

Biblical Hebrew 102

Introduction to Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 16¹

שַׁעוּר ט"ז¹

Nominal Sentences & Personal Pronouns

Learning to Translate



A small synagogue replica constructed in the much the same way the village synagogue was during the time of Yeshua. Nazareth Village, Israel.

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.” Luke 4:16 ESV.

What we will learn in Lesson 16

- 16.01 What is a nominal sentence?
- 16.02 Exercises with nominal sentences
- 16.03 What are singular personal pronouns?
- 16.04 Homework Exercises with singular personal pronouns
- 16.05 Three Essential fundamentals of Scripture study
- 16.06 Introduction to translating the Biblical text
- 16.07 Answers to Homework exercises
- 16.08 Vocabulary for Lesson 16
- 16.09 Weekly Parasha reading

¹The alpha-numeric Hebrew numeral for 16 is written as ט"ז (9+7, rather than 10+6 in order not to use a form or part of the Name of God with the י')

16.01 What is a nominal sentence?

A Hebrew nominal sentence is a simple sentence (or clause) with two or more nouns and has no apparent verb.

An easy way to recognize a nominal sentence is when this sentence (or phrase) is translated into English, the verb “to be” must be added to complete the thought.

For example.

“דָּוִד אִישׁ”. Translating this phrase word-for-word into English, it would be: David man. (The verb ‘is’ needs to be added to the English translation. Thus, it would be: David is a man.)

“הָאָב מֶלֶךְ”. Translating this phrase word-for-word into English, it would be: The father king. (Again, ‘is’ needs to be added. Then, the sentence would be: The father is a king.)

16.02 Exercises with nominal sentences

Examples of nominal sentences (* note: In parsing, I like to add a forward slash (/), separating words.)		
1). תּוֹרָה סֵפֶר	The Torah <u>is</u> a book.	art; N-prop-fs/*N-ms
2). הָאָב מֶלֶךְ	The father <u>is</u> a king.	art; N-ms/N-ms
3). יַעֲקֹב יָלֵד	Jacob <u>is</u> a boy.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
4). רִבְקָה בַת	Rebecca <u>is</u> a daughter.	N-prop-fs/N-fs
5). יִשְׂרָאֵל הָאָרֶץ	Israel <u>is</u> the land.	N-prop-fs/art; N-fs
6). דָּוִד אִישׁ	David <u>is</u> a man.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
7). הַבַּת אִם	The daughter <u>is</u> a mother.	art; N-fs/N-fs
8). אַבְרָהָם אִישׁ	Abraham <u>is</u> a man.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
9). דָּוִד מֶלֶךְ	David <u>is</u> a king.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
10). יְהוָה הָאֱלֹהִים	“YHVH is God” (Joshua 22:34 Literal Standard Version) The LORD is God,” (Joshua 22:34, KJV)	N-prop-ms/N-mp
Write the English or Hebrew translation & abbreviation for the following words (Answers to the exercises on 16.07)		
Fill in Hebrew phrase	Fill in English Translation	Fill in parsing abbreviations Refer to 16.06 for list of abbreviations
1). דָּוִד אִישׁ		N-prop-ms/N-ms
2). הָאָב מֶלֶךְ		art; N-ms/N-ms
3).	David is a king.	
4). יִשְׂרָאֵל הָאָרֶץ		N-prop-fs/art; N-fs
5).	The Torah is a book.	
6). הַבַּת אִם		
7). יַעֲקֹב יָלֵד		N-prop-ms/N-ms
8).	Abraham is a man.	
9). רִבְקָה בַת		
10). יְהוָה הָאֱלֹהִים	YHVH is God. (Joshua 22:34, Literal Standard Version)	

16.03 *What are personal pronouns?*

A personal pronoun replaces or takes the place of a specific noun. (A specific noun is the name of a person, place, or thing.) Personal pronouns eliminate the need for repeating that specific noun.

For example, “Last summer we visited the Temple Mount. It was amazing.” Note: the pronoun “it” refers to “Temple Mount”, which was mentioned in the previous sentence.)

(Note: While these pronouns take the place of the specific noun, they cannot be used as the object of a preposition nor as a direct object.)

English grammar review of singular personal pronouns:

1st person = “I”

2nd person = “you”: when you are speaking directly to an individual

3rd person = “he, she, or it”: when speaking about someone or something.

Example: singular personal pronoun: “I am David.” אֲנִי דָוִד (Note: often a form of the verb “to be” (“am,” in this case) is added to the English translation of the Hebrew sentence.

SINGULAR PERSONAL PRONOUNS			
SINGULAR			
Person	English	Gender	Hebrew
1st person singular (speaker is speaking about himself: “I”)			
1st	I	common: may be either masculine or feminine	אֲנִי אֲנֹכִי*
* Pronouns with an asterisk are the Biblical, classical, or archaic.			
2nd person singular (speaker is speaking directly to someone: “you”)			
2nd	you (singular)	masculine	אַתָּה
This appears to be feminine (because of the הָ), however, it is masculine. ☹️.			
2nd	you (singular)	feminine	אַתְּ
3rd person singular (speaker is speaking about someone or something: “him” or “her” or “it”)			
3rd	he/it	masculine	הוא
3rd	she/it	feminine	היא
			היא*
* Pronouns with an asterisk are the Biblical, classical, or archaic. Note: both הָיָא & הִיא mean ‘she’ and are pronounced היא			

Grammar-made-simple: pronouns

All 1st person pronouns (both singular & plural) begin with “א” – the basis is “אֲנִי” (meaning “I”)

All 2nd person pronouns (both singular & plural) begin with “את” – the basis is “אַתָּה” (meaning “you”)

All 3rd person pronouns (both singular & plural) begin with “ה” – the basis is “הוא” (meaning “he”)

16.04 Homework exercises with singular personal pronouns

Examples of personal pronouns with nominal sentences	
1. היא מצְוָה	It (3fs) is a mitzvah/commandment (3fs).
2. אתָּ רַחֵל	You are Rachel.
3. הוּא יְהוָה	He is YHVH.
4. רִבְקָה אִשָּׁה	Rebecca is a woman.
5. היא יִשְׂרָאֵל	It (3fs) is Israel (3fs).
6. היא יַרְדֵּן	It (3fs) is Jordan (3fs).
7. אתָּה אֱלֹהִים	You are God.
8. אֲנִי דָוִד	I am David.
9. היא סוּסָה	It (3fs) is a mare (fs)
10. אֲנֹכִי שָׂרָה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)	I am Sarah.
11. אֲנִי אִישׁ	I am a man.
12. הוּא הַר	It (3ms) is a mountain (3ms).
13. היא תּוֹרָה	It (3fs) is a Torah (3fs).
14. הוּא סוּס	It (3ms) is a horse (3ms).
15. הוּא רִבְקָה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)	She is Rebecca.

Fill in the blanks below:

- I am David. _____
- He is YHVH. _____
- היא סוּסָה _____ (consider using the English pronoun “it”)
- היא יִשְׂרָאֵל _____ (consider using the English pronoun “it”)
- It is a mountain. (N-ms) _____
- You are God. _____
- הוא רִבְקָה _____ (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)
- It is Jordan. (N-fs) _____
- Rebecca is a woman. _____
- אֲנִי אִישׁ _____
- I am Sarah. _____ (use Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)
- You are Rachel. _____
- It is a Torah. _____
- It is a horse. (N-ms) _____
- It is a mitzvah. (N-fs) _____

16.05 *Three essential fundamentals of Scripture study*

Literal: “What is the word-for-word translation?”

Literal interpretation of the Biblical text is interpreting Scripture as it was written in the original language. It is not deciding that passages are parables nor allegories.

Historical: “What did the passage mean during that time?”

Historical interpretation of the Biblical text is examining the passage within the setting in which it was written - from a social, economic, political, and religious perspective.

Contextual: “Is my understanding of this passage consistent with all of Scripture?”

Contextual interpretation of the Biblical text is examining a word or phrase:

- ¹⁾ within the context of that passage,
- ²⁾ within the book in which it is located, and
- ³⁾ within entire Bible. (It is dangerous to pull out a verse without studying it within the Scripture at large.)

16.06 *Introduction to translation the Biblical text*

We are often asked which translation of the Bible is best. Truthfully, the very best translation is your personal translation. While this concept may seem over-whelming, we are here to help you step-by-step. Good news: we have already begun this process by parsing phrases!

Parsing abbreviations which we will use in Biblical Hebrew 102:

Person

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1st person (I or we) |
| 2 | 2nd person (you singular or you plural) |
| 3 | 3rd person (he, she, or they) |

Gender

- | | |
|---|---|
| m | masculine |
| f | feminine |
| c | common (used for either masculine & feminine) |

Additional abbreviations

- | | |
|----------|---|
| adj | adjective |
| adv | adverb |
| art | article |
| c | common gender |
| conj | conjunction |
| consec | consecutive |
| cstr | construct |
| dem pro | demonstrative pronoun |
| do | definite direct object marker (also abbreviated: DOM or DDOM) |
| inf | infinitive |
| inter | interrogative |
| N | Noun |
| N-prop | Noun-proper (proper noun) |
| part | particle |
| pers pro | personal pronoun |
| (pf) | prefix |
| prep | preposition |

pro	pronoun
ptc	participle
rel	relative pronoun
segh	segholate
(sf)	suffix
V	Verb
wci	vav <i>Conversive</i> Imperfect (also abbreviated: conj-w)
wcp	vav <i>Conversive</i> Perfect

Example of how to utilize parsing

Va'era (וַאֲרָא), & I appeared) - wk 14

Torah reading: וַאֲרָא (שְׁמוֹת, Exodus) Exodus Ex 6:2-9:35

Haftarah reading: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

Apostolic Scripture reading: Rom 9:14-17; 2Cor 6:14-7:1

ב פְּסוּקִים (verse) -- ו פְּרָקִים (chapter) -- וַאֲרָא (Parasha or portion of Torah reading)

Hear *Va'era* read in Hebrew: www.RestoringTorah.org

- Classroom Hebrew reading of Exodus 6:2 & 3 by Les'a (go to link and scroll to appropriate reading):
- Shmuelof reading (wait until 0.13: <https://www.mechon-mamre.org/mp3/t0206.mp3>)

Exodus 6:2

NIV ²God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD [YHVH].

WEB ²God spoke to Moses, and said to him, "I am Yahweh; (World English Bible)

YLT ²And God speaketh unto Moses, and saith unto him, 'I am Jehovah, (Young's Literal Translation)

YOUR TRANSLATION: _____

Steps to parsing

1. Draw lines between the specific Hebrew & English words or phrases
2. Draw vertical lines, signifying where breath marks (or pauses) are
3. Below each Hebrew word in the verses, write the parsing, using the abbreviations
4. Above each Hebrew word write the English word translation
5. **DO NOT FRUSTRATE** yourself by attempting to fill in parsing we've not yet covered in class 😊

Westminster Leningrad Codex: (note: the Hebrew Bible reference is: Ex 6:2 ב, וַאֲרָא, וְיָדַבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ)

YHVH I | To him | and He said | Moses To | God | and said (spoke)
 ב וַיְדַבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ אֱלֹהִים וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי יְהוָה
 N-prop | pers-pro | prep | wci | N-prop | prep | N-prop | wci-pi-3ms

16.07 Answers to Homework Exercises:

ANSWERS to nominal sentences 16.02		
1. דָּוִד אִישׁ	David is a man.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
2. הָאָב מֶלֶךְ	The father is a king.	art; N-ms/N-ms
3. דָּוִד מֶלֶךְ	David is a king.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
4. יִשְׂרָאֵל הָאָרֶץ	Israel is the land.	N-prop-fs/art; N-fs
5. הַתּוֹרָה סֵפֶר	The Torah is a book.	art; N-prop-fs/N-ms
6. הַבַּת אִם	The daughter is a mother.	art; N-fs/N-fs
7. יַעֲקֹב יֶלֶד	Jacob is a boy.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
8. אַבְרָהָם אִישׁ	Abraham is a man.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
9. רֵבֶקָה בַּת	Rebecca is a daughter.	N-prop-fs/N-fs
10. יְהוָה הָאֱלֹהִים	“YHVH is God” (Joshua 22:34) The LORD is God,” (Joshua 22:34, KJV)	N-prop-ms/N-mp

ANSWERS to singular personal pronouns with nominal sentences 16.04	
1. אֲנִי דָוִד	I am David.
2. הוּא יְהוָה	He is YHVH.
3. הִיא סוּסָה	It is a mare. (fs)
4. הִיא יִשְׂרָאֵל	It is Israel.
5. הוּא הַר	It is a mountain.
6. אַתָּה אֱלֹהִים	You are God.
7. הִיא רֵבֶקָה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)	She is Rebecca.
8. הִיא יַרְדֵּן	It is Jordan.
9. רֵבֶקָה אִשָּׁה	Rebecca is a woman.
10. אֲנִי אִישׁ	I am a man.
11. אֲנִי שָׂרָה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)	I am Sarah.
12. אַתָּה רָחֵל	You are Rachel.
13. הִיא תּוֹרָה	It is a Torah.
14. הוּא סוּס	It is a horse.
15. הִיא מִצְוָה	It is a mitzvah.

16.08 *Vocabulary for Lesson 16:*

The words in this lesson include high frequency words in the Biblical text; in other words, words which appear frequently in the TaNaKh.

We encourage you to review these until this vocabulary becomes familiar.

Vocabulary		
סֵפֶר	book	N-ms
תּוֹרָה	Torah	N-prop-fs
מֶלֶךְ	king	N-ms
אָב	father	N-ms
יַעֲקֹב	Jacob	N-prop-ms
יָלֵד	boy	N-ms
רִבְכָּה	Rebecca	N-prop-fs
בַּת	daughter	N-fs
יִשְׂרָאֵל	Israel (the country)	N-prop-fs
דָּוִד	David	N-prop-ms
אִישׁ	man	N-ms
אִם	mother	N-fs
בַּת	daughter	N-fs
אַבְרָהָם	Abraham	N-prop-ms
יְהוָה הָאֱלֹהִים	“YHVH is God” (Joshua 22:34, Literal Standard Version) The LORD is God,” (Joshua 22:34, KJV)	N-prop-ms/N-mp

16.09 *Weekly Parasha reading* (go to <https://www.faithfulstewardship.org/bible-readings-schedule/>)

Challenge: try following the example in 16.06 of parsing the first verse of this Parasha.

Remember what the Roman statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43BC) said:
'Repetition is the mother of learning.'