## Chapter 8a – Pronouns

### Independent Personal Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 com</td>
<td>אָנֹכִי</td>
<td>אֲנִי</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 masc</td>
<td>אַתָּה</td>
<td>אַתֶּם</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 fem</td>
<td>אַתְּ</td>
<td>אַתּוֹ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 masc</td>
<td>הוּא</td>
<td>מָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 fem</td>
<td>אִי</td>
<td>הם</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes

1. The independent personal pronoun is labelled **independent** because it stands alone and is not prefixed or suffixed to another word.

2. Independent personal pronouns are **subjective**, meaning they are used as the subject of a verb, never as the object of the verb.

3. Independent personal pronouns may also appear as the subject of a verbless clause. For this reason, they are sometimes called **subject pronouns**.
The following examples illustrate how independent personal pronouns are used with other nouns or adjectives in a **predicative relationship**. The pronoun may precede or follow the noun or adjective. A form of the verb “to be” (in the present tense) is supplied in translation.

- **יְהוָה אֲנִי** I am Yahweh (the Lord).
- **צַדִּיק נָבִיא** He is a righteous prophet.
- **טוֹב לֶךְ. מֶאַתָּה** You (2ms) are a good king.
- **חֲנוּנִים אֲנַהְנוּ** We are brothers.
- **חֲכָמָה אִשָּׁה** She is a wise woman.
- **הַגְּדוֹלָה בָּעִיר אַתֶּם** You (2mp) are in the great city.
### Chapter 8c – Pronouns

#### Demonstratives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Masc</strong></td>
<td>זֶה this</td>
<td>לֶּה these</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fem</strong></td>
<td>זֹאת this</td>
<td>לֶּה these</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Masc</strong></td>
<td>הָוֹ that</td>
<td>הֵם, הָמָה those</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fem</strong></td>
<td>הַיְהָ that</td>
<td>הֵן, הָמָה those</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes

1. Demonstratives may be used either as adjectives (*this man, those women*) or as pronouns (*this is the man, those are the women*).

2. The masculine and feminine singular forms (זֶה and זֹאת) are identical to the third person masculine and feminine singular independent personal pronouns.

3. The demonstrative לֶּה (these) is both masculine and feminine plural. Remember that the designation for this phenomenon is “common,” meaning *not inflected for gender.*
Chapter 8d – Pronouns

The Use of Demonstrative Adjectives

When a Hebrew demonstrative is functioning as an adjective, it will follow the noun it modifies and agree in gender, number and definiteness. This is just like the attributive use of adjectives.

הַזֶּה this man
הַזֹּאת this woman
הַהוּא that man
הַהִיא that woman
לֶה these men
לֶה these women
הָהֵם those men
הָהֵם those women
Chapter 8e – Pronouns
The Use of Demonstrative Pronouns

When a Hebrew demonstrative is functioning as a pronoun, it will precede the noun and agree in gender and number but not in definiteness. This is just like the predicative use of adjectives.

והָאִישׁ This is the man.
והָאִשָּׁה This is the woman.
והָאִישׁ This is the man.
והָאִשָּׁה This is the woman.
והָאֲנָשִׁים These are the men.
והָנָּשִׁים These are the women.
והָאֲנָשִׁים Those are the men.
והָנָּשִׁים Those are the women.
When a noun is modified by both an adjective and a demonstrative adjective (as in “this good book”), all three must agree in gender, number and definiteness. In terms of word order, the noun will be first, the modifying adjective will be second and the demonstrative will be last.

- This good man: הַאִישׁ הַטּוֹב
- This good woman: הָאִשָּׁה הַטּוֹבָה
- That good man: הָאִישׁ הַטּוֹב
- That good woman: הָאִשָּׁה הַטּוֹבָה
- These good men: הָאֲנָשִׁים הַטּוֹבִים
- These good women: הַנָּשִׁים הַטּוֹבוֹת
- Those good men: הָאֲנָשִׁים הַטּוֹבִים
- Those good women: הַנָּשִׁים הַטּוֹבוֹת
Chapter 8g – Pronouns
The Syntax of Nouns with Both a Demonstrative Pronoun and a Modifying Adjective

When a noun is modified by both an adjective and a demonstrative pronoun (as in “this is the good book”), the demonstrative will be first (without the definite article) and the noun will be second. The modifying adjective will be last and agree with the noun in gender, number and definiteness.

This is the good man.

These are the good men.

That is the good woman.

Those are the good women.
The form of this word *does not change* in order to indicate the gender or number of its antecedent. It may appear with or without Maqqef. When functioning as a relative pronoun introducing a relative clause, it immediately follows the noun it is modifying.

- **הַגָּן** – בְּתוֹךְ אֲשֶׁר הָעֵץ (the tree *that* (is) in the middle of the garden)
- **הַשָּׁמְחַת** – אֲשֶׁר תַּ הֶהָרִים (the mountains *that* (are) under the heavens)
- **הַמֶּ֫לֶךְ** – אֲשֶׁר בָּיִת יְהוָה (the king *whom* you chose)
- **דָּוִד** – בְּבֵית אֲשֶׁר (David, *who* (is) in the house of the Lord)
Chapter 8i – Pronouns
Interrogative Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hebrew</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>מי</td>
<td>Who?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>מה</td>
<td>What?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interrogative pronouns are used to ask a question. These pronouns do not inflect and can appear with or without Maqqef. The vocalization of מה may change slightly (מה or מה). When spelled מה, a Daghesh Forte will usually appear in the first consonant of the following word.

מי שמה  What (is) his name?
מי עשה  What have you done?
מי חלום  What (is) this dream?
מי אתה  Who (are) you?
מי איש  Who (is) this man?
מי אנשי  Who (are) these men?
The interrogative particle is prefixed to the first word of the sentence. Compare the following examples. The first example is a statement. The second example is a question because the interrogative particle has been prefixed to the first word of the sentence.

шей למלך אתיהבנה The king sent the prophet.

шей הלך אתיהבנה Did the king send the prophet?

The Spelling of the Particle

1. הֲ before most consonants as in the above example
2. הַ before gutturals or any consonant with Shewa
3. הֶ before gutturals with Qamets
To avoid confusing the interrogative particle and the definite article in Hebrew, remember the following clues.

1. The Hateph Pathach (ַ) of the interrogative particle is not the spelling of the definite article (ַ)  

2. The interrogative particle does not normally have an associated Daghesh Forte as does the definite article.  

3. With some frequency, the interrogative particle is prefixed to a verbal form which, of course, will not take a definite article.
Chapter 81 – Pronouns  
The Ten Most Frequent Interrogatives

יה prefixed to the first word of a question (664)
מה what? also spelled מַה and מֶה (571)
מי who? (424)
מש why? also spelled לָמָה (178)
מד why? (72)
איה how? (61)
איך where? (52)
מא when? (43)
מא how long? (42)
מא where? (33)