

Chapter 19a – Pronominal Suffixes

Introduction

You already know that when a pronoun is the direct object of a verb, it is commonly attached to the definite direct object marker (ישמר אתנו). There is, however, another way of indicating this grammatical construction. The pronoun may also be added directly to the verb as a pronominal suffix (ישמרנו).

ישמר אתנו he will keep us

ישמרנו he will keep us

שפט אתך he judged you

שפִּטְנוֹ he judged you



Chapter 19b – Pronominal Suffixes

Reviewing Type 1 Suffixes

In general, verbs use Type 1 pronominal suffixes with an objective translation value.

	<i>Type 1 Suffixes</i>	<i>Type 1 Alternate</i>	<i>Objective Translation</i>
1cs	יְ	נִי	me
2ms	כָּ		you
2fs	כִּי		you
3ms	וֹ	הוּ	him (it)
3fs	הָ	הָּ	her (it)
1cp	נוּ		us
2mp	כֶּם		you
2fp	כֶּן		you
3mp	הֶם	ם	them
3fp	הֶן	ן	them



Chapter 19c – Pronominal Suffixes

Suffixes Attached to the Qal Perfect 3ms

	<i>Qal Perfect 3ms</i>	<i>Translation</i>
1cs	קָטַלְנִי	he killed me
2ms	קָטַלְךָ	he killed you
2fs	קָטַלְיָךְ	he killed you
3ms	קָטַלְוֹ	he killed him (it)
3fs	קָטַלְהָ	he killed her (it)
1cp	קָטַלְנוּ	he killed us
2mp	קָטַלְכֶם	he killed you
2fp	קָטַלְכֶן	he killed you
3mp	קָטַלְהֶם	he killed them
3fp	קָטַלְהֶן	he killed them



Chapter 19d – Pronominal Suffixes

The Spelling of the Qal Perfect with Pronominal Suffixes

	<i>Qal Perfect Without Suffixes</i>	<i>Qal Perfect Before Suffixes</i>
3ms	קָטַל	קָטַלְךָ
3fs	קָטַלְהָ	קָטַלְתְּ
2ms	קָטַלְתָּ	קָטַלְתָּ
2fs	קָטַלְתְּ	קָטַלְתְּ
1cs	קָטַלְתִּי	קָטַלְתִּי
3cp	קָטַלוּ	קָטַלוּ
2mp	קָטַלְתֶּם	
2fp	קָטַלְתֶּן	
1cp	קָטַלְנוּ	קָטַלְנוּ



Chapter 19e – Pronominal Suffixes

Understanding the Process of Adding Suffixes to Qal Perfect Verbs

1. מְצָאָהּ (מְצָאֵת) + נוּ > מְצָאֵתֵנוּ she (it) found **us**
2. יָדַעְתָּ (יָדַעְתָּ) + וּ > יָדַעְתָּו you knew **him**
3. נָתַתִּי (נָתַתִּי) + הָ > נָתַתִּיהָ I gave **her (it)**
You gave **her (it)**
4. סָבְבוּ (סָבְבוּ) + נִי > סָבְבוּנִי they surrounded **me**
5. יָדַעְנוּ (יָדַעְנוּ) + ם > יָדַעְנוּם we knew **them**



Chapter 19f – Pronominal Suffixes

Nun-Suffixes with the Imperfect

There are three additional suffixes that occur on the Imperfect with some frequency. These suffixes may be called Nun-suffixes because of their distinctive forms.

	Type 1 Suffix	Nun- Suffix	Example	Translation
2ms	ך	ֶךָ	יִלְכְּדֶךָ	he will capture you
3ms	הוֹ/וּ	ֶנּוּ	יִלְכְּדֶנּוּ	he will capture him
3fs	הָ/הָ	ֶנָּה	יִלְכְּדֶנָּה	he will capture her



Chapter 19g – Pronominal Suffixes

The Spelling of the Qal Imperfect with Pronominal Suffixes

	<i>Qal Imperfect Without Suffixes</i>	<i>Qal Imperfect Before Suffixes</i>
3ms	יִקְטֹל	יִקְטֹלְ
3fs	תִּקְטֹל	תִּקְטֹלְ
2ms	תִּקְטֹל	תִּקְטֹלְ
2fs	תִּקְטֹלִי	תִּקְטֹלִי
1cs	אֶקְטֹל	אֶקְטֹלְ
3mp	יִקְטֹלוּ	יִקְטֹלוּ
3fp	תִּקְטֹלְנָה	
2mp	תִּקְטֹלוּ	תִּקְטֹלוּ
2fp	תִּקְטֹלְנָה	
1cp	נִקְטֹל	נִקְטֹלְ



Chapter 19h – Pronominal Suffixes

Understanding the Process of Adding Suffixes to Qal Imperfect Verbs

1. יִקְטֹל + הוּ > יִקְטֹלֶהוּ he will kill **him**
2. יִשְׁמֹר + הוּ > יִשְׁמֹרְךָ he will observe **you**
3. יִשְׁלַח + הוּ > יִשְׁלַחְךָ he will send **you**
4. יִרְאֶה + הִיא > יִרְאֶהָ he will see **her**



Chapter 19i – Pronominal Suffixes

Adding Suffixes to the Qal Imperative

1. The Imperative 2ms form קְטַל is spelled קְטַלְ (with Qamets Hatuf) before a pronominal suffix.

שָׁמַר + ם > שָׁמַרְם (You) observe *them*!
שָׁפַט + נִי > שָׁפַטְנִי (You) judge *me*!

2. The Imperative 2fs (קְטַלִּי) and 2mp (קְטַלוּ), both ending in a vowel, do not change before a pronominal suffix.

תִּפְּשׂוּ + ם > תִּפְּשׂוּם (You) seize *them*!
דַּרְשׁוּ + נִי > דַּרְשׁוּנִי (You) seek *me*!

3. Imperatives with a Pathach stem vowel (שָׁמַע) lengthen Pathach to Qamets (שָׁמַעַ) before pronominal suffixes.

שָׁמַע + נִי > שָׁמַעַנִי (You) hear *me*!
גָּאֵל + הָ > גָּאֵלָהּ (You) redeem *her (it)*!



Chapter 19j – Pronominal Suffixes

Parsing

When parsing verbs with pronominal suffixes, you will need to identify the verb *and the person, gender and number of the suffix.*

נִתְּתִיךָ Qal Perfect 1cs נָתַן with 2ms suffix

יִלְכֹּדְנוּ Qal Imperfect 3ms לָכַד with 3ms suffix



Chapter 19k – Pronominal Suffixes

Advanced Information: Summary of Pronominal Suffixes on the Perfect

The following chart includes the basic and most frequently attested spellings of pronominal suffixes on Perfect verbs. In this chart, connecting vowels are included and suffixes are placed in one of two categories: (1) those attached to Perfect forms ending in a consonant; and (2) those attached to Perfect forms ending in a vowel.

	<i>Suffixes after Consonant</i>	<i>Suffixes after Vowel</i>	<i>Objective Translation</i>
1cs	נִי־ / נִי־ / נִי־	נִי	me
2ms	ְךָ / ךָּ / ךֵּ	ְךָ	you
2fs	ְךָ / ךָּ	ְךָ	you
3ms	וֹ / וְ / וֹ / וְ	וֹ / וְ	him (it)
3fs	ָהָ / ךָּ	ָהָ	her (it)
1cp	נוֹ / נוֹ	נוֹ	us
2mp	ְכֶם	ְכֶם	you
2fp	–	–	you
3mp	ֵם / ךָּ	ֵם	them
3fp	וֹ	וֹ	them



Chapter 19I – Pronominal Suffixes

Advanced Information: Summary of Pronominal Suffixes on the Imperfect

The following chart includes the basic and most frequently attested spellings of pronominal suffixes on Imperfect verbs. In this chart, connecting vowels are included.

	<i>Type 1 Suffixes with Imperfect</i>	<i>Nun-Suffixes with Imperfect</i>	<i>Objective Translation</i>
1cs	נִי־ / נִי־ / נִי־	נִי־	me
2ms	ךָ־ / כָּ־ / כֵּ־ / כֶּ־	ךָ־	you
2fs	ךִי־ / כִי־		you
3ms	הוֹ־ / הוּ־	נוֹ־	him (it)
3fs	הָ־ / הֵ־ / הִ־	נָה־	her (it)
1cp	נוֹ־ / נוֹ־	נוֹ־	us
2mp	כֶּם־		you
2fp	–		you
3mp	ם־ / ם־		them
3fp	ן־		them

