron Elohim, the ark of God, a construct chain.

Note: Aleph with Beth’s Easy Story 54, The Philistines Return the Ark of God (aron Elohim), in simple Biblical Hebrew (6:59).

BACKUP VIDEO

Easy Story 21 - Every Firstborn of Egypt - כָּל־בְּכוֹר מִצְרַיִם

Aleph with Beth · 3:30

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP18q9WRcPE

Aleph with Beth’s Easy Story 21, Every Firstborn of Egypt (kol-bekhor mitsrayim), in simple Biblical Hebrew (3:30).

KEY TERMS

construct chain
Two or more nouns joined to mean “X of Y”: דְּבַר יְהוָה the word of the LORD.

construct form
The first noun often shortens or changes: דָּבָר → דְּבַר; בַּיִת → בֵּית; תּוֹרָה → תּוֹרַת.

definiteness
Only the last noun can take the article; if it is definite, the whole chain is: סֵפֶר הַתּוֹרָה the book of the law.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

דְּבַר *devar* **deh-VAHR** noun, construct word of	בֵּית *beit* **BAYT** noun, construct house of
תּוֹרַת *torat* **toh-RAHT** noun, construct law of	סֵפֶר *sefer* **SAY-fer** noun book, scroll

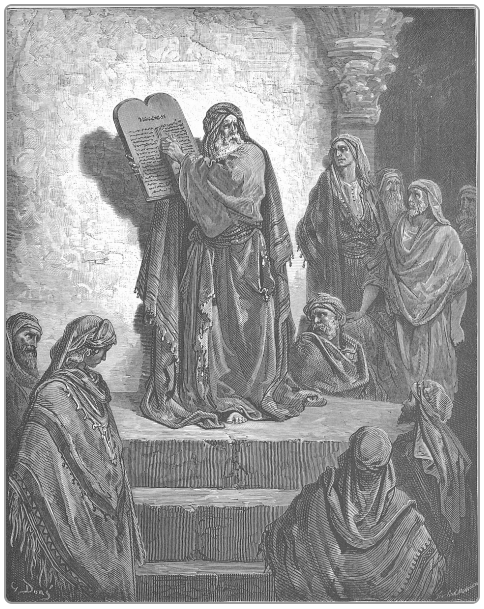
CORE IDEAS

The story. Psalm 33 says: By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. God spoke and it was. Centuries later the people gathered in Jerusalem and asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, and he read it to them from morning until midday (Nehemiah 8).

How Hebrew works. Put two nouns side by side; the first is "of" the second: בֵּית אֱלֹהִים the house of God; מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל the king of Israel. The first noun is in its construct form: it often loses a vowel, and feminine תָ becomes תַ: תּוֹרָה → תּוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה the law of Moses.

Chains. Chains can be long: סֵפֶר תּוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה the book of the law of Moses (Nehemiah 8:1). The first noun never takes the article; a name or the article on the last noun makes the whole chain "the."

PICTURE STUDY



Ezra Reads the Law to the People, Gustave Doré, 1866 · Wood engraving · From the Doré Bible

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

After the exile in Babylon, Ezra the scribe taught God's law to the people in Jerusalem. Nehemiah 8 says he read from a book while the Levites helped the people understand it, and the people wept, then rejoiced. Doré drew Ezra holding a stone tablet, an artist's choice: the Bible says Ezra read from a book (a scroll).

Look closely

- What is Ezra holding?
- How do the listeners look?
- Find the person sitting at the foot of the steps.
- Where does the light fall?

Talk about it

1. Why would people weep when they heard God's law?
2. What does the Bible say Ezra actually read from?

ACTIVITY

Chain of “of”

Make a paper chain of construct phrases.

You will need

- Paper strips
- Tape
- A marker

Steps

1. On each strip write one noun: סֵפֶר, תּוֹרַת, מֹשֶׁה.
2. Link them right to left and read: sefer torat moshe, the book of the law of Moses.
3. Make two more: דְּבַר יְהוָה; בֵּית אֱלֹהִים.

Tips

- Only the last word can have the article.

Check your work

☐ My chains read correctly.

☐ I can translate each with “of.”

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy five construct chains: דְּבַר יְהוָה, בֵּית אֱלֹהִים, מַלְאַךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל, סֵפֶר הַתּוֹרָה, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. Translate each with “of.”

> **From history.** Benei yisra’el, “the sons of Israel,” is translated “the children of Israel” in the KJV more than 600 times.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: בִּדְבַר יְהוָה

▼ **Show solution**

1. bi- = by (be-).
2. devar = word of (construct of davar); the Name = the LORD.

Answer: by the word of the LORD.

Example 2. Translate: בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

▼ **Show solution**

1. benei = sons of (construct plural: -im becomes -ei).
2. yisra'el = Israel.

Answer: the children of Israel.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: בֵּית

   ▼ **Show answer**

   house of.

2. Easy Translate: דְּבַר

   ▼ **Show answer**

   word of.

3. Easy Which noun in a chain can take the article?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Only the last.

4. Medium Translate: מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל

   ▼ **Show answer**

   the king of Israel.

5. Medium Construct form of תּוֹרָה?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   תּוֹרַת.

6. Hard Say Psalm 33:6 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Putting the article on the first noun of a chain.
- Translating “a word of the LORD” instead of “the word”: a name makes the chain definite.

> **Make it a game · Chain builder.** Lay out noun cards: בַּיִת, דָּבָר, מֶלֶךְ, סֵפֶר, and name cards: דָּוִד, יְהוָה, יִשְׂרָאֵל, מֹשֶׁה. Players build chains and translate them. Any chain that is a real Bible phrase scores double.

> **Scripture.** “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” (Psalm 33:6, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> בִּדְבַר יְהוָה שָׁמַיִם נַעֲשׂוּ וּבְרוּחַ פִּיו כָּל־צְבָאָם׃
>
> Find bidvar Adonai, by the word of the LORD, a construct chain; and uveruach piv, and by the breath of his mouth, another chain with a suffix.

UNIT 4

My, Thy, His: Suffixes

Lesson 4.1 teaches suffixes on nouns (-i my, -kha thy, -o his …), with Genesis 45:4 and Doré’s Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers.

Lesson 4.2 teaches suffixes on prepositions (li, lo, imadi), with Psalm 23:4.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can read and translate the main noun suffixes.
- ☐ I can read suffixes on prepositions.
- ☐ I can find every suffix in Psalm 23:4.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**Suffixes on Nouns**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
4.2	**Suffixes on Prepositions: Thou Art With Me**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 4 review

The student writes or answers aloud. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Translate: סוּסוֹ סוּסְךָ סוּסִי
2. **5 pts**
   Translate: אֲחִיכֶם and שְׁמוֹ
3. **5 pts**
   Translate: עִמָּדִי לוֹ לִי
4. **5 pts**
   Say Psalm 23:4 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. my horse, thy horse, his horse.
2. your brother; his name.
3. to me, to him, with me.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: SUFFIX CHART

Make a chart for the noun סוּס (horse) with every suffix: my, thy (m.), thy (f.), his, her, our, your, their. Then add a second chart for the preposition לְ (to me, to thee, to him ...). Illustrate it.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student reads all the forms.
Grammar	The suffixes are spelled correctly.
Translation	Every form is translated.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 4 · MY, THY, HIS: SUFFIXES · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.1 Suffixes on Nouns

OBJECTIVES

- Read the noun suffixes -i, -kha, -o, -ah, -enu, -khem, -am.
- Translate a noun with a suffix.
- Read Genesis 45:4.

Warm-up. Say “my book, your book, his book.” Hebrew says the same thing with one word each: the “my” goes on the end.

WATCH

Easy Story 62 - I Am Joseph Your Brother! - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 8:47

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDY00sUUI3o

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; then watch Genesis 2:24 and find aviv and immo, his father and his mother.

Note: Aleph with Beth's Easy Story 62, I Am Joseph Your Brother!, told in simple Biblical Hebrew (8:47); listen for achikhem, your brother.

BACKUP VIDEO

Genesis 2:24

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 1:57

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScEau5eSal8

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Genesis 2:24 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

pronoun suffix

An ending that means my, thy, his ...:

סוּסִי my horse.

singular suffixes

-i my; ךָ -kha thy (m.); ךְ -ekh thy (f.); וֹ -o his; הּ -ah her.

plural suffixes

נוּ -enu our; כֶם -khem your; ם -am their.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

אֲחִיכֶם

achikhem

ah-khee-KHEM

noun with suffix

your brother

שְׁמוֹ

shemo

sheh-MOH

noun with suffix

his name

עַמּוֹ

ammo

ahm-MOH

noun with suffix

his people

אָבִיו

aviv

ah-VEEV

noun with suffix

his father

CORE IDEAS

The story. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave. Years later, when he ruled Egypt, they came to buy food. At last Joseph could not hold back: I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Then he said, God did send me before you to preserve life (Genesis 45:5). He forgave them.

How Hebrew works. Add the suffix to the end of the noun: סוּס → סוּסִי my horse, סוּסְךָ thy horse, סוּסוֹ his horse, סוּסָהּ her horse, סוּסֵנוּ our horse. The noun is in its construct form before a suffix: שֵׁם → שְׁמִי my name, שְׁמוֹ his name.

In Genesis 45:4. אֲנִי יוֹסֵף אֲחִיכֶם I am Joseph your brother: a verbless sentence with a pronoun and a suffix. אֵלַי to me and אִתִּי me have suffixes too.

PICTURE STUDY



Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers, Gustave Doré, 1866 · Wood engraving · From the Doré Bible

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Doré set the scene in a grand Egyptian hall of carved columns and sphinxes. He shows the moment Joseph says, I am Joseph.

Look closely

- Find Joseph. How is he dressed differently?
- What are the brothers doing?
- Find the sphinxes.
- Which brother looks most afraid?

Talk about it

1. Why are the brothers afraid?
2. How does Joseph show forgiveness with his arms?

ACTIVITY

My, thy, his cards

Make suffix cards for one noun.

You will need

- Index cards
- Markers

Steps

1. Choose a noun: סוּס (horse).
2. Make five cards: סוּסִי, סוּסְךָ, סוּסוֹ, סוּסָהּ, סוּסֵנוּ.
3. On the back write the English.
4. Quiz a family member.

Tips

- Note the dot (mappiq) in the he of סוּסָהּ: her.

Check your work

☐ I made five cards.

☐ I can read each suffix.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Write סוּס with seven suffixes and translate each.

> **From history.** Genesis 2:24, the verse in today's second video, is quoted by Jesus (Matthew 19:5) and by Paul (Ephesians 5:31).

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: אֲחִיכֶם

▼ **Show solution**

1. achi- = brother of (construct).
2. -khem = your (plural).

Answer: your brother.

Example 2. Translate: שְׁמוֹ

▼ **Show solution**

1. shem = name; shemo = name + -o.
2. -o = his.

Answer: his name.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: סוּסִי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   my horse.

2. Easy Translate: שְׁמִי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   my name.

3. Easy What does -o mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   his.

4. Medium Translate: עַבְדְּךָ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   thy servant.

5. Medium Translate: עַמּוֹ

▼ **Show answer**

his people.

6. Hard Say Genesis 45:4 in English.

▼ **Show answer**

And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading -kha as “ka.” The final kaf has no dagesh: kha.
- Forgetting the noun changes shape before a suffix.

> **Make it a game · Whose is it?.** Pass objects around. The holder says whose it is in Hebrew with a suffix: סִפְרִי (my book), סִפְרוֹ (his book), סִפְרָהּ (her book). A wrong suffix passes the turn.

> **Scripture.** “And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.” (Genesis 45:4, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> אֲנִי יוֹסֵף אֲחִיכֶם
>
> Find ani yosef achikhem, I am Joseph your brother, and elai, to me. Two suffixes and a pronoun in one verse.

UNIT 4 · MY, THY, HIS: SUFFIXES · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.2 Suffixes on Prepositions: Thou Art With Me

OBJECTIVES

- Read suffixes on prepositions: li, lekha, lo, imadi, elai.
- Find every suffix in Psalm 23:4.

- Read Psalm 23:4.

> **Warm-up.** Walk across a dark room holding someone's hand. How does it feel to have someone with you? David said God was with him in the darkest valley.

WATCH

Hebrew - Do not fear, for I am with you - Biblical Hebrew - Lesson 111b

Aleph with Beth · 6:05

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLljOoUQShU

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; hold up a hand each time you hear "with me" or "with you."

Note: Aleph with Beth's Lesson 111b, Do Not Fear, for I Am With You (Isaiah 41:10), in simple Biblical Hebrew (6:05); listen for immekha, with thee.

BACKUP VIDEO

You Cannot See My Face - Biblical Hebrew - Lesson 149b

Aleph with Beth · 8:09

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElfV3o4Bujo

Aleph with Beth's Lesson 149b, You Cannot See My Face (Exodus 33), in simple Biblical Hebrew (8:09); listen for suffixes on prepositions.

KEY TERMS

לוֹ / לְךָ / לִי

To me / to thee / to him.

עִמְּךָ / עִמָּדִי

With me / with thee.

אֵלָיו / אֵלַי

Unto me / unto him.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

עִמָּדִי

immadi

eem-mah-DEE

preposition with suffix

with me

לִי

li

LEE

preposition with suffix

to me

אֵלַי

elai

ay-LAI

preposition with suffix

unto me

שִׁבְטֶךָ

shivtekha

sheev-teh-KHAH

noun with suffix

thy rod

CORE IDEAS

The story. David knew dangerous valleys from his days with the sheep: lions, bears and thieves. He wrote: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. The rod beat off wild animals; the staff guided the sheep.

How Hebrew works. The same suffixes go on prepositions: לְ → לִי to me, לְךָ to thee, לוֹ to him; עִם → עִמָּדִי or עִמִּי with me; אֶל → אֵלַי unto me.

In Psalm 23:4. כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי for thou art with me: pronoun + preposition with suffix, a verbless sentence. שִׁבְטְךָ וּמִשְׁעַנְתֶּךָ thy rod and thy staff: two noun suffixes. הֵמָּה they: a pronoun.

ACTIVITY

Rod and staff

Make a shepherd's rod and staff with Psalm 23:4 on them.

You will need

- Two cardboard tubes or sticks
- Paper
- Tape
- A marker

Steps

1. Make a short club (rod) and a long hooked crook (staff).
2. Write שִׁבְטְךָ on the rod and מִשְׁעַנְתֶּךָ on the staff.
3. Write כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי on a tag tied to the staff.
4. Read all three aloud.

Tips

- Copy the final kaf with its qamets: ךָ.

Check your work

☐ My rod and staff are labeled.

☐ I can find every suffix.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Psalm 23:4 from כִּי־אַתָּה to the end. Circle every suffix and translate.

> **From history.** The Hebrew tsalmavet, "shadow of death," may also be read "deep darkness." The KJV translators kept the older picture, and the phrase has comforted readers for centuries.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי

▼ **Show solution**

1. ki = for; attah = thou.
2. immadi = with me (im + -i); no verb, so add “art.”

Answer: for thou art with me.

Example 2. Translate: שִׁבְטֶךָ

▼ **Show solution**

1. shevet = rod.
2. -kha = thy.

Answer: thy rod.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: לִי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   to me, mine.

2. Easy Translate: לוֹ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   to him, his.

3. Easy Translate: עִמָּדִי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   with me.

4. Medium Translate: אֵלַי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   unto me.

5. **Medium** How many suffixes are in Psalm 23:4 after כִּי?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Three: immadi, shivtekha, mish‘antekha.

6. **Hard** Say Psalm 23:4 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading לוֹ (to him) as לֹא (not). Look for the vav.
- Missing the suffix on a preposition that has changed shape (עִמָּדִי).

> **Make it a game · With me, with you.** Take turns tossing a soft ball. The thrower says a preposition with a suffix in Hebrew (לִי, לְךָ, לוֹ, עִמִּי, אֵלַי); the catcher translates before throwing back.

> **Scripture.** “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי שִׁבְטְךָ וּמִשְׁעַנְתֶּךָ
>
> Find ki-attah immadi, for thou art with me, then shivtekha umish‘antekha, thy rod and thy staff.

UNIT 5

The Shepherd Psalm

Lesson 5.1 reads Psalm 23:1–3: the verbless sentence, the suffixes, and the pastures and still waters, with Honthorst’s David.

Lesson 5.2 reads Psalm 23:5, the table, the oil and the cup, and reviews the quarter.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can read Psalm 23:1 and 23:5 aloud in Hebrew.
- ☐ I can name the grammar in each word of Psalm 23:1.
- ☐ I can translate Psalm 23:5 phrase by phrase.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**The LORD Is My Shepherd: Psalm 23:1–3**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
5.2	**Thou Preparest a Table: Psalm 23:5**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 5 review

The student reads and translates. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Read Psalm 23:1 aloud in Hebrew from “Adonai.”
2. **5 pts**
   Translate: רֹעִי and נַפְשִׁי
3. **5 pts**
   Translate: כּוֹסִי רְוָיָה
4. **5 pts**
   Say Psalm 23:5 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. Adonai roʻi lo echsar.
2. my shepherd; my soul.
3. my cup runneth over (my cup is overflowing): a verbless sentence.
4. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: PSALM 23 SCROLL

Copy Psalm 23:1–5 in Hebrew on a long strip, one verse per section. Under each verse write the KJV. Mark every suffix, every verbless sentence and every construct chain in a different color. Recite verse 1 and verse 5 from memory.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student reads all five verses and recites two.
Grammar	The grammar marks are correct.
Translation	The translation matches the KJV.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 5 · THE SHEPHERD PSALM · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.1 The LORD Is My Shepherd: Psalm 23:1–3

OBJECTIVES

- Read Psalm 23:1 aloud and name its grammar.
- Read Psalm 23:2–3 with help.
- Explain roʻi and nafshi.

Warm-up. What does a shepherd do all day? Make a list. Then hear what David says the LORD does for him.

WATCH

Hebrew Worship - Psalm 121 תְּהִלִּים - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 3:24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=978qHepmyos

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; sing Psalm 121. The second video is optional and for the parent.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 121 in Biblical Hebrew (3:24): the LORD is thy keeper, a companion to the shepherd psalm.

BACKUP VIDEO

Q&A - Psalm 23:1

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 10:42

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19rJDKKI2Ps

Parent video (10:42, longer than our usual limit): Daily Dose of Hebrew answers questions on Psalm 23:1 word by word. For the parent to watch first and share parts.

KEY TERMS

רֹעִי ro'i (roh-EE)

My shepherd: ro'eh (shepherd) + -i.

לֹא אֶחְסָר lo echsar

I shall not want (lack).

נַפְשִׁי nafshi

My soul, my life: nefesh + -i.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

רֹעִי

ro'i

roh-EE

noun with suffix

my shepherd

נַפְשִׁי

nafshi

nahf-SHEE

noun with suffix

my soul

דֶּשֶׁא

deshe

DEH-sheh

noun

grass, green herb

שְׁמוֹ

shemo

sheh-MOH

noun with suffix

his name

CORE IDEAS

The story. David was the youngest son of Jesse, sent out to keep the sheep while his brothers went to war. He became Israel's greatest king, but he never forgot the sheep. He wrote: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. Jesus said, I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep (John 10:11).

Read it.

> יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר׃

Adonai ro'i: a verbless sentence, the LORD (is) my shepherd, with a suffix. lo echsar: I shall not lack, a verb you will meet in Grade 7.

> נַפְשִׁי יְשׁוֹבֵב

nafshi yeshovev: my soul he restoreth (the object comes first for emphasis).

Grammar you know. עַל־מֵי מְנֻחוֹת beside the still waters: a preposition, a construct (mei, waters of) and a plural. בְּמַעְגְּלֵי־צֶדֶק in the paths of righteousness: be- + construct plural. לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ for his name's sake: a suffix.

PICTURE STUDY



King David Playing the Harp, Gerard van Honthorst, 1622 · Oil on canvas · Centraal Museum, Utrecht

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Gerard van Honthorst of Utrecht learned in Rome to paint figures in strong light against dark backgrounds. Here David is not a shepherd boy but an old king, still singing to God. The Bible calls him the sweet psalmist of Israel (2 Samuel 23:1).

Look closely

- Where is David looking?
- What is he wearing on his head?
- Find his hand on the harp strings.
- Is he young or old?

Talk about it

1. Why might Honthorst paint David old instead of as a shepherd boy?
2. Which line of Psalm 23 do you think David is singing?

ACTIVITY

Green pastures diorama

Make a shoebox scene of Psalm 23:2.

You will need

- A shoebox
- Green paper or grass
- Blue foil
- Cotton-ball sheep
- Labels

Steps

1. Make green pastures and a still pool of water.
2. Add sheep lying down.
3. Label: בִּנְאוֹת דֶּשֶׁא (in pastures of grass) and עַל־מֵי מְנֻחוֹת (beside waters of rest).
4. Write יְהוָה רֹעִי on the lid.

Tips

- Copy each maqqef.

Check your work

☐ My scene has three Hebrew labels.

☐ I can translate each.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Psalm 23:1–3 in Hebrew (from יְהוָה in verse 1). Under each word write the English.

> **From history.** Psalm 23 has 57 Hebrew words, counting words joined by a maqqef separately. Its heading, mizmor ledavid, a Psalm of David, is part of verse 1 in the Hebrew Bible.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: יְהוָה רֹעִי

▼ **Show solution**

1. The Name = the LORD.
2. ro'i = my shepherd; no verb, so add "is."

Answer: The LORD is my shepherd.

Example 2. Translate: עַל־מֵי מְנֻחוֹת

▼ **Show solution**

1. al = upon, beside.
2. mei = waters of (construct of mayim); menuchot = rest, stillness (plural).

Answer: beside the still waters (literally, waters of rest).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: רֹעִי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   my shepherd.

2. Easy Translate: נַפְשִׁי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   my soul.

3. Easy Translate: לֹא

   ▼ **Show answer**

   not.

4. Medium Name the grammar in יְהוָה רֹעִי.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A verbless sentence; roi has the suffix -i, my.

5. Medium Translate: לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ

▼ **Show answer**

for his name's sake.

6. Hard Say Psalm 23:1–3 in English.

▼ **Show answer**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading רֹעִי as ra'i. It has a holem: ro'i.
- Thinking nefesh means only "soul" as opposed to body; in Hebrew it means the whole living person.

> **Make it a game · Shepherd says.** The leader is the shepherd and calls commands in Hebrew from the psalm: lie down (שְׁכַב), drink (שְׁתֵה), follow me (אַחֲרַי). The flock obeys only if the shepherd first says רֹעִי.

> **Scripture.** "A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר׃
>
> Read the whole verse: mizmor ledavid, Adonai ro'i lo echsar. Find the verbless sentence and the suffix -i.

5.2 Thou Preparest a Table: Psalm 23:5

OBJECTIVES

- Read Psalm 23:5 aloud with help.

- Translate it phrase by phrase.
- Review the quarter's grammar.

> **Warm-up.** Imagine being invited to a feast while your enemies watch from outside and can do nothing. That is the picture in Psalm 23:5.

WATCH

When the Bible Says "Soul," What Is It Talking About?

BibleProject · 4:23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_igCcWAMAM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; the BibleProject video helps with nafshi from Lesson 5.1.

Note: BibleProject's word study on nefesh, the Hebrew word translated "soul" (4:23), as in He restoreth my soul (Psalm 23:3).

BACKUP VIDEO

Hebrew Worship - Psalm 40:4 תְּהִלִּים - A New Song in my Mouth - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 3:23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-p5YWj4R1I0

Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 40:3 (40:4 in Hebrew), a new song in my mouth (3:23): listen for the suffix -i, my.

KEY TERMS

שֻׁלְחָן shulchan

Table.

שֶׁמֶן shemen

Oil, especially olive oil.

כּוֹסִי רְוָיָה kosi revayah

My cup (is) overflowing: kos + -i; a verbless sentence.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

שֻׁלְחָן

shulchan

shool-KHAHN

noun

table

שֶׁמֶן

shemen

SHEH-men

noun

oil

כּוֹסִי

kosi

koh-SEE

noun with suffix

my cup

רְוָיָה

revayah

reh-vah-YAH

adjective, feminine

overflowing, saturated

CORE IDEAS

The story. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. A good host welcomed a guest with oil for his head and filled his cup to the brim. God is not only the Shepherd but the Host: His enemies cannot touch the one He invites.

Read it. תַּעֲרֹךְ לְפָנַי שֻׁלְחָן thou preparest before me a table: le- + panai (my face, before me). נֶגֶד צֹרְרָי in front of my enemies: a suffix -ai. דִּשַּׁנְתָּ בַשֶּׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי thou hast anointed with oil my head: ba- = be + ha. כּוֹסִי רְוָיָה my cup is overflowing.

Quarter review. In this verse: suffixes (panai, tsorerai, roshi, kosi), the article hiding in ba-, a verbless sentence (kosi revayah), and a predicate adjective. Grade 7 will explain the verbs.

ACTIVITY

Overflowing cup

Make an overflowing cup with Psalm 23:5.

You will need

- A paper cup
- Blue tissue paper
- Glue
- A marker

Steps

1. Glue blue tissue spilling over the cup's rim.
2. Write כּוֹסִי רְוָיָה on the cup.
3. Write the whole verse in Hebrew on a card beside it.
4. Read the verse aloud.

Tips

- Copy רְוָיָה carefully: resh, vav, yod, he.

Check your work

☐ My cup is labeled.

☐ I read the verse aloud.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Psalm 23:5 in Hebrew. Circle every suffix; mark the hidden article and the verbless sentence.

> **From history.** Kings and priests in Israel were anointed with oil to show that God had chosen them. The title Messiah, mashiach, means "anointed one," in Greek Christos.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: לְפָנַי

▼ **Show solution**

1. le- = to, before.
2. panai = my face (panim + -ai).

Answer: before me.

Example 2. Translate: בַּשֶּׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי

▼ **Show solution**

1. ba- = with the (be + ha).
2. shemen = oil; roshi = my head.

Answer: with oil my head (KJV: my head with oil).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: שֻׁלְחָן

   ▼ **Show answer**

   table.

2. Easy Translate: שֶׁמֶן

   ▼ **Show answer**

   oil.

3. Easy Translate: רֹאשִׁי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   my head.

4. Medium Translate: כּוֹסִי רְוָיָה

   ▼ **Show answer**

   my cup runneth over.

5. **Medium** Find the hidden article in Psalm 23:5.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   bashshemen: ba- = be + ha, with the oil.

6. **Hard** Say Psalm 23:5 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading לְפָנַי as “before” only. The -ai suffix means “me”: before me.
- Missing that רְוָיָה is an adjective, not a verb.

> **Make it a game · Psalm 23 relay.** Write each Hebrew word of Psalm 23:1 and 23:5 on cards and spread them face down. Teams race to turn them over and lay both verses in order, right to left, then read them aloud.

> **Scripture.** “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.” (Psalm 23:5, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> תַּעֲרֹךְ לְפָנַי שֻׁלְחָן נֶגֶד צֹרְרָי דִּשַּׁנְתָּ בַשֶּׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי כּוֹסִי רְוָיָה׃
>
> Read the whole verse. Find four suffixes: lefanai, tsorerai, roshi, kosi.