

Biblical Hebrew 103

Developing Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 22

שְׁעוֹר כַּב

Construct Chains, *introduction*



Mahane Yehuda is a very busy market in Jerusalem. It is filled with people and a myriad of sounds like none other. When entering this market, you are suddenly entering Israeli life – the west meeting then Middle East. It is a must-see ... seeing is experiencing.

What we will learn in Lesson 22

- 22.01 Introduce construct chains
- 22.02 Examples of construct chains
- 22.03 Find construct chains in these verses
- 22.04 Review vocabulary
- 22.05 Weekly Parasha

22.01 Introduce construct chains

A construct chain is made up of two nouns that are linked together. In English, we do the same thing by either making two words into one (for example, ‘play’ & ‘ground’ become ‘playground’), or adding the word “of” (like President of the United States), or sometimes the words become hyphenated (example anti-Christ).

A construct chain is how Hebrew expresses “of” between two or more nouns that are side by side. For example, קול איש . These two nouns (קול voice & איש man) together form a construct chain. When translating this into the English word “of” is added; “of” creates a possessive relationship. “a voice of a man”.

The first noun *voice* קול is the construct noun, meaning “voice of.” The second of the two nouns is the absolute noun: *man* איש, meaning “man.” (Absolute nouns are how nouns appear in a lexicon or dictionary.)

Hebrew construct chains are either indefinite or definite. For example, “A voice of a man” is an *indefinite* construct chain. It is a non-specific phrase as it does not refer to a specific man. It can be made *definite* by adding the article “the” (ה); this then changes the meaning from “a voice of a man” (indefinite) to “the voice of the man” (definite): קול האיש.

22.02 Examples of construct chains

Construct Chains		
English	Hebrew	Identify which nouns are construct & which are absolute
A voice of a man	קול איש	קול – a voice of / construct noun איש – a man / absolute noun
The voice of the man	קול האיש	קול – the voice of / construct noun האיש – the man / absolute noun
A servant of a king	עֶבֶד מֶלֶךְ	עֶבֶד – a servant of / construct noun מֶלֶךְ – a king / absolute noun
The servant of the king	עֶבֶד הַמֶּלֶךְ	עֶבֶד – the servant of / construct noun הַמֶּלֶךְ – the king / absolute noun
A book of a prophet	סֵפֶר נְבִיא	סֵפֶר – a book of / construct noun נְבִיא – a prophet / absolute noun
The book of the prophet	סֵפֶר הַנְּבִיא	סֵפֶר – the book of / construct noun הַנְּבִיא – the prophet / absolute noun
A king of a land	מֶלֶךְ אֶרֶץ	מֶלֶךְ – a king of / construct noun אֶרֶץ – a land / absolute noun
The king of the land	מֶלֶךְ הָאֶרֶץ	מֶלֶךְ – the king of / construct noun הָאֶרֶץ – the land / absolute noun
A son of a king	בֶּן מֶלֶךְ	בֶּן – a son of / construct noun מֶלֶךְ – a king / absolute noun
The son of the king	בֶּן הַמֶּלֶךְ	בֶּן – the son of / construct noun הַמֶּלֶךְ – the king / absolute noun
Bethlehem (House of Bread)	בֵּית לֶחֶם	בֵּית – house of / construct noun לֶחֶם – bread / absolute noun

22.03 **Find construct chains in the following verses**

Numbers 1:1 – identify constructs in English (Hint: look for the word “of”)

The LORD [YHVH] spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַּר סִינַי בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד בְּאֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁנִי
בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִית לְצֵאתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר:

Strong's	Translit	Hebrew	English	Morphology
1696 [e]	way-dab-bēr	וַיְדַבֵּר	And spoke	WCI V-Piel-Imperf-3ms
3068 [e]	Yah-weh	יְהוָה	Yahweh	N-proper-ms
413 [e]	'el-	אֶל-	to	Prep
4872 [e]	mō-šeh	מֹשֶׁה	Moses	N-proper-ms
4057 [e]	bə-miḏ-bar	בְּמִדְבַּר	in the Wilderness of	Prep N-ms cstr/ construct noun
5514 [e]	sī-nay	סִינַי	Sinai	N-proper-fs/ absolute noun
168 [e]	bə-’ō-hel	בְּאֹהֶל	in the tabernacle of	Prep N-ms cstr/ construct noun
4150 [e]	mō-w-’ēḏ;	מוֹעֵד	meeting	N-ms/ absolute noun
259 [e]	bə-’e-ḥāḏ	בְּאֶחָד	on *first	Prep *Number-ms
2320 [e]	la-ḥō-ḏeš	לַחֹדֶשׁ	the day of the month	*Prep-l, Art N-ms
8145 [e]	haš-šê-nî	הַשְּׁנִי	*second	Art *Number-oms (ordinal masc num)
8141 [e]	baš-šā-nāh	בַּשָּׁנָה	in the year	*Prep-b, Art N-fs
8145 [e]	haš-šê-niṭ,	הַשְּׁנִית	*second	Art *Number-ofs (ordinal fem num)
3318 [e]	lə-šê-tām	לְצֵאתָם	after they had come out (of)	Prep V-Qal-Inf 3mp
776 [e]	mê-’e-reš	מֵאֶרֶץ	the land of	Prep-m N-fs cstr/ construct noun
4714 [e]	miš-ra-yim	מִצְרַיִם	Egypt	N-proper-fs/ absolute noun
559 [e]	lê-mōr.	לֵאמֹר:	saying	Prep V-Qal-Inf

***We will discuss numbers and dates used in the Torah in a later class.**

Genesis 40:1 – identify constructs in both English & Hebrew (Hint: look for “of”)

Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt. Gen 40:1, ESV

וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה תִּטְאוּ מִשְׁקָה מֶלֶךְ-מִצְרַיִם וְהָאֹפֶה
 לְאֲדֹנֵיהֶם לְמֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם:

Strong's	Translit	Hebrew	English	Morphology
1961 [e]	way-hî.	וַיְהִי	And it came to pass	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms
310 [e]	'a-ḥar	אַחֲרֵי	after	Adv
1697 [e]	had-də-bā-rîm	הַדְּבָרִים	things	Art N-mp
428 [e]	hā-'êl-leh.	הָאֵלֶּה	these	Art Pro-cp
2398 [e]	hā-tə-'û	תִּטְאוּ	[that] offended	V-Qal-Perf-3cp (note: symbol under aleph is a cantillation mark, it is not a chirek)
4945 [e]	maš-qêh	מִשְׁקָה	the cupbearer of	N-ms cstr / construct noun
4428 [e]	me-leḵ-	מֶלֶךְ-	the king of	N-msc / construct noun
4714 [e]	miš-ra-yim	מִצְרַיִם	Egypt	N-proper-fs / absolute noun
644 [e]	wə-hā-'ō-pēh:	וְהָאֹפֶה	and the baker	Conj-w, Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms
113 [e]	la-'ă-dō-nê-hem	לְאֲדֹנֵיהֶם	their lord	Prep-l N-mpc 3mp // construct noun
4428 [e]	lə-me-leḵ	לְמֶלֶךְ	the king of	Prep-l N-msc // construct noun
4714 [e]	miš-rā-yim.	מִצְרַיִם:	Egypt	N-proper-fs // absolute noun

22.04 **Review Vocabulary for Lesson 22:**

The vocabulary in this lesson include high frequency words, which appear frequently in the TaNaKh.

We encourage you to review these words until the vocabulary becomes familiar.

22.05 **Weekly Parasha reading** (go to www.RestoringTorah.org)