

Biblical Hebrew 102

Introduction to Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 16¹

נשעור 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? (aka a noun sentence)
- 16.02 Nominal sentence exercise (answers on 16.03)
- 16.03 Answers: nominal sentence exercise (exercise on 16.02)
- 16.04 What are singular personal pronouns?
- 16.05 Introducing Hebrew personal pronouns
- 16.06 Examples of personal pronouns in nominal sentences
- 16.07 Personal pronouns in nominal sentences exercise (answers on 16.08)
- 16.08 Answers: pronouns in nominal sentences exercise (exercise on 16.07)
- 16.09 Vocabulary for Lesson 16
- 16.10 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 יי)

16.01 *What is a nominal sentence? (aka a noun sentence)*

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

A Hebrew nominal sentence is when the sentence (or phrase) is translated into English, the verb “to be” must be added to complete the thought. (The most common forms of ‘to be’ that are used in translating Hebrew into English: ‘am’, ‘is’, ‘are’, ‘was’, & ‘were’)

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. It would then be: ‘David is a man’.)

הָאָב מֶלֶךְ. Literally translating this phrase into English, it would be: ‘The father king’. (Again, ‘is’ needs to be added. Then, the sentence would then be: ‘The father is a king’.)

Examples of nominal sentences (* note: In parsing, I like to add a forward slash (/), to separate 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 יֶלֶד	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	“YHWH is God” (Joshua 22:34 Literal Standard Version) The LORD is God,” (Joshua 22:34, KJV)	N-prop-ms/art; N-mp

16.02 *Nominal sentence exercise (answers on 16.03)*

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 יֶלֶד		N-prop-ms/N-ms
8).	Abraham is a man.	
9). רִבְקָה בַת		
10). יְהוָה הָאֱלֹהִים	YHWH is God. (Joshua 22:34, Literal Standard Version)	

16.03 **ANSWERS: nominal sentence exercise (answers to 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. אֲבִרָהּ אִישׁ	Abraham is a man.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
9. רִבְקָה 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/art; N-mp

16.04 **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 the previous noun.

Grammar-made-simple: review of English 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.

Examples of English sentences with pronouns:

1st person: ‘I am David.’ (‘I’ is the 1st person pronoun – because the speaker is referring to himself.)

2nd person: ‘You are Rachel.’ (‘you’ is 2nd person pronoun – because the speaker is speaking directly to the individual)

3rd person: ‘He is a boy.’ (‘he’ is 3rd person – because the speaker is speaking about someone.)

16.05 **Introducing Hebrew personal pronouns?**

1st, 2nd, and 3rd person pronouns in Hebrew are used similarly to those in English. In English, most nouns are ‘it’; for example, ‘book,’ ‘car,’ & ‘bed’ are referred to as ‘it’. In Hebrew, however, there is no ‘it’ because all nouns are either masculine or feminine.

Example of Hebrew sentence with a singular personal pronoun:

אֲנִי דָּוִד -- ‘I am David.’ (אֲנִי is the 1st person pronoun. Also note: when translating this sentence into English, a form of the verb ‘to be’ (‘am’, in this case) is added in the English.)

CHART of HEBREW SINGULAR PERSONAL PRONOUNS			
Person	English	Gender	Hebrew
1st person singular (speaker is speaking about himself: 'I')			
1st	I	Common: applies to 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 הַ), however, this pronoun is masculine. 😊.
2nd	you (singular)	feminine	אַתְּ
3rd person singular (speaker is speaking about someone or something: 'him' or 'her' or 'it')			
3rd	he (or 'it')	masculine	הוא
3rd	she (or 'it')	feminine	היא היא* *Pronouns with an asterisk are the Biblical, classical, or archaic. Note: both הָיָא & הִיא mean 'she' and are pronounced הִיא

16.06 Examples of personal pronouns in nominal sentences

Hebrew	Try & translate the Hebrew	Answers
1. היא מצוה		It (3fs) is a mitzvah/commandment (3fs).
2. את רחל		You are Rachel.
3. הוא יהוה		He is YHVH.
4. הוא סוס		It (3ms) is a horse (3ms).
5. היא רבקה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)		She is Rebecca.
6. היא ירדן		It (3fs) is Jordan (3fs).
7. אתה אלהים		You are God.
8. אני דוד		I am David.
9. היא תורה		It (3fs) is a Torah (3fs).
10. אני שרה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)		I am Sarah.
11. אני איש		I am a man.
12. הוא הר		It (3ms) is a mountain (3ms).

16.07 *Personal pronouns in nominal sentences exercise (answers on 16.08)*

Fill in the blanks below:

1. I am David. _____
2. He is YHVH. _____
3. היא סוסה _____ (consider using the English pronoun “it”)
4. היא יִשְׂרָאֵל _____ (consider using the English pronoun “it”)
5. It*is a mountain. _____ * “it” is ms, because “mountain” is ms
6. You are God. _____
7. הוא רִבְקָה _____ (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)
8. It is Jordan. (N-fs) _____
9. Rebecca is a woman. _____
10. אֲנִי אִישׁ _____
11. I am Sarah. _____ (use Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)
12. You are Rachel. _____
13. It is a Torah. _____
14. It is a horse. (N-ms) _____
15. It is a mitzvah. (N-fs) _____

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’)

16.08 *ANSWERS: personal pronouns in nominal sentences exercise (exercise on 16.07)*

1. אֲנִי דָוִד	I am David.
2. הוא יְהוָה	He is YHVH.
3. היא סוסה	It is a mare. (fs)
4. היא יִשְׂרָאֵל	It is Israel.
5. הוא הָר	It is a mountain.
6. אַתָּה אֱלֹהִים	You are God.
7. הִוא רִבְקָה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)	She is Rebecca.
8. היא יַרְדֵּן	It is Jordan.
9. רִבְקָה אִשָּׁה	Rebecca is a woman.
10. אֲנִי אִישׁ	I am a man.
11. אֲנֹכִי שָׂרָה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)	I am Sarah.
12. אַתָּה רָחֵל	You are Rachel.
13. היא תּוֹרָה	It is a Torah.
14. הוא סוּס	It is a horse.
15. היא מִצְוָה	It is a mitzvah.

16.09 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
יֵלֶד	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

16.10 Weekly Parasha reading.

1. Go to Calendar on CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org -- click on Calendar. Select current year & scroll to current month.
2. OR click here to go directly: <https://www.faithfulstewardship.org/calendar/>
Select current year & scroll to current month.

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