

Biblical Hebrew 102

Introduction to Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 16¹

שְׁעוֹר 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 Exercises with 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 י)

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 בַּת	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 is a mother.	art; N-fs/N-fs
8). אַבְרָהָם אִישׁ	Abraham is a man.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
9). דָּוִד מֶלֶךְ	David is a king.	N-prop-ms/N-ms

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 בַּת		

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) אַבְרָהָם אִישׁ.	Abraham is a man.	N-prop-ms/N-ms
9) רֵכָבָה בַּת.	Rebecca is a daughter.	N-prop-fs/N-fs

16.04 **What are personal pronouns in general?**

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 themselves.)

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 personal 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 הָ), 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 הוא & היא mean 'she' and are pronounced היא

16.06 Exercises with 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 (2fs) are Rachel (N-prop-fs).
3) הוא יהוה		He (3ms) is YHVH (N-prop-ms).
4) הוא סוס		It (3ms) is a horse (3ms).
5) הוא רבקה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)		She (3fs) is Rebecca (N-prop-fs).
6) היא ירדן		It (3fs) is Jordan (N-prop-fs).
7) אתה אלהים		You (2ms) are God (N-prop-ms).
8) אני דוד		I (1cs) am David (N-prop-ms).
9) היא תורה		It (3fs) is a Torah (N-prop-fs).
10) אנכי שרה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)		I (1cs) am Sarah (N-prop-fs).
11) אני איש		I (1cs) am a man (1ms).

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 us the English pronoun “it”)
- 4) היא ישראל _____ (consider using the English pronoun “it”)
- 5) It is a mountain. _____ “it” is ms, because “mountain” is ms
- 6) You are God. _____
- 7) הוא רבקה _____ (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)
- 8) She is Jordan. (N-fs) _____
- 9) Rebecca is a woman. _____
- 10) אני איש _____
- 11) I am Sarah. _____ (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)
- 12) You are Rachel. _____
- 13) It is a Torah. _____
- 14) It is a horse. (N-ms) _____

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

1) אני דוד	I am David.
2) הוא יהוה	He is YHVH.
3) היא סוסה	It is a mare. (fs)
4) היא ישראל	It is Israel.
5) הוא הר	It is a mountain.
6) אתה אלהים	You are God.
7) הוא רבקה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)	She is Rebecca.
8) היא ירדן	She is Jordan.
9) רבקה אשה	Rebecca is a woman.
10) אני איש	I am a man.
11) אנכי שרה (Biblical or archaic form of pronoun)	I am Sarah.
12) את רחל	You are Rachel.
13) היא תורה	It is a Torah.
14) הוא סוס	It is a horse.

Grammar-made-simple: pronouns

All 1st person pronouns (both singular & plural) begin with א – the basis is **אני** (meaning ‘I’)

All 2nd person pronouns (both singular & plural) begin with את – the basis is **את** (meaning ‘you’)

All 3rd person pronouns (both singular & plural) begin with ה – the basis is **הוא** (meaning ‘he’)

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
יָלֵד	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” (Josh 22:34, Literal Standard Version) The LORD is God,” (Josh 22:34 KJV)	N-prop-ms/N-mp

16.10 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)

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