

Chapter 6a – Prepositions

Three Types

Independent Prepositions

These prepositions stand alone.

לְפָנַי הַמֶּלֶךְ before the king

תַּחַת הָעֵץ under the tree

Maqqef Prepositions

These prepositions are joined to their objects with *Maqqef*.

אֶל-הַהֵיכָל to the temple

מִן-הָאָרֶץ from the land

Inseparable Prepositions

These prepositions are prefixed directly to their objects.

בְּשָׂדֵה in a field

כְּמֶלֶךְ like a king



Chapter 6b – Prepositions

Ten Frequent Independent Prepositions

לְפָנַי	before, in front of (1,102)
עִם	with, together with (1,048)
אַחֲרַי	after, behind (718)
בֵּין	between (409)
לְמַעַן	on account of, for the sake of (272)
נֶגְדַּד	opposite, in front of (151)
בְּעַד	behind, through (104)
יַעַן	on account of, because (100)
אַצֵּל	beside, near (62)
בְּעִבּוֹר	because of, for the sake of (49)



Chapter 6c – Prepositions

Five Most Frequent *Maqqef* Prepositions

עַל-

on, upon, on account of, according to
(5,777)

אֶל-

to, toward, in, into
(5,518)

עַד-

until, as far as, during
(1,263)

אִת-

with, beside
(890)

מִן-

from, out of
(745)



Chapter 6d – Prepositions

Three Most Frequent Inseparable Prepositions

לְ

to, toward, for
(20,321)

בְּ

in, at, with, by, against
(15,559)

כְּ

as, like, according to
(3,053)



Chapter 6e – Prepositions

Spelling Inseparable Prepositions

Before most consonants: **Vocal Shewa**

בְּשָׂדֵה in a field

לְנֶעַר for a young man

Before Hateph vowels: **corresponding short vowel**

כְּאֲנָשִׁים like men

בְּאֵמֶת in truth

Before consonants with Vocal Shewa: **Hireq**

לְנְבִיאִים for prophets

לְבְרִית for a covenant



Chapter 6f – Prepositions

Spelling Inseparable Prepositions with Nouns that Have the Definite Article

The vowel (and Daghesh Forte) of the definite article is retained but the consonant of the preposition replaces the ה of the definite article.

הַשָּׂדֶה	the field	➤	בַּשָּׂדֶה	in the field
הַמֶּלֶךְ	the king	➤	כְּמֶלֶךְ	like the king
הָאֵשׁ	the fire	➤	בְּאֵשׁ	in the fire



Chapter 6g – Prepositions

The Preposition מִן

The preposition מִן occurs both as a *Maqqef* preposition and as an inseparable preposition.

Maqqef Preposition

מִן-מֶלֶךְ from a king

Inseparable Preposition

1. מִן-מֶלֶךְ > מִמֶּלֶךְ
assimilated ׀ with Daghesh Forte

2. מִן-בַּיִת > מִבַּיִת
assimilated ׀ with Daghesh Lene becoming Daghesh Forte

3. מִן-אִישׁ > מִיֵּאִישׁ
assimilated ׀ with compensatory lengthening

4. מִן-הָאָרֶץ > מִהָאָרֶץ
assimilated ׀ with compensatory lengthening

5. מִן-חוּץ > מִחוּץ
assimilated ׀ with virtual doubling



Chapter 6h – Prepositions

Special Uses of the Preposition מִן

Comparative Use

טוֹבָה חִכְמָה מִזָּהָב

Literally – Wisdom is *good from* gold.

Comparatively – Wisdom is *better than* gold.

קָשָׁה הָעֵבוּדָה מִהָאֲנָשִׁים

Literally – The work is difficult *from* the men.

Comparatively – The work is *too* difficult *for* the men.

Superlative Use

עָרוּם מְכֹל חַיֵּי הַשָּׂדֶה

Literally – clever *from every* living thing of the field

Superlatively – *the most* clever living thing of the field

Partitive Use

מִהָאֲנָשִׁים

Literally – *from* the men

Partitively – *some* of the men



Chapter 6i – Prepositions

Definite Direct Object Marker אַתְּ/את־

In Hebrew prose, **definite direct objects** are usually marked with אַתְּ/את־.

בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם
God created the heavens.

נָתַן הַנָּבִיא אֶת־הַסֵּפֶר לַמֶּלֶךְ.
The prophet gave the book to the king.

אָהַב דָּוִד אֶת־יְהוֹנָתָן
David loved Jonathan.

נָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־תּוֹרוֹתָיו לָעָם
The king gave his laws to the people

