

Prepositions

Preposition

A word placed before a noun or pronoun showing its relationship to the other part of the sentence.

Hebrew prepositions are similar in use to English

He walked *to* the city הָלַךְ אֶל הָעִיר

He walked *on* the land הָלַךְ עַל הָאָרֶץ

Independent and Inseparable Prepositions

Independent prepositions are separate like English prepositions, preceding the noun or pronoun

Within בְּתוֹךְ

Before לְפָנַי

From מִן

With עִם

The Maqqef is almost always used with אֶל and עַל

He walked *to* the city הָלַךְ אֶל-הָעִיר

Inseparable prepositions attach to the noun or pronoun

בְּ (“in,” “at,” “with”)

כְּ (“like,” “as,” “according to”)

לְ (“to,” “for”)

Prepositions Vowels

Regular vowel is a Sheva (◌ְ)

When the Word Starts with a Sheva, the vowel becomes a Chireq (◌ִ)

The Vowel shortens when the word begins with *chatef-patach* (◌ֿ), *chatef-segol* (◌ֿֿ), or *chatef-gamets* (◌ֿֿֿ)

Exceptions

When a word begins with *chatef-segol* (◌ֿ) under an א, sometimes the vowel under the א will drop, in which case the vowel under the preposition will be *tsere* (◌ֿ)

With The Definite Article ה

The consonant of the preposition is replaced by the definite article.

in a day בַּיּוֹם in the day הַיּוֹם

to hills לְהַרִּים to the hills הַהַרִּים

The Preposition מן

May be independent or inseparable

Before definite nouns it is usually an independent use with a maqef

Before indefinite nouns it is typically an inseparable use

The nun (נ) is dropped

The nun (נ) is indicated with a strong dagesh in the following consonant

from a hand מִיַּד

Since a guttural does not take a dagesh, the nun (נ) drops, and the vowel lengthens:

chireq (◌ֿ) is lengthened to tsere (◌ֿ)

from a father מֵאֵב