

Chapter 9a – Pronominal Suffixes

Introduction

1. **Pronominal suffixes** are pronouns that are **suffixed** to nouns, prepositions or the definite direct object marker (and verbs to be studied later).
2. Pronominal suffixes can be either **possessive** (my, your, his, her, our, their) or **objective** (me, you, him, her, us, them).
3. When appearing on nouns, pronominal suffixes are **possessive** (as in “his book” or “her wisdom”). When appearing on prepositions or the definite direct object marker (and verbs), they are **objective** (as in “to them” or “them”).
4. All pronominal suffixes have **person** (first, second, third), **gender** (masculine, feminine, common) and **number** (singular, plural).
5. In Hebrew, there are two sets of pronominal suffixes: **Type 1** and **Type 2**. The suffixes of each set have the same possessive and objective translation values. In general, Type 1 suffixes occur with singular nouns and the definite direct object marker. Type 2 suffixes occur with plural nouns. Prepositions may take either type of suffix.



Chapter 9b – Pronominal Suffixes

Translating Pronominal Suffixes

1. When attached to nouns, *pronominal suffixes are possessive* as these two examples with סוס (horse) illustrate.

סוֹסְךָ *your (ms) horse*

סוֹסֶיךָ *your (ms) horses*

2. When attached to prepositions, *pronominal suffixes are objective* as these two examples with לְ (to) illustrate.

לְךָ *to you (ms)*

לְכֶם *to you (mp)*

3. When attached to the definite direct object marker (אֶת/את־), *pronominal suffixes are objective*.

אֹתוֹ *him*

אֹתָם *them (mp)*



Chapter 9c – Pronominal Suffixes

Type 1 and Type 2

	Type 1 Suffixes	Type 2 Suffixes	Translation Possessive/Objective
1cs	יְ	יְ	my / me
2ms	ךָ	יְךָ	your / you
2fs	ךִּ	יְךִּ	your / you
3ms	וֹ	יּוֹ	his / him
3fs	הָ	יְהָ	her / her
1cp	נוּ	יְנוּ	our / us
2mp	כֶּם	יְכֶם	your / you
2fp	כֻּן	יְכֻן	your / you
3mp	הֶם	יְהֶם	their / them
3fp	הֵן	יְהֵן	their / them



Chapter 9d – Pronominal Suffixes

Alternate Type 1 Suffixes

	<i>Type 1 Suffix</i>		<i>Alternate Form</i>
<i>1cs</i>	יְ	➤	נִי
<i>3ms</i>	וֹ	➤	הוּ
<i>3fs</i>	הָ	➤	הָּ
<i>3mp</i>	הֶם	➤	הֶם
<i>3fp</i>	הֵן	➤	הֵן



Chapter 9e – Pronominal Suffixes

Distinguishing Between Type 1 and Type 2

There are many similarities between Type 1 and Type 2 suffixes. Note, however, that all Type 2 suffixes have ך (Yod) as part of their spelling. The presence of this ך will enable you to distinguish between the two types.

Type 1

סוּסֵנוּ

our horse

סוּסֵכֶם

your (mp) horse

Type 2

סוּסֵינּוּ

our horses

סוּסֵיכֶם

your (mp) horses



Chapter 9f – Pronominal Suffixes

Masculine Nouns

Type 1 Suffixes

Noun ms

1cs	סוּסִי	my horse
2ms	סוּסֶיךָ	your horse
2fs	סוּסֶיךָ	your horse
3ms	סוּסָיו	his horse
3fs	סוּסֶיהָ	her horse
1cp	סוּסֵינוּ	our horse
2mp	סוּסֵיכֶם	your horse
2fp	סוּסֵיכֶן	your horse
3mp	סוּסֵיהֶם	their horse
3fp	סוּסֵיהֶן	their horse

Type 2 Suffixes

Noun mp

	סוּסֵי	my horses
	סוּסֵיךָ	your horses
	סוּסֵיךָ	your horses
	סוּסָיו	his horses
	סוּסֵיהָ	her horses
	סוּסֵינוּ	our horses
	סוּסֵיכֶם	your horses
	סוּסֵיכֶן	your horses
	סוּסֵיהֶם	their horses
	סוּסֵיהֶן	their horses

Note: When pronominal suffixes are added to masculine plural nouns, the masculine plural ending (ים) is dropped. With the absence of this ending, a masculine noun is recognizable as plural only by the use of Type 2 pronominal suffixes.



Chapter 9g – Pronominal Suffixes

Distinguishing Between Type 1 and Type 2 1cs Suffixes

Be careful to note the important distinction between the 1cs suffixes on singular and plural nouns. The 1cs suffix is spelled as a Hireq Yod in Type 1 with singular nouns and as a Pathach Yod in Type 2 with plural nouns.

סוּיִ

my horse

סוּיִ

my horses



Chapter 9h – Pronominal Suffixes

Feminine Nouns

Type 1 Suffixes

Noun fs

1cs	תּוֹרָתִי	my law
2ms	תּוֹרַתְּךָ	your law
2fs	תּוֹרַתְּךָ	your law
3ms	תּוֹרָתוֹ	his law
3fs	תּוֹרָתָהּ	her law
1cp	תּוֹרַתֵּינוּ	our law
2mp	תּוֹרַתְכֶם	your law
2fp	תּוֹרַתְכֶן	your law
3mp	תּוֹרַתָּם	their law
3fp	תּוֹרַתָּן	their law

Type 2 Suffixes

Noun fp

תּוֹרוֹתַי	my laws
תּוֹרוֹתֶיךָ	your laws
תּוֹרוֹתֶיךָ	your laws
תּוֹרוֹתָיו	his laws
תּוֹרוֹתֶיהָ	her laws
תּוֹרוֹתֵינוּ	our laws
תּוֹרוֹתֵיכֶם	your laws
תּוֹרוֹתֵיכֶן	your laws
תּוֹרוֹתֵיהֶם	their laws
תּוֹרוֹתֵיהֶן	their laws

Note: When a **feminine singular** noun ending in הָ (as in תּוֹרָה) receives a pronominal suffix, the הָ is replaced by תּ (תּוֹרַתְּךָ becomes תּוֹרַתְּךָ) before the suffix.



Chapter 9i – Pronominal Suffixes

Identifying a Noun as Feminine Plural

תּוֹרוֹתַיִךְ

your (ms) laws

This noun (תּוֹרָה) is easy to identify as a plural. Unlike masculine plural nouns which drop the diagnostic plural ending (ים) with the addition of a pronominal suffix, feminine nouns retain the plural ending (ות) before a suffix. Additionally, the יֶיְךָ ending is a Type 2 suffix which further identifies the noun as plural.



Chapter 9j – Pronominal Suffixes

Spelling Changes in Nouns

Most nouns will experience vowel changes with the addition of pronominal suffixes.

<i>Lexical Form</i>		<i>Nouns with Suffixes</i>	<i>Translation</i>
דָּבָר	>	דְּבָרִי	my word
דָּבָר	>	דְּבָרֵיהֶן	their (fp) words
בַּיִת	>	בֵּיתְךָ	your (ms) house
מָוֶת	>	מוֹתוֹ	his death

Despite these vowel changes, you should be able to identify most nouns with suffixes if you: (1) memorize all Type 1 and Type 2 suffixes; (2) build a frequency vocabulary; and (3) become familiar with the use of a standard lexicon and the format of noun and preposition entries.



Chapter 9k – Pronominal Suffixes

Monosyllabic Nouns

Type 1 Suffixes

Noun ms

1cs	אָחִי	my brother
2ms	אָחִיךָ	your brother
2fs	אָחִיךְ	your brother
3ms	אָחִיו	his brother
3fs	אָחִיהָ	her brother
1cp	אָחֵינוּ	our brother
2mp	אָחֵיכֶם	your brother
2fp	אָחֵיכֶן	your brother
3mp	אָחֵיהֶם	their brother
3fp	אָחֵיהֶן	their brother

Type 2 Suffixes

Noun mp

	אָחֵי	my brothers
	אָחֵיךָ	your brothers
	אָחֵיךְ	your brothers
	אָחֵיו	his brothers
	אָחֵיהָ	her brothers
	אָחֵינוּ	our brothers
	אָחֵיכֶם	your brothers
	אָחֵיכֶן	your brothers
	אָחֵיהֶם	their brothers
	אָחֵיהֶן	their brothers

Note: Certain **singular monosyllabic nouns** add ם to their stem before a pronominal suffix. The addition of this ם to singular nouns with Type 1 suffixes may cause them to be confused with plural nouns having Type 2 suffixes. The singular noun paradigm has Hireq Yod (אָחִיךָ, your brother). The plural noun paradigm varies its vowel but it is never Hireq Yod (אָחֵיךָ, your brothers).



Chapter 9I – Pronominal Suffixes

Studying Prepositions with Pronominal Suffixes

1. When prepositions take pronominal suffixes, they are objective rather than possessive. In other words, they usually function as the object of the preposition as in “with *her*” or “to *them*.”
2. Some prepositions take Type 1 suffixes and others take Type 2 suffixes.

Type 1 with לְ

לְךָ

to **you** (ms)

Type 2 with עַל

עַלְיָךְ

on **you** (ms)

3. Don't be concerned with a preposition's preference for Type 1 or Type 2 suffixes. *On prepositions, the translation value is the same for both types.*

Type 1 with לְ

לוֹ

to **him**

Type 2 with עַל

עַלָּיו

on **him**



Chapter 9m – Pronominal Suffixes

Prepositions לְ and עַל

	<i>Type 1 Suffixes</i>	<i>Type 2 Suffixes</i>
1cs	לִי to me	עָלַי on me
2ms	לְךָ to you	עָלֶיךָ on you
2fs	לְךָ to you	עָלֶיךָ on you
3ms	לוֹ to him	עָלָיו on him
3fs	לָהּ to her	עָלֶיהָ on her
1cp	לָנוּ to us	עָלֵינוּ on us
2mp	לְכֶם to you	עָלֵיכֶם on you
2fp	לְכֶן to you	עָלֵיכֶן on you
3mp	לָהֶם to them	עָלֵיהֶם on them
3fp	לָהֶן to them	עָלֵיהֶן on them

Note: The prepositions לְ (to, for), בְּ (in, on), עִם (with) and אִתְּ (with) all take Type 1 suffixes. Prepositions that take Type 2 suffixes include: עַל (on, upon), אֶל (to, for), תַּחַת (under) and אַחֲרַי (after).



Chapter 9n – Pronominal Suffixes

Prepositions כּ and מן

כּ

מן

1cs	כְּמֹנִי	like me	מִמֶּנִּי	from me
2ms	כְּמוֹךָ	like you	מִמְּךָ	from you
2fs	כְּמוֹךְ	like you	מִמֶּךָ	from you
3ms	כְּמוֹהוּ	like him	מִמֶּנּוּ	from him
3fs	כְּמוֹהָ	like her	מִמֶּנָּה	from her
1cp	כְּמֹנוּ	like us	מִמֶּנּוּ	from us
2mp	כְּכֶם	like you	מִמְּכֶם	from you
2fp	כְּכֶן	like you	מִמְּכֶן	from you
3mp	כְּהֶם	like them	מִמֶּהֶם	from them
3fp	כְּהֵן	like them	מִמֶּהֵן	from them

Note: With the preposition כּ, the forms with singular and 1cp suffixes exhibit a longer, alternate spelling of the preposition (כְּמֹנִי). With the preposition מן, forms with singular and 1cp suffixes also exhibit a longer, alternate spelling of the preposition.



Chapter 9o – Pronominal Suffixes

The Definite Direct Object Marker אֶת/את־

The object marker אֶת/את־ takes Type 1 pronominal suffixes and it is translated as a personal pronoun in the objective or accusative case.

זָכַר אֶת־ם

*He remembered **them***



Chapter 9p – Pronominal Suffixes

Distinguishing Between the Definite Direct Object Marker and the Preposition אֶת/את־ with Suffixes

	Object Marker	Preposition
1cs	אֶתִּי me	אִתִּי with me
2ms	אֶתְּךָ you	אִתְּךָ with you
2fs	אֶתְּךָ you	אִתְּךָ with you
3ms	אֹתוֹ him	אִתּוֹ with him
3fs	אֹתָּהּ her	אִתָּהּ with her
1cp	אֶתָּנוּ us	אִתָּנוּ with us
2mp	אֶתְּכֶם you	אִתְּכֶם with you
2fp	אֶתְּכֶן you	אִתְּכֶן with you
3mp	אֹתָם them	אִתָּם with them
3fp	אֹתָן them	אִתָּן with them

Note: The object marker is distinguished by a Holem over the initial consonant (אֶתִּי). It is Seghol in the 2mp and 2fp forms (אֶתְּכֶם). The preposition is distinguished by Hireq under the initial consonant and Daghesh Forte in the ת (אִתִּי).



Chapter 9q – Pronominal Suffixes

The Preposition עִם and the Noun עַמֵּי

עִם

1cs	עִמִּי	with me
2ms	עִמָּךָ	with you
2fs	עִמְּךָ	with you
3ms	עִמּוֹ	with him
3fs	עִמָּהּ	with her
1cp	עִמָּנוּ	with us
2mp	עִמָּכֶם	with you
2fp	עִמָּכֶן	with you
3mp	עִמָּם	with them
3fp	עִמָּן	with them

עַמֵּי

עַמֵּי	my people
עַמֵּיךָ	your people
עַמֵּיךָ	your people
עַמּוֹ	his people
עַמָּהּ	her people
עַמָּנוּ	our people
עַמָּכֶם	your people
עַמָּכֶן	your people
עַמָּם	their people
עַמָּן	their people

Note: The preposition has Hireq (עִמִּי, with me) and the noun has Pathach (עַמֵּי, my people). Both words take a Daghes Forte in the ם when pronominal suffixes are added.



Chapter 9r – Pronominal Suffixes

Summary Chart

	Type 1 Suffixes	Type 1 Alternate	Type 2 Suffixes	Translation Possessive/Objective
1cs	יְ	נִי	יְ	my / me
2ms	כֶּ		יְכֶ֫	your / you
2fs	כִּי		יְכִי־	your / you
3ms	וֹ	הוּ	יּוֹ	his / him
3fs	הָ	הָ	יְהָ֫	her / her
1cp	נוּ		יְנוּ־	our / us
2mp	כֶּם		יְכֶם־	your / you
2fp	כִּן		יְכִן־	your / you
3mp	הֶם	הֶם	יְהֶם־	their / them
3fp	הֵן	הֵן	יְהֵן־	their / them

