Chapter 10 (Construct Chain) – Goals

- Be able translate a Hebrew construct chain
  - Be able to parse words in the construct state.
  - Gender, number, ‘construct of’, lexical form
  - E.g., רְשֵׁי is MP construct of יִשָּׁא, ‘men of’
  - Memorize difficult construct forms as vocabulary.
    - Know whether the chain is definite or indefinite.
    - Know how to translate adjectives that follow a construct chain.
  - In my class you do NOT need to be able to write the construct state for a noun in the absolute state.
Chapter 10 (Construct Chain) – Agenda

- Meaning
- Identifying
- Practice
  - Identifying construct vs. absolute state
  - Translating construct chains
Construct Chain

- Construct chain = 2 or more nouns linked together.

- Every noun except for the last is ‘in the construct state’
  - Add ‘of’ after each word in the construct state
    - This is a rough, initial translation
      - E.g., ‘the son OF the king’
      - E.g., ‘a son OF a king’

- The last word in the chain is in the ‘absolute state’
  - ‘absolute state’ is the ‘normal’ spelling and meaning.
A Construct Chain is Either Definite or Indefinite

The entire construct chain is either definite or indefinite.

- E.g., ‘THE son of THE king’
- E.g., ‘A son of A king’

A construct chain can’t mix definite and indefinite.

- To say ‘A son of THE king’
  or ‘THE son of A king’
  you can NOT use a construct chain.
- You would use ל

E.g., ‘A Psalm of David’ is לְדָוִד
The Last Word Sets Definiteness of the Chain

- If the last word in the chain is definite, every word in the chain is definite.
  - E.g., בֶּן הַמֶּלֶךְ = ‘THE son of THE king’

- If the last word in the chain is indefinite, every word in the chain is indefinite.
  - E.g., בֶּן מֶלֶךְ = ‘A son of A king’
What Makes a Word Definite

- A word is definite if it:
  - Has the article.
  - Has a pronominal suffix.
  - Is a proper noun.
  - Is in a construct chain where the last word is definite
The Last Word Sets the Definiteness of a Chain

- If written with a construct chain, would the ___ be ‘A’ or ‘The’?
  - ___ book of the student
  - ___ book of the students
  - ___ book of a student
  - ___ book of some students
  - ___ book of David
  - ___ book of my student
  - ___ book of my students
What Makes a Construct Chain?

- Two or more nouns or noun-substitutes in a row
- Nothing else can come between the words of the chain
  - If an attributive adjective or demonstrative adjective modifies a word in the chain, it comes after the whole chain.
    - Figure out which word it modifies by matching the gender and number.
    - Which noun an adjective modifies can be ambiguous.
- All words in the chain (except for the last word) are in the construct state.
Practice the Grammar of Construct Chains

- Which words are in the construct chain?
- Which words would be in the construct state?
- Which nouns do the attributive adjectives modify?
- Which words would have the article in Hebrew?
- What is a reasonable English translation?
  - The sister of the king
  - The sister of the king the pious(fs)
  - The sister of the girlfriend of the brother of my mom the smart(fs) the strong(ms)
  - The wife of David the strong(fs) the smart(ms) the beautiful(fs)
Chapter 10 (Construct Chain) – Agenda

- Meaning

- Identifying

- Practice
  - Identifying construct vs. absolute state
  - Translating construct chains
How to Recognize a Construct Chain

- Two or more noun or noun-like words in a row
- All words except the last are in the construct state:
  - No article
  - No pronominal suffix
  - No long vowels that aren’t vowel letters: ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌
    - Except accented long vowel in the penult: ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌
    - No diphthong ◌ ◌ ◌ ◌ ( ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌ & ◌ ◌ → ◌ ◌)
  - May have reduced vowel in the penult
  - Noun ending may have changed (discussed later)
  - A noun followed by maqqef – is in the construct state
    - E.g., יהוהֵי יד
Identifying Construct State by the Vowels

- Long vowel (not a vowel letter) → Absolute
  - Unless accented long vowel in the penult
- Long vowel letter → Either
- Diphthong יִ or חַ → Absolute
- Reduced vowel in penultima → Construct (usually)

(contractions in the text)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Absolute</th>
<th>Construct</th>
<th>Unchanged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>יֶהָנִים</td>
<td>יִנָּה</td>
<td>no ending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>יֵה</td>
<td>יָה</td>
<td>יָה, יַח, יֵח, יָח</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>יִבְרָי</td>
<td>יָי</td>
<td>no ending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD</td>
<td>יִבְרָי, יָרְבִּי</td>
<td>יָרְבִּי</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>יִבְרָי</td>
<td>יָי</td>
<td>נָח</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>יִבְרָי</td>
<td>יָי</td>
<td>נָח</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Ending</td>
<td>Singular, probably masculine</td>
<td>abs/const</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ֶה</td>
<td>Masculine singular</td>
<td>absolute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ֵה</td>
<td>Masculine singular</td>
<td>construct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ָה</td>
<td>Feminine singular</td>
<td>absolute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ַת</td>
<td>Feminine singular</td>
<td>usually construct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ֶת</td>
<td>Feminine singular</td>
<td>abs/const</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ִית</td>
<td>Feminine singular</td>
<td>abs/const</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>וּת</td>
<td>Feminine singular</td>
<td>abs/const</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>/יִם</td>
<td>Dual, probably masculine</td>
<td>absolute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>/יִים</td>
<td>Feminine dual</td>
<td>absolute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>/יִים</td>
<td>Plural, probably masculine</td>
<td>absolute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>/יִים</td>
<td>Probably M, probably plural</td>
<td>construct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>יה</td>
<td>Plural, probably feminine</td>
<td>abs/const</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Constructs to Memorize (Chapter 10)

– כָּל cumbersome ‘all of’

The ֹ is Qamets Hatuf (short o)

– אֲבִיא ‘father of’

‘My father’ is אָבִי

– אֲחִיא ‘brother of’

‘My brother’ is אָחִי

– אֵא ‘wife of’

These constructs will show up on quizzes and in the Bible, so you must be able to recognize them.

– If they aren’t obvious, make flash cards of them.
Construct Chains – What to Remember

- Noun is definite if: proper, article, pron. suff, def. chain.
- ‘The son of the queen’ OR ‘A son of a queen’
- All words except the last are in the construct state.
  - No article or pronominal suffix
  - No long vowels except vowel letter or accented penult
  - No diphthong ◌◌ ◌◌ ◌◌ ◌◌ ◌◌
  - Doesn’t end in ◌◌ ◌◌ ◌◌ ◌◌ ◌◌ ◌◌ ◌◌ ◌◌ ◌◌
  - ◌◌ ending is construct (probably masculine plural)
  - Reduced penult vowel is usually construct  דְֶבְֶעְש (e.g., דְֶבְֶעְש)
  - Noun with Maqqef is construct (e.g., דְֶבְֶעְש)
Chapter 10 (Construct Chain) – Agenda

- Meaning
- Identifying

**Practice**
- Identifying construct vs. absolute state
- Translating construct chains
## Practice Identifying Construct State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hebrew Text</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>תורה. 37</td>
<td>1. תְבוּרָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>בֵּית. 38</td>
<td>2. בְּרָכָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>מַלּוֹן. 39</td>
<td>3. מַעֲנָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>בֵּית. 40</td>
<td>4. בְּרָכָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>מַלּוֹן. 41</td>
<td>5. מַעֲנָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>בֵּית. 42</td>
<td>6. בְּרָכָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>מַלּוֹן. 43</td>
<td>7. מַעֲנָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>בֵּית. 44</td>
<td>8. בְּרָכָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>מַלּוֹן. 45</td>
<td>9. מַעֲנָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>בֵּית. 46</td>
<td>10. מַעֲנָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>מַלּוֹן. 47</td>
<td>11. מַעֲנָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>בֵּית. 48</td>
<td>12. מַעֲנָה</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice Translating Construct Chains

1. the laws of the king
2. laws of a king
3. the laws of the good and upright king
4. the good and upright laws of the king
5. laws of a good and upright king
6. good and upright laws of a king OR laws of a king are good and upright