

Biblical Hebrew 102
Introduction to Grammatical Concepts
Lesson 14
שְׁעוֹר יד

**Introduction to Stand-Alone Prepositions
& Introduction to Translation**



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

What we will learn in Lesson 14

- 14.01 Hebrew prepositions
- 14.02 Intro to stand-alone propositions
- 14.03 Homework Worksheet Vocabulary (stand-alone prepositions)
- 14.04 Homework Worksheet Exercise (answers on 14.05)
- 14.05 Answers to Homework Worksheet (Exercise 14.04)
- 14.06 Three essential fundamentals of Scripture study
- 14.07 Introduction to translating the Biblical text
- 14.08 Example of how to parse a verse
- 14.09 Vocabulary Words for Lesson 14
- 14.10 Weekly Parasha Reading

14.01 Hebrew prepositions

A preposition is a word that precedes a noun or pronoun. Prepositions give direction, time, place, location in reference to the noun. Some examples of prepositions are words like "in," "at," "on," "of," and "to." For example: the book is *on* the table. (The preposition is *on*).

14.02 Intro to 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. The English word you choose for translation can vary according to the context.*

- 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

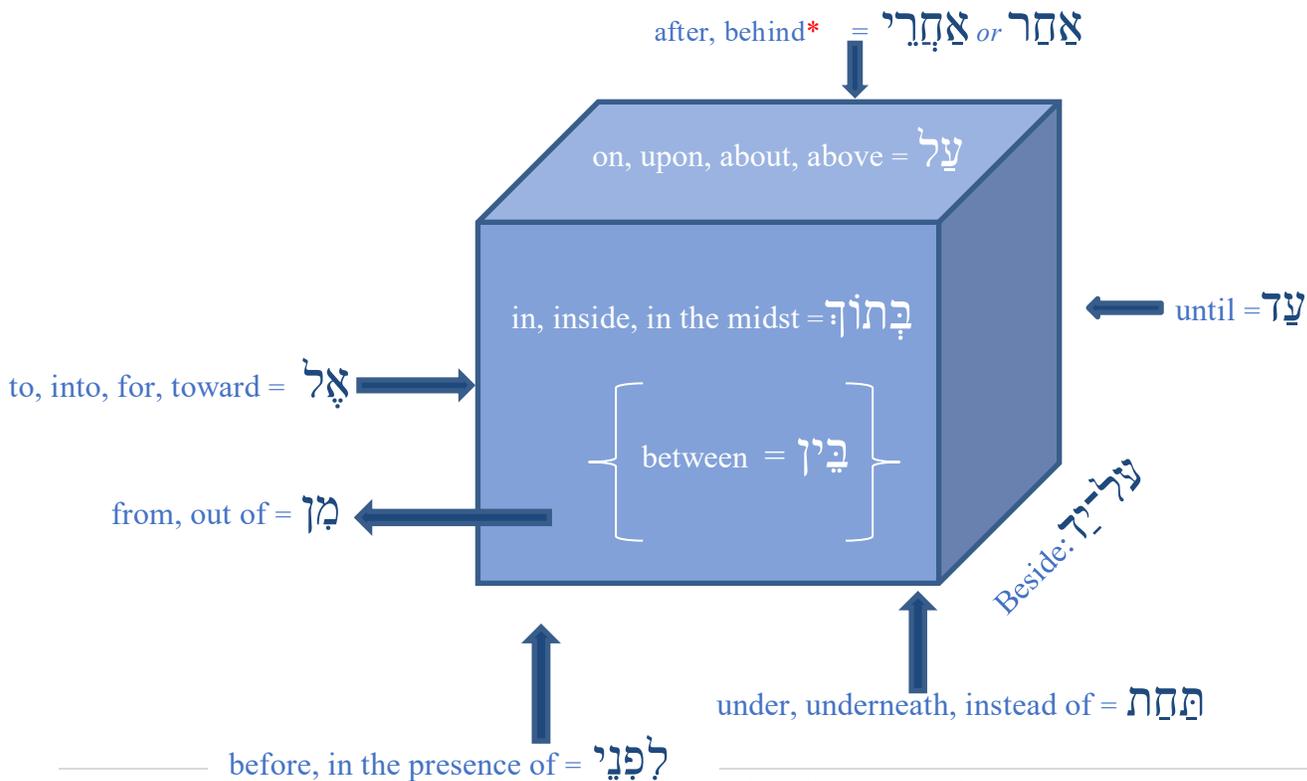
from the Torah = מִן הַתּוֹרָה

on the land = עַל הָאָרֶץ

under a mare (female horse) = תַּחַת סוּסָה

inside the heart (physical condition in the heart, not an emotion) = בְּתוֹךְ הַלֵּב

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



14.03 Homework Worksheet Vocabulary (stand-alone prepositions)

Vocabulary for basic stand-alone prepositions (refer to 14.02 for cube diagram)

אָחַר	after or behind*	בֵּין	between
אַחֲרַי	after or behind	אֶל	to, into, for, toward
עַל	on, upon, about, above	מִן	from, out of
לְפָנַי	before, in the presence of	תַּחַת	under, underneath, instead of
בְּתוֹךְ	in, inside, in the midst	עַד	until

* **Reminder:** Context is important. *The English word you choose for the translation depending upon context.*

14.04 Homework Worksheet Exercise (answers on 14.05)

Write the English or Hebrew translation & abbreviation for the following words		
Write Hebrew Translation	Write English Translation	Write Hebrew Abbreviations/parsing
1. לְפָנַי		prep (preposition)
2. סוּס		N-ms
3. לְפָנַי הָאֵב		prep; art; N-ms
4.	<u>after</u> the man	
5. אֶל		
6. עַל		
7.	<u>to</u> the mountains	
8. מִן		
9. עַד יִשְׂרָאֵל	<u>until</u> Israel (the country)	prep; N-prop-fs
10. מִן הַתּוֹרָה	<u>from</u> the Torah	
11. תַּחַת		
12.	<u>under</u> a mare (female horse)	
13. בְּתוֹךְ		
14. בְּתוֹךְ הַלֵּב		
15.	<u>after</u>	prep
16. מִן הַתּוֹרָה		
17.	<u>until</u>	
18. אֶל הַקְּהָרִים		prep; art; N-mp

14.05 *Answers to Homework Worksheet (Exercise 14.04)*

ANSWERS to phrases with stand-alone prepositions		
1. לְפָנַי	before	prep
2. סוּס	horse (male)	N-ms
3. לְפָנַי הָאָב	before the father	prep; art; N-ms
4. אַחֲרֵי הָאִישׁ	after the man	prep; art; N-ms
5. אֶל	to, into, for, toward	prep
6. עַל	on, upon, about, above	prep
7. אֶל הַהָרִים	to the mountains	prep; art; N-mp
8. מִן	from, out of	prep
9. עַד יִשְׂרָאֵל	until Israel (the country)	prep; N-prop
10. מִן הַתּוֹרָה	from the Torah	prep; art; N-prop
11. תַּחַת	under	prep
12. תַּחַת סוּסָה	under a mare (female horse)	prep; N-fs
13. בְּתוֹךְ	inside	prep
14. בְּתוֹךְ הַלֵּב	inside the heart (physical condition, not an emotion)	prep; art; N-ms
15. אַחֲרֵי	after	prep
16. מִן הַתּוֹרָה	from the Torah	prep; art; N-prop
17. עַד	until	prep
18. אֶל הַהָרִים	to the mountains	prep; art; N-mp

14.06 *Three essential fundamentals of Scripture study*

Literal interpretation: “Is my understanding of the passage literal?”

The literal interpretation of the Biblical text is reading the Scripture literally: understanding what the actual words mean within the context of that passage. Context informs if a passage is to be understood as a parable or an allegory.

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. It is also important to understand when that event occurred on the historical timeline.

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. The misinterpretation of Peter's vision is an example of not understanding a passage within the context of the entire Bible.)

14.07 *Introduction to translating 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 may seem over-whelming, we will guide you step-by-step. Good news: the abbreviations and parsing that we began introducing in Lesson 11 is the first step!

Parsing abbreviations we will use as we study the weekly parasha:

Person

- 1 1st person: the singular is "I," & the plural is "we."
- 2 2nd person: the singular is "you," & the plural is "you all". Both singular & plural are gender-specific.
- 3 3rd person: the singular is "he," "she," or "it," & the plural is "they." Again, these are gender specific.

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 (the English word "and")
- consec conversive (the tense is converted from future (aka imperfect) to past (aka perfect))
- cstr construct
- dem pro demonstrative pronoun
- do definite direct object marker (also abbreviated: DOM or DDOM)
- inf infinitive
- inter interrogative (a question word. Eg: "where")
- 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 (two segols in a row)
- (sf) suffix
- V Verb
- wci vav *Conversive Imperfect* (also abbreviated: conj-w)

14.08 Example of how to parse a verse

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

פָּסוּק (verse) -- פָּרָק (chapter) -- פָּרָשַׁת 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

NIV² God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD [YHVH].

WEB² God spoke to Moses, and said to him, "I am Yahweh; (World English Bible)

YLT² And 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 the parsing we've not yet covered in class 😊

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

YHVH I | To him and He said | Moses To | God and said (spoke)
 : אֲנִי יְהוָה: | וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו | וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיךָ
 N- prep | prep prep | N- prep

14.09 **Vocabulary Words: stand-alone prepositions** (refer to 14.02 for diagram of the cube)

We encourage you to learn these stand-alone prepositions. They are used throughout the TaNaKh.

אַחַר	after or behind	בֵּין	between
אַחֲרָי	after or behind	אֶל	to, into, for, toward
עַל	on, upon, about, above	מִן	from, out of
לִפְנֵי	before, in the presence of	תַּחַת	under, underneath, instead of
בְּתוֹךְ	in, inside, in the midst	עַד	until

14.10 **Weekly Parasha reading** listed on CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org

GO to CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org

CLICK on **Calendar**.

THEN, select **Yearly Calendars**.

NOW, select the **current year** (eg: 2025 Calendar & Readings)

THEN, scroll down to the **current month** (eg Aug 2025 calendar).

FINALLY, click on **current week** (eg 08/30/2025)