27 Infinitive Absolute Verbs

Spelling and Translation
Goals

Be able to parse the Infinitive Absolute
  • Any stem (Q, N, D, tD, Dp, H, Hp)
  • With or without prefixed vav or interrogative
  • Strong verbs only

Translation
What to Report
When Parsing
the Infinitive Absolute
What to Report When Parsing an Infinitive Absolute Verb

Verb characteristics

• Root
• Stem
• Conjugation

Additions if present

• +Prefixed vav
• +Interrogative

(All Verbs)

מד and etc.
Q, N, D, tD, Dp, H, Hp
A

+?

+?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Verbs</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Verbs</td>
<td>72,391</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperfect</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfect</td>
<td>20,814</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participle</td>
<td>8,888</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infinitive Construct</td>
<td>6,587</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperative</td>
<td>4,286</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infinitive Absolute</td>
<td>816</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
98% of Infinitive Absolutes are Active Voice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Infinitive Absolute Verbs</th>
<th>816x</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qal</td>
<td>512x</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiphil</td>
<td>168x</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piel</td>
<td>84x</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niphal</td>
<td>37x</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitpael</td>
<td>3x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hophal</td>
<td>6x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pual</td>
<td>1x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vav and Interrogative are the Only Possible Additions to an Absolute

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Infinitive Absolute Verbs</th>
<th>816x</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Conjunction vav (+٧)</td>
<td>163x</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interrogative ה (+? )</td>
<td>25x</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Never a prefixed preposition
- A verb that is the object of a preposition is a participle or infinitive construct

Never the article
- A verb with an article is a participle

Never a pronominal suffix or a paragogic
Spelling the Infinitive Absolute
Spelling the Infinitive Absolute

Stem Vowel

- Tsere
- The Qal and some Niphal use ֶ (or plene as ַ)

Infinitive Absolute

- QA קָטֹּ֫ל
- NA נִקְט ֹ֫ל
- DA קַט ֹ֫ל
- HA הַקְט ֹ֫ל
- Note the overlap with the M2ms and the ∞

= NM2ms/N∞

= DM2ms/D∞

= HM2ms
Translation of the Infinitive Absolute
Infinitive Absolute Usually Precedes or Follows the Same Root

Absolute usually precedes another verb of the same root (420x = 51%)
- Moses searched carefully
  שֹׁ֥דרָר מֹשֶׁ֖ה
- I will surely honor you greatly
  כַּבֶּ֤ד אֲכַבְּדֶּ֛ךָ מְאֹ֙ד
- But you will certainly not sell her
  וּמָכְרַֽ֥ה לֹא־תִמְכְּרֶֽֽנָּה

Absolute occasionally follows another verb of the same root (49x = 6%)
- Kill me immediately
  וַיִּשְׁפֹּ֣ט שָׁפֹ֔ט עַתָּ֕ה
- And now he is actually acting like a judge!
  וְהָרְגָּנִֽי נָא הָרֹֹ֔ג

Emphasizes the certainty, uncertainty, or extent of the main verb
Infinitive Absolute Used Alone

When the infinitive absolute is used alone, it substitutes for another verb form.

Substitute for perfect or wayyiqtol

וַיֵּרְא פַרְעֹה כִּי הָּיְתָה הָּרְוָחָה וְהָּכְבָּד הָּעָרָלָף

And Pharaoh saw that there was relief, and he hardened his heart.

Substitute for imperative

וַיְאַמְּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָעָם זָכָּר אָנָּהוּ הַזּוֹם אֵּלָּה וְאָזְרָהָוּ הַזּוֹם

And Moses said to the people, “Remember this day!”

Substitute for imperfect or weqatal

וַאֲכָלָּהּ אַמָּר וַיְדַמְּר

And you may eat it or sell [it]