Chapter 6a – Prepositions
Three Types

--- Independent Prepositions ---
These prepositions stand alone.

לְפָנֵי הָ_bedlah: before the king
תַּהְחָצִי: under the tree

--- Maqqef Prepositions ---
These prepositions are joined to their objects with Maqqef.

אֶל הַיהוָּא: to the temple
מִן הַלְּאָרֶץ: from the land

--- Inseparable Prepositions ---
These prepositions are prefixed directly to their objects.

בְּשָׂדֶה: in a field
כְּמֶלֶךְ: like a king
Ten Frequent Independent Prepositions

לִפְנֵי before, in front of (1,102)

עִם with, together with (1,048)

אַחֲרֵי after, behind (718)

בֵּין between (409)

לְמַ on account of, for the sake of (272)

גֶד opposite, in front of (151)

בַּעֲבוּר because of, for the sake of (49)
Chapter 6c – Prepositions

Five Most Frequent Maqqef Prepositions

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

- אל
  to, toward, in, into
  (5,518)

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

- את
  with, beside
  (890)

- من
  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**

ֹשָׂדֶה – in a field

ֹלְנַעְר – for a young man

Before Hateph vowels: **corresponding short vowel**

ֹפַטְפְּשָׂים – like men

ֹבִּאְמָה – in truth

Before consonants with Vocal Shewa: **Hireq**

ֹלְבָנְאָיִם – for prophets

ֹלְבָרִית – 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.


deshet  the field  ➞  beeshet  in the field
mamleket  the king  ➞  memelakhet  like the king
eshet  the fire  ➞  bayeshet  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 - from a king

### Inseparable Preposition

1. מִן מֶלֶךְ ➔ מֶלֶךְ
   *assimilated נ with Daghest Forte*

2. מִן בֵּית ➔ בֵּית
   *assimilated נ with Daghest Lene becoming Daghest Forte*

3. מִן אִישׁ ➔ אִישׁ
   *assimilated נ with compensatory lengthening*

4. מִן הָאָרֶץ ➔ הָאָרֶץ
   *assimilated נ with compensatory lengthening*

5. מִן מַחְוָה ➔ מַחְוָה
   *assimilated נ with virtual doubling*
Chapter 6h – Prepositions

Special Uses of the Preposition \( \text{מִן} \)

**Comparative Use**

\( \text{מִן} \) חָכְמָה הָעֲבוֹדָה

Literally – Wisdom is good \textit{from} gold.
Comparatively – Wisdom is \textit{better than} gold.

\( \text{מֵהָאֲנָשִׁים} \) חָכְמָה

Literally – The work is difficult \textit{from} the men.
Comparatively – The work is \textit{too} difficult \textit{for} the men.

**Superlative Use**

\( \text{מִכֹּל} \) חַיַּת

Literally – clever \textit{from every} living thing of the field
Superlatively – \textit{the most} clever living thing of the field

**Partitive Use**

\( \text{מֵהָאֲנָשִׁים} \)

Literally – \textit{from} the men
Partitively – \textit{some of} the men
Chapter 6i – Prepositions
Definite Direct Object Marker אֶת

In Hebrew prose, **definite direct objects** are usually marked with אֶת.

גְּדוֹלָהּ אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם
God created the heavens.

בָּדַע הָבָא אֶת הַסֵּפֶר לֶאָלֶך
The prophet gave the book to the king.

לָעָם תּוֹרוֹתָיו אֶת דָּוִד
The king gave his laws to the people.

The king gave his laws to the people.