



Introduction to Hebrew Worksheets

Session 8: Prepositions

Prepositions can stand alone as separate words, or can be attached at the beginning of a word. Now that you have memorized the pronouns and know how to add possessive endings to nouns (my, your, his, her, our, their), you can add the same possessive pronouns to prepositions. You will also learn how to use the little marker $\pi\lambda$, which identifies a direct object. But don't worry about the rule. You will learn to "feel" it.

Test your progress

מי בתוך? בתי שרה
זאת ארצו והוא מלכה
מה ארץ? ישראל ארצי ועמי
אני אביו ואביו. הוא בני והיא בתי

You must now memorize the prepositions that can stand alone as separate words.

Prepositions (separate words)

before, in front of	לפני
above, upon, about	על
in, towards	אל
between, among	בין

Prepositions (separate words)

(הוֹלֵךְ = is walking)

היא הוֹלֵךְ **אֶל** הַבַּיִת

הוא הוֹלֵךְ **בֵּין** הַכְּתָמִים

הוא הוֹלֵךְ **לְפָנֵי** בַּיִת

הוא הוֹלֵךְ **עַל** הָאָרֶץ

Very common in Hebrew will be prepositions that are “hooked on” to the beginning of a noun.

Prepositions (NOT separate words)

in, with **בְּ-**

like, as **כְּ-**

to, for **לְ**

Prepositions (NOT separate words)

בְּבַיִת

בְּבֵיתוֹ

בְּבַתִּים

בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל

Prepositions (NOT separate words)

כְּמֶלֶךְ

בְּבַיִת

כְּמֶלֶכְנוּ

בְּבֵיתוֹ

כְּמֶלְכִים

בְּבַתִּים

כְּשָׂרָה

בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל

When a preposition is “hooked on” to the beginning of a noun, it can either be specific or not specific. In English, we make something specific with the article “the”. Hebrew uses the letter ה with an *ah* sound. If the preposition conveys a non-specific meaning (that is, no ה is present), there will be no *ah* sound. Practice speaking aloud the following words.

Prepositions (NOT separate words)

לְאָב

לְאָבִי

לְאָבוֹת

לְיִשְׂרָאֵל

If the preposition conveys a specific meaning, the sound of the ה is added. Now practice speaking aloud the following words that are specific in the left column, and compare them with the non-specific words in the right column.

Prepositions (NOT separate words)

לְאָב = לְאָבָא + הַ

לְאֶרֶץ לְאֶרֶץ

בְּבַיִת בְּבַיִת

לְאָב

לְאָבִי

לְאָבוֹת

לְיִשְׂרָאֵל

Now it's time to practice.

בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁבִיעִת שֶׁבַת
seven year

שֶׁבַתוֹן לְאָרֶץ

לִיהוָה שֶׁבַת

The little word אֵת has no meaning, and cannot be translated. It is simply a marker of something specific. Practice speaking the following exercise aloud, and you will “hear” it.

The word אֵת

Jonathan loved a king.	יְהוֹנָתָן אָהַב מֶלֶךְ
Jonathan loved the king.	יְהוֹנָתָן אָהַב אֵת הַמֶּלֶךְ
We guarded a house.	שָׁמְרָנוּ בַּיִת
We guarded the house.	שָׁמְרָנוּ אֵת הַבַּיִת
Jacob remembered his people.	יַעֲקֹב זָכַר אֵת עַמּוֹ

Now it is time to practice again. Read the following aloud in Hebrew and then translate.

Genesis 1:3

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי-אֹר
let
there
be

Genesis 1:4-5

וַאֲלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי-אֹר
וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאוֹר כִּי-טוֹב
רָאָה

Genesis 1:4-5

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי-אֹר
וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאוֹר כִּי-טוֹב
וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאוֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ
divide

Genesis 1:4-5

וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְאוֹר יוֹם וּלְחֹשֶׁךְ קָרָא לַיְלָה
וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם אֶחָד