

Biblical Hebrew 102

Introduction to Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 15¹

שְׁעוֹר ט"ו

Introduction to Inseparable Prepositions



“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path,” Ps 119:105.

What we will learn in Lesson 15

- 15.01 *Review* prepositions
- 15.02 *Review* stand-alone propositions (aka independent propositions)
- 15.03 Introduction to inseparable prepositions
- 15.04 Exercises with inseparable prepositions
- 15.05 Translation exercises with both inseparable & stand-alone prepositions
- 15.06 Did you know?
- 15.07 Answers to exercise 15.05
- 15.08 Weekly Parasha reading
- 15.09 Vocabulary words for Lesson 15

¹The alpha-numeric Hebrew numeral for 15 is written as ט"ו (9+6, rather than 10+5 in order not to use the Name of God with the יו)

15.01 Review prepositions

A preposition is a word that provides additional information about the noun or pronoun to which it relates. For example: the book is *on* the table. (The preposition is *on*).

15.02 Review stand-alone prepositions (aka independent prepositions)

First, let's learn independent, or stand-alone, prepositions. These are words by themselves.

- Examples of independent or stand-alone prepositions:

עַל (on, upon*), אֶל (to, for), תַּחַת (under), & אַחֲרַי (after)

*** Note:** Context is important. Hebrew prepositions are translated using various English words. Check context carefully.

- Examples of independent prepositions in a phrase:

before the father = לְפָנַי הָאָב

after the man = אַחֲרַי הָאִישׁ

until Israel = עַד יִשְׂרָאֵל

to the mountains = אֶל הַהָרִים

from the Torah = מִן הַתּוֹרָה

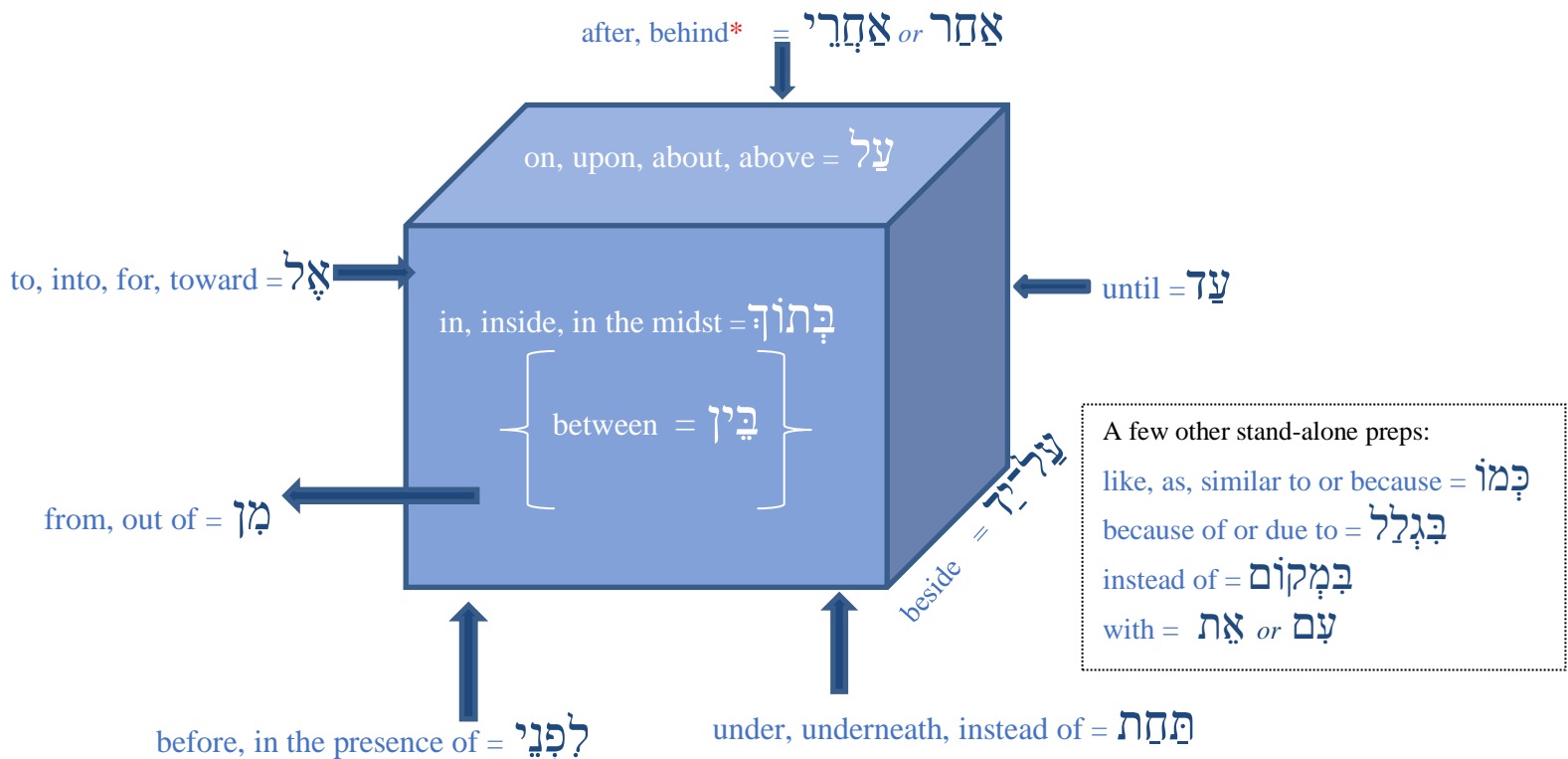
on the land = עַל הָאָרֶץ

under a mare (female horse) = תַּחַת סוּסָה

like (or similar to)+ a king = כְּמוֹ מֶלֶךְ

inside the heart (a physical condition) = בְּתוֹךְ הַלֵּב

We encourage you to refer to the cube below often & even memorize it:



15.03 Introduction to inseparable prepositions

The second type of preposition is called the inseparable preposition.

Basic inseparable prepositions are כּ (in); כְּ (like, as, similar to); לְ (to); & מִ (from, out of). Unlike stand-alone prepositions, inseparable prepositions cannot be separated from the noun or the pronoun to which they are attached.

- Examples of inseparable prepositions in a phrase:

in + a land = אֶרֶץ + כּ → בְּאֶרֶץ

to + Israel = יִשְׂרָאֵל + לְ → לְיִשְׂרָאֵל

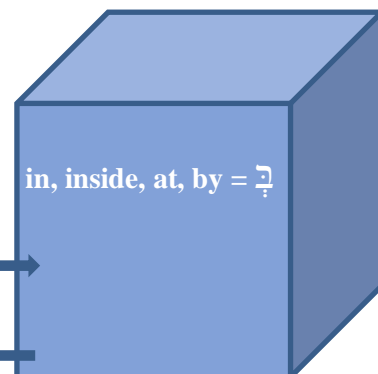
like + a king = מֶלֶךְ + כְּ → כְּמֶלֶךְ

from + a house = בַּיִת + מִ → מִבַּיִת

like, as, similar to = כְּ

to, into, for, toward = לְ

from, out of = מִ



15.04 Exercises with inseparable prepositions

Write the English or Hebrew translation & abbreviation for the following words		
Fill in with Hebrew word/phrase	Fill in blanks with English Translation	Fill in blanks with abbreviations
1. כּ	like or as	prep (preposition)
2. כְּסוּס	like a horse	prep; N-ms
3. כְּמוֹ מֶלֶךְ	like a king	prep; N-ms
4. לְ	to or for	prep
5. לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	to Israel (to a male named Israel)	prep; N-prop (proper noun). N-ms (note: the name Israel, a man, is masculine; however, the name of Israel, the country, is feminine)
6.	to a Torah	
7.	to Sarah	
8. בְּ	in, inside, at, by	
9.	in a Torah	
10.	in a man	
11.	in a land	

ANSWERS to exercise above		
1. כּ	like or as	prep (preposition)
2. כְּסוּס	like a horse	prep; N-ms
3. כְּמוֹ מֶלֶךְ	like a king	prep; N-ms
4. לְ	to or for	prep
5. לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	to Israel (a male)	prep; N-prop (proper noun). N-ms (note: the name Israel, a man, is masculine; however, the name of Israel, the country, is feminine)
6. לְתוֹרָה	to a Torah	prep; N-prop -fs
7. לְשָׂרָה	to Sarah	prep; N-prop -fs
8. בְּ	in	prep

9. בְּתוֹרָה	in a Torah	prep; N-prop -fs
10. בְּאִישׁ	in a man	prep; N-ms
11. בְּאֶרֶץ	in a land	prep; N-fs

15.05 Translation exercises with both inseparable & stand-alone prepositions

Where possible write both the inseparable & stand-alone preps. (Refer to vocab in Lessons 13 & 14)

1. In a man _____
2. To Abraham _____
3. To Sarah _____
4. Like a heart _____
5. To the mountains _____
6. In front of Abraham _____
7. From the Torah _____
8. In a land _____
9. In a Torah _____
10. To Israel _____
11. To a Torah (Is 8:20) _____
12. To sons _____
13. Under a female horse _____
14. To David _____
15. Behind Isaac _____
16. On the land _____
17. After Jordan _____
18. Before the father _____
19. Like a king _____
20. Until Israel _____
21. Before Canaan _____

15.06 Did you know?

The Hebrew Bible is commonly known in Judaism by the acronym "TaNaKh" (תנ"ך): Torah ("instruction"), Nevi'im ("prophets") and Ketuvim ("writings").

A Torah Scroll contains the first five books (aka the Torah) of the Hebrew Bible. The individual who hand writes the scroll (and other sacred Hebrew documents) is called a *sofer* (or *scribe* even *lawyer* in English).

Sofer (סופר) literally means “one who counts.” Every letter, every word, and every line in the scroll is both counted and accounted for.

The Torah scroll contains 304,805 Hebrew letters which have been meticulously and identically hand copied countless times throughout the generations.

Why would a believer in YHVH need to know that the Torah contains exactly 304,805 Hebrew letters? Because of the consistency of the 304,805 letters, we have assurance that no additions nor subtractions have occurred in the Torah scroll!



15.07 *Answers to exercise 15.05*

ANSWERS 15.05	
1. In a man	בְּאִישׁ
2. To Abraham	לְאַבְרָהָם
3. To Sarah	לְשָׂרָה
4. Like a heart	כְּלֵב
5. To the mountains	אֶל הַהָרִים
6. In front of Abraham	לְפָנֵי אַבְרָהָם
7. From the Torah	מִן הַתּוֹרָה
8. In a land	בְּאֶרֶץ
9. In a Torah	בְּתוֹרָה
10. To Israel	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל
11. To a Torah (1s 8:20)	לְתוֹרָה
12. To sons	לְבָנִים*
13. Under a female horse	תַּחַת סוּסָה
14. To David	לְדָוִד
15. Behind Isaac	אַחֲרֵי יִצְחָק
16. On the land	עַל הָאֶרֶץ
17. After Jordan	אַחֲרֵי יַרְדֵּן
18. Before the father	לְפָנֵי הָאָב
19. Like a king	כְּמוֹ מֶלֶךְ
20. Until Israel	עַד יִשְׂרָאֵל
21. Before Canaan	לְפָנֵי כְּנָעַן

*** לְבָנִים**
 - you're correct 😊, the “vet” is part of the BeGeD - KeFeT & normally would have a dagesh. Later, we will discuss why the dagesh is dropped in these instances.

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

15.09 **Vocabulary Words for Lesson 15:**

The words in this lesson include high frequency words, which appear often in the TaNaKh. We encourage you to review these until the vocabulary becomes familiar.

Vocabulary for inseparable prepositions

- בְּ in, inside, at, by
- כְּ like, as, similar to
- לְ to, into, for, toward
- מִ from, out of

Review vocabulary for independent or stand-alone prepositions

- אַחֲרַי or אַחֲרָ after, behind
- אֶל to, into, for, toward
- אִתּוֹ with (also עִמּוֹ)
- בְּגַלְלֵי because of or due to
- בֵּין between
- בְּמִקּוֹם instead of
- בְּתוֹךְ in, inside, in the midst
- כְּמוֹ like, as
- כְּמוֹ because, like, or as
- לְפָנַי before, in the presence of
- מִן from, out of
- עַד until
- עַל on, upon, about, above
- עַל-יָד beside
- תַּחַת under, underneath, instead of