

Biblical Hebrew 103

Developing Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 23

שְׁעוֹר כ"ג

Construct Chains, *continued*



Mahane Yehuda is a very special market in Jerusalem. Nuts, seeds, and spices are beautifully displayed ... and sampled 😊

What we will learn in Lesson 23

- 23.01 *Review:* What is a construct chain?
- 23.02 Examples of construct chains with masculine & feminine nouns
- 23.03 Find construct chains in these verses
- 23.04 Review vocabulary words for lesson 23
- 23.05 Weekly Parasha

23.01 **Review: What is a construct chain?**

A construct chain is a series of two or more nouns. When translated into English, the word “of” is generally inserted between the nouns.

Remember: the first noun (or nouns) in a construct chain is the **construct noun**. (It is called a construct noun because the construct noun is changed or ‘constructed’.)
The final noun in the chain is the **absolute noun**. (Absolute nouns are how nouns appear in a lexicon or dictionary.)

1. Masculine singular constructs use the masculine form of a noun; often the vowel is modified.
 - a. Example: בֶּן (son) becomes בֶּן (son of). Notice the only change is that the tsere under the bet changes to a segol in the construct form.
2. Masculine plural nouns are changed to a plural construct noun by dropping the chirek, yud, & mem sofit ending & adding a tsere and a yud.
 - a. Example: בָּנִים (sons) becomes בָּנָי (sons of).
3. Feminine singular nouns are generally made construct by replacing the final hay with a tav.
 - a. Example: אִשָּׁה (woman or wife) becomes אִשְׁתִּי (wife of)
 - b. Example: תּוֹרָה (Torah) becomes תּוֹרַתִּי (Torah of)
4. Feminine plural constructs do not change the ending when turning feminine plural noun into a construct
 - a. Example: אֲרָצוֹת (lands) becomes אֲרָצוֹתֵינוּ (lands of)

23.02 **Examples of construct chains**

Grammar-Made-Simple: how to identify definite construct chain

3 ways to identify a definite construct chain:

1. The absolute noun has an article “הַ” (the) eg: הַמַּיִם (English, the waters) or הַבְּרִית (the covenant)
2. The absolute noun has a pronominal suffix. eg: אֱלֹהֶיךָ (your God) or בְּנוֹ (his son)
3. Or the absolute noun is a proper noun. eg: יִשְׂרָאֵל (Israel) or יַעֲקֹב (Jacob)

EXAMPLES OF CONSTRUCT CHAINS		
MASCULINE Singular Construct		
1) The people of Israel	עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַם – the people of / masculine singular construct noun יִשְׂרָאֵל – Israel / absolute noun
2) chest of wood	אָרוֹן עֵץ	אָרוֹן – chest (ark/cabinet/closet) of / masculine singular construct noun עֵץ – wood / absolute noun
3) by the hand of Jacob (Gen 27:17)	בְּיַד יַעֲקֹב	בְּיַד – in or by the hand of / masculine singular construct noun יַעֲקֹב – Ya’akov / proper noun; absolute noun
4) the son of Jesse (1Sam 20:27)	בֶּן-יֵשִׁי	בֶּן – the son of / masculine singular construct noun יֵשִׁי – Jesse / proper noun; absolute noun
MASCULINE Plural Construct		
5) the sons of Israel (1Chron 2:1)	בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	בָּנֵי – the sons of / masculine plural construct noun יִשְׂרָאֵל – Israel / absolute noun
6) “the surface of the waters” (Gen 1:2)	פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם	פְּנֵי – the faces of / masculine plural construct noun הַמַּיִם – the waters / absolute noun

7) the words of the king of the land	דְּבַרֵּי מֶלֶךְ הָאָרֶץ	דְּבַרֵּי – the words of / masculine plural construct noun מֶלֶךְ – the king of / masculine singular construct noun הָאָרֶץ – the land / absolute noun
FEMININE Singular Construct		
8) the State of Israel	מְדִינַת־יִשְׂרָאֵל	מְדִינַת־ – the state (or country) of / feminine singular construct noun יִשְׂרָאֵל – Israel / absolute noun
9) the wife of Abram, Gen 16:1	אִשְׁת־אַבְרָם	אִשְׁת־ – the wife of / feminine construct noun אַבְרָם – Abram / absolute noun
FEMININE Plural Construct		
10) the United States of America (the acronym for U.S.A. is ארה"ב)	אַרְצוֹת הַבְּרִית	אַרְצוֹת – the lands of / feminine plural construct noun הַבְּרִית – the covenant / absolute noun

23.03 Find construct chains in the following verses

Deuteronomy 8:6

“Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD (YHVH) your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.” Deut 8:6 NAS

וְשָׁמַרְתָּ אֶת־מִצְוֹת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לִלְכֹת בְּדַרְכָּיו וּלְיִרְאָה אֹתוֹ:

Strong's	Translit	Hebrew	English	Morphology
8104 [e]	wə-šā-mar-tā.	וְשָׁמַרְתָּ	Therefore you shall keep	conjunction+Verb [2ms; perfect]
853 [e]	'et-	אֶת־	-	DDOM (Def. Direct Object Marker)
4687 [e]	mis-wōt	מִצְוֹת	the commands [the commands of]	N-fp / construct noun
3069 [e]	Yah-weh	יְהוָה	The LORD [YHVH]	N-prop/ absolute noun
430 [e]	'ē-lō-he-kā;	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	your God	N-mp + (sf) 2ms
1980 [e]	lā-le-ket	לִלְכֹת	to walk	Verb prep/ Qal (inf)
1870 [e]	bid-rā-kāw	בְּדַרְכָּיו	in His ways	Prep/n-mp (sf)3ms
3372 [e]	ū-lə-yir-'āh	וּלְיִרְאָה	and to fear	conj/prep/Qal (inf)
853 [e]	'ō-tōw.	אֹתוֹ:	- [him]	DDOM (sf) 3ms / Qal

Genesis 6:5

“The LORD [YHVH] saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually,” Gen 6:5 ESV

וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה כִּי רַבָּה רָעַת הָאָדָם בְּאֶרֶץ וְכָל-יֵצֶר מַחְשַׁבַת לִבּוֹ רָק רָע כָּל-הַיּוֹם:

Strong's	Translit	Hebrew	English	Morphology
7200 [e]	way-yar	וַיֵּרָא	And saw	WCI V-Qal-Consec Imperf-3ms (becomes perf)
3068 [e]	Yah-weh,	יְהוָה	Yahweh	N-proper-ms
3588 [e]	kī	כִּי	that	Conj
7227 [e]	rab-bāh	רַבָּה	[was] great	Adj-fs
7451 [e]	rā-‘aṭ	רָעַת	the wickedness of	N-fs/ construct noun
120 [e]	hā-’ā-dām	הָאָדָם	man	Art N-ms/ absolute noun
776 [e]	bā-’ā-reṣ;	בְּאֶרֶץ	in the earth	Prep-b, Art N-fs
3605 [e]	wə-kāl	וְכָל-	and [that] every	Conj-w N-ms/ construct noun
3336 [e]	yê-ṣer	יֵצֶר	intent of	N-ms/ construct noun
4284 [e]	maḥ-śə-bōṭ	מַחְשַׁבַת	the thoughts of	N-fp/ construct noun
3820 [e]	lib-bōw,	לִבּוֹ	his heart	N-ms/ absolute noun 3ms (sf)
7535 [e]	raq	רָק	[was] altogether	Adv
7451 [e]	ra‘	רָע	evil	Adj-ms
3605 [e]	kāl-	כָּל-	all [of]	N-ms/ construct noun
3117 [e]	hay-yō-wm.	הַיּוֹם:	the time	Art N-ms/ absolute noun

Numbers 30:1

“Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of Israel, saying, “This is what the LORD [YHVH] has commanded,” Num 30:1, ESV

וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-רָאשֵׁי הַמִּטּוֹת לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר זֶה הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה:

Strong's	Translit	Hebrew	English	Morphology
1696 [e]	way-dab-bêr	וַיְדַבֵּר	And spoke	WCI (becomes perf) – 3ms
4872 [e]	mō-šeh	מֹשֶׁה	Moses	N-proper-ms
413 [e]	'el-	אֶל-	to	Prep
7218 [e]	rā-šê	רָאשֵׁי	the heads of	N-mp /construct noun
4294 [e]	ham-mat-tō-wt.	הַמִּטּוֹת	the tribes / staff / branch / rod	Art N-mp /absolute noun
1121 [e]	līb-nê	לְבְנֵי	concerning to or for the sons of	Prep-l N-mp/construct noun
3478 [e]	yiś-rā-’êl	יִשְׂרָאֵל	Israel	N-proper-ms /absolute noun
559 [e]	lē-môr:	לֵאמֹר	saying / to say	Prep-l V-Qal-Inf
2088 [e]	zeh	זֶה	this [is]	demonstrative pro-ms
1697 [e]	had-dā-bār.	הַדְּבָר	the thing or word	Art N-ms
834 [e]	’ă-šer	אֲשֶׁר	which	relative pro
6680 [e]	siw-wāh	צִוָּה	has commanded	V-Piel-Perf-3ms
3068 [e]	Yah-weh.	יְהוָה:	Yahweh	N-proper-ms

23.04 *Review vocabulary words for Lesson 23:*

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.

23.05 *Weekly Parasha reading* – go to Calendar on CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org or click here to go directly: <https://www.FaithfulStewardship.org/bible-readings-schedule/>