

Chapter 8a - Hebrew Pronouns

independent personal pronouns

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
<i>1 com</i>	אֲנִי, אֲנֹכִי I	אֲנֵינוּ we
<i>2 masc</i>	אַתָּה you	אַתֶּם you
<i>2 fem</i>	אַתְּ you	אַתֶּנָּה you
<i>3 masc</i>	הוא he/it	הֵם, הֵמָּה they
<i>3 fem</i>	היא, הִוא she/it	הֵן, הֵנָּה they

Notes

1. The independent personal pronoun is labelled **independent** because it stands alone and is not prefixed or suffixed to another word.
2. Independent personal pronouns are **subjective**, meaning they are used as the subject of a verb, never as the object of the verb.
3. Independent personal pronouns may also appear as the subject of a verbless clause. For this reason, they are sometimes called **subject pronouns**.

Chapter 8b - Hebrew Pronouns

independent personal pronouns

The following examples illustrate how independent personal pronouns are used with other nouns or adjectives in a **predicative relationship**. The pronoun may precede or follow the noun or adjective. A form of the verb “to be” is required in translation.

אֲנִי יְהוָה I am Yahweh (the Lord).

הוא נביא צדיק He is a righteous prophet.

אתה מלך טוב You (2ms) are a good king.

אחים אנחנו We are brothers

היא אישה חכמה She is a wise woman.

אתם בעיר הגדולה You (2mp) are in the great city.

Chapter 8c - Hebrew Pronouns

demonstratives

	<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
<i>Masc</i>	זֶה	this	אֵלֶּה	these
<i>Fem</i>	זֹאת	this	אֵלֶּה	these
<i>Masc</i>	הוא	that	הֵם, הֵמָּה	those
<i>Fem</i>	היא	that	הֵן, הֵנָּה	those

Notes

1. They may be used either as adjectives (*this* man, *those* women) or as pronouns (*this* is the man, *those* are the women).
2. The masculine and feminine singular forms, הוא and היא, are identical to the third person masculine and feminine independent personal pronouns.
3. The demonstrative אֵלֶּה (these) is both masculine and feminine plural. Remember that the designation for this phenomenon is “common,” meaning *not inflected for gender*.



Chapter 8d - Hebrew Pronouns

demonstratives

Hebrew demonstratives may be used either as **adjectives** or as **pronouns**.

Demonstrative Adjectives

follow the noun it modifies and agree in gender, number and definiteness.

הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה	this man
הָאִשָּׁה הַזֹּאת	this woman
הָאֲנָשִׁים הַטּוֹבִים הָאֵלֶּה	these good men
הַנְּשִׂים הַטּוֹבוֹת הָאֵלֶּה	these good women

Demonstrative Pronouns

precede the noun and agree in gender and number but not definiteness.

הוא הָאִישׁ	That is the man.
היא הָאִשָּׁה	That is the woman.
אלה הָאֲנָשִׁים הַטּוֹבִים	These are the good men.
הַנְּשִׂים הַטּוֹבוֹת	Those are the good women.

Chapter 8e - Hebrew Pronouns

the relative pronoun

אֲשֶׁר

(who, which, that)

(1) The form of this word *does not change* in order to indicate the gender or number of its antecedent. (2) It may appear with or without Maqqef. (3) When functioning as a relative pronoun introducing a relative clause, it immediately follows the noun it is modifying.

הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר בְּתוֹךְ-הַגָּן the tree *that* (is) in the middle of the garden

הַהָרִים אֲשֶׁר-תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם the mountains *that* (are) under the heavens

הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר בָּחַרְתֶּם the king *whom* you chose

דָּוִד אֲשֶׁר בְּבַיִת יְהוָה David, *who* (is) in the house of the Lord



Chapter 8f - Hebrew Pronouns

interrogative pronouns

מִי Who?

מָה What?

Interrogative pronouns are used to ask a question. These pronouns do not inflect and can appear with or without the Maqqef. The vocalization of מָה may change slightly (מֵה or מַה). When spelled מֵה, a Daghesch Forte will usually appear in the first consonant of the following word.

מֵה-שְׁמוֹ What (is) his name?

מָה-עָשִׂיתָ What have you done?

מָה הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה? What (is) this dream?

מִי-אַתָּה Who (are) you?

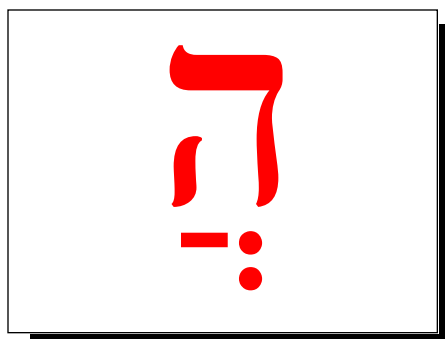
מִי-הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה? Who (is) this man?

מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה? Who (are) these men?



Chapter 8g - Hebrew Pronouns

the interrogative particle



The interrogative particle is prefixed to the first word of the sentence. Compare the following examples. The first example is a statement. The second example is a question because the interrogative particle has been prefixed to the first word of the sentence.

שָׁלַח הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־הַנָּבִיא The king sent the prophet.

הֲשָׁלַח הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־הַנָּבִיא Did the king send the prophet?

The Spelling of the Particle

1. הַ before most consonants as in the above example
2. הֵ before gutturals or any consonant with Shewa
3. הֶ before gutturals with Qamets