

# Chapter 8a – Pronouns

## Independent Personal Pronouns

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
1 <i>com</i>	אֲנִי, אֲנֹכִי I	אֲנֵינוּ we
2 <i>masc</i>	אַתָּה you	אַתֶּם you
2 <i>fem</i>	אַתְּ you	אַתֶּנָּה you
3 <i>masc</i>	הוא he/it	הֵם, הֵמָּה they
3 <i>fem</i>	היא, הִוא she/it	הֵן, הֵנָּה they

### 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**.



# Chapter 8b – Pronouns

## The Use of Independent Personal 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.

אֲנִי יְהוָה I am Yahweh (the Lord).

הוא נביא צדיק He is a righteous prophet.

אתה מלך טוב You (2ms) are a good king.

אחים אנחנו We are brothers.

היא אשה חכמה She is a wise woman.

אתם בעיר הגדולה You (2mp) are in the great city.



# Chapter 8c – Pronouns

## Demonstratives

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masc</i>	זֶה this	אֵלֶּה these
<i>Fem</i>	זֹאת this	אֵלֶּה these
<i>Masc</i>	הוא that	הֵם, הֵנָּה those
<i>Fem</i>	היא that	הֵן, הֵנָּה those

### 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 (הוא and היא) are identical to the third person masculine and feminine singular independent personal pronouns.
3. The demonstrative אֵלֶּה (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.

הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה this man

הָאִשָּׁה הַזֹּאת this woman

הָאִישׁ הַהוּא that man

הָאִשָּׁה הַהִיא that woman

הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה these men

הַנְּשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה these women

הָאֲנָשִׁים הָהֵם those men

הַנְּשִׁים הַהֵנָּה 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.

זֶה הָאִישׁ This is the man.

זֹאת הָאִשָּׁה This is the woman.

הוּא הָאִישׁ That is the man.

הִיא הָאִשָּׁה That is the woman.

אֵלֶּה הָאֲנָשִׁים These are the men.

אֵלֶּה הַנְּשִׁים These are the women.

הֵם הָאֲנָשִׁים Those are the men.

הֵנָּה הַנְּשִׁים Those are the women.



# Chapter 8f – Pronouns

## Nouns with Both a Demonstrative Adjective and a Modifying Adjective

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.

הָאִישׁ הַטּוֹב הַזֶּה this good man

הָאִשָּׁה הַטּוֹבָה הַזֹּאת this good woman

הָאִישׁ הַטּוֹב הַהוּא that good man

הָאִשָּׁה הַטּוֹבָה הַהִיא that good woman

הָאֲנָשִׁים הַטּוֹבִים הָאֵלֶּה these good men

הַנְּשִׁים הַטּוֹבוֹת הָאֵלֶּה these good women

הָאֲנָשִׁים הַטּוֹבִים הָהֵם those good men

הַנְּשִׁים הַטּוֹבוֹת הָהֵנָּה those good women



# 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

זֶה הָאִישׁ הַטּוֹב This is the good man.

אֵלֶּה הָאֲנָשִׁים הַטּוֹבִים These are the good men.

הִיא הָאִשָּׁה הַטּוֹבָה That is the good woman.

הֵנָּה הַנָּשִׁים הַטּוֹבוֹת Those are the good women.



# Chapter 8h – Pronouns

## The Relative Pronoun

אֲשֶׁר

(who, which, that)

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.

הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר בְּתוֹךְ-הַגֶּן the tree *that* (is) in the middle of the garden

הַהָרִים אֲשֶׁר-תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם the mountains *that* (are) under the heavens

הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר בָּחַרְתָּם the king *whom* you chose

דָּוִד אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית יְהוָה David, *who* (is) in the house of the Lord





# Chapter 8i – Pronouns

## Interrogative Pronouns

מִי Who?

מָה What?

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

מֶה-נִשְׁמוֹ What (is) his name?

מָה-עָשִׂיתָ What have you done?

מָה הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה What (is) this dream?

מִי-אַתָּה Who (are) you?

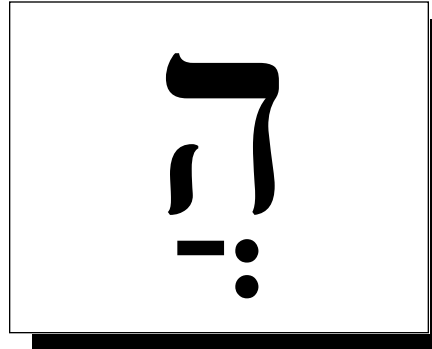
מִי-הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה Who (is) this man?

מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה Who (are) these men?



# Chapter 8j – Pronouns

## The Interrogative Particle



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.

שָׁלַח הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־הַנָּבִיא    The king sent the prophet.

הֲשָׁלַח הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־הַנָּבִיא    Did the king send the prophet?

## The Spelling of the Particle

1. הֲ before most consonants as in the above example
2. הֵ before gutturals or any consonant with Shewa
3. הֶ before gutturals with Qamets



# Chapter 8k – Pronouns

## Confusing the Interrogative Particle and the Definite Article

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 8I – Pronouns

## The Ten Most Frequent Interrogatives

הָ prefixed to the first word of a question (664)

מָה what? also spelled מַה and מֶה (571)

מִי who? (424)

לָמָּה why? also spelled לְמָה (178)

מִדּוּעַ why? (72)

אֵיךְ how? (61)

אַיֵּה where? (52)

מַתִּי when? (43)

אַנָּה where? עַד-אַנָּה how long? (42)

אַי where? (33)

