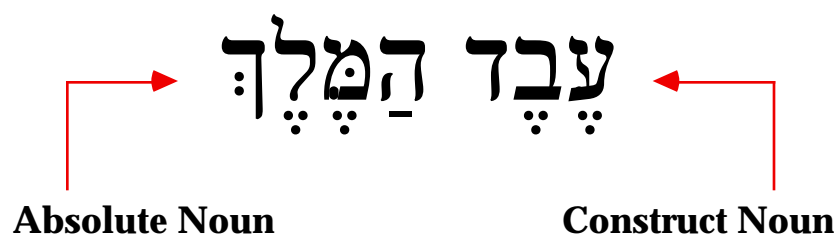


Chapter 10a - Construct Chain

construct and absolute

The first of the two nouns in the construct chain is called the *construct noun* and is said to be in the *construct state*. The second of the two nouns is called the *absolute noun* and is said to be in the *absolute state*. The absolute form of a noun is also its lexical form.



“the servant of the king”

Chapter 10b - Construct Chain

with attributive adjectives

When an adjective modifies either the construct or absolute noun, it must follow the entire chain. It must agree with the noun it modifies in gender, number and definiteness.

מֶלֶךְ הָאָרֶץ הַטוֹב

the *good king* of the land

מֶלֶךְ הָאָרֶץ הַטוֹבָה

the king of the *good land*

דְּבַר הַמֶּלֶךְ הַטוֹב

the word of the *good king*



Chapter 10c - Construct Chain

with demonstrative adjectives

Just like attributive adjectives,
demonstrative adjectives must also
follow the construct chain.

דְּבַרֵּי הַנְּבִיא הָאֵלֶּה
these words of the prophet

דְּבַרֵּי הַנְּבִיא הַזֶּה
the words of this prophet

דְּבַרֵּי הַנְּבִיא הַטּוֹב הַזֶּה
the words of this good prophet

דְּבַר הַנְּבִיא הַזֶּה
*the word of this prophet or
this word of the prophet*

Chapter 10d - Construct Chain

vowel reduction (spelling)

*A construct noun surrenders its
primary accent and ...*

- a. Qamets (and sometimes Tsere) changes to Pathach in a final closed syllable.

מִשְׁפֵּט judgement > מִשְׁפֵּט judgement of
מִזְבֵּחַ altar > מִזְבֵּחַ altar of

- b. Qamets or Tsere changes to Vocal Shewa in an open, unaccented syllable.

שְׁלוֹם peace > שְׁלוֹם peace of
מְקוֹם place > מְקוֹם place of

- c. Both rules a and b may apply to the formation of a noun in the construct state.

דָּבָר word > דָּבָר word of
לֵבָב heart > לֵבָב heart of

- d. Monosyllabic nouns with changeable long vowels reduce to the corresponding short vowel.

בֵּן son > בֶּן son of
כֹּל all > כֶּל all of



Chapter 10e - Construct Chain

masculine plural and dual

The masculine plural םִי_ and dual םִי_ endings change to יִ (Tserere-Yod) in the construct state and then the rules of vowel reduction apply.

אֱלֹהִים God	➤	אֱלֹהֵי God of
בָּנִים sons	➤	בָּנָי sons of
עֵינַיִם two eyes	➤	עֵינָי (two) eyes of
דְּבָרִים words	➤	דְּבָרָי words of

In the last example, both propretonic reduction and Rule of Shewa apply.

דְּבָרָי > דְּבָרַי

Chapter 10f - Construct Chain

feminine singular

Feminine singular nouns ending in הָֿ change this ending to הַֿ in the construct state and then the rules of vowel reduction apply.

תּוֹרָה law	>	תּוֹרַת law of
מַלְכָּה queen	>	מַלְכַּת queen of
שָׁנָה year	>	שָׁנַת year of



Chapter 10g - Construct Chain

feminine plural

Feminine plural nouns ending in תּוֹ retain this plural ending and then the rules of vowel reduction will apply.

מַמְלָכוֹת	kingdoms	>	מַמְלָכוֹת	kingdoms of
שְׁמוֹת	names	>	שְׁמוֹת	names of
שָׂדוֹת	fields	>	שָׂדוֹת	fields of
בְּרָכוֹת	blessings	>	בְּרָכוֹת	blessings of

In the last example, both propretonic reduction and Rule of Shewa apply.

בְּרָכוֹת > בְּרָכוֹת

Chapter 10h - Construct Chain

miscellaneous nouns (a)

Certain **singular monosyllabic nouns** add Hireq Yod to their stem in the construct state. Do not to confuse this Hireq Yod with the 1cs pronominal suffix (אָבִי “my father”).

אָב father	➤	אָבִי father of
אָח brother	➤	אָחִי brother of

The **diphthong** בֵּי as in בֵּית (house) changes to Tsere Yod in the construct state.

בֵּית house	➤	בֵּיתִי house of
עַיִן spring	➤	עַיִנִּי spring of

Chapter 10i - Construct Chain

miscellaneous nouns (b)

The singular absolute of **Segholate nouns** is identical to its singular construct form. The plural construct form follows the pattern of מְלִכֵי (kings of).

מֶלֶךְ king	➤	מֶלֶךְ king of
עֶבֶד servant	➤	עֶבֶד servant of
מְלָכִים kings	➤	מְלָכִים kings of
עֲבָדִים servants	➤	עֲבָדִים servants of

Nouns ending in הַ (with Seghol) have a singular construct form ending in הֶ (with Tseré).

שָׂדֶה field	➤	שָׂדֶה field of
מַחֲנֶה camp	➤	מַחֲנֶה camp of

