

Chapter Eight

Hebrew Suffixes

Vocabulary

אור	light (f)	ים	sea (m)
אחות	sister	כה	thus, so
אם	mother	לפני	before
אשר	who, which, what	נאם	utterance (m)
ברית	covenant (f)	עד	until, unto
גן	garden	עולם	forever, eternity (m)
חג	feast, festival (m)	עוף	bird (m)
חי	life (adj)	עם	people (m)
חרב	sword (f)	רוח	spirit, wind (f)
חשך	darkness (m)	שלום	peace (m)

Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes

A pronoun may appear as a prefix placed on a word in Hebrew. These endings are called pronominal suffixes and can be attached to nouns, prepositions, particles, or verbs. Pronominal suffixes have person, gender, and number. When pronominal suffixes are attached to nouns, prepositions and the Sign of the Direct Object, they may have a possessive (his, her, our) or an objective (him, her, us) meaning¹.

- i. Pronominal suffixes attached to nouns have a possessive (his, her, our) sense.
- ii. Pronominal suffixes attached to prepositions or the Sign of the Direct Object have an objective (him, her, us) sense (i.e. they serve as objects).
- iii. Pronominal suffixes attached to particles may be expressed as possessive or as a direct object.
- iv. Pronominal suffixes attached to verbs normally serve as the direct object of the verb.

In addition, gender is identified with all forms except first person singular and plural which are common (1cs & 1cp).

Pronominal Suffixes for Nouns

¹ Gesenius prefers to use the classic terms genitive for possessive and accusative for the direct object.

Pronominal Suffixes appearing with nouns have a possessive sense. For example, קולי is translated, “my voice.”

1. Pronominal suffixes for singular nouns (Masc. or Fem.). Nouns ending with ה will frequently drop this ending before adding the pronominal suffix (the feminine noun will replace ה with הַ):

1 cs	יְ	my	1 cp	נוֹ	our
2 ms ²	יָךְ	your	2 mp	יְכֶם	your
2 fs ³	יָךְ	your	2 fp	יְכֶן	your
3 ms	וֹ	his	3 mp	וֹם	their
3 fs	וֹהַ	her	3 fp	וֹן	their

- a. Example for קול “voice”:

1 cs	קולי	my voice	1 cp	קולנו	our voice
2 ms	קולך	your voice	2 mp	קולכם	your voice
2 fs	קולך	your voice	2 fp	קולכן	your voice
3 ms	קולו	his voice	3 mp	קולם	their voice
3 fs	קולה	her voice	3 fp	קולן	their voice

- b. Example for תורה “law” (fem):

1 cs	תורתִי	my law	1 cp	תורתנו	our law
2 ms	תורתֶךָ	your law	2 mp	תורתֶכֶם	your law
2 fs	תורתֶךָ	your law	2 fp	תורתֶכֶן	your law
3 ms	תורתו	his law	3 mp	תורתם	their law
3 fs	תורתה	her law	3 fp	תורתן	their law

2. Pronominal suffixes for plural nouns (Masc. or Fem.). When a pronominal suffix is added to a masculine plural noun the noun’s plural ending is dropped. Since the plural ending is missing, the plural characteristic is identified by the plural suffix:

1 cs	יְ	my	1 cp	נוֹ	our
2 ms	יָךְ	your	2 mp	יְכֶם	your
2 fs	יָךְ	your	2 fp	יְכֶן	your
3 ms	וֹ	his	3 mp	וֹם	their
3 fs	וֹהַ	her	3 fp	וֹן	their

² Final kaf ך will have its final qamets () placed inside the letter and looks like ך .

³ Final kaf ך is written with a silent sheva () when it lacks a vowel and looks like ך .

a. Example for אֱלֹהִים “gods, God”:

1 cs	אֱלֹהֵי	my God	1 cp	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	our God
2 ms	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	your God	2 mp	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם	your God
2 fs	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	your God	2 fp	אֱלֹהֵיכֶן	your God
3 ms	אֱלֹהָיו	his God	3 mp	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	their God
3 fs	אֱלֹהֶיהָ	her God	3 fp	אֱלֹהֵיהֶן	their God

b. Example for תּוֹרוֹת “laws” (fem):

1 cs	תּוֹרוֹתַי	my laws	1 cp	תּוֹרוֹתֵינוּ	our laws
2 ms	תּוֹרוֹתֶיךָ	your laws	2 mp	תּוֹרוֹתֵיכֶם	your laws
2 fs	תּוֹרוֹתֶיךָ	your laws	2 fp	תּוֹרוֹתֵיכֶן	your laws
3 ms	תּוֹרוֹתָיו	his laws	3 mp	תּוֹרוֹתֵיהֶם	their laws
3 fs	תּוֹרוֹתֶיהָ	her laws	3 fp	תּוֹרוֹתֵיהֶן	their laws

Pronominal Suffixes with Prepositions

The forms of the pronominal suffixes used with prepositions are as follows:

1 cs	ִי	me	1 cp	ֵנוּ	us
2 ms	ֶךָ	you	2 mp	ֵכֶם	you
2 fs	ֶךָ	you	2 fs	ֵכֶן	you
3 ms	וֹ	him	3 mp	ֵהֶם	them
3 fs	ָהָ	her	3 fs	ֵהֶן	them

1. Pronominal suffixes with inseparable prepositions בְּ and לְ are as follows:

a. בְּ “in, by, with”

1 cs	בִּי	in/by me	1 cp	בְּנוּ	in/by us
2 ms	בְּךָ	in/by you	2 mp	בְּכֶם	in/by you
2 fs	בְּךָ	in/by you	2 fp	בְּכֶן	in/by you
3 ms	בוֹ	in/by him	3 mp	בְּהֶם	in/by them
3 fs	בָּהָ	in/by her	3 fp	בְּהֶן	in/by them

b. לְ “to, for”

1 cs	לִי	to/for me	1 cp	לָנוּ	to/for us
2 ms	לְךָ	to/for you	2 mp	לְכֶם	to/for you
2 fs	לְךָ	to/for you	2 fp	לְכֶן	to/for you
3 ms	לוֹ	to/for him	3 mp	לָהֶם	to/for them
3 fs	לָהּ	to/for her	3 fp	לָהֶן	to/for them

2. The inseparable preposition כְּ “as, like,” and preposition מִן “from, away from” are irregular.

a. Inseparable preposition כְּ “as, like.”

1 cs	כְּמוֹנִי	as/like me	1 cp	כְּמוֹנוּ	as/like us
2 ms	כְּמוֹךָ	as/like you	2 mp	כְּכֶם	as/like you
2 fs	כְּמוֹךָ	as/like you	2 fp	כְּכֶן	as/like you
3 ms	כְּמוֹהוּ	as/like him	3 mp	כְּהֶם	as/like them
3 fs	כְּמוֹהָ	as/like her	3 fp	כְּהֶן	as/like them

b. Preposition מִן “from, away from.”

1 cs	מִמֶּנִּי	from me	1 cp	מִמֶּנּוּ	from us
2 ms	מִמֶּךָ	from you	2 mp	מִכֶּם	from you
2 fs	מִמֶּךָ	from you	2 fp	מִכֶּן	from you
3 ms	מִמֶּהוּ	from him	3 mp	מִהֶם	from them
3 fs	מִמֶּהָ	from her	3 fp	מִהֶן	from them

Notice the identical forms for 3ms and 1cpl.

3. Prepositions that take the daghesh forte in the final consonant before pronominal suffixes. Some prepositions have an alternate form.

a. אִתּוֹ “with” (not the Sign of the Direct Object used with the direct object). Note the alternate spelling is found.

		Alt			Alt	
1 cs	אִתִּי	אִתִּי	with me	1 cp	אִתָּנוּ	with us
2 ms	אִתְּךָ	אִתְּךָ	with you	2 mp	אִתְּכֶם	with you
2 fs	אִתְּךָ	אִתְּךָ	with you	2 fp		
3 ms	אִתּוֹ	אִתּוֹ	with him	3 mp	אִתָּם	with them
3 fs	אִתָּהּ		with her	3 fp		

b. עם “with”

1 cs	עמי	with me	1 cp	עמנו	with us
2 ms	עמך	with you	2 mp	עמכם	with you
2 fs	עמך	with you	2 fp	עמכן	with you
3 ms	עמו	with him	3 mp	עמם	with them
3 fs	עמה	with her	3 fp	עמן	with them

4. The prepositions לפני “before, in front of” and אל “to, unto” take pronominal suffixes that are the same as those for plural nouns.

a. לפני “before” is formed by the plural construct of פנים “face,” and the preposition ל “to.”

1 cs	לפני	before me	1 cp	לפנינו	before us
2 ms	לפניך	before you	2 mp	לפניכם	before you
2 fs	לפניך	before you	2 fp		
3 ms	לפניו	before him	3 mp	לפניהם	before them
3 fs	לפניה	before her	3 fp		

b. אל “to, unto”

1 cs	אלי	unto me	1 cp	אלינו	unto us
2 ms	אליך	unto you	2 mp	אליכם	unto you
2 fs	אליך	unto you	2 fp	אליכן	unto you
3 ms	אליו	unto him	3 mp	אליהם	unto them
3 fs	אליה	unto her	3 fp	אליהן	unto them

c. על “on, upon.”

1 cs	עלי	on me	1 cp	עלינו	on us
2 ms	עליך	on you	2 mp	עליכם	on you
2 fs	עליך	on you	2 fp	עליכן	on you
3 ms	עליו	on him	3 mp	עליהם	on them
3 fs	עליה	on her	3 fp	עליהן	on them

Pronominal Suffixes with particles

1. את Sign of the Direct Object (SOD)⁴.

1 cs	אתי	me	1 cp	אתנו	us
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⁴ Kelly uses the holem-vav (י) as opposed to the holem (י) (e.g. אתי).

2 ms	אתָּךְ	you	2 mp	אתְּכֶם	you
2 fs	אתְּךְ	you	2 fp	אתְּכֶן	you
3 ms	אתּוֹ	him	3 mp	אתָּם	them
3 fs	אתָּהּ	her	3 fp	אתָּן	them

2. הַנְּהַה “behold!”

1 cs	הַנְּנִי	הַנְּנִי	behold, I	1 cp	הַנְּנִנוּ	הַנְּנִנוּ	behold, we
2 ms		הַנְּנִיךְ	behold, you	2 mp		הַנְּנִיכֶם	behold, you
2 fs		הַנְּנִיךְ	behold, you	2 fp			
3 ms		הַנְּנִיו	behold, he	3 mp		הַנְּנִיהֶם	behold, they
3 fs				3 fp			

Practice

- Memorize pronominal suffixes for singular nouns (Masc. or Fem.).
- Identify the following (e.g. יָדִי “my hand” 1cs)
 - יָדְכֶם
 - יָדֵיכֶם
 - דְּבַרְךָ
 - דְּבַרְיָהֶם
 - אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
- Translate the following:
 - יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת עֲמָנוּ (Ps. 46:12)
 - וַיִּהְיֶה אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת עִמּוֹ (2 Sam. 5:10)